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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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16th District

SHALL WE GIVE OUR GOLD AWAY

Recently, Mr. A. A. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State suggested that after the present European War is over, we may want to give to European countries some of our rich store of gold to help them reconstruct their blighted lands. All of which indicates what a headache our present gold supply has become. We as a nation now own more than 18 billion dollars in gold which is about 70% of the worlds total. It is illegal for us as American citizens to have gold coins in our possession, but we continue to buy gold from all comers and hoard it in the ground at Fort Knox, Ky. We buy it at \$35 per ounce. The regular monetary value is but \$20.67 an ounce. Suppose all nations broke loose from the gold standard once and for all. We would have 17,000 tons of metal on hand which would bring whatever the industrial price of gold might be and what a fancy loss we would then take. To stop buying gold too abruptly might completely disorganize world markets. Perhaps a solution would be to set certain monthly or annual quotas beyond which we would not buy gold coupled with a progressive decrease in the price that we will pay for gold over a period of time. In any event, that metal for which kings and queens, peasants and poets have struggled since the dawn of mankind is now disturbing us because we have too much of it.

WALT WHITMAN STAMP

Placing the Walt Whitman postage stamp on sale on February 20th to commemorate a great American poet brings to mind that Whitman came to Washington in the second year of the Civil War and often encountered President Lincoln on the street. His poem of mourning at the death of Lincoln is a superb work. He remained in Washington for more than 8 years after the Civil War ended and found a job as a clerk in the Indian Bureau. Here he received great inspiration for the noble sentiments he was to sing and leave to posterity.

ONE HUNDRED MILES OF BEDS

Imagine if you can, 73,872 beds end to end. That number would extend for a 100 miles. It is the number of beds available today in 84 veterans hospitals and in army and navy hospitals for the care of war veterans. It is such eloquent testimony to the ravages of the World War despite the fact that soon we shall observe the 23rd anniversary of our entry into that struggle. The average age of the World War veteran is about 47 years. About 1,315,737 are still under 45. About 61,025 are over 60 and about 21,729 are over 65. So there were young soldiers and old soldiers in the last war. Every 24 hours, 116 war veterans take the long journey from whence there is no returning and of this number, 88 are veterans of the World War. Deeply tragic that young men who were pronounced physically perfect when Uncle Sam called them more than a generation ago should now be surrendering to the Grim Reaper at the rate of 4 score and 8 every day. Here is the human argument for peace.

A BILL SIGNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In 1862 a Member of Congress by the name of Justin S. Morrill from the State of Vermont introduced the first bill under which federal aid was tendered to the various states. This measure allocated to each state in the Union 20,000 acres of government owned land for each Representative and Senator. If a state had three Congressmen and two Senators, they received 100,000 acres. If it had eight Representatives and two Senators, it received 200,000 acres. The money derived from the sale of this land by the states was placed in a fund and the interest from such funds was to be used exclusively for the support of colleges which were devoted to the teaching of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts and which provided courses in Military Science. This Act was signed by Abraham Lincoln. Since that time there has been a virtual host of enactments providing funds to states for the building of highways, for the pursuit of Agricultural Research, for relief, for Social Security and other purposes. This program of federal grants in aid has received great emphasis in recent years. The real stem, however, came from the Act of 1862 which was placed on the books during the Civil War while Abraham Lincoln was in the "White House.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTS IV. Arthur H. Vandenberg - Republican

U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan is regarded as one of the leading contenders for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1940. He is now 56 years old and lives in the same town where he was born - Grand Rapids. Before coming to the Senate, he was editor and publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald. The style of writing which he developed in penning editorials is quite manifest in the speeches he delivers in the Senate. There is force and dignity about them. Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury is his favorite character and Vandenberg has done several books on the genius and accomplishments of Hamilton. He was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Senate in March of 1928 and was re-elected for the short term in November of that year. He was re-elected in 1934 and his present term expires Jan. 3, 1941. Senator Vandenberg is quite tall, chunky, with penetrating eyes, and a shock of unruly hair which invariably falls over his eye when he speaks. He is a combination of liberal and conservative. To him goes a number of victories such as the almost singlehanded defeat of the Florida Canal which would have cost \$300,000,000. He has expressed sympathy with much of the new social legislation but believes that the administration of this legislation is shot thru with faults and must be revamped and made workable.