

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

JAPANESE IN U. S. MILITARY SERVICE.

From July 1940 to December 31, 1941 - a period of 18 months - 3842 Japanese were inducted into or enlisted in the military service of the United States. Of this number 1298 were inducted in Hawaii.

HARPOON MAKERS WANTED.

Oil is need for lubrication. Sperm whales produce a type of oil which is essential for certain special lubrication purposes. Harpoons are needed to capture and kill sperm whales. Most harpoons are produced in Sweden. The war has curtailed the supply. Now, the U. S. is seeking harpoon manufacturers.

FISTICUFFING.

War makes controversy. Controversy often proves irritating to thin skins. Such irritation produces anger. Anger in turn destroys restraint and when restraint is gone, the end result is often physical violence. All of which is a polite prelude to the recent fisticuffing which took place at the Alfalfa Club dinner in Washington between Jesse Jones the Secretary of Commerce and Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post. The damages consisted of wounded feelings and a pair of broken glasses. There have been other fights among men in public life in other years. One of the most notable was that between Senator Robinson of Arkansas and Dr. Mitchell on a Washington golf course. It happened in 1924 when Robinson was a dark horse candidate for the Presidency and provided a choice bit of scandal at the time.

THE FIGHTING MAN OF 1942.

How does the fighting man of 1942 stack up with the fighting man of 1918? Remembering that many of the boys in the military forces today are the sons of men who served in 1918, it is like asking whether the son of today is a better man than his pappy was a generation ago. His pappy will not admit it, of course, but the War Department says on a basis of average figures that the fighting man of 1942 is 7 pounds heavier, 2 inches taller, and that he is stronger, healthier, and quicker than his predecessor of World War I. Speak up, Pop!

WPB AND CONGRESS.

For the 15 months period between January 1941, and the end of March 1942, officials of the Office of Production Management and the War Production Board made 191 appearances before Congressional Committees to testify on matters of policy and on the conduct of these war agencies. Mr. Batt, Chief of the Materials Division appeared 12 times, Mr. Knudsen the former production chief 13 times and Mr. Nelson the present chief of production appeared 14 times.

SHIPPING ARITHMETIC:

In World War I, it required $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons of dead weight shipping tonnage to transport a single soldier and his combat equipment for service on foreign soil. Stated in another way, a 7500 ton ship could transport 1000 soldiers plus necessary equipment. But conflict today is a war of machinery and it is estimated that it now requires 17 tons of ship tonnage to transport a soldier and his equipment plus an additional $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons per man to maintain him in the field at a distance of 3000 miles. Thus 14,000,000 tons of shipping would be required to maintain an army of 4,000,000 men in Europe or at a comparable distance.

DEHYDRATION.

The word "dehydration" literally means to take away water and is applied to any process whereby water or moisture is extracted or withdrawn from a product. Before the present conflict ends, it may become a very common word in homes, food stores and elsewhere. War is the moving incentive behind the researches now under way in the field of dehydration. The great need of the moment is ships and shipping space. If enough shipping space can be saved to equal the capacity of a ship, it is the equivalent of building a ship. By dehydration, 9,000,000 pounds of potatoes can be reduced to 1,000,000 pounds without impairing the product, thus saving 8,000,000 pounds of shipping space. The same can be done with eggs, milk, and other vegetables. Still another factor is that dehydrated foods can displace canned foods, thereby saving on sheet metal and tin. If the idea catches on in our domestic living, it may substantially alter many of our living routines after the war ends.

PATENTS.

The war has made patents a lively subject. Franklin and Jefferson were both inventors and hence it is not so strange that in the Constitution itself was included a provision to secure to authors and inventors the exclusive use of their inventions and writings for a limited time. After the Constitution went into effect, the first Congress on April 10, 1790 enacted a law dealing with Patents. A Superintendent of Patents was established in 1802. Under existing law a patent runs for 17 years. Why that period of time was selected is a matter of doubt. But the fact is that an inventor can invent something that might be a great boon to mankind, secure a patent and then shove it in a pigeon-hole for 17 years without it's benefits becoming available to the world. During the last several years, an average of nearly 40,000 letters patent have been issued. Surely, this wealth of ingenuity contains many things which should be usefully devoted to mankind. The Patent laws are in need of over-hauling.