

[Jan. 1, 1938]

SOY BEAN - VILLAIN AND WAR MAKER. Now comes word that the lowly soy bean, whose luxuriant growth is so familiar to every man, woman and child in the broad prairies of Illinois is the deep dyed villain behind the conflict between China and Japan. After the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Russia gave to Japan the South Manchurian Railway. Japan thereupon rebuilt the railway, developed the territory and went in for soy bean culture in a big way, increasing production from 400,000 tons per year to 5,000,000 tons per year. Not only was the humble bean used for food and forage but also for fertilizer in rejuvenating the land of Japan's own island empire. Thus, the soy bean became in a sense the very essence of economic self defense for Japan. As the soy bean business prospered, millions of Chinese and Japanese settled in Manchuria. Now for things dark and sinister. Marshall Chang Hsueh-liang, Chinese leader and alleged opium addict, is said to have cornered the soy bean market, forced farmers to sell soy beans only to his warehouses and then paid them in worthless paper, causing distress, poverty, hunger and despair and imperiling Japan's economic security. So to protect the lowly bean, to protect the farmers who grow the bean, to protect the market and to protect her own "bean" security, Japan moved in. Perhaps all soy beans should henceforth be labelled "Danger-Handle with Care."

UNCLAIMED - \$84,000,000. Somewhere in this broad land are 100,000 World War Veterans or their dependents who have not yet made application for the benefits of the Adjusted Service Certificates, better known as the bonus. On the basis of averages, these 100,000 are entitled to \$84,000,000. They have until 1940 to make application. Where are they, and who are they? Perhaps some of them, with a thoro distaste for war have refused to apply. If so, the thought contains a suggestion for ex-service men's organizations. If they could prevail upon these comrades to apply for their bonus and turn the money over to a trust fund to be administered for the benefit of orphaned children, in their own communities, it would produce much sunshine and gladness.

I'LL BET IT'S JUST IMITATION. George McCorkle is a member of the staff of the Federal Trade Commission. To be exact he is Chairman of the Fair Trade Practice Conference. His business is to get manufacturers of a certain line of merchandise to get together, agree on fair trade practices and then police their own industry. Recently he has been holding conferences with members of the fur industry to establish rules for the identification of furs and to prevent misdescription and deception. Said McCorkle to members of the Appropriation Committee: "It would astonish you to know how many fur coats designated as some kind of seal are nothing but dyed rabbit. For instance, who knows that Sealine, Baltic Seal, Bonded Seal, Bioseal, Arctic Seal, Northern Seal, Imperial Seal or New Zealand Seal are nothing but dyed rabbit skins."

ONE MAN ARMED WITH TRUTH. An organized effort has been under way for weeks to defeat the Ludlow proposal for a war referendum amendment to the Constitution. Day after day noses have been counted. Efforts have been made to defer action. But on Friday, January 7, proponents and friends of the proposal held a meeting. It was determined to proceed with it and call it up for action on January 10. Late in the afternoon of Friday, the 7th, Rep. Hatton Summers of Texas, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and beloved by all members, took the floor to head off sentiment for this proposal. He spoke of its dangers and of danger of invasion. Up stood a quiet young man with slightly graying hair. In even tones he blasted this talk about the ability of other nations to invade or attack us if we waited on a referendum, cited facts and figures. Who was this convincing quiet person? He was Rep. Izac of California, graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, naval officer during the World War and holder of the highest decoration within the gift of the government, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He favors the referendum.

IF THERE BE DOUBTS. The last page of the President's Budget Message to Congress contains the answer to many inquiries that have been in the air for a long time. We quote the language. "The following table shows the gross public debt at the end of the fiscal years 1936 and 1937 and the estimated gross public debt at the end of the fiscal years 1938 and 1939:" (Then follows a table containing these items.) "Special Issues Held by Unemployment Trust Fund (1939) \$1,538,000,000. Special Issues Held by Old Age Reserve Account (1939) \$1,143,000,000." There is the answer to whether Social Security funds have been invested in government bonds.

IS THE LIFE SPAN INCREASING. The Bureau of Census estimates that on January 1, 1939, there will be 8,180,000 persons over age 65 in the U. S. This represents an increase of 180,000 over 1938 and an increase of 364,000 over 1937. It is estimated that 21% will receive assistance in 1939 through the Federal-State Old Age Assistance provisions.

BEST IDEA OF THE WEEK. General Robert E. Wood, President of Sears Roebuck Company testifying before the Senate Unemployment Committee: "If we all would quit hating each other, this recession would stop overnight."