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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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16th District

ARMISTICE WEEK

This week all of us have been forcefully reminded of the last World War as we listened to the addresses and watched the parades in observance of Armistice Day. Twenty three short years since the cessation of that ghastly struggle. Have we resolved that there will not be another Armistice Day nor another Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for this country. This is the only country that was involved in that war that is able to observe Armistice day without the threat of the sounding of air raid warning signals.

AN OPM ORDER

Just how does government go about the business of compelling a manufacturer of equipment to reduce production in the interest of defense. The order cutting production of electric refrigerators is a good example. It is an order from the Office of Production Management. It is entitled "Limitation Order L-5. To Restrict the Production of Domestic Mechanical Refrigerators." The first section divides manufacturers into 3 classes, namely those whose sales were 16,000 units or more per month, those between 5000 and 16,000, and those under 5000. The second section places a limit on the average number of refrigerators that can be produced during the next five months of approximately 55% of what it was during a preceding period. The rest of the order deals with inspections, report and penalties. The order takes effect on the day it is issued. So the manufacturer at once cuts down production to a point where he produces but 55 refrigerators where he produced 100 before.

STEPHEN DECATUR

It was April in the year 1816. The place was Norfolk, Virginia. The occasion was a dinner in honor of Stephen Decatur. At the time, he was Naval Commissioner. Born in 1779, at the time of the struggle for independence, he gained undying fame at age 25 by burning the frigate Philadelphia in the harbor of Tripoli, Africa. He, it was who ended piracy and blackmail by the Tripolitan pirates in the Mediterranean. At this dinner, Stephen Decatur said: "Our Country in her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be right; but our country, right or wrong." Has it ever occurred to you that Decatur said "our country" and not "my country."

RADIO SWITCHMAN?

At the Elwood Ordnance Plant in Illinois, the War Department has constructed more than 80 miles of railroad track to knit the plant into a terminal year covering some 22 square miles. As all the material to be handled is of highly explosive character and danger great they have omitted the construction of any signal lights or blocks. All switching will be directed from a central station by radio-telephone connection with each of the locomotives used in the yards. No watching for signals along the tracks but the engineer will have to be on the alert for instructions and warnings through the radio-telephone in the cab.

REAL ESTATE FOR DEFENSE

The War Department has announced that during the past fiscal year that they have acquired a total of 7,647,551 acres of land at a cost in excess of \$80,000,000. In addition to purchases they have leased an additional 1,177,506 acres. The equivalent of more than 53,000 farms with a quarter section each. To house workers who will be attracted to the plants being erected on some of this land, they expect that 525,000 houses will have to be built. Thus is some explanation seen for the establishment of so called "defense area" construction and limitations placed on construction outside those areas.

WITHOUT BENEFIT OF PUBLICITY.

One government agency goes on minding it's own business, makes few if any press releases and continues to do a good job. It is the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation which is charged with the task of insuring bank deposits. The Corporation has now been in existence for six years. It insures deposits in 13,000 banks. In the 7 year period from 1933 to 1940, 355 banks were merged with other banks or closed. This operation involved 1,133,379 depositors having on deposit in these banks more than 438 million dollars. Of this number 1,133,379 depositors suffered no loss at all, 22,220 failed to file claims and could not be located, and 4439 suffered some loss because their deposits were in excess of \$5000 which is the insurable limit under the law. The Corporation closed or merged these 355 banks and then administered the assets. From the funds recovered in these cases plus about 46 million which the Corporation paid out of it's own funds the loss in these cases was held to \$3,054,000 as against a recovery of more than 435 million dollars. Here is an agency of government which deserves commendation for a job well done.