

# The Leader's Weekly Washington News Letter

By William J. Rutledge

Washington, D. C. Nov. 28.—The outlook for the farmer in the coming session of Congress is punk. The outlook for the farmer in every session of Congress is punk. This session is punker than ever.

At this session, in spite of most excellent and taking "programs" from high places there will be practically nothing doing except about armament and preparedness.

About which oratory will surpass all high flood records and more things be discovered about Europe than the European ever dreamed of.

It is a pity this time, about that punk outlook, because a rural credits bill is long overdue and we are not likely to get one.

**Can't Get by President.**

For some weeks a special joint committee of the house and senate has been trying to draft a rural credit bill that would get past the President if by any chance it should be enacted. The trouble about the President, or one of the troubles, is that he is dead set against any rural credit scheme that operates with government aid. He wants the private banks to do it all. Senator Hollis of New Hampshire and Con-

gressman Lever of South Carolina and Phelan of Massachusetts are the joint committee. They think they have put together a measure that will turn the trick, but it is a safe bet that they haven't.

**Killed the Good Bill.**

How on earth there can be a rural credit scheme that is operated by Wall Street and still be of substantial benefit to the farmer, is the problem. It is nothing new in this administration. The first time President Wilson mentioned the subject in a message he was most emphatic in declaring against any plan of government aid, and to comply with his wishes the Democratic leaders appointed a committee to study the subject and hammer out a bill. Congressman Bulkley of Ohio headed this committee. Secretary of the Treasury, MaAdoo and Secretary of Agriculture, Houston emphatically warned it that there must be no government aid in the bill. Bulkley went into the subject utterly opposed to government aid and came out convinced that there was no other way to make a rural credit system that would work. So he drew a bill in accordance with his investigations

and the administration had it killed and blacklisted Bulkley. For the rest of his term he could not get a rural route and when he came up for re-election he was defeated.

**Bulkley Bill Gets Axe.**

Mr. Bulkley's bill, which was warmly endorsed by Senator Hollis, provided for the forming of local associations of farmers who should borrow money on their joint credit form special farm loan bank under the direction of the Federal Reserve Board. Every year the United States Treasury was to buy a large amount of the farm loan bonds which were to be secured by the mortgages given by the original borrowers.

It was this feature that brought down the administration hammer on the measure and killed it.

Now the French do these things very much better because in France the government lends directly to the farmer at a very low rate of interest and never loses a cent by him. But the average American statesman, particularly if from the South where the President was born, has a fit if you suggest anything of that kind. He can't conceive of lending except thru a bank.

**McCumber Bill Slayed.**

Senator McCumber of North Dakota is not of that order. He introduced in the last session a rural credit scheme very similar to the French, and it took some lively parliamentary whip-sawing and side-stepping to beat it. One day when Gore, who was in charge of the Agricultural appropriation bill was asleep, McCumber got his plan tacked upon the Agricultural bill as an amendment, and in that shape it passed the Senate.

Indignant Privilege chased it into the House and on the very last day of the session managed to hit it with an axe. So it died.

McCumber will reintroduce it as soon as Congress gets to work, but it has no chance. The axe will attend to its fate.

McCumber is the only North Dakota statesman that has shown up here so far. He has been here many days. From which it is inferred that Uncle Porter J. has got his fence posts in and all trued up for next year and they suit him.

The farmer attends to the farm. The banker attend to the farmer.

**A WOMAN IN CONGRESS?**

Topeka, Kan., Nov. 23.—Kansas may establish next year the precedent of sending a woman to the house of representatives. It is said that Mrs. James Monroe Miller, wife of a former representative in congress, may be selected by the Republican leaders of the fourth congressional district of Kansas to make the race for the seat now occupied by Representative Dudley Doolittle, Democrat.

"Take it from affiant," said William Allen White, editor of the Empereur

Gazette, the other day in discussing Mrs. Miller's candidacy, "she would make some candidate. She has courage and wisdom and tact. No organization of watereyed, hanging jowled, sagging pouched barnacles would influence her vote. She would be her own congressman, and if she were nominated, Dudley Doolittle would have to change his name to Eli Hustler to get back his job in Washington. Far be it from us to mix into the Republican row, but certainly Mrs. J. M. Miller looks like a white hope on a dark day."

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## To the Grain Growers of North Dakota:

In 1911, there was formed, by farmers, a corporation, for the handling of grain on terminal markets, known as the Equity Co-operative Exchange. It began business in Minneapolis, Minn. and Superior, Wis. August 1st, 1912—a little more than three years ago. It began in opposition to the most strongly entrenched combine in our land—The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. By that institution we have been maligned and slandered from the public platform and in the subsidized public press; and have been persecuted in the courts.

But through it all we have won. We are handling now over 500,000 bushels of grain each week; and prospects are that this will soon be increased to a million.

We are building a terminal elevator in the city of St. Paul, wherein grain may be dried, clipped, and cleaned for the benefit of the farmers. We need your co-operation. Buy a share of stock which sells at par for \$50.00. Consign your grain to us at St. Paul and Superior, Wis. Help us grow, grow with us and become a part of our great purpose.

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