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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

CENSUS OF BIG GAME ANIMALS.

Believe it or not but we have a slum clearance problem right out in the big outdoors. This time it's animals, and housing projects will not solve the problem. The Dept. of Agriculture has recently completed a census of big game animals in our national forests and estimates that their number has increased by 275% since 1924. Not counting the spring crop of bear cubs, fawns, little elk etc, it is estimated that in our national forests alone there are 1,930,000 head of big game. More than 80 national forests report 5,000 deer each, 40 report more than 1,000 elk each, and 39 report more than 500 black bear. In addition, there is moose, mountain goats, wild boar and other game. As big game multiplies, the ranges where such game feeds are over grazed and it then becomes necessary to feed hay to keep such game alive. Since bobcats, mountain lion, cougar, wolves, coyotes and other animals of prey have failed to reduce the number of big game, experts in this field suggest that the amount of big game be diminished by permitting hunters to do the job under proper restrictions and limitations. Truly, Federal conservation is getting results.

WAR AND TAXES.

On June 11th, the House of Representatives passed the Revenue Act or tax act of 1940 which provided for the raising of an additional One Billion in annual taxes. The bill went to the Senate. That august body promptly added an excess profits tax and a war profits tax. Thus, what started out as a modest tax bill with about 30 pages, became a monumental bill with 357 pages. The war profits tax which was introduced by Senator Connolly of Texas and which was adopted by the Senate is of interest for many reasons. The first is that it would become effective if and when the U.S. should engage in war. The second is that it taxes virtually every citizen in the land to defray the cost of war. As an example, a family consisting of wife, husband and one child with an income of \$200 per month or \$2400 per year would pay no tax under present tax laws because the exemptions amount to \$2500 for married persons plus \$400 for each child. Under the Connolly proposal, the married exemption would be reduced to \$1600 and the deduction for minor children to \$250 so that the man in the above example would pay a tax on \$2400 of net income less the sum of \$1600 and \$250 or \$550. His normal tax would be 10% of this amount and the surtax would be 6% so that the above named citizen would pay a tax of \$88 where he pays no tax now. This measure indicates how war would be brought home to the pocketbook of the average citizen.

JUNE 28, 1919.

The echo of that date is still distinct and clear. On that date the treaty of peace with Germany was signed in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Part V, Section 1, Chapter 1, Article 159 and succeeding articles provide that the German military forces shall be demobilized and that after March 31, 1920 the German Army shall not exceed seven divisions of infantry and 3 Divisions of Cavalry and that the entire German Army must not exceed 100,000 men. Then follows this very interesting provision in Article 173: "Universal compulsory military service shall be abolished in Germany. The German Army may only be constituted and recruited by means of voluntary enlistment. The period of enlistment for non-commissioned officers and privates must be twelve consecutive years." Little by little, this document of Versailles was torn to bits by events and by action of the German government and compulsory service was restored. How interesting that this echo should resound down the years as discussion increases around the subject of compulsory military training, FOR OUR OWN COUNTRY.

SELECTIVE COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING.

Pending before Committees of the Congress at this moment is the Burke-Wadsworth bill known as the Selective Training And Service Act of 1940. Hearings on this measure are now under way before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. Stating that our institutions are threatened and that mobilization of the Nation's strength is imperative, the bill provides for the registration on some fixed day of all able bodied male citizens between the ages of 18 and 65. The male citizenry is then divided into two classes. The first class embraces those between 18 and 45 who would be liable for training and service in the land and naval forces. (Note the words "and service") The second class consists of those between 18 and 21, and between 45 and 65 who would be liable for training and service in home defense. The President as Commander in Chief shall induct such persons as are selected by lot into the land and naval forces for training of not less than 8 consecutive months if the nation is not at war. If Congress declares that the nation is in peril, then service shall continue until such persons are relieved from active duty. After the training period, such person then becomes a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps for a period of 10 years or until age 45. Pay is fixed at \$5 per month and selection shall be done by lot through local boards. Those now serving in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and similar services are exempt from registration. The Vice President, Members of Congress, the Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court and Governors are explicitly deferred from such service by law. Other persons who are essential to industry, agriculture, medicine, dentistry, churches, etc. shall be deferred by the President as necessary to the national interest but such deferment from service shall be done on an individual and not a group basis. Conscientious objectors will be deferred from military training but would be required to train for some type of non-combatant service. This in brief is the compulsory military training bill now being discussed through the land.

BUGS.

Nearly twenty years ago, our entomologists first discovered the Japanese Beetle. It is a small bug which feeds on plant life and eats away the leaves and foliage of plants and bushes so as to give that lacy effect. In the last 20 years, nearly a million dollars has been expended to quarantine and control the spread of this one bug but somehow or other, it continues to move into a larger area. In recent weeks, this pesky bug has invaded the nation's capital itself and is frolicking among the rosebushes, trees, and golf courses of the city. Some golf players even complained that the beetles were so numerous as to cover a golf ball which had come to rest and made it almost impossible to find that pellet. All this lead the author of the Congressional Front to make some observations on this subject to the membership of Congress, as a result of which there came a letter from a man in Maryland who maintains that present farming methods are out of harmony with Nature and that there will be no relief from insects until we change farm practices. He maintains that both bugs and weeds are the result of our failure to properly weed the forces of the Earth and the Sun and that until we do learn to do so, the bugs will continue to get the upper hand and imperil man's subsistence. This gentleman also has a remedy. It is a patented electric plow which squirts high-voltage electricity into the soil as it is plowed. This electric treatment he claims, kills bugs and weeds so that neither can multiply. Sounds interesting. As one who used to pull up weeds in a corn field, this plow should beget the sympathy of every boy who ever strangled a weed or chased a potato bug.