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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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THE SOLDIERS OF 1812.

One hundred twenty nine years ago, we fought a war with Great Britain. It was called The War of 1812. Volunteer soldiers and members of the state militia from the State of Vermont served in that war. Evidently the United States did not or could not pay these soldiers for their services so the State of Vermont issued bonds in the sum of \$4,130 to pay the soldiers. From that day to this, Vermont has been trying to collect this sum with interest from the Federal Government. It seems that in the year 1820, the amount due with interest was figured at \$11 743.66. The Federal Government then made a payment of \$4 421.18 leaving a balance of \$7 322.48. Now comes Vermont thro it's Senators and Representatives and asks for this sum plus interest at the rate of 6% for a period of 114 years and 11 months. The interest alone would amount to \$50,488 or 7 times as much as the principal sum. In addition the state asks for another \$39,478 for various military expenditures incurred in the War of 1812.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

There's a very modest statue in the downtown section of Washington which was erected to the Grand Army of the Republic. Seeing it reminds us that it was 75 years before on April 6, 1866 that Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson founded the Grand Army of the Republic at Decatur Illinois. Dr. Stephenson served as a Civil War surgeon from 1862 to 1864. His tentmate was a preacher. The preacher's name was William J. Rutledge. It was Rev. Rutledge who suggested to Dr. Stephenson that the fellowship of the service and the kinship of the uniform be preserved after the great civil strife ended. Out of this suggestion there blossomed a great host of veterans who were members of the Grand Army and for four generations they made a deep impress upon the life of the nation. The 1900 living veterans of that grand army will soon dwindle to infinity but their spirit marches on.

ECHOES

On March 23, 1941, a radio program called The American Forum of The Air was discussing the question: Shall The Small Invaded Nations Be Fed. Since the plan was first put into concrete form by former President Hoover, one of the speakers in opposing the feeding of invaded nations sought to discredit the idea by discrediting Herbert Hoover. He stated in effect that by an order of President Hoover Federal troops met the hungry and homeless Americans who composed the bonus army with bullets and bayonets. It is strange how such misstatements of fact persist for so many years. The record indicates that in the morning of July 28, 1932, the police of the District of Columbia asked several of the bonus marchers to vacate some old buildings at 10th street and Pennsylvania Ave. The request was refused. A riot ensued. The police could not cope with the riot. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners appealed to President Hoover to restore order. The President thereupon submitted the matter to the Secretary of War. In the afternoon of the same day while the riot was still in progress, troops were brought into the city. Some tear gas was used. No shots were fired. Nobody was bayoneted. Nobody was seriously injured.

The confusion of facts doubtless comes from the incident in the morning of that day when the scuffle between the district police and the bonus marchers resulted in the death of one policeman, one bonus marcher and the injury of 50 other persons.

RUBBER FARMERS.

There are cotton farmers and tobacco farmers. There are wheat farmers and rice farmers. There are corn-hog farmers and vegetable farmers. There are dairy farmers and livestock farmers. There are all kinds of farmers. Add one more - the rubber farmer. He is increasing in California. He raises a shrub called guayule. He takes treated seed and plants it in a seed bed. It grows for about a year. Then he cuts the tops from the seed and transplants it to the field. It takes from 7000 to 8000 plants per acre. It matures in about 4 years. The entire shrub is harvested and sold to a rubber refinery. One acre will produce about 1800 pounds of refined guayule rubber. The guayule shrub is a native of Mexico and grows wild. It has been developed over a period of years to increase its rubber content. It will produce from 15 to 18% rubber. At 10¢ per pound it makes an excellent profit. About 1 million pounds of guayule rubber were produced in the first few months of 1941. With the present scarcity in rubber due to war, the rubber farmer will increase in numbers.

PICTURE IN FIGURES.

Figures can be such a bore. But often they tell such interesting stories. Take for instance these facts as disclosed by the census. There are just about 101 million persons in the US over age 14. Of this number 50,614,304 are males and 50,357,892 are females. Pretty closely balanced, wouldn't you say? Now take these figures. About 59 $\frac{3}{5}$ millions over age 14 live in cities. About 29 million are males and 30 $\frac{3}{5}$ are females. Simply stated, that means that city population is predominantly female. On the other hand, in the small towns and on the farms, males are very substantially in the majority. Does this mean that girls leave small towns and farms and gravitate to the cities? That's what the figures would seem to indicate. Of the 52,840,000 over age 14 who were listed as employed, 79% were males and 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ % females. In the cities, 31.2% of all the employed workers are women; in the small towns the percentage is 20.6; on the farms it is 12.7%. Those dry old census figures contain some interesting stories.