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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
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16th District.

WHIMSIES. Whimsicalities may be passing interest as for instance, the fact that Dan Casey, age 71, about whom was written that immortal baseball epic, "Casey At The Bat" lives at 603 Quintana Street, Washington, D. C. The poem was written by Ernest Thayer, a newspaper scribe during a game in Philadelphia in 1887..... Congressman Whelchel of Georgia who will be 40 years of age in December of this year is the youngest grandfather in the House....Congressman Ellenbogen of Pennsylvania was born in Austria and elected to Congress before he became a citizen and had to wait six months before he could be seated.....During the course of debate on the farm purchase bill in the Senate, Senator Copeland of New York said "I know I am a good farmer because every three months I have gone down to the bank to pay the interest on my farm mortgage." Then Senator Huey Long added, "I was raised on a farm, Mr. President. I am one of the world's most successful farmers. I left the farm as early as I could possibly get away and I have never gone back since, demonstrating long in advance, a keen knowledge of farming." Which proves that Senators will have their fun.

FILIBUSTERS. For five days, southern Senators have been conducting a filibuster against the Costigan Anti-lynching bill. They wish to kill it by sidetracking it because it would pass on a straight vote in the Senate. Accordingly, southern Senators take turns in speaking against the bill. Senator Bailey of South Carolina talked for two days. Then Senator Black of Alabama occupied an afternoon. Then Senator Bankhead of Alabama took his turn at the oratorical wheel. All of which recalls that years ago, Senator LaFollette (father of the present Senator) spoke for 13 hours against a certain bill to thwart it's passage. Under this archaic procedure, a Senator can yield the floor to another Senator, go out to the cloakroom for a glass of milk, a smoke, and a rest and then return, refreshed in body to take up the cudgels where he left off. Such filibustering is possible in the Senate but not in the House because the rules of procedure in the House place definite limits on the time one may talk. Consequently, filibusters in the House are short-lived and easily broken up. It consists for the most part of making points of order, points of no quorum and roll calls. Instance in point is when Congressman Knutson of Minn. asked permission to insert in the Congressional Record a speech which was supposedly critical of the Administration. A member of the majority objected. Rep. Knutson then made a point that there was not a quorum (218 members) present. It took 40 minutes to call the roll. A few moments later, there came a vote on a conference report on an appropriation bill. Some member demanded a standing vote. The Speaker announced 145 ayes and 26 noes. Knutson objected to the vote on the ground of no quorum and a roll call became automatic. Another 40 minutes consumed. In the House, such filibusters seldom last more than an afternoon, in the Senate they sometimes continue for weeks and becomes impossible to continue with pressing business.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution provides that "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, ..." In that capacity, his only function in time of peace is to review manouvers and parades and exercise a most perfunctory supervision. But he has the power even in time of peace and last week, it almost became necessary to use it. Seldom has it been exercised. The Military Affairs Committee of the House held a secret executive session on a bill introduced by Rep. Wilcox of Florida relative to establishment of additional air bases. The Committee called Brig. General Chas. E. Kilbourne, former assistant Chief of Staff of the Army who apparently testified to the need of indirectly arming the Canadian border. Then the Committee called Brig. General F. M. Andrews, head of the General Headquarters Air Force who suggested the necessity of our being able to seize the French and British islands that lie off our coast. This testimony was supposed to be secret and confidential but when the committee hearings on this bill was printed, it included this confidential testimony and became public knowledge. There loomed at once, the possibility of misunderstanding by foreign governments, a disturbance of friendly relations and an exchange of diplomatic notes on the matter. Quickly, the President dispatched a note to John J. McSwain of North Carolina, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee stating that, "If the testimony in executive session is printed in public documents in the same way as testimony in open session I shall find it necessary as Commander In Chief of the Army and Navy to require that in the future such testimony be given only after approval by me." All of which proves that in the delicate game of foreign relations, we may have some definite convictions on matters of this kind, but in the interest of friendly feeling, we must'nt say it aloud.

THE GUFFEY BILL. Senator Joseph Guffey comes from Pennsylvania where coal and steel are important commodities. He is the author of S-2481, known as the Bituminous Coal Conservation Bill. Bituminous is another name for soft coal as distinguished from anthracite or hard coal. Therefore this bill would affect every one of the 54 Illinois counties producing coal, every one of the 1093 mines in Illinois, every one of the 45,000 coal miners. In brief, here is what this bill provides: (1) That the public interest requires that the Bituminous coal industry be regulated, (2) A Coal Commission of 9 members, appointed by the President be created in the Interior Department to control the production, marketing and allotment of coal with power to fix prices, (3) A Bituminous Coal Labor Board of 3 members appointed by the President with jurisdiction over all labor problems, (4) that the soft coal industry be placed under a code, the cost of the enforcement of which be paid thro a 25% tax on the sale price or fair market value of coal and that 99% of that tax be remitted to the coal producers who comply with that code (5) the creation of a Bituminous Coal Reserve to conserve our coal resources, prevent waste and overproduction and to assure future supplies of coal (6) that the Secretary of Interior on approval of the Coal Commission shall acquire coal properties and mining rights by condemnation or purchase for the purpose of conserving coal (7) that \$300,000,000 shall be appropriated for that purpose, the money to be raised thro the sale of 50 year bonds or the exchange of such bonds for coal properties (8) and that for the purpose of providing funds for the administration of this measure and for the further purpose of creating a sinking fund out of which to retire these bonds, there shall be levied a tax on all bituminous coal mined in the United States, such tax to be 4¢ a ton in 1935, 7.3¢ a ton in 1936, 8.7¢ a ton in 1937, 6.9¢ a ton in 1938 and 3.21¢ a ton in 1939 and in each year thereafter. This bill is proposed as permanent legislation in which the state of Illinois, the operators, the miners and the owners of coal lands will all be vitally interested because it virtually makes soft coal a public utility.

GREAT LAKES TRAINING STATION. In 1904 when Theodore Roosevelt, believer in an adequate Navy was President, there was established at Great Lakes about 40 miles north of Chicago, a naval training station. It grew and grew and grew until it was expanded into a training plan of 220 buildings with a magnificent hospital and an investment of 26 million dollars. Thousands of young men were trained at this station, before, during and after the war but since then it has gradually been curtailed until during the last two years it was carried on an inactive status with a small appropriation of 67,000 for maintenance. Uncle Sam, who can dole out money with a lavish hand one moment and then be as stingy as a miser the next, was so niggardly in his appropriations for this station that it was almost impossible to obtain enough fuel to properly heat the buildings. With what results? Plaster has fallen from the ceilings, floors have warped and paint has peeled. Contrast this attitude with the fact that there is appropriated annually for the Bureau of Standards for testing of materials and other purposes more than two million dollars. A sweeping movement should be started to restore Great Lakes station to it's rightful prestige and to make it a great school for the training of young men, even tho they may not follow the sea as a profession. Great Lakes station is the only interior naval station in the U. S. and the only station where people residing in the Mississippi states may have contact with the Navy for which we appropriated 485 million dollars.

EGGS. Eggs constitute cash produce for farmers. It is estimated that the gross egg business of the nation will aggregate \$400,000,000 annually at the farm. In winter when chickens go on the strike and refuse to lay, the price of eggs goes up. In summer, the price goes down. One method of stabilizing egg prices to some degree to prevent extreme fluctuations is to take eggs produced in the summer, break them into cans, freeze them, place them in cold storage and then sell them to bakers, delicatessens, restaurants, hotels and other establishments. Eggs are also dried. The cost of producing frozen eggs is about 22¢ per pound. China produces vast quantities of frozen eggs as well as dried eggs and to protect the market, a duty has been imposed. Present tariffs are 10¢ a dozen on shell eggs, 11¢ a pound on frozen eggs, 18¢ a pound on dried eggs. On March 1st, 1935, we had in cold storage, 32,000 cases of shell eggs and 39,395,000 pounds of frozen eggs which is the equivalent of 1,126,000 cases. Now imagine if you can, that frozen eggs, coming from China, paying a duty of 11¢ a pound were quoted in New York at 23¢ a pound, duty paid. As Sherlock Holmes would say, "What do you make of this Watson?"