

## **West Against East -- FIRE**

Development of Sectional Antagonism Seen in Kansas Move.

By Henry Ware Allen / Wichita, Kansas, 7 January, 1933

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The new nationalism advocated by certain newspapers and periodicals, with patriotism based on the protective tariff, is having an unexpected but logical manifestation within the nation. A new sectionalism has sprung up, this time in the West against the East. As an illustration of this, the shibboleth "America for Americans" has been translated into "Keep Kansas Money in Kansas."

For several months past Kansas life insurance companies have combined to spread propaganda against out-of-State life insurance companies on the ground that premium money sent out of the State is a tribute paid to greedy capitalists living elsewhere and constitutes a serious loss to the State. This idea is illustrated by cartoons printed in Kansas newspapers representing a cow which is being slyly milked by Eastern insurance companies while it is being fed by Kansas policy-holders. The title of this cartoon is "Fed in the West—Milked in the East."

The prejudice engendered by similar propaganda in Iowa has doubtless had much to do with mob violence in restraint of foreclosure sales by Eastern life insurance companies. Condemnation of the East by politicians of both parties was a frequent occurrence in the last Presidential campaign, and it is doubtless true that were such a thing possible of attainment a tariff wall would be erected against the East for the protection of Western industries.

As a matter of fact, the domestic allotment bill now being pressed by the incoming Democratic administration is in response to a coercive demand by officials of farm organizations that protective tariff benefits shall by artificial contrivance be allotted to the farming interests of the South and West.

In line with this idea is the strong movement against chain stores and mail-order houses. Restriction of these enterprises is sought by means of excessive taxation, just as is the case with "foreign" life insurance companies, which in Kansas, for example, have to pay four times as much for agents' licenses as is paid by local life

insurance companies. The whole movement is based upon patriotism peculiar to nationalism and it reminds one of the definition of patriotism given in Johnson's dictionary—"The last recourse of a scoundrel."