

RANGER DAILY TIMES

TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

24 Elm Street, Ranger, Texas Telephone 224
Joe Daniels, Business Manager

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Ranger, Texas, under Act of March 3, 1919.
Published Daily Afternoons (Except Saturday and Monday) and Sunday Morning.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Week by Carrier in City 15c
One Month by Carrier in City 65c
One Month Over Seas Address 75c
One Year by Mail In State 3.65
One Year by Mail Out Of State 6.00

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Tracing back the development of the maze of "government corporations"—the fourth arm of the government which Senators Harry F. Byrd of Virginia and Hugh Butler of Nebraska now seek to bring under control with new legislation—shows exactly how one innocent little seed of an idea for a new federal bureau can mushroom all over the place till it becomes the biggest financial spiderweb in the world.

Back in Teddy Roosevelt's time the government took over the Panama Railroad, and ran it. It was the first, and for a long time the only government corporation.

Prior to World War I all government activities were carried on in the regular departments headed by cabinet officers. But in 1916 the first Federal Land Banks were chartered. They were privately owned, but government controlled.

When the United States got dragged into the first European fracas, the government corporation idea really took hold. First came the War Finance Corporation, then the Emergency Fleet Corporation, U. S. Housing Corporation, Spruce Production Corporation and a few others.

ALL were liquidated after the war except the Federal Land Banks and the Fleet Corporation, which later became the Maritime Commission. The 1920's were relatively free from this sort of stuff, until Herbert Hoover came along and started the Inland Waterways Corporation while he was Secretary of Commerce, and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation while he was President.

The depression really saw the gov-corp idea take hold. The National Industrial Recovery Act gave President Roosevelt powers to create new businesses. Among his first was the Commodity Credit Corporation, set up to borrow money from RFC and loan it to farmers. Then Congress expanded CCC, gave it powers it didn't realize it was having—and the next thing Congress knew, here was CCC getting subsidies and was the Congressional farm bloc feared. Today there are 43 of these gov-corps and credit agencies.

GRANTING that all these big businesses have been able and honestly run, they still present an inherent danger because they are definitely not run in the public's best interests. Information about their operations is hard to get because they don't have to report back to Congress on what they have done, what their assets are, how much they have lost or where they are going. Incidentally, 37 of these corporations were created by Congress itself, so you can see how they still present a danger to the public.

Out of the Byrd-Butler bill, the George bill to separate the loan agencies from Department of Commerce, the second Wallace-Jones fracas, Wallace's statement that RFC should be investigated, June's statement that as Federal Loan Administrator he had powers that actually stored him—there should come some healthy reforms.

SPORTS

BY HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

PARI-MUTUEL betting may not be sound economy, as its detractors contend, but keeping the race tracks closed even in the dead of winter costs millions.

The controller's office of Santa Anita has just finished the big and sad job of mailing checks totalling \$259,342.01 to the public and horsemen for the advance sale of Turf Club memberships, season boxes and tickets, and nomination fees for stakes.

Since \$48,700 of this amount would have gone to the government as amusement tax. Tack on 20 per cent of all the tickets that would have been sold during the 55 days, and it is estimated that another \$700,000 would have been realized by the government in amusement tax. In 1940-41 when they were off at Santa Anita for the last time, the federal tax was \$473,942.42.

THE State of California collected \$1,532,235.84 from Santa Anita racing four years ago. With increased taxes and play it is easy to see that it would have skyrocketed to \$2,500,000. Los Angeles County and the City of Arcadia, where the strip with the Sierra Madre Mountains for backdrop is so picturequely situated on Lucky Baldwin's old property, cut in for \$65,004 in 1940-41. Naturally this also would have swollen.

Plans for War Funds and local charities would have brought in more than \$2,000,000. Free admission for War Bond buyers would have accounted for a similar sum.

Santa Anita really would have gone to town on the heels of the phenomenal Hollywood Park meeting as indicated by the refund of the largest advance sale, since the plant was opened in 1934.

PARI-MUTUEL wagering is legal in 22 states, and the 19 that had racing at the time of the blackout were the senior partners. In New York, for example, the state gets 8 per cent of the handle, the tracks 4. The state gets 60 per cent of breakage on the nickel, the tracks 40.

New York alone realized \$11,000,000 from racing in 1944. Butch LaGuardia and some more may be convinced that the money poured through mutual wickets would be more useful if applied to other channels, but there is no Treasury Department argument against it.

Without going into salary distribution and a lot of other things, the high cost of not racing is appalling.

Out Our Way **By J. R. Williams**



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CLASSIFIED

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San Francisco (UP) — The new Japanese metal salvage drive is taking the "amusement" out of amusement parks in Hankow, the Chungking radio reported recently.

Desperately in need of metal, the Japanese stop visitors leaving the parks and suggest that they "contribute" whatever copper coins they may be carrying. Visitors who fail to contribute coins contribute identification cards instead. The cards may be redeemed later with copper coins. Apartment for rent at 600 North Commerce street. Call 487-J.

Two thirds of the coal moved into New England in 1943 was transported by rail, compared with slightly less than one third in 1940.

Lake Winnepesaukee, in New Hampshire, has as many islands in it as there are calendar days in the year.

MASONIC LODGE Stated meeting Ranger Masonic Lodge No. 738 A. F. & A. M. Thursday night 7:30 p. m. Examinations in all degrees. Visitors welcome, all members urged to be present. John Usery, W. M. J. F. Donley, Secretary.

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What is an Abstract? Now that many people are selling their farms and town properties at good prices they should be interested in land titles for the title very definitely enters into the value of all real estate. The abstract is the title dressed up in Sunday clothes ready for any suitable occasion. If interested, follow future ads in this newspaper where the abstract will be discussed and the important part it plays in real estate transactions. Earl Bender & Company Inc. ABSTRACTERS 1923-1945 Eastland Texas

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