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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
16th District.

DO YOU KNOW. that the country is becoming more and more air-conscious and air-mail conscious as evidenced by the fact that for the month of January 1936, the government air-mail reached the record of one and three quarter million pounds.... that for the year 1935, government sleuths confiscated counterfeit coins with a face value of \$1,342,000.....that the Department of Agriculture has announced that 1936 will witness the return of the 17 year locust over a wide area including the Mississippi valley....that deposits in national banks have reached an all time high and that how to get this money to work is a grave problem.....that a bill has been introduced in Congress to make the huge Sequoia tree of California our national tree.....42 government agencies are engaged in some phase of housing activities but only 2 of these are engaged in actual construction of housing.... the U. S. Navy represents an investment of 3 billion dollars which is more than all the colleges in the country... that the Dept. of Agriculture is experimentally growing more than 2200 different kinds of grasses gathered from Manchuria, Turkey, Mongolia and elsewhere to find the best thing to prevent drouth and soil erosion in western states.....that the per capita consumption of sugar today is 7 times greater than it was a 100 years ago. (This may have some bearing on our dentist bills.)

AN ESSAY ON CANS. An offhand definition of a can might be a receptacle made from any material for the packing of liquids or solids. In general, we think of a can as made of tin, containing corn, tomatoes, lima beans, orange juice, beets, sardines, and other edibles. Cans are of many sizes. Cans might be filled to the top or they might be only partly filled in which event they are referred to as "slack filled." In the case of fruit or vegetables, one can might contain 30% water and 70% fruit or vegetables while another can of the same size might contain 10% water and 90% fruit or vegetables. Because of these many possibilities, which cannot be known to the consumer unless the label states that fact and the consumer reads the label, the Food & Drug Administration of the Dept. of Agriculture by virtue of the authority which it had under the Pure Food & Drugs Act of 1906, regulates the size and fill of cans together with the labelling requirements. An order dated March 24th, issued by the Food and Drug Administration has the following information relative to canned mushrooms. Can No. 202 x 204 with a diameter of 2 1/8 inches and a height of 2 1/4 inches shall contain 2 ounces of drained mushrooms; can No. 307 x 409 with a height of 4 9/16 inches and a diameter of 3 7/16 inches shall contain 12 ounces of mushrooms to be standard fill. In between these two are 8 different sizes of cans with different weight of contents. In the case of some the difference is only one quarter of an ounce. This should be enough to indicate that even tho the sizes are described, it is easy for the consumer to be under a mis-impression as to how much a can really contains.

HAYM SOLOMON. History students will remember Haym Solomon as a boy born of poor Polish parents who came to America to seek his fortune. He engaged in the brokerage business, amassed a fortune and was imprisoned by British authorities in 1776 as a revolutionist because he was aiding the Colonies in their struggle for freedom. His fortune was turned over to the Colonies. Two great-great-granddaughters of Haym Solomon are living today in Cincinnati, Ohio. They felt that the U. S. should make restitution to them of the fortune of their great-great-grandfather. Despite the fact that many records were destroyed when the British troops burned the national Capitol in 1812, ample records were available to reasonably establish the claim. In 1864, the heirs of Haym Solomon filed their first claim for restitution. The 30th Congress in a committee report stated that the claim "had undeniable merit." At various times, the claim has been filed but never paid. Several weeks ago, the claim was again filed by Rep. Hess from Ohio. But it remains un-acted on and unpaid. If interest were compounded on the claim it would amount to 750 million dollars. Heirs however are willing to waive the interest if the principal sum could be obtained.

TEA CANNISTER TOMBSTONES. In Southeast Washington, along the Anacostia River in the vicinity of where the first Bonus Army was encamped in 1932 is a cemetery sometimes called the Congressional Cemetery. The name is mis-applied but results from the fact that here are 168 monuments, every one exactly alike, which were erected for deceased lawmakers. These monuments have a broad, square base, a stubby column and a round peaked dome and hence are nicknamed "tea cannisters." There are 168 monuments but only 70 bodies are buried there. This portion of the cemetery was allocated to Congressional graves by a law passed in 1807 and from then until 1835, every member of Congress who died in office was interred there. From then on, the place fell into disrepair and several years ago, funds were appropriated to give this cemetery a going over and for repair of the sorry looking monuments.

A MOSBY RANGER PASSES. The passing, this week of an old Confederate Veteran, age 89, at Front Royal Virginia, who was a member of a detachment of troops known as General Mosby's Rangers, recalls that General Mosby gave President Lincoln more trouble than any other leader on the Confederate side. He and his rangers, carried on a kind of guerrilla warfare, striking at night and then riding 50 or 60 miles to strike at some unexpected point at daybreak. Once Mosby captured a number of Union troops, including two brigadier generals and a considerable number of horses. The generals were lamenting their capture and insisting that President Lincoln effect their release thro an exchange of prisoners which caused Lincoln to remark that he didn't mind the generals being captured because he could appoint other generals but he bemoaned the capture of the horses because the horses could be used for work.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. There is reason to believe that the present Congress will enact the Norris-Rayburn Bill, establishing a policy of rural electrification together with a vast appropriation, exceeding a half billion dollars to be expended over a period of 10 years to carry electricity to farms and rural communities. In Illinois, only 28,379 farms now have the benefit of central station power. This is but 12% of the total number of farms. Many states run as low as 2 and 3 per cent. In this respect, the United States is far behind France and some other countries. The bill, if enacted in it's present form will not only bring power to the farms, but will enable farmers to wire their homes and outbuildings and purchase necessary appliances and equipment and fixtures with money to be loaned at a rate of 3% interest over a long period of time. It is a most ambitious program in a field of vast possibilities because 6 million out of a total of 6,800,000 farms are now prospective customers for electrification.

PRAIRIE ROMANCE. In 1850, there came to this country from Ireland, a young man, age 29 who had a small amount of capital and an expert knowledge of soils, land, and agriculture. He went into Illinois, Kans., Nebraska and Missouri, first testing the soil and then buying desirable lands from the Government. After the Civil War, he acquired 160 acre tracts from the soldiers who were awarded land by the government. Thus he acquired 200,000 acres of choice land. These lands he rented to tenant farmers. He established a system of agents and sub-agents to look after the maintenance and operation of the farms to insure that his wishes were carried out. It was in a sense a feudal empire, well managed, productive and profitable. In 1875, at age 54 this gentleman married a woman who was 25 years of age. Three children were born of that union. Two of these were sons. As the sons grew up, this feudal landlord, equipped with a post hole augur, would take his sons over this vast domain and teach them about soils and sub-soils. At the proper age, both sons, were set to work in the main office of this landed estate. This office is located in Lincoln, Illinois. In 1906, the owner of this landed estate died, after devising his holdings to his wife. In 1918 and in 1927, the wife and mother divided the estate among the three children. By 1918, the income from this estate was about \$300,000 per year. In 1932, the wife died. Some time ago, Uncle Sam, believing that the transfers of 1918 and 1927 were made in anticipation of death, filed a claim against the estate for an additional 3 millions of estate taxes. On March 26, 1936, the Board of Tax Appeals in Washington, determined that the transfers were made because of the pride of the parent in the success of the children and not in anticipation of death and determined that additional taxes were not due the government. Thus, from the dry and dusty figures of a tax proceeding, comes the romance of William Scully, Irish immigrant, and the story of the Scully Estates.

TRIBUTE TO ISABELLA GREENWAY. She was born in Kentucky, attended school in New York and married at the age of 19. Her first husband died in 1922 and she married John Greenway, a mining engineer in 1923. With her husband, she helped develop new copper properties in Arizona. Together they built the town of Ajo, Arizona, known as the most beautiful mining town in the west. Mr. Greenway passed on in 1926. Mrs. Greenway was one of the bridesmaids at the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. She entered politics, and became national committee woman from Arizona. She seconded the nomination of President Roosevelt at the Chicago Convention in 1932. At that time, Arizona was represented in Congress by Congressman Louis Douglas. Mr. Douglas resigned to become Director of the Budget. Mrs. Greenway became a candidate for Congress at a special election and was elected. She has served in the 73, and 74th Congress and will voluntarily retire at the end of the present session. She has become known as the "Sweetheart of Arizona." She is a grandmother and preserves a grace and loveliness that is the envy of all women. She is an able legislator and speaks effectively. On many occasions, she has squarely opposed the administration on various items of legislation. She reflects high credit on her sex.