

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

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STAMP COLLECTORS. Nine million stamp collectors paid Uncle Sam a million dollars for commemorative stamps last year. Even the President is an avid and interested collector. Meetings and conventions of collectors are held in all parts of the country. Single stamps sell for thousands of dollars and rivalry between collectors is keen. It has become a big business. That is why, when Postmaster General Farley, sold and even autographed sheets of unperforated stamps to his friends, a great hue and cry went up from philatelic societies. A newspaper man, who is a collector by avocation and made \$7000 out of his stamp business last year, uncovered it and now two resolutions in Congress request Mr. Farley's appearance with an explanation. These sheets of imperforate stamps have been estimated as worth as much as \$300,000 and the grievance lies in the fact that all collectors did not have an equal opportunity to secure such imperforate stamps. Wotta world. Tall oaks from little acorns grow.

CONSCIENCE FUND. In the bookkeeping vaults of the Treasury is a document officially known as Document 126,420. It is nothing more than a faded ledger in which is entered "Miscellaneous Receipts." Those receipts are in fact what is known as the "Conscience Fund" wherein are recorded anonymous contributions from people, who impelled by conscience or religion, to restore to Uncle Sam what they took at some time. The entries date back to 1811 and the total received in the 124 years is \$617,576. One lady sent four stamps to square up for once having used a cancelled stamp. One man sent in one stamp for having evaded a half cent duty on a lead pencil brought from Canada. A tourist, fined in France for speeding, refused to pay his fine, went to jail, and later, after return to this country sent Uncle Sam a check for \$6.85, the amount of the fine and asked him to credit it on the French War Debt. Largest amount paid into the conscience fund was \$80,000, paid in four installments.

PINE TREES. Soon, you may wear socks or stockings made of rayon yarn, produced from pine trees. Soon you may read newspapers, printed on paper made from pine trees. For years, experiments have been conducted with a view to finding some suitable crop for poor land in the south besides cotton. Turkey, Russia, Brazil, Argentine, Peru, China, India and others are all expanding their cotton production and some day our foreign market may be cut off. Hence the experiments. In 1933, paper pulp, which is nothing but the wood from young pine trees, processed with acids and alkalies until it was pulpy, was shipped in refrigerator cars to Canada for an experiment in producing newsprint and paper pulp. It was a success. Moreover conversion cost of slash pine in the south into newsprint pulp is only \$19 a ton as against \$28.00 in Canada and as against \$43.00 in this country now. We now import 170 millions of dollars worth of pulp each year. It costs six million dollars to start a paper mill with 500 ton daily production. It would use all the slash pine grown on 300 square miles. If a bill now pending to extend the life of the RFC becomes law, the money may be available and a new industry started which would mean work for thousands of unemployed. Corn belt is vitally interested in this bill because it would make possible the financing of small alcohol plants thruout the corn belt to produce alcohol to be mixed with gasoline, as a farm relief measure.

CHRISTIAN JOY PEOPLES is the felicitous name of a Rear Admiral of the U. S. Navy who is director of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. He will have much to say about the selection of the work projects on which the 4 billion dollar relief fund will be spent. He is not a graduate of the Naval Academy. He came up thro the ranks. Back in 1900 he was an assistant paymaster in the Navy. During the war, he served as assistant chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Purchases and there became acquainted with the President, who at the time was Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Since then he has become head of the Procurement Division.

RFC - Reconstruction Finance Corporation, created by former President Hoover, has become the greatest single agency of the New Deal. From February 2, 1932 to December 31, 1934, it disbursed almost 7 billions dollars to banks, insurance companies, railroads, drainage districts, building and loan associations, industries, relief, and for agricultural financing purposes. It's official life would cease on January 31st but by act of Congress, is given an extended life until 1937. The bill, passed last week, extending it's life also enlarged it's authority, liberalized the making of loans to business and industry, and included authority to make loans to persons, associations and corporations engaged in reorganizing real estate properties for the purpose of bringing relief to distressed holders of real estate bonds. During the debate on the measure which lasted from noon until seven o'clock, Mr. Jesse Jones, of Texas, Chairman of the RFC, sat in the galleries and heard some very tart and uncomplimentary things said about him by both Democrats and Republicans. Incidentally, the

RFC, actually disbursed 32 million dollars in Illinois to aid the liquidation of closed banks.

REAL ESTATE BONDHOLDERS. The special committee authorized by the last Congress to investigate bondholders protective committees filed it's first report this week. (The author was a member of that committee of 7.) It found that of some 10 billion dollars worth of bonds issued to finance the building of apartments, hotels, theatres, and commercial buildings, 8 billion are in default; that 4 million citizens are directly affected; that the life's savings of millions were swept away; that so-called protective committees, (many of which were self constituted or inspired by banks and trust companies) instead of actually protecting bondholders, in many instances, were deliberately operating to bilk and swindle bondholders; that high priced experts, attorneys, trustees, receivers, management corporations were given outrageous fees and that in some cases, it would take the entire rental of such properties for ten years, to pay fees alone, to say nothing of taxes, and of a return to innocent people who had invested their money in these securities. Most ghastly letters which came to the committee, of the thousands received stated: "My wife and I are 69 years of age and on emergency relief. I stated in my application for relief that I possessed \$1500 in defaulted gold bonds. They told me that I must dispose of that \$1500 for \$150 and gave the name of a brokerage firm which would buy them for 10¢ on the dollar; and unless the bonds were disposed of as they suggested, I would be taken off the relief roll." There you have a picture of ghouls haunting a depression tragedy.

WORLD COURT. in a nutshell. Back in 1919 and 1920, there was established by the nations of the world, A Permanent Court of International Justice. Membership was achieved by the proper legislative body in any country which had the treaty making power, by voting favorably to adhere to the court and become a member. In this country, that body happens to be the Senate which under the Constitution, is invested with power to give it's advice and consent to negotiation of any treaty. Presidents, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and now Roosevelt all favored adherence to the World Court and sent messages to the Senate, urging the so-called protocols of adherence, accession, signature, and revision. In substance advocates of World Court adherence, maintain that it is our responsibility to join the sisterhood of nations in an effort to promote peace through judicial determination of international disputes. Opponents maintain that adherence to the World Court would be a back-door entrance to the League of Nations, that it would embroil us in European squabbles, that our own problems would have to be submitted to the Court, that Great Britain with a membership for each of her dominions would have 6 votes as against our one. The proposal to join the World Court was pitched into the Senate almost immediately after the convening of the 74th Congress. Days and days of debate followed. Millions of words of oratory were let loose. Cabinet members came to the "hill" and buttonholed Senators to keep them in line in order to secure the necessary two thirds vote. More than 120,000 telegrams flooded the Senators for and against the Court. Postal and Western Union boys used wheelbarrows to deliver telegrams. Senator Dieterich of Illinois received 1500 alone. Late on Monday afternoon, the Senate voted. Vice President Garner announced the vote. - 52 votes for adherence, 36 votes against. This was 7 more than enough to defeat the proposal. A wave of applause burst from Senate galleries. The proponents of the World Court were glum, the opponents smiled broadly, and the World Court proposal once more goes back to legislative mothballs.

QUIPS. Washington has a population of 487,000 and an auto registration of 180,000. In addition estimates are that another 10,000 autos commute to the city daily from Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere. Lincoln, standing 6 feet four was our tallest President, being 2 inches taller than Washington. Madison was the shortest, height 5 feet 4. There are 3071 counties in the U. S. Coal is mined in 2024 of these counties. Daily production of coal in the U. S. would fill 37,267 railroad coal cars.