

## NEW OFFERS REASON FOR CONFIDENCE

Improved Position of Farmers  
Basis of All Pros-  
perity.

An improved position of farmers, the basis of prosperity for all classes, making for a gradual betterment of economic conditions, was offered by Senator Harry Ford as a reason for confidence in the National Administration, in his speech to members and guests of the Kiwanis Club in the Riley room of the Claypool Hotel today.

No denial was made of the fact that the country has suffered a period of severe depression, perhaps unequalled in its history, by Senator New.

"So far as the country was concerned, it was up to the Government to point the way out, through administrative recommendations and legislative acts," Senator New said. "One fact was apparent that the country was staggering under a debt of about twenty-four billions of dollars. The money has been spent, the debt created, not by the present Congress, but by preceding ones. It profits nothing now to say that perhaps part of it was judiciously created, but by this Congress, but by the preceding ones, and I certainly do not tax any one with that folly."

Unpopularity of the revenue bill was admitted by Senator New. He said, "No revenue bill was ever popular and none ever will be. But after all has been said, it is none the less true that it has reduced the public burden, by over eight hundred million dollars a year. A policy of retrenchment was agreed upon and savings introduced which amount to four million dollars a day."

The task confronting the Congress in framing tariff legislation was characterized by Senator New as being a great one. The tariff will be passed, he said, in a short time and it will be a Republican tariff.

Answers to criticisms of Congress formed a prominent part of Senator Ford's address. He said: "There has been complaint that Congress has not yet passed the tariff bill. I will admit it has been a slow process, but it had better be slow and reasonably right, than to be made in haste and utterly wrong."

## CHARGE GAS COMPANY IS EXTRAVAGANT

(Continued From Page One.)

Majestic building, on which the company has a lease to run ten years from 1923, will cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Much of the cost of the building was devoted to questions of whether this expense was justifiable in view of the emergency alleged to exist in the company's affairs.

The space was absolutely necessary in the opinion of Forrester, who said the Indianapolis Gas Company was using the same facilities ten years ago when accommodations for handling 35,000 meters were made. Since that time the number has doubled.

"Have you ever heard a patron kick at anything except the amount of gas bill?" Forrester inquired.

"Many times," replied Forrester. Commissioner Van Aken took a hand in the proceedings at that point, saying that improvements seemed inconsistent in view of the emergency in the company's financial condition.

GRONINGER WAXES VERY PERTINENT. "This is the board decision on these improvements?" Groninger asked.

"Some time in 1920. The arrangements were subject to the extension of the lease," Forrester said.

"When did you actually decide to go ahead with the plans?"

"Early last fall."

"And you knew there was an emergency in the gas company's affairs?"

"Yes. We were compelled to pay \$100,000 worth of mains, too, and we knew the financial condition," Forrester replied.

"You had to do it if you were going to continue in business," Van Aken said.

The original idea of the expense to be involved was said to have been \$25,000.

"You knew that the 90-cent rate would stifle the company when the improvements were decided upon, did you not?" Groninger asked.

"It seems inconceivable to me that you should go ahead. The quarters served you in 1920 when the company did its biggest business," Van Aken said.

"We were made desperate by censure," Forrester replied.

SALES AGENCY SELLS COKE. The Gas Company employs a sales agency to dispose of its coke, testimony of Forrester showed. No price is set in the contract with the sales company, according to Forrester.

"What effort has been made to sell coke in the last year?" Groninger asked.

"Did you employ a demonstrator? Was it not a fact that you dismissed a man who demonstrated?"

"We have the personal selling effort of a selling agency. We have circulated our customers."

Forrester was asked why the company had not tried to get other dealers to sell the coke, and he told the committee that other dealers were unable to sell it.

It was suggested that the coke could have been sold at the yards if a price of seven dollars a ton, which Groninger said was less than Portchar's coke was selling for last year, had been put on it. Forrester declared that it was his conviction that 10,000 tons could not have been sold.

Stress was laid by the city's counsel on what was inferred to be injudicious purchases of coke. In 1920 just at the peak of prices, coke was introduced to the company had purchased much coke and during the fluctuation had purchased most coal when prices were up.

When sales decreased the company continued to buy, Groninger charged. This was not the case, according to Forrester, who said the company continued to receive coal on contracts, but was not buying excessively.

Testimony of witnesses yesterday centered on the supply of coke held by the company. Mr. Forrester spent several hours on the stand and brought out facts to the committee. He introduced to the committee a copy of the report of the coke supply is not only bad business but is not possible under less than two years' time.

Mr. Groninger, in his opening statement, had previously declared that the gas company should have sold its coke, disposed of other assets and by taking a loss such as many other businesses had done, made no money for an increased rate based on an emergency.

"There have been constant efforts made to dispose of our surplus coke stock," Mr. Forrester said. "It has always been the practice to sell it on the competitive basis as at Indianapolis, where it is sold below the competitive price. Here, our effort has been made to move the largest possible tonnage, and our prices have always been low locally to permit of outside competition."

FT. LOUIS MAX GIVES TESTIMONY. Relative to the disposal of coke, Parker H. Woods of St. Louis, representative of a coal and coke firm here, said that by extensive advertising campaign his company had been able to dispose of 500,000 tons of coke in a population of 500,000.

Mr. Forrester was asked by Glenn Van

## Decorates Bazaar



JACK RHOADES.

Jack Rhoades, well known local artist, is in charge of the decorations for the Murt Temple Oriental Bazaar, to be given Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon and evening in the subterranean chambers beneath the Shrine's theater.

"The Streets of Cairo will be out-streets and out-cairped," declares Rhoades. "It certainly is going to be a surprise for the public. Al Wilson, who has reduced the public burden, by over eight hundred million dollars a year. A policy of retrenchment was agreed upon and savings introduced which amount to four million dollars a day."

Auken, who is presiding over the hearing, if the margin demanded by retail dealers is not \$3 a ton above the wholesale price.

Mr. Forrester replied the margin was about \$2 per ton as there is a charge for switching coke to the dealers' team track and also expense entailed in unloading it into wagons for delivery. He said, judging from advertisements, he had seen in the newspapers, coke is selling at a retail price of \$9.25 to \$9.50 per ton.

John W. McCordie, chairman of the commission, who is participating in the hearing asked if it would not have been possible to dispose of the coke in Indiana alone if it had been reduced to a price below coal. A committee of dealers refused to entertain such a proposition.

Mr. McCordie asked if there were not some coal operators among members of the committee. Mr. Forrester said he believed there were no coal operators on the committee but that he could not say positively.

"Well the coal operators naturally would not want you to do that," Mr. McCordie declared, "and they would not encourage you by making an offer."

Mr. Forrester's testimony showed that the supply of coke held by the company April 1 amounted to 115,000 tons. This is given a book value of \$10 a ton and the company has not disposed of this stock because of the decrease in value.

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## 4 PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM GUARD AT POST

Alleged Deserters Strike Private, Who Had Taken Them to Labor.

A net of military and civil police has been spread around the northern section of the city and over all roads leading from Ft. Benjamin Harrison to Indianapolis in an effort to apprehend four fugitives, who, while awaiting trial for desertion, escaped from their guard yesterday after having been taken into custody. None of the four has been captured. It is understood the escape came after one of the four attracted the guard's attention. As the guard turned, he was struck from behind and beaten into unconsciousness. He did not recover until three hours after he was taken to the local hospital.

The supposition at the fort is that the fugitives separated and went in two parties in opposite directions. At about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon some one fired one shot at Lieut. Carter M. Kolb, post adjutant, as he was passing through a wood. The shot narrowly missed Lieutenant Kolb, who said that it followed an exclamation from someone in hiding. A search of the woods immediately afterward revealed foot prints in a clump of bushes, from which the shot came. No further trace of the shooter was found.

The prisoners, Charles Henderson, Gaylord Patterson, Robert Allen and Robert Rugging, had been taken to work on a post road. The guard was Private Taborsky, Company H, 11th Infantry.

Consideration is given the theory that an ally of the four robbed the post storehouse of a few dollars, stealing eight regulation Army revolvers.

All automobiles coming into the city from the direction of the fort were stopped by the soldiers. Military police were sent to the city to cooperate with the civil authorities in the attempted apprehension of the escaped prisoners.

## TWO SOLDIERS SURRENDER

Two soldiers who left Ft. Benjamin Harrison April 3 without leave surrendered to the civil authorities last night and are held at the city prison for the violation of military regulations.

Joseph Flanagan, 21, and Carl Lumbough, 18, both of whom are stationed at Ft. Harrison, said they left together to go to Terre Haute, where Flanagan was to be married. Lumbough said that he "just went along."

## GOVERNMENT'S NEW OIL POLICY CAUSES FIGHT

Conservation Issue in Senate  
Revives Old-Time  
Struggle.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Another great "conservation" fight recalling the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy of the Taft Administration is being waged in the Senate today over the new oil policy of the administration.

Denby in opening up naval oil reserves in Wyoming and California to private interests, Secretary Fall, advised today, was to be met by a coalition of conservationists, who are determined to open up vast national resources to private development through the signing of contracts with the Mammoth Oil Company of Wyoming, a similar concern for taking oil from the Teapot Dome, Wyoming oil reserve and with the Pan-American Petroleum Company for the California reserves.

But in Congress and among the conservationist forces, a storm is brewing. The Senate had passed a resolution of Senator Kendrick of Wyoming, asking complete information regarding the new oil policy. When this is given the storm is expected to break.

It will also involve the policy of Secretary Fall for the development of oil in Alaska and the dispute now raging between Secretary Fall and Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture, over the proposed transfer of the forestry bureau from the Agriculture to the Interior Department.

The oil controversy, involving a huge amount of the product which admittedly will play a most vital part in the national defense because of the large number of oil-burning battleships, centers around whether oil under the ground can be conserved, or whether a Government pool can be tapped by private wells, just outside the Government land.

Believing oil could thus be conserved, the Taft and Wilson Administrations closed most of the oil reserves. The Fall administration indicates the present Administration favors opening them, making contracts such as the ones just signed under which the Government will set out and sell 50 per cent of the oil taken out and then store it at strategic points for use by the fleet in an emergency.

But the conservationist forces insist the oil should be left in the ground, or taken out by the Government, so that it would get all of the oil.

The present plan of the Navy is to build huge tanks for storing the oil. Three of these for instance probably will be along the Pacific coast. Another large one probably will be near Norfolk, Va.

Naval officers also went to build a huge shell-proof oil reservoir in Hawaii, said Walker matters at the city hall."

The charge of McCarty, that Superintendent Newby, of the municipal garage, tried to hit him with a spade was met by Newby with the statement that McCarty has been "a trouble maker" for some time. McCarty got into three wrecks through careless driving and they cost the city \$208 in repairs, Newby said.

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## Heads Committee



HARRY G. TEMPLETON.

To act as general escorts for the Home Complete Exposition, to maintain an information booth at the State fair-ground May 8 to 13, have been appointed by the executive committee of the Real Estate Board.

One of the most important and one that will have a great amount of work in connection with the daily sessions of the exposition will be the information committee.

Mr. Templeton said arrangements are completed for the erection of an information booth at a place in the exposition hall that will be easily accessible, and that information clerks have been assigned to duty for every afternoon and evening of the exposition.

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