

[March 11, 1939]

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Nearly 15 years ago, men in public life, men in business, men interested in policies of government felt the need for accurate data and information and for a proper and impartial interpretation of such information as a basis for the making of policies of government. Government agencies were not exactly equipped to make such studies. The Congressional Library was limited both as to staff and to the scope of work which it could undertake. As result, a fund was raised to be used for an endowment for what is today known as the Brookings Institution in Washington D. C. Its purpose is Devotion To Public Service Through Research And Training In the Social Sciences. It seeks to render constructive aid in the development of sound national policies and to offer training in super-graduate work to students of the social sciences. It is administered by a Board of Trustees of different political affiliations but whose interest is absolutely non-political. Frederick A. Delano, cousin of the President is the Chairman and yet many of the studies by this institution have roundly condemned some of the present policies of the administration. The studies made and released in book or pamphlet form to men and women in public life have been of inestimable value. Editorials often allude to a report or an opinion of the Brookings Institution. Well, this is the Institution to which they refer.

DRAFT OF CAPITAL IN TIME OF WAR

Will Rogers once remarked that if money, industrial resources and man power were all made subject to conscription in time of war, the wealthy man would say that war did not pay and the poor man would never ~~xxxx~~ & find out whether it did or not. So, hold your breath. Senator Josh (that's his right name) Lee of Oklahoma has introduced a bill to draft capital in time of war. For any individual with net wealth ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000, 5% would be subject to draft; between \$10,000 and \$100,000, 10% of the net wealth of any individual would be subject to draft of the Government; above \$100,000, the percentage of net wealth subject to draft increases until it reaches 75%. In other words, the Government would commandeer this amount of a person's net wealth and pay him 1% for the use of such wealth. In the previous Congress, this measure had the support of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs but was opposed by the War, Navy, and Treasury Departments. All this may seem a bit irrational in sane and lucid moments, but who knows what may happen when war hysteria engulfs us.

WHAT MAKES THE RED MAN RED

Located in the Northeast section of Washington is the headquarters for an organization known as the American Indian Federation of which a full blood Indian named Joseph Bruner is President. The prolixities and complexities of Washington are of course a bit too much for the native simplicity of Indian Bruner so he speaks thro a representative, who in this case is Alice Lee Jemison. Miss Jemison, among other things, keeps Congressman advised on Indian affairs. Appears before committees, and also edits a mimeographed publication called "The First American." Just now she is much exorcised over the operations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior and insists that the Government Indian Commissioner and other officials of the Bureau have inaugurated a program to make the red man red. Not only that. The Federation has submitted a report to be placed before International Conference of the International Anti-Communist Entente now meeting in Switzerland in which the red man protests vigorously against any efforts to make him red. So you see, the 350,000 genuine, aboriginal red men in our country

resent all efforts to make them red and have laid their case before an international group that will meet in the Old World, far from the native haunts of the First American. All of which gives color and fitness to things.

WRANGLING OVER WRANGEL

In 1881, when Chester A. Arthur was President, the S.S. Corwin was cruising about the Arctic Ocean looking for the survivors of an exploring vessel which had been crushed by ice. The Corwin crew did not find the survivors but it did find some polar bear and walrus disporting on a plateau. They presented this plateau to the State Department as a discovery. In 1916, a Russian exploring party visited this site and claimed it for Russia, naming it Wrangel Island after Baron Wrangel. As if to re-assert their claim, the Russians in 1924, took an American sailor and 12 Eskimos from the island and sent them to prison in Siberia but nobody gave the matter much thought since Wrangel Island is so far north. Recently, Senator Reynolds of North Carolina introduced a bill in Congress to establish a Naval Base on Wrangel Island. But the Russians are there? So what? If the matter is pushed, it becomes another one of the constant tasks of the State Department to keep peace and harmony and seek it's adjustment.

THE PRICE OF PROGRESS

The United States owns about 175,000,000 acres of forest lands which constitutes about one-fourth of the forested areas of the nation. As the program of forest acquisition has gone forward from year to year, there has been a continuous expansion of the program of building forest roads and trails whereby these wooded areas are not only made available to the public but are made accessible for the purpose of combating forest fires. But progress has it's own price. The increase in the number of people who visit the forested domain means an increase in the number of those who so carelessly fling away a lighted cigarette or who fail to extinguish camp-fires. The result has been a progressive increase in the number of forest fires and an increase in the amount of funds required from Congress to meet the fire hazard. In 1929, 7449 fires were reported. By 1936, the number had reached 16,827 and it is fair to assume that with the passing years, the number will increase. It appears as Nature's own penalty for invasion of her virgin domain.