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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT  
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TEN YEARS AFTER LINDBERGH. Ten years ago, a lanky, good natured son of a former Congressman from Minnesota climbed into the cock-pit of a Ryan monoplane, disappeared into the heavens and suddenly electrified the world when he landed in Paris after making the first successful non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. Last week, Congress appropriated \$1,208,640 with which to inaugurate a regular trans-Atlantic air mail service which contemplates two round trips from America to England per week and two round trips from England to America each week. Thus in ten short years after Lindy's epochal flight, the skyways of the Atlantic will regularly hear the hum of airmail motors. Three routes may be flown. A northern route from New York to England covering 3418 miles, a southern route from New York via Bermuda and the Azores covering 4891 miles, and a route from Charlestown to England covering 5000 miles. Huge ships will be used weighing from 60 to 125 tons. These planes will carry both mail and passengers. Once established, it is expected that you can mail a letter from anywhere in the United States to anywhere in England for 25¢ per half ounce. For practical purposes, European nations will be as close to us as New York is to San Francisco. But now for a personal slant. Ten years ago, when Lindbergh was feted in Washington, he was introduced by a newspaperman who was President of the National Press Club. Lindbergh continued to add to his laurels. That newspaperman forsook the so-called Fourth Estate and became a member of Congress. Ten years after that introduction, it was his privilege as chairman of a sub-Appropriation Committee handling appropriations for the Post Office Department to steer the bill which makes the initial appropriation for regular trans-Atlantic service. His name is Louis Ludlow and he comes from Indianapolis.

ARE YOU A PHILATELIST? If you are, you will know the meaning of that ear-ful word. If not, may we tell you that it is one who studies and collects postage stamps. In other words a stamp-collector. Interest in stamp collecting has grown by leaps and bounds. In 1933, the P. O. Dept. sold \$302,000 worth of stamps to collectors. In 1938, it expects to sell 2½ million worth of stamps and now requires 42 people to handle this branch of the service. More than 100,000 mail orders were filled from all parts of the world. Sales to collectors average about \$15 each. It is estimated that there are more than 7 million collectors in the United States alone. Letters of inquiry to the Post Office Department about stamps will reach as high as 800 per day. And now a note to collectors: Get your albums ready. Two new series are being prepared known as the Army series and Navy series. There will be five stamps in each series. These stamps will depict scenes from American history. They are now in a state of preparation. The line forms to the right.

CHERRY TREES. In the fruit season, cherry trees may not rate so high. But when Washington's birth anniversary rolls around, cherry trees get the headlines. Now some say that George never chopped down a cherry tree and that the cherry-tree story was a figment of Parson Weems imagination. Others will vehemently insist that there was such an episode in the life of Washington. Be that as it may, there are now a lot of cherry trees on the farm where the chopping episode was alleged to have taken place. It was supposed to have happened on Ferry Farm near Fredericksburg, Virginia where George spent his boyhood. The highway leading to the farm is now edged with 400 cherry trees, 200 of them being of the non-bearing Japanese variety and 200 of the fruit bearing kind. Standing on the same farm, is one old stump of a cherry tree which was killed as a result of the cherry tree story. This stump is all that remains of a tree which was pointed out to visitors as a collateral descendant of the tree on which George aimed his hatchet. As a result souvenir hunters have chopped off bits of it to take home and all that remains is the stump at the base of which is a marker indicating the proud ancestry of the poor tree.

HIDDEN STATUE. One statue of Washington is seldom seen, seldom discussed. It weighs 20 tons and gathers dust in an obscure backroom corner of the Smithsonian Museum. It goes back to 1832 when Congress appropriated \$5000 and commissioned one Horatio Greenough to execute Washington in marble. Horatio did the work in Florence, Italy. Eight years later he called up and said Mr. Washington in marble was ready. He became rather expensive. In transporting him from the Italian Studio to the seaport, so many fine Italian trees were knocked down or ruined that a bill for \$8300 in damages was rendered. The freight by ship was \$7700. From the Navy Yard where he landed, to Capitol Hill took another \$5000 before he was ready for exhibition. When unveiled in the Capitol, there was a furore of real proportions because Horation had let his classical instincts get the better of him and sculpted George in a short skirt and a laurel wreath and not much else. Forthwith, Congress got the well known raspberry and made haste to move Horatio's creation to the obscurity of a shed. The shed cost \$5000. Later they took George out of the shed and exhibited him to public view with an iron fence around him. The fence cost a \$1000. The vaudeville wise crackers began to poke fun at the statue so he was put back in the shed. Thus did George shuttle between the shed and the public eye until finally he landed in the Smithsonian. Total cost \$37,000. Horatio is gone but the statue is still here.

CONGRESS 1837-1937. One hundred years ago, Jackson was President. Having smashed the Bank of the United States, one of its directors, a Mr. Reuben Whitney had himself designated as fiscal agent for the state banks that were listed as government depositories. In that generation of wildcat banking, this was a powerful position. In that period State banks issued their own bank notes. Mr. Whitney contrived to get the Treasury to rule that the notes issued by the banks he represented were acceptable in payment for public lands. The only other form of payment authorized was in specie. Hence, Mr. Whitney's bank clients enjoyed a tremendous advantage over other banks. Obviously, members of Congress who did not belong to the administration party became furious and wanted Mr. Whitney investigated. So they appointed a Committee. On this Committee was a Rep. Peyton of Tenn., and a Rep. Wise of West Va. They called Mr. Whitney and quizzed him. Mr. Whitney, being a friend of Jackson's was not alarmed by the Committee and often refused to answer questions. On occasion he told Mr. Wise and Mr. Peyton that they were a couple of inquisitors. Finally, Rep. Peyton got angry, jumped up, and told Mr. Whitney he would no longer be insulted, and then made a move as if to draw a gun, whereupon Mr. Whitney also arose, grabbed Rep. Peyton and proceeded to throw him into the fireplace. Then Rep. Wise joined the fray and informed Whitney that if he harmed Peyton, he'd take his life. So the meeting broke up and Whitney was cited to appear before Congress on contempt charges. He brought his lawyer with him. Oddly enough, his lawyer was Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner. The House was at a loss to dispose of the matter because they could find no precedents in the rule book. Various suggestions were made to dispose of this troublesome matter but all were put aside. Finally, the House passed a resolution to the effect that Congressmen serving on an Investigating Committee were not to draw their guns on a witness. Can it be that those were the good old days? Fancy, Congressmen on Investigating Committee's threatening to shoot the witness!

CROP INSURANCE. The time may soon be here when wheat-producing farmers on observing the machinations of the Army Worm, the Hessian Fly, the Chinch Bug or what now may be moved to remark, "Drat you varmints! Do your darndest! I got insurance." Or on observing the torrid winds and the early heat of summer devastating the billowy wheat, quietly remark: "It's a ghastly thing but anyway, we're insured of a yield." The President has sent a message to Congress on the subject and now the legislators are at work to devise an insurance plan to cover only wheat. In the past, there have been efforts by private companies to insure crops but for one reason or another they all failed. Probably the first analysis of crop insurance on record is that of a German scientist which was made for the government of Japan. Whatever law is devised by Congress will follow in general way the recommendations made by the President's Committee on crop insurance. It will insure yield and not price. That's an important distinction. It's one thing to assure a farmer in return for a premium payment that he will get 10 bushels per acre or be indemnified by the government and another thing to assure him that he will receive a minimum of \$10 per acre. If wheat were selling at 50¢ a bushel, the yield would bring only \$5 per acre. Generally, the plan will be about like this: If he raised any wheat, the government will ascertain the average yield per acre for a period of six years back. Suppose he seeded 40 acres per year. If in 1930 he got 10 bushel per acre, 6 bushel in 31, 4 bushel in 32, 12 bushel in 33, 9 bushel in 34 and 7 bushel in 35, the average would be 48 divided by 6 or 8 bushel per acre. Insurance would be issued to cover 75% of the average yield per acre. Such a plan would assure a yield of 75% of 8 or 6 bushels per acre. The premium to be paid for such insurance would be the average yield of 8 bushels per acre divided by 75 % of 8 (namely 6) which would make 1 1/3 bushels per acre, per year. Now it might be that in the county where this farm is located, the average yield for the entire county was higher, in which event, both the farm average and the county average would be employed to determine the premium or indemnity. Suppose the premium amounted to 1 bushel per acre. That would mean that the farmer would pay 40 bushels of wheat or its cash equivalent to obtain wheat insurance on 40 acres of wheat. If after harvesting his wheat, he found that his yield was below the insured average, the government would give him wheat or cash in an amount which was equal to the difference between this actual yield and the yield for which he was insured. In lean years, it is expected that an insured yield at a good price would tend to stabilize farm income. In plenteous years, the farmer might be permitted to pay premiums ahead for several years, thereby providing not only an outlet for some of his wheat but also storage of wheat at terminal points as a part of the ever-normal granary plan. If enacted into law, it will prove to be a most interesting experiment in the field of farm income stabilization.

HIGH PRICED SNOW. How can snow be high priced when it may be had for the asking? Nature provides it gratis. Right. One kind of snow however is high priced - the kind that drug addicts use such as heroin, morphine, marihuana. It costs Uncle Sam 1 1/4 millions annually for the Bureau of Narcotics to break up drug rings, send them to prison and send addicts to the Federal Drug Farm at Lexington, Ky. Fifteen per cent of the Federal prison population are drug addicts. Narcotics are at the foundation of much crime. Current prices of drug rings are about \$125 per ounce for morphine \$85 per ounce for heroin. Troublesome problem now is marihuana. It can be produced most anywhere and looks like an ordinary farm crop. As a cash crop, it beats anything ever raised on the farm. Last year 195 tons were seized, the marihuana-farmers sent to prison. Adventures of field agents in the Narcotics Bureau read like Sherlock Holmes.