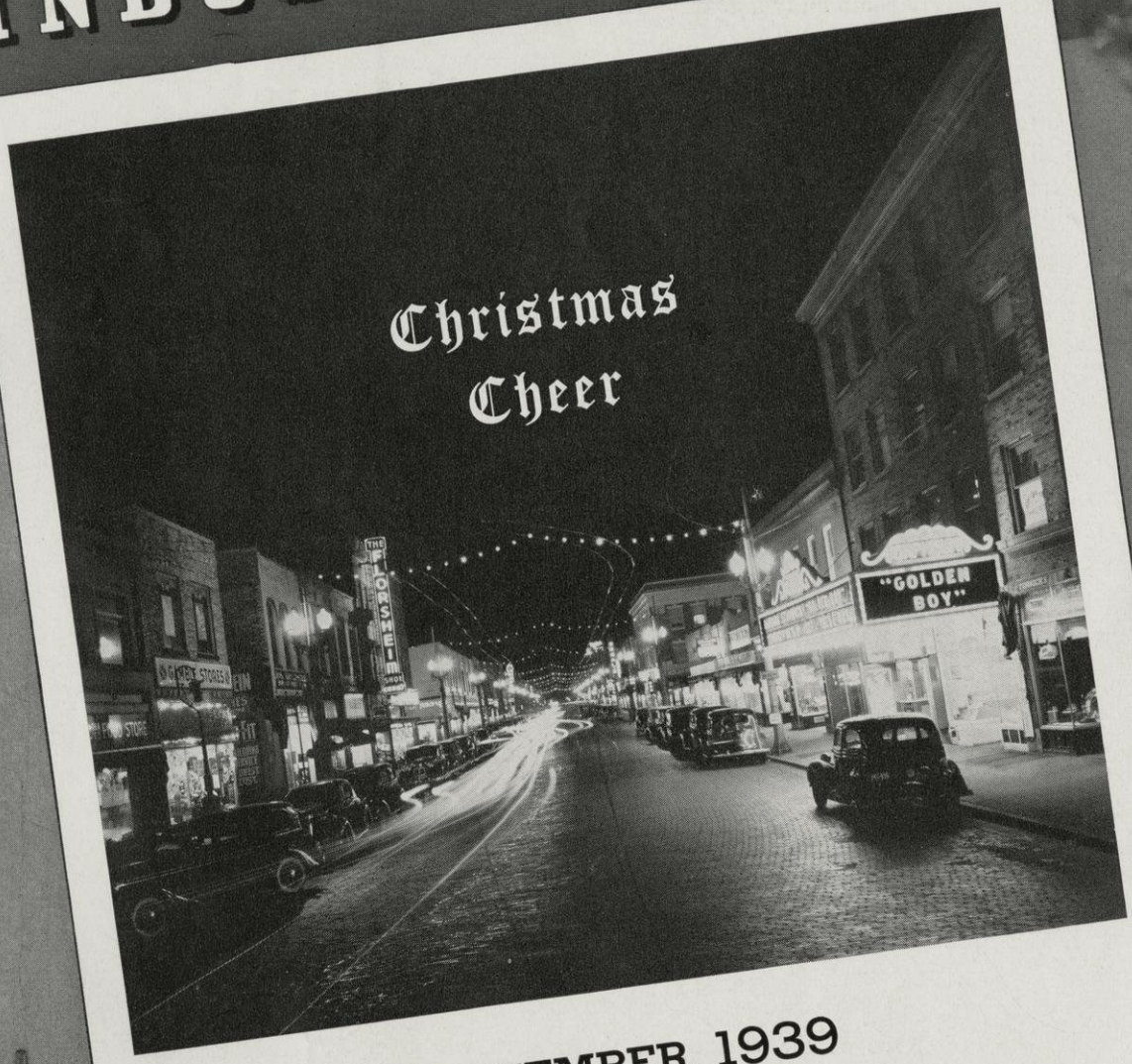
Kenosha Industrial News. Vol. I, No. 9 December, 1939

Kenosha, Wisconsin: Kenosha Manufacturers Association, December, 1939

KENOSHA INDUSTRIAL NEWS



DECEMBER, 1939

PUBLISHED BY KENOSHA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

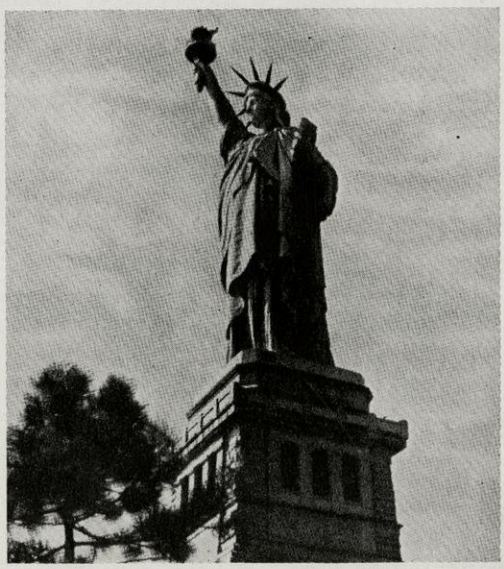
The Front Cover Design

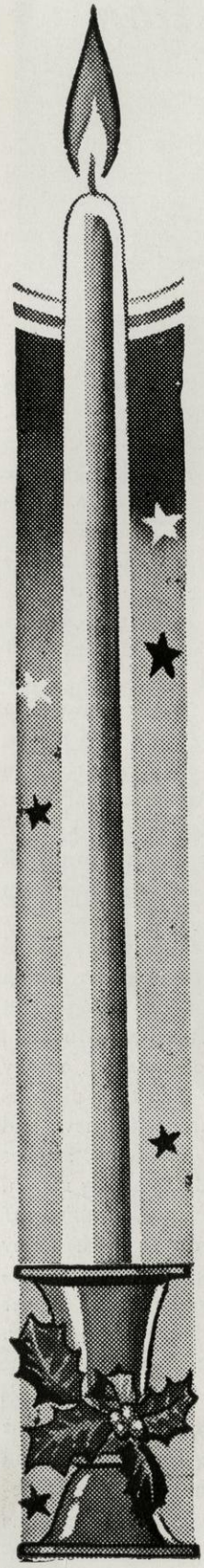
Main Street of America is ablaze with the color and sparkle of Christmas as a multitude of happy people throng the streets in a joyous holiday mood. Hearty, warm greetings float above the murmur of voices as friends and neighbors meet. The joyful cries of children, the warm fellowship, the glitter of light inspire spiritual exaltation and song which flood the homes of every community and brighten the countryside. It is Christmas in America.

The night view of 6th Avenue which decorates the front cover of this issue symbolizes the Main Street of America at Christmas time. The throngs of holiday shoppers are not visible in this view as it is a time exposure. During this exposure a constant stream of cars were moving but, because they were in motion, they do not register in the picture. Headlights of cars going south leave streaks of light as shown in the picture. Notice the streaks thin out as the cars turn into 6th Avenue "A". Cars going north did not leave a light streak as they were facing away from the camera. This interesting view is an appropriate expression of the sentiment of the season — a merry Christmas.

106

One of the wonders of the modern world and a great monument dedicated to the ideals of liberty and freedom is the Statue of Liberty. A gift of the people of France to the United States in 1886, this statue stands as a marvelous engineering feat in which copper was given a prominent role. It is made of 300 separate pieces of sheet copper which accounts for the pleasing green color that Miss Liberty has acquired. Technically, this color is patina, a protective coating acquired by copper against time and the elements. The figure alone weighs 25 tons and the entire statue weighs 100 tons. The story of copper through the ages in interestingly told in a story of the American Brass appearing in this issue.





A Very Merry Christmas

And a Happy and

Prosperous New Year

to all our Employees, Friends and Neighbors

AMERICAN BRASS CO.
ARNESON FOUNDRY CO.
COOPERS', INC.
DYNAMATIC CORP.
FROST CO.
HOLM'S CO.
KENOSHA BOILER & SUP. CO.
MACWHYTE CO.
NASH-KELVINATOR
P. PIRSCH & SONS CO.
SIMMONS CO.
SNAP-ON TOOLS, INC.
SPECIALTY BRASS CO.
VINCENT-McCALL CO.
F. L. WELLS & CO.
WIS. GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

The American Brass Gives Kenosha a Leading Place in Its World-wide Organization

In the same year that the Statue of Liberty was dedicated, the Chicago Brass Company, predecessor of the American Brass, began operation in Kenosha. In the measurement of civilization and progress, both events marked the beginning of a new epoch of American life; one to hold high the symbolic light of freedom and opportunity to a darkening world, the other to develop a closely integrated basic industry destined to have a generous share in establishing world leadership of American industrial, social and economic standards. Thus did Kenosha become intimately associated with the industrial development of America in 1886 at a time when industry was just emerging from the laborious hand wrought methods to machinery and precise control of metal alloys. Whereas the statue expressed human ideals which touched the hearts and emotions of a worldwide multitude and the factory manifested a practical hope and ambition of mankind, yet both of these events are synonymous of an industrial achievement in copper.

The attention of mankind has been focused on copper and its alloys for thousands of years and by 1886 practical methods had been found to transform copper and brass into many useful articles. As the Statue of Liberty linked the names of Bartholdi and Eiffel, so did earlier ages of copper preserve famous names in the development of photography, the steamboat, the locomotive, the telephone and telegraph, the electric power generators, printing press, electric light; events which suggest such names as Ives, Edison, Bell, Hoe, Morse, Fulton, Benjamin Franklin and Duryea, to mention only a few.

Before their time there were countless thousands of craftsmen whose knowledge of copper came down through generation after generation from the bronze age. Looking back through the centuries, history records copper used for piping in the pyramids 5,000 years ago and copper was mined on the Island of Cyprus* and in Spain more than 3,000 years ago. Throughout history the most extensive use of copper was in the construction of marine vessels and magnificent religious edifices. This practice was followed in the new world when the roof of Christ Church, Philadelphia, was covered with copper sheeting in 1737. Copper sheeting and brass cannon made for the frigate Constitution in 1800 is indicative of the leadership of American industry through the early development of copper and copper alloys. Seven years later Fulton used copper to fabricate the boiler of his first steamboat. Industrial history regards these events as momentous as practically all manufactured articles used in this country in early Colonial days were imported from Europe. Earliest American manufacturers considered it an important achievement to be able to produce buttons and buckles of pewter. And when Henry Grilley began making buttons of brass in Waterbury, Conn., in 1800, new hope and encouragement was given the industry. Skilled workmen were scarce at this time and raw materials were not easily available. Those familiar with tradition say that skilled copper craftsmen were smuggled out of England at great risk in order that American industry might have the benefit of their knowledge and experience. These craftsmen guarded their knowledge well and considerable persuasion had to be used to overcome their reluctance to teach their trade to American workmen. Once their knowledge became known, it spread through the industry to give it advantages equal to the best European technique.

Additional advantages were gained by these early industrial efforts when copper was discovered in Michigan and later in Arizona, Utah and Montana. With native copper of excellent quality available, American industrial pioneers intensified their search for new and easier methods of producing articles needed by a new and expanding nation. In copper they had the friendliest of metals. It alloys readily with many other elements. William H. Bassett contemplated great possibilities for copper because of this friendly behavior. Craftsmen of his day regarded Bassett with curiosity, not realizing that his puttering with copper would yield the basis for most of the modern alloys and technique of modern industry. Moreover, Bassett's early studies forms the groundwork of that division of indus-

*The word "copper" comes from the name Cyprus, where it was first mined and used.

The original plant of the American Brass Co., which was located in Kenosha in 1886. *Compare this scene with the aerial view of the present immense plant.*

287

General view of seamless tube mill in the Kenosha plant.

trial science regarded today as metallurgy. Needless to say, research is now a vital part of the Copper and Brass industry and an indispensable aid to the sales force in meeting new requirements and exploring new opportunities.

With the expansion of the industry through new alloys and better technique it was natural that factories should locate nearer the source of native copper. The first two mills to locate outside the New York-Connecticut area was the Detroit Copper and Brass which located in Detroit in 1880 and the Chicago Brass Company which located in Kenosha in 1886, both plants now operating as branch plants of the American Brass Company.

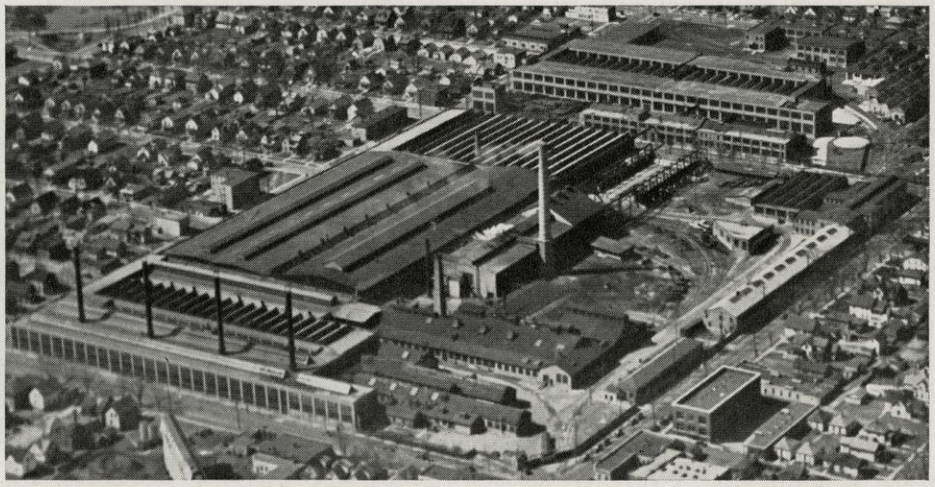
The telephone, telegraph, the first electric power station and Edison's electric light were still sensationally new in 1886 when the Kenosha plant was established and these inventions were largely attributable to the development of copper. Coils of electric generators and motors had to be pure metal and of uniform size and quality. Electricity is a choosy proposition. It will not associate with conductors that do not consist of pure metal. That is why copper has figured so prominently in all major industrial events throughout history and particularly in regard to electricity. The new Kenosha plant contributed much toward the success of these inventions. When the automobile came in 1892, it met the demand for parts as it had met the demand of previous inventions. The wireless in 1896, the radio in 1902 and the aeroplane in 1903 turned to the copper mills for the assistance needed to bring perfection and production.

So great had the copper industry grown in size and scope that by 1900 its growing pains called for differentation of functions. Rolling mills felt the need of confining their activities to rolling sheets, tubing and wire and that the business of making finished articles be left to the "cut-up trade" — consisting mainly of factories using brass and copper to make clocks, suspender buckles, shoe eyelets, band instruments, coffee pots, zippers and a vast host of similar household articles which reflect our twentieth century civilization. As a consequence of this, copper and brass mills began to consolidate. In 1901 the Chicago Brass Company joined the Coe Brass Company, a subsidiary of the American Brass Company and in 1922, the American Brass Company joined with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. This combination brought together the world's largest producer of copper and the world's largest manufacturer of copper and copper alloys, thus bringing to each the advantages it lacked.

Today the Kenosha branch of this world-wide industry is principally engaged in producing sheets, bars and tubes in various shapes and dimensions from copper and copper alloys. It participates with the American Brass in making everything that is made by industry as a whole. For its size and the scope of its business the trade mark of the American Brass is far less conspicuous than any other comparable company. Through dozens of huge industries and countless smaller manufacturers, its metals reach the American people under thousands of different trade marks. Few people pause to consider how vitally important copper is to our daily life.

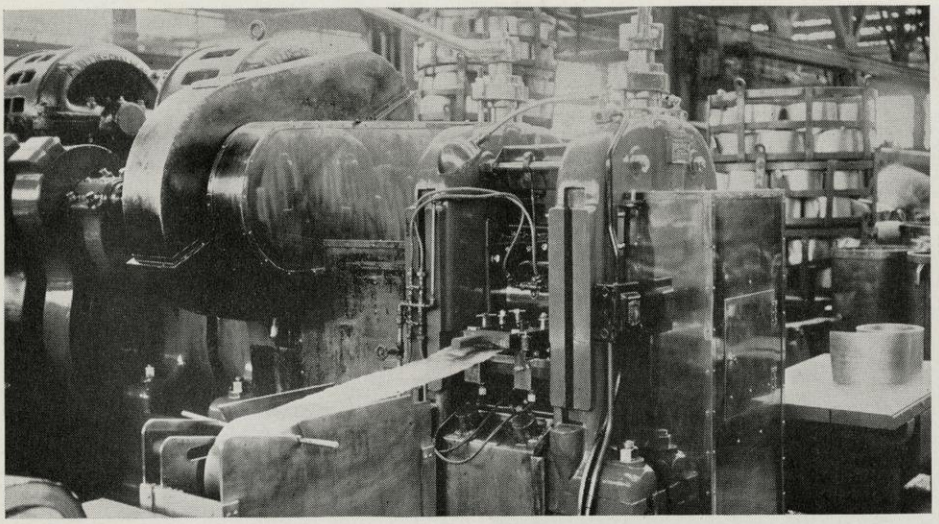
From the baby's safety pins to the coating on our casket, copper and its associates are with us constantly. We

(Continued on next page)



An aeroplane view of the Kenosha division of the American Brass Co.

Slide 8 & 9



One of a large battery of machines used for cold rolling. This machine was on exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair where it was used to demonstrate the technique of the modern brass factory.

(Continued from previous page)
awake to the alarm of a clock with brass works. We sleepily draw laces through brass eyeleted shoes, take a hitch in brass-buckled garters, manipulate brass zippers before turning up for toast from a copper alloy toaster. Hot water from brass tanks help us on our way and brass parts of the furnace keep us comfortable. We drive to work in a car full of copper alloy parts and work all day amid whirring machinery that couldn't turn a wheel without copper. We flick a switch and power and light jump to our command — at the factory and in the home. None of these miracles would be at our command without the use of copper and the pioneering instinct of American men and women.

It has been the combination of these that have brought us the Way of Life by bringing industry to where it is and by enabling every American to have more by producing more. It is not an exaggeration to say that the mills which began operation in the Connecticut-New York area known as Naugatuck Valley, back in 1800, practically outgrew their name and have contributed, more than any other branch of industry, to fuller American living in a thousand ways we never see. Though the name American Brass suggests the making of brass — the firm makes many alloys of which copper is a part. The name is a survival of the days when brass was the principal product. Today this plant uses copper, zinc, tin, nickel, aluminum, lead, silicon, manganese, beryllium, and other elements in all combinations of sheets, plates, strips, wire, rods, bars, seamless tubes, extruded, rolled and drawn special shapes, hot pressed parts and pressure die castings.

The size and scope of the firm can best be realized by the fact that its manufacturing schedule lists more than a quarter of a million active items. Demands of seasonal industries are balanced in the production schedule of this giant industry so that the Kenosha plant is able to spread its production through each season of the year to provide reasonably steady employment for its 1500 employees.

Many of the present staff of employees have spent their life in the service of the company. Their contribution to the development and growth of American industry is best exemplified by the high standard of living available to all Americans . . . standards which grew with the development of copper and its alloys . . . a way of life which was pioneered by the copper and brass mills of America. Back of the men and machines who comprise this world-wide organization is the immense industrial laboratory with scientific facilities to explore, improve and steadfastly maintain the march of progress so gloriously represented by American traditions. The phenomenal discoveries of the last century point the way to new miracles, new technique and new standards.

The copper sheathed Statue of Liberty, conceived in an ideal, stands as an engineering triumph of that age. The monuments of today are represented by the multitude of craftsmen, of men and machines, mines and homes that make up this great nation. The future is bright with opportunity for American industry and it is gratifying to know that the American Brass Company gives Kenosha the opportunity to share in the future as it has so richly shared in the past.

THE KENOSHA INDUSTRIAL NEWS
Felix Olkives, Editor
December, 1939 Volume I, Number 9
Published once each month by the Kenosha Manufacturers Association, 625 57th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
Morton C. Frost, President
J. S. Whyte, Vice-President
Conrad Shearer, Secretary
Grace E. Havens, Treasurer

General view of electric casting shop where virgin metals are alloyed to produce billets and slabs.

State Tax Collections Increase

A recent report of the U. S. Department of Commerce shows aggregate 1939 tax collections of 43 states to be 32% above 1937 collections — a one-third increase in state taxes in the last two years. For these 43 states the total collections in 1937 were $2,398,900,000 and in 1939 $3,170,000,000.

A major factor in this increase is the sharp growth of unemployment compensation levies upon payrolls, now the second ranking in amount of collections brought into state treasuries. State unemployment compensation taxes totalled 652 millions of dollars in 1939 compared with 274 millions of dollars in 1937. This 378 million dollar growth represents an increase of 138%.

First ranking in state collections goes to sales taxes, including gasoline taxes, general sales taxes and other sales levies. All sales taxes brought $1,265 millions in 1939, gasoline taxes alone contributing 647.3 millions of this total amount. Total sales taxes increased 18% from 1937 to 1939. Although general sales levies remained at about the same level, gasoline taxes jumped almost a third.

License taxes on businesses including gross receipt taxes on specific business, increased 30% from 1937 to 1939. These business imposts climbed from 257 millions to 334 millions and now rank third in importance to the states as a revenue producer.

Motor vehicle licenses, bringing in 296 millions of state revenues in 1939, are up 26% from 1937. Net income taxes of 286 million dollars are up 13% over this two year period. General and selective property taxes, the great source of local revenues, also benefited state treasuries to the tune of 197 millions, an amount 10% greater than in 1937. Inheritance, estate and gift taxes rose 15% to 102 million dollars in 1939.

This Department of Commerce survey of state taxes did not include any data on the four states of Alabama, Maryland, Massachusetts and Wyoming whose fiscal years end after August 31. Data on Pennsylvania was also not available for this preliminary report, but a final report, covering all 48 states, is planned to be issued at the end of the calendar year.

Did You Know

Interesting facts from here and there

Machines employed by Coopers attach buttons to undergarments with 21 stitches of 6 ply thread, tie a double knot and fasten the buttons through the button hole, all in one operation.

A single ton of high carbon, cold rolled strip steel will produce a million safety razor blades.

One of the hydraulic presses used in the production of Snap-on tools can exert pressures up to 250 TONS (a pressure of 4,500 pounds per square inch), yet the controls can be so delicately adjusted that one can crack the shell of an egg with it.

Only in America have silk stockings become a necessity of everyday life. Five hundred and sixty million pairs of silk stockings are made in the United States every year, an average of thirteen pairs apiece for every American woman over fifteen.

PROPERTY is the fruit of labor; property is desirable; it is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise.

Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

World War Lever Act Given Careful Study

THE World War Lever Act is being studied carefully in Washington by those concerned with Federal price control mechanisms.

This Act became law on August 10, 1917, and was amended on October 22, 1919, almost a year after the Armistice. Its price regulation features were invalidated by the Supreme Court on February 28, 1921 on the ground that the definitions of "any unjust or unreasonable rate or charge" and the prohibition against conspiring "to exact excessive prices for any necessaries" established standards which were too indefinite.

In its decision voiding the Lever Act, the Supreme Court held that the law forbade "no specific or definite act" and added: "It leaves open, therefore, the widest conceivable inquiry, the scope of which no one can foresee, and the result of which no one can foreshadow or adequately guard against."

The Lever Act contained many provisions in addition to price controls which, reputedly, have been abandoned in the new proposal. Among these are the power to commandeer factories and other sources of production. (This would be handled in separate legislation). But many of the powers in the original law, it is said, are included in the new measure.

The Lever Act was designed to assure an adequate supply of foods, feeds, clothing, fertilizers, fuel, tools, implements, machinery, etc., which were defined as "necessaries"; to prevent scarcity, monopoly, hoarding, injurious speculation and manipulations affecting the supply, distribution and movement of "necessaries."

It forbade:

a. Destruction, waste, or willful preventable deterioration to stimulate prices or reduce supply; hoarding; monopolization; "any unjust or unreasonable rate or charge"; agreements to limit supply, distribution or manufacture of necessaries, or "to exact excessive prices."
b. Use of foods, fruits, or feeds for production of distilled beverages.

It empowered the President to:

a. License importation, manufacture, storage, mining, or distribution of necessaries;
b. Requisition foods, feeds, fuels, and storage facilities for them;
c. Buy, store, and resell at fixed prices wheat, flour, meal, beans and potatoes;
d. Restrict or close exchanges, boards of trade, etc.;
e. Fix "a reasonable guaranteed price for wheat" of not less than $2 a bushel;
f. Use such agency or agencies as he chose, and issue rules and regulations for administration and enforcement of the law.

The original Lever Act was about 6,000 words long; the new one is said to be about the same length, for the deletions have been replaced by more specific definitions.

What these definitions are is uncertain. But it is reported that the new measure would let the President stipulate an accounting system to determine cost, and stipulate maximum profits which might be made above that cost. And on prices it is said that increases of more than 10 per cent in 30 days, not justified by increases in the cost of raw materials, would be forbidden, even despite increasing demand or replacement difficulties.

Some say that the taxing power could and would be used to supplement the powers derived in the course of national defense.

—N.A.M.