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WHALES AND WHALING. The business of capturing whales and reducing them to oil and other products is not as romantic and glamorous as in days of yore. This is probably due to the fact that high speed, engine-driven vessels, special fire arms, and machinery have divested it of its glamor. Whaling however is still an important industry, so important in fact that it is regulated by a treaty between a score or more of nations. This treaty applies to all the seas and territorial waters of the earth. This treaty became effective in 1935 and among other things provides that (1) the killing of North-Cape whales, Greenland whales, southern right whales, Pacific right whales, and southern pigmy whales is prohibited (2) killing of calves or suckling whales, immature whales or female whales when accompanied by calves is prohibited (3) the fullest use shall be made of all whale carcasses in extracting the oil and where oil factories are located on shore, the residues shall be disposed of so far as possible (4) all whaling vessels must be licensed (5) whalers shall make notes on the whales that are taken and submit the information to their respective countries and such notes shall show date and placing of taking, species, sex, length, and information as to stomach contents. Such information must be forwarded to the International Bureau For Whaling Statistics. Thus does the world keep tab on the big fishes that inhabit the sea.

FORTY MINUTES. In August of 1935, during the closing hours of the 1st session of Congress, a neutrality bill was rushed thro both Houses and became law. Every one admitted that it was a makeshift measure, a kind of stop gap. Therefore the law was made to expire on February 29, 1936. By that time, administration leaders expected and the people of this country who want assurances that we will never be dragged into another war hoped that a more adequate neutrality bill would be enacted. In January 1936, a Senate Committee began to investigate certain aspects of world war diplomacy and financing in order to create a background for strict neutrality. Another Senate Committee hold hearings on a new neutrality bill. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs also labored on five different bills and held extensive hearings. Suddenly, the neutrality hearings blew up. The House Committee determined to bring a resolution before Congress, extending the old act for another year. There were two ways of getting consideration of this resolution. They might have asked the Rules Committee for a rule, under which the extension resolution might be properly considered, with ample time for debate. (Considering that for 7 Saturdays since the 3rd of January, Congress has adjourned over each week end and often adjourned early in the afternoon on other days, there was no good reason why the matter could not be properly debated.) Instead, the other method of obtaining consideration was adopted. On Monday afternoon, Feb. 17, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee moved to suspend the rules and pass this extension. Under the rules governing suspensions, only 40 minutes for debate is allowed. Twenty minutes to those who favor the bill, 20 minutes to those who are opposed. Forty minutes to consider one of the most important matters of policy to come before the Congress, a policy that might readily determine whether we shall be dragged into war again in the future. The extension passed by an overwhelming vote. Those 40 minutes may become very important in our history.

REA. stands for Rural Electrification Administration. Under the Emergency Relief Act passed in April of 1935, the President was given authority to establish by executive order, various agencies to perform different functions that might create work, provide employment and afford relief. One of these was the REA. Its purpose and function is to initiate and supervise a program of projects for the manufacture and distribution of electricity in rural areas. It makes no outright grants. It can make a twenty year, 3% loan to a private or cooperative company to finance the entire cost of building power and light lines in areas that do not now have electric current. In December of 1935, it enlarged its functions to include loans to farmers to finance the wiring of farm houses and outbuildings where electricity would be available. In addition to loans to private companies and cooperatives, it may also make loans to states, cities and other political subdivisions to construct power plants and distribution lines. Applications for loans are made to the REA Administrator and after a thoro investigation, he determines whether such loan shall be made. A total of 100 million dollars is available for REA purposes but up to Feb. 18, 1936, only \$6,373,362 had been allocated for such projects in the entire country. Of this amount \$81,500 was disbursed to the Suburban Electric Utilities Corporation of Peoria for the construction of 98 miles of line to serve 300 or more customers. Other Illinois projects are now under study. A total of \$600,000 has been loaned to private utilities.

NOTE ON THE BONUS. Between now and June 15, when baby bonds in payment of the bonus will be issued, 37,000 veterans will pass away according to the calculations of the Veterans Administration. An application for the bonus automatically cancels the beneficiary designated by the veteran. Consequently, the bonds will go to the veterans estate. The express intention and desire of the veteran as to who shall have these bonds or the value thereof, will be defeated. As a part of the veterans estate, the funds derived from the bonds, will be subject to creditors claims. Yet the act specifically provides that these bonds are not subject to attachment, execution, levy or process. This is one of those things which is not always clearly foreseeable in passing general legislation.

ECHOES OF THE CIVIL WAR. Back in 1862, 1863, and 1864, troops of the Union Army occupied the St. Ludgers Church at Germantown, Missouri. The church was used for sleeping, cooking, and commissary purposes. According to reports, shots were fired into the ceiling and walls and the altar, benches, and fixtures were ruined. To obtain water, a well was dug at one corner of the church, as a result of which, the walls settled and cracked. Military occupation of the church also prevented the holding of church services and disrupted the congregation and they felt that the Government should compensate them for their loss. Accordingly a bill was introduced in Congress many years ago, recommending that \$6000 be paid to reimburse the church for damages. That bill was not passed. Later it was reduced to \$3000 but it still languishes on the calendar of the House. Seventy-four years have elapsed since the First Iowa and the Seventh Missouri regiments occupied that church but the bill is still unpaid. Such are the processes of government.

DIZZY DEAN, WALTER JOHNSON & GEORGE WASHINGTON. Sixty-six years ago, on the 9th of March a little boy named Sol Bloom was born on the corner of Capitol & Ann Eliza Streets in Pekin, Illinois. He left Pekin at an early age and prospered. In 1923 he was elected to Congress from the 19th district in New York City. Congressman Bloom is an able organizer, has a sense of the dramatic and in 1931 was selected as Director General of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission. He literally lived with Washington in those days of preparation for the Bi-centennial and takes a special delight in expounding the strange myths about Washington in order to reveal him as a very human being. In order to dissipate the story that George Washington once threw a silver dollar across the Rappahannock River, Mr. Bloom offered to bet 20 to 1 that not even Walter Johnson, formerly with the Washington Nationals could do so. At once, Rep. Bloom was overwhelmed with phone calls and telegrams at 20 to 1 odds. An alderman of Fredericksburg Va. which is near the site of Washington's reputed dollar-throwing incident placed \$5000 in a local bank and wired Sol Bloom that he would take such a bet. That would mean that Sol would have to put up \$100,000. Dizzy Dean, meanwhile says that if the river was the same size now as in Washington's time, he can do it too. Sol is standing his ground because he maintains that at the time Washington is alleged to have thrown the dollar across the river, the Rappahannock was 1500 feet wide. Apropos of all this, the record for baseball throwing was made in 1910 by Sheldon Lojeune a Brooklyn player who threw it 426 feet.

HONORS. The Constitution provides that, "no person holding any office of profit or trust under them (the United States) shall without the consent of Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state." As a result, when some foreign government wishes to bestow a medal upon some army or navy officer or person employed by the government a bill must be introduced giving the Consent of Congress. Honors awarded by the United States are as follows: By the War Department - Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Soldiers Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Oak Leaf Cluster. By the Navy Department - Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Flying Cross. By the Treasury Dept. - Gold Life Saving Medal, and Silver Life Saving Medal.

COPYRIGHT. Apparently the framers of the Constitution envisioned this nation as a place where science and the arts would reach a high state of development and accordingly gave Congress power to give authors and inventors exclusive right to their writings and discoveries for limited times. Since then, the Congress has been legislating on the subject of patents and copyrights and many strange things have crept into the law. For instance, a photographer, under existing law might copyright a photograph which he has made of some person and that person cannot publish or permit his or her friends to publish such photograph. Every owner of a commercial establishment such as a dance hall, drug store, barber shop, tavern, cafe, and others, where radio music is received for the benefit and entertainment of patrons, is liable to a minimum fine of \$250 under the copyright laws, if such music happens to be copyrighted. To remedy these and other anachronisms in the law, the Duffy Copyright bill was introduced. It has already passed the Senate and is now pending before the House Committee on Patents. Until the Duffy Bill is enacted into law, the United States cannot join in with 40 other leading nations of the world in the International Copyright Convention, which seeks to give authors, composers and inventors international protection against infringement of their works.