

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

Although people smile bravely and try to laugh it off, northern Nevada is in serious straits along with much of the rest of the west. Latest reports from Elko county are to the effect that schools there will close about April first when the money is expected to run out, instead of June 1 as has been the case for many, many years. Taxes in this once wealthy county are going delinquent by about fifty per cent. The bank situation had a great deal to do with that, while poor prices of livestock and wool are a contributing factor.

And the condition is not temporary. Plans are being made for a six months school "year" beginning long about next October, that being about all the finances of the county can stand. It is entirely probable that approval will be forthcoming for the Oddie bill, providing that schools can borrow from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but that fails to impress Elko county taxpayers who have learned that it's customary to pay back loans. They'd rather get along with what money they have and not pile up debts to be paid back when and if. So they'll cut a substantial chunk out of the school appropriation by cutting short the terms.

Nor does it stop here. Steps are already being taken to prepare for the issuance of county script with which to "pay" county officers when the money runs out in April. And Elko county is not alone. Fortunately, they had two banks, and one remained open. Humboldt, Lander, Lyon and Churchill with no banks open and county funds tied up badly, are getting ready to follow Elko's lead. Reno schools are likewise hit.

The University of Nevada, which, as a land grant college, gets some \$225,000 every two years from the federal government, must find a way to dig up \$75,000 in cold cash before June first to replace money lost in local banks, or sacrifice the entire federal appropriation for the next biennium under the provisions of the federal law covering land grant colleges. That of course, would mean closing the university. Of course, there's a way out, but it's not easy, and the entire state will have to carry the burden. And all because the state board of examiners approved a sort of phantom bonding company as a

safe and proper surety for public officials and public deposits in banks. Before it's all said and done, THAT situation will be the most important facing the legislative investigating committee as to why it was done.

Considering these things, Las Vegas and southern Nevada really know little about depressions. Repetition, perhaps, but rather worth repeating.

You who deeply enjoy the desert sunsets which provide a regular evening thrill in southern Nevada, would enjoy the beautiful sunsets which fill the skies with color each evening as legislators start their trek from Carson to Reno. Las Vegas sunsets are without parallel in their radiance, and the smashing brilliance of the colors provide a never failing inspiration for those who truly read their message. Those sunsets, among other things, bespeak the desert as perhaps nothing else does. There is represented all the fierceness of unconquerable vastness, in the extreme brilliance of the colors, but the beauty tells the story of the things the true native finds tugging at his heartstrings, ever calling him back to its bosom once he gets away.

How different here in the north-land. None of the brilliance, none of the smashing radiance of color. Rather there's a softness, and delicateness of tints including the lighter blues, and various shades of pinks—colors no artist could even approximate. None of the reds, golds, or deep blues of the desert, but a gentle softness that chastens the most rebellious spirit.

Those sunsets to me, speak of the Nevada I love, in its two extremes. Nowhere in the world can they be duplicated. Nowhere in the world is there that same inspiration. It may not be tangible, and as an answer to the trials of depressions and things it may not amount to much, but somehow there's the thought that beyond the material things that ARE affected by economic conditions, there's something more worth while, and there seems a promise that to those who understand that message, that those more worth while things WILL come, although perhaps not as quickly as the more impatient might wish.