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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

WORLD DEBT.

"Debt" said a certain profound scholar "is a speculation on time." That is to say that individuals, business enterprises and nations go into debt for certain purposes in the hope and belief that the hope of growth and expansion over a period of time will enable them to pay off a debt which has been incurred. A hundred years ago when the population of the world was slightly over a billion people, the aggregate of the debt of all nations was about $7\frac{1}{2}$ billions. Fifty years later the world had gained a half billion in population but the total of all debt had jumped to $27\frac{1}{2}$ billion. Today, the world population is estimated at about 1.8 billion persons but the total of world debt is well over 100 billion. It is interesting to make a similar comparison for our own nation. In 1916 when our population was 105 million, our national debt was slightly less than 1 billion dollars. In 1919 when our estimated population was about 109 million, the world war had carried our national debt to an all-time record of 25.2 billion. In 1930, the debt had been paid down to 16 billion and population stood at 123 million. In 1940 with an estimated population of 130 million, our debt went to 45 billion. On August 10th, the Secretary of the Treasury came before the House Ways and Means Committee and stated that by the middle of next year, it would probably be necessary to raise the debt limit to about 58 billion. It is quite apparent therefore that there is here as in other sections of the world, the relation between debt increase and population growth has been vastly disturbed.

FOOTNOTE TO SOME POWER HISTORY.

In 1934, two FWA engineers went to Nebraska to make a survey of electric power prospects on the Loup and Platte Rivers. That report was not made public. In June of 1934, complaint was made to Senator Norris regarding the attitude of one of these engineers and the Senator from Nebraska directed an inquiry to Secretary Ickes who was also FWA Administrator. On June 2, 1934, the Secretary wrote the Senator that "The engineer whose conduct is the subject of your letter will have nothing more to do with the tri-county or other Nebraska projects: and his report will be disregarded." One of the engineers was subsequently discharged. One of these engineers reported on May 15, 1934 that he doubted that the retail price of electrical energy to the consumer would be materially reduced and that no allowance has been made in the cost estimate for this project for the sales and promotional expense which would be necessary to increase power consumption. In January 1940, a report was made on two of these projects showing that for the 9 months period from January 1 to Sept. 30, 1939, one of these projects lost \$49,000 and the other about \$64,000 on operations. On August 15th, 1930, it was reported by Associated Press that the three projects would be consolidated and that \$37,000,000 in bonds would be refinanced. That dispatch carried this brief but significant statement: "Refinancing to take the Districts out of the red delays first maturities until 1946." All of which makes an interesting footnote to some power history.

THOSE TELLTALE FINGER TIPS.

What an amazing thing that of the billions of people in the world, no two seem to have identical finger prints. Those telltale finger tips have sent many persons to the electric chair or to the darkness of prison. The Federal Bureau of Investigation in it's report for July 31, 1940 reveals that more than 13,000,000 sets of finger prints are now on file and that new prints are being received at the rate of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ million sets per year. Nearly 11,000 law enforcement agencies in the country are sending prints to the FBI. Each day, more than 7500 finger print records are sent to the FBI in Washington for a search and check up against those now on file. If a person has been previously finger-printed and his prints are on file, it only takes three minutes to make a check up and find them. As one contemplates the

wholrs, lines, skirls, mounts and other distinguishing marks on the finger tips whereby one person can be identified from another among all the millions who dot the earth, it becomes so starkly impressive as testimony to the mystic genius of the Creator.

AMERICA'S REAL BRAIN TRUST.

September witnesses a mass movement of youth as it returns to the school rooms and campuses of the land. The Federal Government has an interest in this migration. Through the experiment and extension divisions in the Department of Agriculture, it makes millions available for agriculture instruction. Through the Office of Education, other millions are expended for the work of instruction. Finally, emergency funds are expended thro the National Youth Administration for educational assistance. Uncle Sam has a big stake in this job. And what a vast plant and far flung equipment we have today to carry on educational work. About 10 billion or more is invested in land, buildings and equipment of this plant. It embraces about 250,000 elementary schools, 29,000 high schools, 1700 universities and colleges, 2100 private commercial schools and 1800 special schools. More than 31,000,000 students and pupils submits themselves for instruction by a corps of 1,100,000 teachers, instructors and professors. The importance of this vast enterprise lies in the fact that in it will be found the stimuli to thought which will produce the solutions for the problems of the future.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT "BORING FROM WITHIN?"

That question is frequently asked. The answer is that considerable has been done. The Alien Registration Act is a case in point. It is more than an act for the mere registration of non-citizens. In fact that is but one of the titles of this statute. The first title to this act makes it punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years for anyone who is found guilty of advising, counselling or urging disloyalty, mutiny, refusal of duty or insubordination of duty in the military and naval forces of the nation. The second title to the act enlarges the list of offenses for which aliens might be deported and the third title deals with alien registration. Under the deportation provisions of this act, any alien who at anytime after his entry into the country (and that might be fifty years after he came) who shall have been convicted of possessing or carrying an automatic weapon or a sawed-off shotgun in violation of law shall be deported upon warrant of the Attorney General. Many other enactments have gone on the statute books which are designed to deal with the question of subversive efforts in this country.