

WE COULD USE IT NOW

Figures compiled from reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce indicate that for the years 1936 to 1940 inclusive more than 7½ million tons of scrap iron and steel and 463,000 tons of refined copper were shipped to Japan. We could use this material now.

CITIZENSHIP FOR ALIENS IN FIGHTING FORCES.

A proposal to permit aliens serving in the armed forces of the United States to become citizens without regard to age, education or period of residence in the United States was roundly defeated by the House. There is a disposition to liberalize the procedure whereby aliens who are fighting for this nation might become citizens but Congress believes that they should be required to reside in the United States for a certain length of time and acquire a working knowledge of the institutions of this country and some familiarity with American traditions and ideals.

APPROPRIATE INSCRIPTION.

When ground was broken for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on the edge of the Tidal Basin in the nation's Capitol three years ago, it became necessary to uproot and transplant several hundred Japanese Cherry Trees, which were presented to President Theodore Roosevelt by the Emperor of Japan many years ago. Removal of the trees caused a genuine uproar and some women chained themselves to some of the trees in the hope of preventing their removal. But the trees were removed. The Memorial is almost complete. Inscribed in the magnificent white marble edifice are these lines from Jefferson: "I have sworn on the altar of God eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of men."

THE FORTY HOUR WEEK.

Principal reason for the 4 to 1 defeat of the proposal to suspend the 40-hour week in 17 different Federal laws going back as far as 1892 was that this authority already exists. Under this Walsh-Healy Act, the Secretary of Labor can suspend the hour provisions of the Act in the public interest and under a national defense act enacted in 1940, the President can do likewise. Authority therefore already exists to accomplish this objective if the Commander-in-Chief so decides.

CONQUEST OF THE AIR.

On January 1, 1942 the Civil Aeronautics Administration had issued certificates to 100,787 pilots. This represents an increase of nearly sixty per cent over January 1, 1941. The rate at which the U.S. is becoming air-conscious would indicate that with the passage of another year there may be as many as 250,000 pilots. This would be one pilot for every five-hundred and twenty-four men, women and children in the United States. It represents a remarkable stride in the conquest of the air.

BOMBING INSURANCE.

Congress has created the War Damage Corporation as a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the purpose of providing insurance against damage to property from bombing. The Corporation has a capital of \$100,000,000 and is authorized to issue securities for the purpose of making one billion dollars available for this purpose. Insurance will be restricted to damage resulting from action by the enemy and a schedule of premiums will be worked out. The reason for this action lies in the fact that this type of insurance is difficult to secure from private companies.

HOW TO OBTAIN A COMMISSION.

The Army will need 75,000 officers in 1942 and will select 95,000 young men to attend Officers Training Schools. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 45 who is in the Army and has a fair education, a good record, and some capacity for leadership has a chance to secure a commission. Those who enlist or are inducted are sent to a reception center and then to a field army or replacement center for three months preliminary training. Thereafter he can apply for the Officer Candidates School and if he successfully completes the three months training course, he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant. For the first time in our history officer's selection is starting from the bottom up rather than from the top down.

OUT COMES N.H.A.

The President threw sixteen alphabetical housing agencies into the mixer and out came NHA. He took FHA, USHA, DHA, FSA, FWA, PBA, FHLBB, HOLC, and a few others and merged them into NHA. All of this is to say that sixteen agencies which were constructing housing out of public funds or supplying credit or guarantees to encourage private building have been merged in the National Housing Agency with three divisions to carry on and coordinate these same functions. It was a case of unscrambling the egg.