

December 17, 1925

HISTORIC ARMY ORDERS ARE FOUND IN BARRACKS

Vancouver, Wash. (AP)—Copies of two general orders, one promoting U. S. Grant from brevet second lieutenant to second lieutenant and assigning him to the Seventh Infantry and the other announcing the death of John Quincy Adams, have been received by Colonel Frank Morrow, commander of the seventh infantry, United States Army at Vancouver barracks.

The copies were sent by G. M. Knisely, an army veteran, who saved the orders from destruction years ago at Fort Leavenworth.

The order announcing the death of Adams was signed by President James K. Polk, and was received by the seventh infantry while on duty in Mexico in 1848. That promoting Grant was issued September 30, 1845.

*History, U. S.
Death of John
Quincy Adams,*

*Promotion of
Genl. U. S. Grant:
of Sept 30 - 1845.*

*Good -
from S.W. American*

of Dec 17 - 1925.

14

at the hands of Congress tariff subsidies; have permitted the railroads to secure rate subsidies; and have permitted the larger financial institutions of the North and East to secure control of the money of the country; and are facing bankruptcy and economic slavery.

So serious has the farmers' problems become that special delegations from 11 Western States are here now appearing before congressional committees petitioning and pleading for help. Industrial leaders of the North and East are heeding the admonition and warning sounded by Secretary Hoover, and have become suddenly interested in the threatening collapse of agriculture. A study and analysis of the farm situation discloses that farm expenses increased 60 per cent from 1880 to 1900; increased 100 per cent from 1900 to 1910, and increased 600 per cent from 1910 to 1920. In this 20-year period farm labor increased 90 per cent, operating costs increased 116 per cent, and the combined costs per unit increased 300 per cent.

During the five years just before the war the net return on farm investment was 5½ per cent. During the five years just after the war the net return was 4 per cent, and the investigation further shows that the net return to-day is only 2 per cent.

These returns are manifestly too small as disclosed by the rate of farm failures which from 1910 to 1924 increased over 1,000 per cent in contrast to the record of commercial failures.

To-day the farmer finds himself living under economic conditions wherein all about him are boasting of unparalleled prosperity, yet the more he plants, the harder he works, the more he reaps the poorer he becomes. He does not understand why he is unable to pay his taxes, why he can not meet his interest obligations, and why he can not support his family on the farm; and in despair he falls under the ever increasing burden, abandons the homestead and goes forth to seek employment in the mines, mills, or public works.

Painful as it is, we must admit that there is a rapidly growing conviction in the country, in the Government, and in truth upon this floor that we are drifting upon a perilous sea; that the rush of centralized power and authority here in Washington is increasing at an alarming rate; that the activities of the Government are so numerous and expensive that taxation is increasing more rapidly than either population or wealth; and that unless a halt is called and a policy formulated and followed, trouble, the seriousness of which can not be foretold, is inevitable.

Congress is now, and has been from the first, the architect of the Nation. The structure we have Congress has provided. If the charges now being made are true, partially true, partially false, or wholly false, it is time for the Congress to take notice and begin serious consideration of the state of the Nation before it is too late. If there is nothing wrong; if the high officials, publicists, and governmental critics are mistaken in their predictions and fears, the country should be so assured. If, however, clouds are gathering, assembling potential danger, then the Congress, representing the people, should warn them of the approaching storm.

This grave responsibility resting upon this membership can not be shifted. We are hired and paid to do this work. The citizen, busy with his private business, has neither time nor