

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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E.O.Y.

Pretty soon, you'll notice from the advertisements in the newspapers that E.O.Y. sales will get under way. Every experienced shopper knows very well what that means. That means an End of the Year sale. It's a clearance sale. For the store which holds such a sale, it means a reduction in stocks of goods because the end of the year means that it's time for an inventory. Goods must be counted and priced. Accounts due the store must be totalled. Cash in bank must be counted and totalled. Accounts which are payable and all other indebtedness must be listed and when the accountants put it all together, it will present to the store management, to stockholders, to suppliers, to banks and all other interested people just how much goods was sold, how much profit was made, what the liabilities and assets are and in general what the going condition of the business is. But to obtain this picture, it is necessary to take an inventory.

INVENTORY FOR OUR COUNTRY.

If it's good business - in fact an indispensable business - that all types of business and industry- large and small- take an inventory at the end of the year, why wouldn't it be good business for our country - the United States of America - to take an inventory. Why shouldn't we list our liabilities and assets, our commitments, our obligations both at home and abroad, our natural resources and every other item that might be considered a liability or an asset and then make up a balance sheet and present it to the stockholders. After all, the citizens of this Republic who are the stockholders are entitled to know just what we have by way of assets, what we owe, and where we are so that we shall the better know how to proceed in the future.

WHAT ARE THE ASSETS OF THE U.S.

Under the general head of assets, we could include the size and character of our farm plant, the amount of farm indebtedness, the fertility of the soil and it's capacity to produce. We can be grateful that bombs, shells, mines, did not touch our farm plant and impair it's productive value. We could list our factories and mines. We can list the greatest of all our assets - the people and the state of their well being. We can list our natural resources and very particularly our minerals and petroleum to see how much of this resource was depleted by war. We could list what our own people as well as foreign countries owe us. All this would be a part of the asset account.

LIABILITIES.

Then we must turn to our liabilities - to what we owe others. It would include the national debt- money we owe to our citizens who hold bonds and to banks and business enterprises. We must list our obligations to foreign lands and the commitments that we are likely to make. We should list the state of soil fertility throughout the land and see what must be done to restore it. We must determine to what extent our iron, copper, aluminum and other essential items have been diminished and determine how we must meet our needs in the future. Our deficiencies in education should be included to show in what respect, the education of our youth has been neglected.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

And when all this has been done, we might draw a line, add and subtract find out just where we stand and then make a very simple, clear and concise report to the citizens- the stockholders of the nation. Wouldn't it automatically solve many of our problems. Lincoln once said, "If we could but know WHERE WE ARE and whither we are tending, we would know the better what to do." That's just another way of saying, that we should make an inventory of our country - and we should do it in business like fashion, at stated periods.