

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT

by
Congressman Everett M. Dirksen.
16th. District.

HEIGH HO SILVER!

Once there was a boy who was beset with a very peculiar affliction. For every step he took forward, he fell back two steps. "Well how does he ever manage to get home" inquired some person who listened to the story. "Oh, he just turns around," remarked the story teller. That story aptly illustrates the net effect of the effort to carry out the provisions of the Silver Purchase Act of 1934. Congress ordered the Treasury to continue to buy silver until one of two things happened. Either the price of silver must go to \$1.29 per ounce which is it's monetary value or until the amount of silver in our money system was in the ratio of 1 to 3 to gold. Pursuant to this mandate from Congress, the Treasury has continued to purchase silver at prices ranging from 50¢ to 77½¢ per ounce. (The market price of silver just now is about 35¢ per ounce) In a period of 66 months the Treasury has purchased about 2200 million ounces of silver. But we're almost as far from the goal as ever. And why is this? Because our gold supply has continued to increase under the policy of paying \$35 per ounce for gold. We now own 65% of the world's gold. In the last 70 months, we've bought \$137 worth of gold for every man, woman and child in the country so that the more gold we acquire, the further we fall back from the objective of the Silver Act of 1934. Interesting, isn't it?

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS.

As the nations of the world become more closely integrated and live in more intimate association, we turn more and more to commissions to solve problems and disputes. Once upon a time, there was little cooperation between nations in pooling their information and resources. Today, cooperation is the rule rather than the exception. Today, the U. S. appropriates funds for participation in The Pan-American Union of American Republics, The International Bureau of Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Interparliamentary Union, The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, Italy, The International Office of Public Health, International Bureau of Protection of Public Property, The Inter-American Radio Office, The International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts, The International Statistical Bureau at the Hague, The International Council of Scientific Unions, The Convention Relating to the Liquor Traffic in Africa, The International Labor Organization, The Convention for the Promotion of Inter-American Cultural Relations and many others. In addition, we have numerous commissions which have been set up to adjudicate boundary, fishing, seal, and other disputes between our country, Canada, and Mexico. Commissions cost so much less than wars in settling disputes.

THE CENSUS

Soon, the census enumerators will be knocking on your door. He or she will ask lots of questions. All this will be noted on forms and tabulated. Later it is published in book form. It then becomes available to government departments, to industries, to organizations and individuals. This will be the 16th Census. The first census was made in 1790. The Census is provided for in the Constitution. It is

an ambitious undertaking. It was cost \$53,250,000. The work has been divided into 23 projects such as population, agriculture, housing, business, etc. About one third of the total expenditure goes to taking the census of population. Other projects included are the census of institutional population, census on marriage and divorce, census on housing, census on cottonseed oils, census on florists and nurseries, and a census on red cedar shingles. The latter is made necessary because of the reciprocal trade arrangement with Canada on shingles.

REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

School teachers are not the only persons who must make reports on their charges and how they are progressing. Congress requires almost every agency in government to make a report on its activities, its expenditures, and its progress. The President and his department and agency heads must by law make more than 100 reports every year to Congress. The President himself makes 15. The Secretary of War makes 39. The Secretary of the Treasury makes 10. The Secretary of Interior make 20. All these must be sent to Congress with a letter of transmittal and are then referred to the Clerk of the House to be indexed and published. From these reports Congress gets a chance to check on how the taxpayer's money is being spent.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTS.

11. Cordell Hull-Democrat.

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State is one of those kindly and quiet persons of whom it might be said that he has learned to grow old gracefully. He is now 69 and bears up remarkably well under the arduous task of looking after the affairs of State for this country. He was born in Tennessee, became a lawyer, and served two terms in the Tennessee legislature. He served as a Captain of Infantry in the Spanish American War and then became a circuit judge by appointment from the Governor. He resigned his judgeship to run for Congress and was elected. He served in Congress for 22 years. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1930 but served only three years because President Roosevelt picked him out of the Senate and made him Secretary of State. He is able and popular. He has devoted much time and effort to the rather controversial reciprocal trade agreements program.