

7/2/35
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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
16th District.

DO YOU KNOW THAT - According to the report of the Civil Service Commission, the number of civil workers on Uncle Sam's payroll have increased by 108,786 in the last two years? ... That Louis Bean, Economic Adviser of the AAA estimates that the price of meat will increase 22% for the first six months of 1935 and 35% for the last six months as compared with 1934? That the Washington Monument was started by the Washington Monument Society by public subscription, that John Marshall, Chief Justice was the first President of the Society, that the monument cost \$1,187,710, that the corner stone was laid on July 4, 1848, that it required 37 years to complete it, that it contains a stair case with 878 steps, that the aluminum cap was cast by a German chemist in New York and cost \$220 or at the rate of \$36 per pound as against a present price of only 20¢ per pound?.... That Members of Congress bear such unusual first names as Sol, Twing, Usher, Burrwood, Colgate, Braswell, Jed Numa, Rene, Aubert, Marcellus, Knute, Claire, Pehr, Hatton, Vito, Ike, Tillman, Zebulon, Compton, Reuben, Joachim, Jared, Brent, Monrad, Otha, ... Abyssinia, toward which Mussolini is sending troops at the rate of 2500 per day, is rich in oil, gold, silver and other precious metals? That Lt. Col. Herman Koehler, founder of the West Point System of physical training said: "The use of the musket as a means to physical development of anyone, be he man or boy, is worth than worthless"?

PULASKI. Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman came to this country, aided General Washington in the struggle for independence and was made a Brigadier General in the American army. On Oct. 11, 1779, he died from wounds received at the siege of Savannah. For a long time, efforts have been made to set aside Oct. 11, as General Pulaski Memorial Day, and 28 states, including Illinois have memorialized Congress to do so by resolution. Such a resolution is now pending before a House Committee.

PINK SLIPS. When Income Tax Returns are filed, the law provides that every person required to file such return must fill out a pink slip about 4 inches long and 9 inches wide on which he must print his name and address, and state his gross income, total deductions, net income and tax payable and which he must sign. This pink statement is open for public inspection in the office of the collector in which the income tax return is filed, for a period of years. It is claimed that gangsters and kidnapers have inspected these slips in order to mark persons from whom they might be able to extort money. It is claimed also that public inspection of such income reports permits business competitors to ascertain what the other fellow is doing, and hence a tremendous cry has been raised against this requirement in the law. It may be repealed.

A FEW KIND WORDS FOR BANKS. In the 1933 crash, there was a tendency to believe that all banks were precarious things and that all bankers were bad and flinty hearted. The following facts prove that good banking was the rule rather than the exception. In this country we now have 2 banks that have been in business for more than 150 years, 168 over 100 years old, 2474 over 50 years old, 7528 banks over 20 years old. Other interesting facts are that 73% of all banks have less than a million in resources, 41% of all banks are in towns with a population of 1000 or less, 18% (2956) of all banks have a capitalization of \$25,000 or less, 11,685 banks have resources less than a million as against 3709 with resources over one million.

THE FDIC. (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) reports that on Oct. 1, 1934 we had 15,119 banks as follows: 5450 national banks, 7612 state banks which are members of the Federal Reserve System and are insured, 966 insured banks which are members of the Federal Reserve, and 1091 banks not members of the Federal Reserve and not insured. More than 14000 banks are now insured (that is, their deposits are insured) which includes 98% of all deposits and aggregates 36 billion dollars. In the 70 years from 1864 to 1934, there were 16,000 bank suspensions, with deposits of 9 billion dollars. Losses were estimated at 3 billion. Only 20 banks in Illinois are not insured.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. is presided over by Hon. Harold L. Ickes of Winnetka, Ill. Secretary of Interior. For the fiscal year beginning June 30, 1935, this department will have an appropriation of 62 million dollars. Its duties and functions are many and varied. It spends \$33,000 annually on the care, management and distribution of reindeer in Alaska, supervises the Alaskan railroad which is about 450 miles in length, looks after 327,000 Indians who are wards of the United States, embraces the work of the Reclamation and Irrigation services in the western states, supervision of our National Parks, military parks and battle-grounds, control of the 80 million acres of grazing land which still belong to

Uncle Sam, the government education office, the Bureau of Mines, the government of the territory of Hawaii, and many other matters. The Department also supervises the government of the Virgin Islands. These three islands - St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix, - were acquired from Denmark in 1917. They lie a few miles east of Porto Rico, contains but 133 square miles and have a total population of 27,000. For years, they were prosperous because of the rum business but Prohibition destroyed that business. After repeal the PWA made an allocation of a million dollars to rehabilitate the distillery business. Last week, rumors and murmurings of graft, corruption, waste, and extravagance were in the air as a result of which the Senate Committee on Insular Affairs voted a sweeping investigation. Mr. Ickes "welcomes" the investigation. Paul Pearson, Hoover-appointed Governor welcomes it. Everybody should be happy.

RICE. Louisiana and Arkansas are rice growing states. Crops were large in 1933 and 1934. Under a marketing agreement covering producers, prices were kept at least 1¢ per pound above world prices. Result is that the new crop year is at hand, creditors and pressing for payment of loans on the stored portion of the 1933 and 1934 crop, consisting of 225 million pounds and if the holders are compelled to sell at competitive prices in order to move this rice into channels of world trade, they will lose a cent a pound. The House passed this bill providing for a processing tax of 1¢ per pound to reimburse holders of rice. The reimbursement will also apply to stocks of the 1933 and 1934 crop. On the stored portion, reimbursement will be made through the issuance of tax payment warrants. Proponents of the bill argue that it will cost Uncle Sam nothing. Quite true. It's the consumer who will pay the bill in the shape of increased prices at a time when he can least afford it.

THROMBOSIS. When gasoline, mixed with air, flows from the carburator of your car, into the cylinder head and is exploded, forcing the piston down, and generating power, that explosion produces some carbon monoxide gas which escapes out of the exhaust pipe. It goes into the air and is breathed into the lungs of people. In large cities where buildings are high and cars are many, the quantity of monoxide gas is larger. Air containing a substantial percentage of monoxide gas, causes blood to clot, especially in people over middle age. This clotting is called thrombosis. English medical authorities have for a year or two been conducting studies in this matter and it has been found that gasoline with a mixture of alcohol, materially reduces and makes almost negligible, the amount of carbon monoxide resulting from the explosion in the engine cylinders. As a health measure, we may be compelled to use alcohol in gasoline. It's another argument in behalf of alky gas, not only as farm relief but as health conservation.

RANDOM NOTES. Number of hogs to be slaughtered this year will be the smallest since 1910. Prices will continue to go up. In 9,471 schools in 48 states, 2,802,899 pupils last year saved \$1,375,307 in School Savings and now have on deposit \$10,727,505. In 1932, total area of land under cultivation in the U. S. was 375 million acres. Three million bushels of corn from the Argentine landed at Baltimore last week. It is estimated that 300 million bushels of corn were not produced as a result of adjustment and curtailment programs.