

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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ON BECOMING RE-ACQUAINTED WITH MANKIND

Add rationed gas plus rationed tires plus rationed motorcars plus a shortage of street cars and buses and sprinkle liberally with several hundred thousand soldiers, sailors and civilians who work in and around the nation's capital and then garnish with a large number of sightseers, tourists and business men and the result is congestion. Heretofore taxicabs darted about town with a single passenger but recently the pick-up system has been invoked whereby the cab charges a reduced fare and hauls four passengers. Thus, a sample load for a cab may consist of a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Bureau, a Congressman, an employee in the Office of Price Administration and a business man from Charlottesville. Conversation begins at once. A certain esprit d'corps is immediately developed. Reserve is cast away. Folks become acquainted. The human capacity for adjustment is at work. It is the Pick-Up-fraternity.

BUCK PRIVATES IN ALL LANDS.

A generation ago, poetry and music, both ridiculous and sublime was spun about the fact that the soldier received \$30 per month. It was so even in the present conflict. But all that will be changed and the rhymes and rhythms woven about "30 bucks a month" must be altered to 42 or 50. If the Senate provisions in the pay bill prevail it will be 42; if the House bill prevails it will be 50. In any event it is interesting to compare the pay of the private in other countries with the U. S. In Japan the private soldier receives 30¢ per month; in Turkey 40¢; in Italy \$1.51; in China 28¢; in Mexico \$12.40; in Britain \$12.20; in Germany \$21.60; in Russia \$4.00; in Canada \$35.00. Australia stands at the top and pays a private \$62.10 per month. To this base pay must be added certain provisions for overseas service and dependent's pay. Australia provides \$43.80 additional for a wife and child and then defers a part of the soldiers pay and puts it away for him until the war ends. Canada adds \$17.55 for a wife and \$10.53 for each child up to 2 Children. In the main however, the foregoing amounts indicate the difference in base pay for private soldiers in the various countries.

RE-NEGOTIATION.

It's a powerful word and worth hundreds of millions. First contracts awarded by the army and navy for ordnance, supplies, instruments, planes ships and other war materials were negotiated in haste when it was difficult to estimate costs on many items. As work on these war contracts progressed, it became evident that profits would be excessive, especially as mass production got under way. It was also evident in the light of information assembled by the Army, the Navy and the committees of Congress that many of these contracts should be re-negotiated in the interest of the American taxpayer. This has been done and the first report made to Congress by the Naval Affairs Committee of the House indicates that up to May 1, 1942, direct savings of 337 million and indirect savings of 170 million have been accomplished, making a total of more than 507 millions. That's real saving.

AIR FUTURE OF ILLINOIS

Chicago (and that means Illinois) will become the international air centre and international air terminal of the future. It has economic importance and is the hub of a vast business and trade activity. It is a railroad and highway centre and has water facilities. The Illinois area has level terrain, free from unusual hazards which can easily be adapted to air terminals. But it has something more. It is so strategically located from the viewpoint of air commerce.

This fact springs from our rapidly changing ideas of geography. Normally, one would believe that to go to London, Berlin, Copenhagen, Moscow and other foreign centres, it would be necessary to go to New York and start from there. Now take a look at the map. Chicago is near the 42 parallel of north latitude. New York is about 41. London is 51. Berlin 52. Leningrad 60; Moscow 55. Planes fly the shortest distance as measured by the great map circles, unhampered by surface obstructions. Flying directly from Chicago to London via Labrador or to Berlin, Paris, Moscow, Oslo, Stockholm, Leningrad, Copenhagen is but a few hundred miles farther than to go by way of New York. Geography and the new concepts of direction and space are definitely on the side of Illinois and Chicago in the air transport development of the future.

CASUALTIES ON THE HOME FRONT.

The Navy reports a total of 2495 enlisted men and officers as missing (and presumed to be casualties) from December 7, 1941 to April 15, 1942. As we honor those who are killed in action let us also remember the casualties on the Home Front, namely those killed in production. The score is an impressive and tragic figure. The Committee For The Conservation of Manpower In Defense Industries reports 19,250 Killed and 115,500 badly injured in the calendar year 1941. Add to this the amazing figure of 2,298,000 who were in one way or another incapacitated by injury and we have the substance of a real problem which can be met only by the utmost caution and care.