

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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THE LOGIC OF PEACE.

Seldom does the Congressional Front editorialize. But the sweet breath of spring moves over the earth and the spirit of the Ressurrection is in the air. Is it too much to hope that in this season, the hearts and minds of men are moved in that direction which brings a hope of peace in those areas of the earth where human controversies are being arbitrated by the sword. So much contrary opinion can be heard in Washington. From the lips of statesmen, army and navy officers, diplomats and others there falls so casually the opinion that as European weather warms, there will be an outburst of vigorous hostilities and that the Old World is rushing on to Armageddon. Academic opinion, colored by news despatches and fragments of information, inclines toward the belief that the awaited conflict between the forces of Autocracy and Democracy is at hand. But there is a logic for peace. Diplomats and statesmen, sitting around the counsel tables in the chancellories of Europe must be so keenly sensible of what an air attack on defenseless cities must mean. Surely they are aware that no matter what participant moves to destroy women and children, the whole world will experience a shuddering revulsion and hold them accountable. And knowing this, is it too much to hope that diplomats will bend to every reasonable sacrifice to find common ground on which they may stand and bargain for peace. There is a morality that still rises above all considerations and indicates the way to peace. That morality must prevail. Peace in Europe by the time the golden sheaves are brought in from the fruited plains and valleys! Peace in July? There is a logic for it.

H. R. 1.

Several years ago, H.R.1 had a definite and well-known meaning to millions of persons. It was the bill which provided for the payment of the balance of the soldiers bonus. Another Congress came along and H. R.1 was something else. The present Congress came along and H.R.1 was still another thing. This time it is the number of the bill which proposes an excise tax on chain stores and is becoming commonly known as the Chain Store Bill. In brief the bill provides that any person or corporation opening or operating or controlling 10 or more retail stores under the same management, ownership, or supervision shall pay an excise tax, the amount of the tax being determined by the number of stores and the number of states in which those stores are located. For the first 15 stores the tax is \$50 per store. From that point it runs up progressively to \$1000 per store for all stores over 500. One-half of the amount of the tax will be payable the first year, three-quarters the second year and the full tax thereafter. Where stores are located in different states, the schedule of taxes is multiplied by the number of states except that the full amount of the tax shall not be collected until the third year. Hearings on this measure are expected to begin before a sub-committee of the Ways & Means Committee on March 27th and it is expected that a very extensive and complete record will be made.

STORM CLOUDS IN THE FARM CREDIT AREA.

In 1916, when Woodrow Wilson occupied the White House, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act to provide credit for farmers. The operation was simple. Twelve Federal Land Banks were created (one for each Federal Reserve District) with authority to issue and sell bonds and use the money to make loans to farmers ranging from \$100 to \$50,000. In 1933, when foreclosures were widespread, Congress supplemented this act

by providing for Land Bank Commissioners loans which were somewhat more temporary and emergency in character. The Land Banks acted as agents for the Land Bank Commissioner in servicing these loans. In 1934, Congress created the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation with authority to issue consolidated, tax exempt bonds to make more funds available to the land banks. Then in turn, Congress created the Intermediate Credit Banks for the discounting of farm paper and the Bank for Cooperatives to help in financing farm cooperative associations. Then came the Production Credit Corporations in each of the 12 farm credit districts to assist in financing farmer-organized production credit associations from which loans could be made to enable farmers to secure seed and other farm necessities. All these agencies are grouped under the Farm Credit Administration. It operated as an independent agency of government and did a good, sound, workmanlike job. On April 25, 1939, the President transferred the Farm Credit Administration to the Department of Agriculture. It caused a bit of a stir at the time but not much. Farm organizations protested against the transfer. But it was not until recently when officials of the Farm Credit Administration began to resign and to talk that storm clouds lowered. Muttering grew louder. There were whisperings that the Dept. of Agriculture was so liberalizing credit policies that in time it would destroy farm credit. Finally the storm broke. Senators and Congressmen from farm states joined with farm organizations to insist that the Farm Credit Administration be restored to an independent status. The controversy is gaining momentum and soon there will be a showdown on this issue. It will be a honey with Congress and Farm Organizations on one side against the President and the Department of Agriculture on the other.

DIGNITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

The rules of the Senate and House of Representatives are designed to maintain the dignity of the proceedings. Whether they succeed is a matter of question as evidenced by the following colloquy:

Mr. COFFEE of Washington. "Will the gentleman yield at that point. If you are going to lie about me in the Record, I hope you will allow me to interrupt you.

Mr. HOFFMAN of Mich. "I did not lie about you. I just told the truth about you."

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

IX. Thomas Edmund Dewey - Republican.

Owosso, Michigan is a little town of 15,000 people and we do not recall whether it is especially noted for anything else but it is noted as the birthplace of Thomas Edmund Dewey whose name is in the forefront as a Presidential possibility on the Republican ticket. To allay any and all speculation as to his age, let it be recorded that he was born on March 24, 1902, so that he will be a few months over 38 years of age when the convention meets in Philadelphia in June. He holds degrees in law from both the University of Michigan and Columbia and started the practice of law in New York City in 1926. In 1931, after the private practice of law, he became chief assistant to the United States Attorney for the southern district of New York. In 1933 he served as the United States Attorney for that district but resumed private practice a year later. He came into prominence in 1934 as an assistant to the U.S. Attorney General in the prosecution of Banker Charles E. Mitchell and Gangster Waxey Gordon on charges of tax frauds. From 1935 to 1938, he served as a special prosecutor for the Racket and Vice Investigation and was then elected District Attorney for New York. Photographs make his dark moustache seem unduly prominent. Yet one is scarcely aware of this hirsute adornment in talking to him. He has a ringing, resonant voice, a firm handshake, an alert eye and a quick mind. His brisk and vigorous walk indicates a vast amount of physical energy. Also he has an uncanny familiarity with what is happening politically in all sections of the country and can call first and last names in all states.