

Dec. 18, 1937

UNIFORM DIVORCE LAWS. Each year in the U.S., about 200,000 romances and on the proverbial rocks and wind up in divorce court. We have earned the doubtful boast of one divorce for every six marriages. Causes for divorce are many and varied. Scarcely any two states have similar laws on divorce. In South Carolina, you stay hitched if you get hitched because it prohibits divorce. New York, oddly symbolic of all that is gay and careless recognizes only adultery as cause for divorce. Only 20 states recognize insanity as ground for divorce. To cure this amazing lack of uniformity in divorce laws, Senator Capper of Kansas is sponsoring an amendment to the U. S. Constitution which would authorize Congress to enact uniform divorce laws. Senator Capper suggests five grounds for divorce, namely adultery, cruel and inhuman treatment, abandonment or failure to provide, conviction of an infamous crime, and insanity. What do you think South Carolina would say to this proposal.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD. This Board which administers the Wagner Labor Relations Act has had a busy time. From its beginning in August 1935 until April of 1937 when the Supreme Court sustained the Constitutionality of the Act, about 2300 cases were filed with the Board. After the court decision, nearly 5300 additional cases were filed. It had more than 2700 cases pending as of the first of September, 1937. Sixty-four per cent of all cases filed have been closed and of this number, 35% were closed by agreement. Records of hearings before the Board become immense things. In one case, the record consisted of 18,000 pages of typed matter.

POSTAGE STAMP BIOGRAPHY. Joseph Patrick Kennedy, slated to be the new ambassador to Great Britain will be a two fisted envoy with capacity for doing things. He is 49, freckled, father of nine children, and graduated from Harvard in 1912. At graduation, he had to decide whether to become a bank examiner or a professional baseball player. He chose the former as a means of immediate livelihood and two years later, became President of the Columbia Trust Company. He ventured into the commercial end of the motion picture industry and became wealthy. He has been a most successful market operator, reorganized the Securities Exchange Commission at the President's request, became Chairman of the new Maritime Commission and now goes to Great Britain. Two sons will remain in Harvard and the other seven children will accompany him and Mrs. Kennedy to London. He is rated "tops".

PANAY DISMAY. Saturday night December 11th. Ballroom of the Willard Hotel in Washington. Four hundred distinguished looking men in evening dress. Gay flags, streamers and table decorations. Vivacity and mirth. A long speakers table. Present are the President of the United States, cabinet members, Senators, Representatives, Ambassadors, others. Among them and grouped close to the President are Secretary of State Hull, Ambassador Saito of Japan, Ambassador Wang of China. All is warmth, affection, joy. Monday, December 13th. Screaming headlines. Bombing of the Panay. Tart editorials. Speeches in House and Senate. Rising spirit and indignation. Ambassador Saito calls on Secretary Hull. Expresses regrets. Proffers indemnities and apologies. The President transmits regrets to Emperor Hirohito. Senatorial and Congressional demands for firmness, changes of policy. In stores and shops, people discuss prospects of war. Strange.

ONE PROFITABLE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS. One government enterprise operates on the profit side. This is the Export-Import Bank created in 1934 and of which George Peek, one time Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administrator was the first Chairman. The functions of this agency are to extend short term credits to exporters of agricultural products, make credits available to American exporters who have difficulty with foreign exchange and direct credits to manufacturers of heavy machinery and industrial products who have difficulty in meeting the long term credit requirements of foreign buyers. For the five month period from July 1, 1937 to November 30, 1937, the Export Import Bank showed income of \$402,963 and operating expenses of \$21,277, leaving a profit of \$381,686. Rather refreshing, would'nt you say?

WAR REFERENDUM. Leaders are agog over the petition for action on a proposal to submit declarations of war to the people for confirmation. Three years ago, gangling soft-spoken Louis Ludlow of Indianapolis started by means of radio, newspaper and speeches to sell the idea to Congress. His resolution calls for an amendment to the constitution to provide a referendum on war and reads as follows. "Except in the event of an invasion of the United States or its Territorial possessions and attack upon its citizens residing therein, the authority of Congress to declare war shall not become effective until confirmed by a majority of all votes cast thereon in a Nation-wide referendum. Congress, when it deems a national crisis to exist, may by concurrent resolution refer the question of war or peace or the the citizens of the States, the question to be voted on being, Shall the United States declare war on _____? Congress may otherwise by law provide for the enforcement of this section." Two hundred eighteen members of House signed a petition to bring this resolution to the floor for action. The final signature came the day the Panay was bombed. It will come up for action on the first week of Congress. Already the Secretary of State has declared his opposition to the plan as unworkable. In its essence, the question presented is: Shall the people who do the fighting have something to say about whether we shall go to war on foreign soil.