

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.

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OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH. Ever stop to think how many of our folks visit Canada, how many Canadians visit us, what we spend while touring up there or what they spend while touring in our country? Here are some interesting figures. 3,605,086 American autos entered Canada in 1935, 2,632,941 of whom remained for an average of two days. They, together with those who remained in Canada longer spent 109 millions up there. Meanwhile, 629,259 Canadian autos came across the border into our country and while here, the tourists expended 91 million. Average expenditure by Americans in Canada for a two day stay was \$16.49 per capita. Incidentally, 3694 citizens of the U. S. gave up their citizenship last year to become citizens of Canada.

TIN SCRAP. Last week, the Secretary of State announced an embargo on the export of tin scrap and thereby hangs a tale. Let's take for example, the cans of corn, tomatoes, sardines or what not which you buy at the grocery store. These cans are nothing more than sheet steel, covered with a very fine coating of melted tin. In the making of tinware, whether it be cans, buckets, funnels, dispans or what not, there is some waste in the cutting because tinned steel sheet comes in square form and most utensils are cut on the round. These waste corners and trimmings are bungled up and sold for scrap. Much of this scrap went to special de-tinning plants where this fine coating of tin is removed, refined and reclaimed. The reason is that we do not produce tin and must buy all of it abroad. Tin is therefore extremely valuable. Moreover it is invaluable in the manufacture of munitions of war. An example is the so-called "fouling ring" at the base of an artillery shell. This ring of soft metal, containing tin, follows the grooves in a field gun and gives rotation to the shell so that it will not wobble when it goes thro the air. Tin is therefore indispensable in munitions. A year or two, things began to happen. Japan was buying all our tin scrap and quoting such favorable prices that our own de-tinning plants could not compete with the price. Is Japan stocking up on tin in anticipation of another war? We don't know but in any event, an embargo has been clamped down on the export of anymore tin scrap. Export licenses must now be obtained.

LOVELY EYE LASHES. You may deem it your own sweet business whether you desire long, lovely eye lashes that fairly shriek romance, allure and beauty but strangely enough, Uncle Sam makes it his business as to what you may use to cultivate lovely lashes. In 1935, complaint was filed against an Illinois Corporation which was advertising and selling an eye lash developer. The matter was heard by the Federal Trade Commission. After all evidence had been submitted, the Commission on March 24th, 1936 handed down a decision, ordered the manufacturer to cease and desist from advertising, directly or indirectly, whether thro newspapers, magazines, radio, circulars, display cards or in any other way that this eye lash developer will (a) grow, promote the growth of, increase the length of, or change the texture of the eyelashes, (b) that it is a competent treatment for inflamed, bloodshot, or granulated eyes, (c) or that it will relieve eye-strain. All of which proves that Uncle Sam is a most paternal sort of person in the matter of pure foods, drugs and cosmetics.

SOLDIERS BONUS. In about 60 days, the biggest pay-off in all history will begin when the U. S. Treasury mails out the first bonus checks. Already several thousand names and amounts have been certified to the Treasury by the Veterans Administration. Payments will be in bonds and cash. If a veteran has \$422.65 coming, he will receive eight \$50 bonds and a check for \$22.65. The Federal Reserve Banks will act as distributions agencies. Veterans in Illinois will receive their bonds and checks by registered mail from the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago. It will require 38 million bonus bonds to make full payment. One Government statistician has figured out that 300,000 autos will be purchased with bonus checks. The Federal Housing Administration is preparing an advertising campaign to persuade veterans to use their bonus to purchase a home.

THE HUMAN SIDE. Congressman Percy Gassaway, cowhand from Oklahoma and father of 14 children has introduced a bill on birth control. He always wears cowboy boots, winter and summer. Once, when attending the White House reception to Congress, he wore his boots with a long tailed coat. The President noticed it and smiled. Then queried "Does Mr. Gassaway always wear his boots?" On March 26th the King of Egypt (His Majesty Fouad the First) had a birthday so the President wired congratulations. This is a custom for Presidents, kings, rulers to exchange birthday salutations and rather proves Kipling's sentiment that "The Colonel's Lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under the skin."

AAA BENEFIT CHECKS. The preliminary report of Secretary Wallace to the Agricultural Committee of the Senate indicates that there were 46 cotton benefit checks over \$10,000, the largest being \$84,000; 7 wheat checks over \$10,000, the largest being \$29,398; 19 corn hog checks over \$10,000 the largest being \$157,020; there was but 1 tobacco check over \$10,000, and 19 rice checks over \$10,000, the largest being for \$63,768. The real jolt to corn belt pride lies in the fact that not a single one of these big benefit checks came to the corn belt. The one for \$157,020 went to California, one for \$49,194 to New Jersey, one for \$22,623 to Cal.; one for \$19,098 to Mass.,

and one for \$17,838. That huge hog farm in California has 445 acres in buildings, has 6000 farrowing sows, and was paid on a base of 41,872 hogs.

COMPACTS. Down in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, they raise tobacco. Much of this particular type is called flue-cured tobacco. The crop in 1935 was about 800 million pounds. Outlook is that for 1936, tobacco farmers will increase production by 10%. The carry-over of old tobacco into the 1936 crop year is about 870 million pounds. World consumption of flue cured tobacco for 1936 is estimated at 640 million pounds. That means that next year, there will be about 230 million pounds on hand as we go into the next crop year with prospects of a 10% larger crop, assuming normal weather conditions. The effect will be to cause a reduction in price. The tobacco men held a meeting to discuss this problem, got the legislature of Virginia to pass an act providing for control of production. Then they came to Congress and asked consent that the other above-mentioned states might join with Virginia in this program. Reason of course for this approach is that since the Supreme Court invalidated the AAA, there was no way to control production. The House finally approved the bill by a vote of 190 to 116. Offhand it looks all right. Behind it however are some far reaching considerations. Four states, getting together to control production for the purpose of raising prices, are in position to dictate to the other 44 states and to all the pipe smokers, cigarette smokers, plug chewers, and cigar smokers what the price of tobacco will be. If it works out, there will be other compacts similar in nature. Rice can be controlled by four states. Domestic cane sugar by 2 states, beet sugar by six states, flax by six states, peanuts by seven states. Wheat growers and corn-hog producers would have no such luck because corn and hogs are grown in virtually every state in the union. The idea of states entering into compacts to develop united action on some matter whether it be control of production in agriculture or manufacturing, regulation of wages and hours, or for other purposes presents vast possibilities for the future.

FARM ELECTRIFICATION. Back in the days when Lincoln was a boy, a farm house was usually a log-cabin with oiled paper for windows, a fire place for heating and cooking, and tallow candles for illumination. The candle mold was an indispensable kitchen utensil. Clothes were washed by hand, floors were swept with a rough, home-made broom, and toilet facilities were primitive. Water was carried from a well or a nearby spring. Time marched on. There came rude stoves for cooking and heating, candles gave way to kerosene lamps, brooms were made from broom-corn in factories, glass windows became common, and hand washing machines lightened washday labors. Time marched on. Stoves improved, washing machines were powered with gasoline engines, and kerosene stoves made hot summers endurable in farm kitchens. New types of lamps gave excellent illumination but there was always the labor of trimming wicks, filling lamps and the ever present fire hazard. Time marches on. In some localities electric current was brought to the farm to operate washing machines, vacuum sweepers, provide electric lights, operate water pumps so that water under pressure might be enjoyed together with water heaters and bathroom facilities. However, millions of farms could not have the benefit of electric power, because too far distant from central stations. Gradually we've become electric-conscious and this week the House passed a Rural Electrification Bill, already passed by the Senate, expanding the rural electrification activities of the government whereby it is expected that within 10 years, more than a million farms will be electrified. This measure provides loans for building generating plants and transmission lines and also provides loans for wiring farm homes and installing fixtures and appliances. We stand on the threshold of a great electrical advance.

NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER. This is a purely personal paragraph. Civilization was cradled in Egypt. From there, men pushed out to enlarge civilization, discovered Asia, then Europe. Then came Cabot, Columbus and the rest to discover America. From the Atlantic seaboard, pioneers pushed westward to the Pacific. Other pioneers like Peary, Cook, Lindberg pushed into the Arctic wastes and conquered the oceans. Seemingly, there were no new worlds to conquer. In like fashion, the invention of steam engines in 1781 created an industrial revolution, made goods and merchandise available to more people, created jobs. Invention of farm machinery after the Civil War enlarged our farm domain. As early as 1873, learned men thought the machine had brought us to the end of our rope and would destroy civilization by destroying jobs. Came in turn, the electric lamp, the motorcar, the radio and a host of other contrivances to create new industries and new jobs. Today, we scan the horizon for some similar device to take up unemployment and restore our economic well being. Does it require something new to accomplish this end? Hardly. Is it not possible that the next new advance will be to abolish the doctrine of scarcity, expand production of all products, that even the humblest family might enjoy the benefits of our highly developed civilization?