

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF LIQUOR INDUSTRY. The Federal Alcohol Administration, which acts as Uncle Sam's policeman and shepherd of the liquor industry, has just announced thru its annual report that on December 15th, 1937, there were 403 distilling plants, 397 rectifiers, 1103 importers, 1514 wine producers and blenders, 51 warehousemen and bottling establishments and 11,310 wholesalers holding permits and doing business, making a total of 14,893. The industry has become colorful and imaginative. Witness that for a single year, 295,075 labels were submitted for FAA approval. These represent man's highest ingenuity in thinking up names and designing labels that will tempt the appetite. Of those submitted, 79,033 were rejected as not conforming with the Federal requirements. Most states are now following the Federal regulations respecting labelling so as to produce uniformity in the industry. On October 31, 1937, 449,930,230 gallons of whiskey were reported on hand in bonded warehouses. One fourth of this quantity is rye, the balance being corn and bourbon whiskey.

AMAZING GROWTH. In 1920, there were registered about $8\frac{1}{4}$ million motor cars and $3\frac{1}{4}$ million trucks. In 1937, there were about 25 million motor cars and 5 million trucks. About 60% of all new cars and trucks are purchased on the installment plan. This auto empire has developed many tricky and perplexing problems for Congress such as gasoline taxes, highway safety, regulation of trucks as interstate carriers, taxes on tires and tubes, fair trade practices in the sale of cars, tires, tubes and accessories, fuel standards and a host of others. All these problems were unknown about a quarter of a century ago. Today, a dozen different Federal agencies deal with one or more aspects of the motor car problem and problems created by its widespread use. The airplane is, and will continue to provoke, a similar problem. The War Department, the Navy Department, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Bureau of Air Commerce, the Post Office Department and the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics deal with it in a big and substantial way.

IN 1960. Twenty or more years hence, the stamp of President Roosevelt will still be upon our institutions. It may be safely assumed that in addition to his appointment of Justice Black and Justice Reed, to the Supreme Court, he may still have an opportunity to appoint successors for Cardozo, McReynolds and Butler before he leaves office. If he appoints men who are young and reasonably healthy, it can be expected that a Roosevelt majority will dominate the Court for the next twenty years to come. Thus, the Court becomes the lengthened shadow of the present President.

WHITE HOUSE SCARES. Business men are so often frightened by some White House pronouncements. Recently, a well-known big business man was an overnight guest at the White House. He employed some of his time writing letters to business associates and friends on White House stationery. To one of such friends he wrote the one word "Boo" and signed it. That's typical American humor.

UNEMPLOYMENT CENSUS. A preliminary report on the unemployment census taken in November of last year has finally been presented to Congress. It estimates the total of those wholly unemployed somewhere between 7,822,912 and 10,870,000. For Illinois, this census gives the estimated population as of July 1, 1937, at 7,878,000, total number of unemployed and wanting work at 338,055, total number working on WPA, CCC or other emergency work at 121,688, persons partly employed and wanting more work at 162,606. This census does not however take into account the payroll drop in late November and December. The Department of Labor estimates that from mid-November to mid-December at least 520,000 were laid off in manufacturing lines.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS. What makes the citizens of one nation invest their money in the securities or property of another nation? That's a difficult question to answer. First, of course, might be set down as a reason, fear of war or governmental changes. Next, comes the desire to make a profit. But whatever the reason, the amount of money invested abroad by various nations is rather amazing. The Department of Commerce has just compiled an elaborate report on the subject showing that at the end of 1936, Americans owned $4\frac{3}{4}$ billions of foreign securities, owned about $3\frac{1}{4}$ billion of short-term credit and bank balances abroad, and had direct investments in foreign property of all kinds amounting to about $7\frac{3}{4}$ billions. As against that, citizens of foreign lands owned a trifle over 6 billions of United States bonds and securities and one and one half billions in bank balances and short-term credits. Our total investments abroad at the end of 1936 were about $13\frac{1}{4}$ billion; foreign investments over here were a little over $5\frac{1}{2}$ billion. This might be called roving capital.

SENATE FILIBUSTER. Senator Ellender of Louisiana wins the hand-painted ear-muffs for having spoken six days in the filibuster against the anti-lynching bill. It is alleged that he spoke on the subject during all of these days. When we last listened to him, he was talking about Christophe, the emperor of Haiti, about the ancient Mongols, about Father Divine, Chicago gang warfare, and reading from books of ancient vintage. If this is on the subject, then the Senator who some years ago read most of Richard Henry Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast" in a filibuster on the LaFollette Seaman's Act was also speaking on the subject.