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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.

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LINCOLN LORE.

Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, left Harvard Law School to accept a captaincy in the Union Army. His father had invited him to attend the theatre party on the eventful night when President Lincoln was shot. Had he done so, it is likely that he would have had to sit on a stool blocking the door leading into the President's box so that nobody could have entered. But history did not so decree. There was something fateful about Robert Todd Lincoln. He was crossing a street to tell President Garfield that he could not accept an invitation to accompany the President on a trip when Garfield was suddenly shot. He was standing nearby when President McKinley was assassinated. Thereafter, he vowed that he would never again attend a presidential function. Robert Todd Lincoln died on July 26, 1920. To the Congressional Library he left certain locked trunks containing letters, papers and documents of President Lincoln, with the understanding that they were not to be opened until 21 years after his death. Those trunks will be opened on July 26th 1941 and may contain many important sidelights on the Great Emancipator.

ARMS, ARMAMENT, ARMAGEDDON
(or how much for national defense)

If you read the President's message to Congress of January 12th, you will not get the story of national defense costs. If you read the figures in the ponderous 1000 page budget message which is crammed with arithmetic and dollar signs, you will not get the story. You must examine both and then interpolate. Such a mental gyration would produce the following result: For the fiscal year running from July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940, the budget calls for about 667½ millions for the Navy and 442 millions for the army. The President's message of January 12th calls for 525 millions for "new needs" for national defense. This means an authorization to spend another 525 millions but only 210 millions is expected to be appropriated and expended for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940. An additional 122 millions is budgeted for national defense out of recovery and relief funds. Therefore the total suggested outlay for the fiscal year 1940 is slightly under 1442 million dollars. Of the 525 million to be authorized, 450 million goes to the Army, of which 300 million will go for expansion of the air corps, 110 million for critical equipment items, 32 million for trial orders to industry to see how it can perform in producing various types of equipment. Of the 65 million for the Navy, 44 million would be used to strengthen and create naval bases on both oceans and 21 million for naval aircraft.

LITTLE GUAM - BIG ISSUE.

Take a steamer from San Francisco and travel 5100 miles due west and you'll strike a pinpoint of land in the Pacific Ocean which is 30 miles long and 8 miles wide with a population of 20,000. That pinpoint is the island of Guam. In 1898, an American cruiser stopped at Guam long enough to inform the Spanish Governor that he was out of a job and six months later, President McKinley by Executive Order, placed Guam under the control of the U.S. Navy. We own and operate Guam as a naval base and foreign vessels cannot enter it's

port without Navy consent. Yokahoma, Japan is but 1400 miles due North of Guam, and 16 of the Marianne Islands which Japan controls under a mandate from the League of Nations are very close to Guam. Under Article XIX of the Naval Limitation Treaty signed in Washington on February 6, 1922 by the U.S., Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan, we agreed to preserve the status quo of naval bases and fortifications at Guam. Now comes a proposal to make Guam a major naval base. To do so would be to violate the treaty of 1922. It is contended that since Japan violated the treaty, we are no longer bound. What do you think?

MORE AGED FOLKS* FEWER YOUNG FOLKS.

The Social Security Board, in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau has estimated that on January 1, 1940 there will be 8,356,000 persons aged 65 or over in the U.S. This is an increase of 176,000 over January 1, 1939, and an increase of 1,722,000 over the actual census report of 1930. It has also estimated that on January 1, 1940 there will be 36,077,000 children in the U. S. under 16 years of age. This estimate would show a decline of 350,000 children as compared with January 1, 1939. Here is something to ponder over! An increase of 176,000 persons over 65 in the space of a year. A decrease of 350,000 persons under 16 in the space of a year! If these trends should continue for a few years, they will have a tremendous significance and great bearing upon the future.

THAT MAN BRIDGES.

There are bridges and bridges but only one Harry Bridges and he has become a cause celebre as a Frenchman would say. The American Legion, the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor have been on his trail. The Steamship owners of the Pacific Coast have been after his epidermis. His very present presence in the United States is the essential basis for the impeachment of Madame Perkins the Secretary of Labor, so we might well say, "Who is this man Bridges." He came from Australia in 1920 and entered the U. S. legally under his right name. He has never left the country at anytime since arrival and has not been convicted of a crime. He applied for citizenship in 1921 but for some unexplained reason, let his first papers lapse. He applied for citizenship a second time in 1928 but failed to complete the application and obtain final certificate. He applied a third time in 1936 and again failed to press for final papers. He is the brains of an extensive seaman's organization on the west coast. It is alleged that he is a Communist. There are others who deny that he is. How to cross this Bridge (s) is one of the questions of the moment.