

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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AMERICAN MIRACLE.

It will soon be five years ago that the President of the United States signed a bill which became popularly known as Lease-Lend. It was the act under which the President could lease, lend or in other ways provide defense aid to nations whose defense was deemed vital to the United States. The operations under that act are drawing to a close. As one scrutinizes the production and distribution of goods under that authority, it can in truth and in fact be said that it was an American miracle. It called forth the productive genius of every section of this nation and as it comes to an end, it stands forth as a monument to achievement. Not only did we supply and provision the greatest army and navy that any country ever produced but we make available to more than 66 countries and areas of the world munitions, services, food, machinery, aircraft, petroleum and other items to the value of more than forty six thousand million dollars. That is without doubt an American miracle.

HOW IT OPERATED.

First of all it became necessary for Congress to authorize the money and the authority to carry on this operation. This included direct lend-lease appropriations to the President of 30.7 billions of dollars, authority to our Army and Navy to transfer weapons and supplies to other countries in the sum of 36 billion and authority to the Navy and Maritime Commission to lease ships to other nations in the sum of 2.4 billions. These combined items were slightly over 46 billion. The heaviest categories of items were munitions of war, petroleum, industrial machinery and products and food. Food and agricultural products accounted for more than 6 billions and stand as indisputable proof that food is a munition that means so much to victory.

DISTRIBUTION.

A glance at the distribution of supplies by countries indicates that the British Empire received the bulk of this aid. In fact, it received a little more than 30 billions of the total which is slightly less than 60%. Next came Russia with about 11 billion or slightly over 25%. France was third with nearly 1½ billion and then came China with 631 million. The balance was scattered among countries and areas all over the world including most of the countries of Latin America.

REVERSE LEND-LEASE.

In some cases, it became necessary for us to obtain supplies, munitions and services from other countries where our armed forces were on duty. The total amount of such reverse lend-lease was about 6½ million dollars. Of this amount Great Britain provided about 5.9 billions. This, of course, includes Australia, New Zealand, India, the Union of South Africa and other colonies or dominions of the empire. It consisted of food, clothing, petroleum, shipping services and construction work where we had to build airports, buildings, warehouses and other items.

FINAL ADJUSTMENT.

Under the Lend-Lease Act, the President entered into agreements with other nations to make final adjustment of these lend-lease obligations. Those agreements provided that the terms and conditions shall be such as not to burden the commerce between the United States and such country and shall serve to promote better economic relations. First tangible hint of how such readjustments will work is indicated by the British loan proposal under which about 30 billions of lease-lend aid will be cancelled for the 5.9 billions which we received in the form of reverse lend lease plus about 650 millions in 50 year notes. So ends the American miracle.-maybe.