

THIS WEEK IN

WASHINGTON

A Resume of Government Happenings in the National Capital

How high priced farm land is playing its part in the inflationary picture was depicted by I. W. Duggan, governor of the Farm Credit Administration in testimony before the senate agricultural committee. Mr. Duggan testified in favor of permitting federal land banks to make loans to farmers, on a similar plane as land bank commissioners.

ported value of the farm not more than \$10,500. He cited many other instances. Is the action of President Truman in approving the portal-to-portal pay bill any indication as to his action upon the labor bill which will be presented to him probably late in June? Despite the fact that he signed the portal-to-portal pay bill, the odds here are that he may veto the labor bill, particularly if the conferees make it any tougher than as it passed the senate.

press competitive transportation in the western area and have prevented western railroads from reducing rates and improving services. Differentials in class rate scales show a discrimination varying from 112 per cent to 180 per cent against the west in favor of the east, the government charges. And in the meantime, the United States Chamber of Commerce presses for enactment of the Bulwinkle bill to exempt railroads from the anti-trust laws, calling it "the badly needed Bulwinkle bill."

Washington Notes

VETERANS INSURANCE

While a total of 440,000 World War II veterans have reinstated \$2,750,000,000 in lapsed National Service life insurance policies since the start of a campaign March 1, more than 9,000,000 have not yet acted to reinstate their policies without a physical examination. They have until August 1 to do so.

COLLEGE TUITION

Tuition fees at the country's colleges and universities have risen an average of 28 per cent since 1939, according to President Truman's commission on higher education. The increase in ordinary student fees range from 11 per cent in private business administration schools to 56 per cent in publicly-supported law colleges. GI benefits paid by the Veterans Administration now make up 53 per cent of the colleges' income from students, according to the commission.

NAZI SECRET DOCUMENTS

Sale of secret Nazi wartime technical and scientific inventions to American citizens and corporations has netted the commerce department a gross revenue of \$1,500,000, and the amount is still growing, according to J. G. Green, director of the new office of technical services. More than 400,000 copies of scientific documents already have been sold to American concerns at an average fee of \$3 to \$4 a document.

TAX FRAUDS

Criminal prosecutions for tax frauds are increasing, says Secretary Snyder of the treasury, who points out that 117 persons pleaded guilty or were convicted on income tax charges in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, compared with 47 in the first nine months of the last one. The government collected \$1,461,000,000 in extra revenue during the nine months period, 40.5 per cent more than was collected in the similar period last year.

CHISELLERS

The Veterans Administration states that approximately 200,000 World War II veterans fraudulently or through error, have cashed in on unemployment or subsistence benefits which are not due them. Most violations are due to collection of unemployment compensation by veterans who have jobs or who are attending school and in many instances drawing educational subsistence allowances and collection of both state and federal unemployment benefits. Prosecution of the guilty is planned. Penalties provided by law range from loss of all benefits to fines and imprisonment.

"FREEDOM TRAIN"

The "Freedom Train" will start from Philadelphia on Sept. 17 with a display of priceless United States historical documents on a year-long journey throughout the nation, according to Attorney General Tom C. Clark. The day will be the 160th anniversary of the adoption and signing of the Constitution. The display will include the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, and Washington's Farewell Address. The departure of the "Freedom Train" will inaugurate a "year of rededication," designed to produce a larger realization of the privileges which American citizens enjoy; to dramatize the American way of life and the American heritage of freedom.

FOOD EXPORTS

Exports of food from this country during the first quarter of this year dropped \$35,140,000 under the first quarter of 1946, according to the commerce department.

SUGAR

The country's sugar situation "should be normal by 1948 if it continues to improve as much as it has during the last few months," according to Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. The total national supply of sugar for

1947 is estimated at 6,902,000 tons, compared with an estimated world supply of 30,000,000 tons.

ARMY DISCHARGES

The army has announced that it would scrap its controversial "blue" discharge practice on July 1, and substitute a system of releasing personnel honorably, dishonorably, or as either unsuitable or undesirable. The plan will conform with those already in effect for the navy, marine corps and the coast guard.

DEBT PAYMENT

The treasury will pay off another \$1,000,000,000 in public debt certificates this month, which redemption will lower the federal

debt below \$257,000,000. The June redemption will bring to \$29,900,000,000 the total cash payoff of one-year certificates since February 28, 1946.

RIISING FARM VALUES

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson warns that current farm realty values have no basis in expected agricultural prices and income and calls on bankers, insurance company directors and farm leaders to formulate plans to halt the rising trend of farm debt. Current farm real estate prices are 92 per cent above the 1935-39 average and well above the 1920 inflationary peak in 24 states.

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