

PRESIDENTIAL BASEBALL

Back in 1910, when all the world ~~was~~ was at peace and prosperity was in the land, a canopied carriage drawn by four beautiful, well-groomed horses was noisily making it's way over the cobblestone streets in the Northwest section of Washington, bearing the rotund form of a jovial looking person who was a ringer for Santa Claus. The fringes on the carriage top danced in the breeze as the carriage made it's way to a slatternly baseball park. It was the day for the opening game of the season. The rotund and ruddy person was none other than William Howard Taft, President of the United States, whose son is now a member of the U. S. Senate. He paid for his own tickets. That set a precedent which has not been changed from that day to this. The crowd roared approval at his presence and altho he did not pitch the first ball on that occasion, it has become the custom for the President to do so. Woodrow Wilson probably holds the record, having attended seven openers during eight years in the White House. He was a real baseball fan, having coached Princeton's university team in 1890. Coolidge was probably the least ardent of Presidential fans for sometimes he would leave the park in the midst of a 7th inning rally. So the opener in Washington continues to be a colorful affair.

OUTSIDE PROPAGANDA

Much mail of all kinds comes to the desks of Congressman from other countries. It includes travel literature, commercial reports, official documents and what not. It also includes propaganda. Latest of these is a pamphlet and petition mailed from Box 200, Station B, Hamilton Canada. The 1¢ stamp bears a likeness of King George the VI. The pamphlet bears the title "Where To Americans? Beware!" and was printed in September 1938. It sets forth another panacea for the depression. The petition contained in the envelope contains blank lines for signatures and urges the recipient to have it filled out and sent to Congress. It is in fact addressed to the President, the Honorable Senators and the Honorable Representatives in Washington. The title of this petition is "A Petition for a Complete Nationalization Of All The Resources, Commodities and Properties." The petition sets forth three things: (1) That Congress pass a law whereby the Government shall become the "sole owner and controller of everything" (2) That pass books be issued to every person which shall be used everywhere and at all times in place of money (3) The enactment of a law whereby all functions, every day are to begin and close with "suitably long prayers" and finally (4) That the change be undertaken at the same time and without further delay. Here then is the perfect plan. The Government takes over everything and money becomes unnecessary. To buy bananas, furniture, baseball tickets, food, and fur coats, all one needs to do is to exhibit a pass book bearing the name and a photograph. But why from Canada?

EDUCATIONAL ORDERS

For 15 years the War and Navy Departments have been working on a national blueprint under which the nation and it's industrial resources might be mobilized in time of war. In a general way, this blue print embraces about five elements: First, an adequate stock of strategic war materials such as tin, rubber, manganese, chemicals and etc. Second,

a standardization of the items which we must produce for war purposes together with blueprints, drawings and plans that might be available for immediate use. Third, a survey of all industrial plants and their processes. Fourth, preparation of these plants for the production of war supplies and Fifth, completion of the forms of contracts under which the facilities of these plants shall be engaged. The recent events in Europe have hastened action on this national blue print and the so-called Educational Orders Bill which is about to become law will cover the fourth item of the plan. This bill makes available the sum of \$34,500,000 to be expended in the fiscal years 1939, 1940 and 1941 for placing orders with private industries for more than 50 critical war items. The production of these items is somewhat different from ordinary peace-time processes and it is deemed necessary that certain industrial plants be educated for their production if the time ever arrives for their immediate use. These funds will be available for the production of these necessary items together with the preparation of factory plans, dies, jigs, tools, fixtures and gauges. It is therefore apparent that the successful and expeditious prosecution of war requires not only disciplined men but educated industries.

NUMBER PLEASE

When some imaginative writer sends out a news story on the acute international situation, he is so often apt to stir public imagination by saying that the capitals of various nations are in constant touch with each other, giving the impression that nervous ears are fairly glued to the long distance telephone every minute of the day. Such is not the fact. Important telephone conversations with European capitals are handled by the telephone company in the same way that other calls are handled and the records of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company in Washington indicate that the number of transatlantic calls averages about three per day. During the Munich crisis period, they averaged but two a day. These delicate international matters are handled by code cablegrams as a general rule. The Government pays the regular rate on over-seas telephone calls which is \$21 for the first three minutes and \$7 for each additional minute. Overseas calls are relayed thru New York where a special switchboard is manned by a staff of operators who can talk several languages.

WAR REFERENDUMS

Two years ago when the Panay was bombed on the Yangste river by Japanese planes, it was enough to give impetus to a proposal by Congressman Ludlow of Indiana which would amend the Constitution so as to make the war making power of Congress dependent upon the will of the people, in respect of any wars that might be fought on foreign soil. A majority of the members of the House signed a petition to bring that measure to the floor of Congress for a vote. It was defeated by a mere thirteen votes. To some degree, interest in war referendums subsided for awhile but ever since the annexation of Hungary and Czecko Slovakia by Hitler, the interest is being renewed. The form of the proposal however has taken a different turn. It is now proposed under a number of resolutions pending in Congress to make it impossible to draft or conscript any citizen for military duty on foreign soil without approval by the people as expressed in a referendum. This would leave the regular Army, Navy and Marine Corps available for service on foreign soil if that should be necessary, but would prevent the sending of drafted citizens to fight in foreign lands unless the people approved such action. If and when this measure comes on for action, it will be a stormy session.