

RESUME of the week in the House. By a vote of 306 to 91 the House passed the Muscle Shoals Bill. It sets up a Board of 3 members holding office for 9 years, called the Tennessee Valley Authority, which shall have authority to build dams, modernize existing power and fertilizer facilities, and launch the government in the business of generating power, building transmission lines, and manufacturing fertilizer. Muscle Shoals was developed as a part of President Wilson's national defense policy for a source of nitrogen and nitrates used in the manufacture of explosives. Two nitrate plants are located there but have not produced any nitrate. The total cost is estimated to ultimately reach hundreds of millions. A resolution approving the division of costs between the U. S. and the state of New York for structures and power apparatus on the St. Lawrence Seaway was approved by a comparatively narrow vote. Most if not all Illinois members opposed the Resolution. One reason for opposition was that the Senate had not yet ratified the U. S. Canadian treaty covering the St. Lawrence and to approve this resolution might aid in securing ratification of that treaty. If the treaty is ratified, it practically makes Lake Michigan an international lake and might seriously restrict the right to withdraw sufficient water for the Illinois-Mississippi Waterway. Evidence submitted relative to the treaty tends to show that Canada would receive 90% of the navigation benefits and 80% of the power benefits from the proposed seaway and only pay 33 1/3 per cent of the cost. The Illinois delegation in Congress together with Senators Lewis and Dietrich are making a concerted attempt to secure defeat of the treaty. By a vote of 383 to 4 with 44 members not voting, the Home Mortgage Refinancing Bill was passed on Friday. An effort to secure direct loans from government to home owner was defeated. The bill permits refinancing of mortgages up to \$10,000 on homes valued up to \$15,000. Interest rate on refinancing shall not exceed 5%. Holders of existing mortgages are expected to exchange them for home loan bonds to be issued under this act, the interest on the bonds being unconditionally guaranteed by the government. To administer the act, a Home Owners Loan Corporation is created capitalized at 200 million to be subscribed by the Treasury together with authority to issue bonds to the amount of 2 billion dollars.

IMPEACHMENTS. Some weeks ago, Federal Judge Louderback of California was impeached for misdemeanor and misconduct in office, by the House and will in due course be tried by the Senate sitting as a Court of impeachment. On Wednesday of this week, impeachment proceedings were filed against Federal Judge James A. Lowell of Massachusetts; and now the news comes that impeachment proceedings are contemplated against Federal Judge Woodward of Ottawa. So many in so short a time, marks an all-time record for Congress.

SUMPTUOUS QUARTERS. The new House Office Building was completed last week and members of Congress are moving in. About one half of the membership remains in the old building and the other half moves to the new building. Completed at a cost in excess of 8 million, it is the last word in modern offices and has been severely criticised for the luxuriousness of its furnishings. The writer will remain in the old building. No new trappings are provided for the old building. We are quite content because we feel infinitely more at home, even tho the green carpet is slightly faded and the old leather chairs show signs of usage.

THE SENATE finally passed the Agricultural Relief Bill but not until it had been expanded to some 60 pages with amendments. It contains the President's inflation program and also authority for the President to accept up to 200 million from the debtor nations on their war debts, in silver. The bill carried by a vote of 64 to 20. On the silver acceptance amendment, 53 voted for and 32 against. Senator Robinson of Indiana also introduced an amendment providing for the payment of the bonus but it was defeated by a vote of 60 to 28. Ten Republicans and 17 Democrats voted for the bonus, 39 Democrats and 17 Republicans voted against it.

ALCOHOL-GAS. The dogs of war have finally been stirred up. This week, Lowell Thomas, the Literary Digest man who speaks over a national hook-up, while speaking in behalf of the Sun Oil Co. of Pennsylvania, warned gasoline users against alcohol-gas because of possible harmful effects. The Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey also carried a statement in its weekly broadcast against alcohol-gas. We have also been advised that the American Auto Association, is contemplating sending out printed matter against it. In the April edition of the Texaco Star, a magazine issued by the Texaco Oil Co. appeared an article against alcohol-gas. Nearly ten days ago, the writer asked the editor of this magazine for permission to submit a counter-article but thus far, such courtesy has not yet been extended. Inquiries continue to reach us concerning alcohol gas and particularly from members of Congress who are interested. Next week, the Senate Finance Committee will consider the alcohol-gasoline bill as a possible amendment to the Federal gasoline tax bill. Oil companies who are so selfish as to resist the efforts of the farmer to get back only 5% of the market that he relinquished to them years ago, when the farmer substituted tractors and trucks for horses and mules, would be wise to aid rather than resist the alcohol-gasoline blend idea. In the long run, it means more prosperity for them. Figures recently released show that there were nearly one and three quarters million fewer auto registrations in 1932 than in 1931. Many of these are farmers. More farm prosperity - more automobiles. More autos - more gasoline.