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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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16th District

MARS MAD MONTH

To Caesar, the fortune tellers said "Beware the Ides of March." To the United States, the star gazers and soothsayers might well say, "Beware the Ides of April", for April is the month of the mad war god Mars. We have experienced six wars. All of them began in April. Five began between the 15th and 24th of April. The Revolutionary War began on April 19th, 1775. The War of 1812 began on April 18th of that year. The Mexican War began on April 24, 1846. The Civil War began on April 15, 1861. The Spanish American War began on April 21, 1898 and the World War began on April 6, 1917. Truly there is something portentous about this month of April in the history of our land. In April of 1941 which is also the month of the Resurrection, may there also be a resurrection of that spirit which will keep the nation at peace.

TANDEM ZEPPELIN

The increasing use of aircraft in war and the growth of commercial aviation together with recurring accidents in which many lives have been lost have all directed the inventive genius of American inventors of this country to the development of new and safer types of aircraft. The latest development is a proposal to take three zeppelins and fasten them together by the means of a hollow tube or axis. Wires, cables and springs would also be used to give the whole assembly a kind of rigid quality. The hollow tube running through the three zeppelin bags would be large enough in diameter to serve as the space in which passengers would ride and sleep. The man who proposed this tandem zeppelin has described it in detail in a printed booklet which has been submitted to all members of the Congress and no doubt an effort will be made to prevail upon the War and Navy Department to experiment with this new device.

AFTER THE WAR - WHAT?

Planning experts and economic authorities are already at work on plans to meet post-war conditions. Three basic problems will confront us. The first is the absorption into other pursuits of the vast man power now engaged in military activities or in industries which are making war supplies. The second is the intense effort which will be made by the nations now at war to find foreign trade. The third is the many controls which will be set up throughout the world to control trade, currency values, exchange etc. When the war is over, there will obviously be a tremendous curtailment of our exports of war supplies. Secondly, there will no doubt be a curtailment of exports of other items when the belligerent nations once more turn their attention to business and foreign trade. Finally, it is to be expected that foreign producers, by virtue of lower living standards and lower production costs will make an intensive drive to capture a part of the domestic American market. These are indeed immense problems. To meet them, we may have to adopt many economic devices now being used by other nations. In fact, one agency in the Department of Agriculture has already indicated that this will have to be done.

TWAS ONLY A TOY CANNON.

When the bells ring at 11:45 in the morning, Congressmen scurry from offices and committee rooms to go to the Capitol for the daily session. Some take the tunnel from the House office building to the Capitol; others walk out of doors. The vast majority then take the special elevator which goes to the floor on which the House Chamber is located. From the elevator, they walk thro a corridor to the chamber. On a pedestal in this corridor, one of the door clerks had mounted a toy cannon. It was a very cheap little trinket with yellow wheels and a black gun tube. It's menacing muzzle pointed down the corridor. Every member noticed it at once. It provoked a thousand comments. Normally, it would scarcely be noticed. Now it commanded every attention. Harmless and gaudy little gadget that it is, it now evoked jibes and jests, prophecy and philosophy, fact and fancy. 'Twas only a toy cannon - but behind it's tinsel tube stands a background of bewilderment and apprehension.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Seldom a day goes by that does not witness a controversy over the publication of extraneous matter in the Congressional Record. It has been the settled custom for members of both House and Senate to secure permission to extend their remarks in the Record and to include articles, speeches, editorials, reports, and a host of other things. Thus the Record becomes something of a symposium on every aspect of our national life. This practice is decried on the ground that it not only adds to the expense of printing the record each day but that it becomes a catch-all for so much extraneous matter and is therefore not a strict record of Congressional proceedings. It is defended on the other hand on the ground that the material which is inserted in the Record is carefully selected and is therefore in the public interest. Recently a bill has been introduced to limit the record to the proceedings of Congress. A single issue discloses such varied insertions as an editorial from an Italian newspaper in New York, a speech by the Agricultural Adjustment Administrator, a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, extracts from a pamphlet on the St. Lawrence Seaway, a letter written by a Member to the mayors in his district, an editorial from a religious magazine and a host of other items.