THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Everett M. Dirksen
Congressman, 16th District.

WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW? No matter what it is, ask the Congressional Library in Washington. From humble beginnings in 1800, it has grown to the largest Library in the world. It's 5 million books, maps, prints and pamphlets, not to speak of millions of manuscripts now occupying 164 miles of shelf space, require the services of 600 experts and covers 15 acres of floor space. It is growing at the rate of 180,000 volumes each year which require 3½ miles of shelf space. In cooperation with 87 other large libraries in the U. S., books and subject matter are classified in a Union Catalogue which contains 15 million cards, bearing more than 6 million titles. Wheter it be the account books of George Washington, the writings of Confucius, negro folk songs, talking-books or a dissertation on Stravavarius violins, you will find it in the Congressional Library.

A SQUARE PLAN TO CURE UNEMPLOYMENT. Alfred N. Satterfield, world war veteran, and printer of Washington D. C. now comes forward with a plan to cure unemployment by changing all coins from pennies to half dollars, from round to square. Such change he believes would make it necessary to change all coin devices in order to accommodate the square money. Pay telephones, gas meters, cigarette machines, stamp machines, street car and bus meters, slot machines and other devices would have to be changed. This change would create thousands of jobs, provide orders for steel mills, create jobs for salesmen, supply freight business for railroads and thus lift us out of the depression. At least, this plan is on the "square".

A SCHOOL PLAY. On Washington's Birthday anniversary, in the course of a grade school play, staged in one of the Capital's schools, the children wore small American flags tied in a form of a bow, which were made in Japan, the hatchet used to chop down the cherry tree was made in Japan, minature busts of George Washington were made in Japan and even the poor cherry tree was made in Japan. Why all this imported patriotism? Well it seems that the cheap Japanese novelties have run the American product off the market. They are made by Japanese girls who receive from 19¢ to 25¢ a day in wages.

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TID-BITS. The Bureau of Fisheries reports that for the year ending June 30, 1935, it distributed about 5 billion fish and fish eggs to various lakes, streams, bays, and coastal waters. Every variety of small fish and fish eggs were distributed, including 450 million yellow perch. The Home Owners Loan Corporation has disposed
Every day, millions of citizens remark about the weather. One of the first things observed in reading the daily paper is the weather forecast tucked in the upper corner of the front page. This is no idle curiosity. Weather is important in the affairs of mankind. Shipments of perishable fruits and vegetables depend upon weather forecasts. Brokers, grain buyers, speculators, market operators venture millions daily upon the effect of the weather upon crops. Air mail, air passengers, and pilots are always concerned about the weather. Ocean and lake vessels, insurance companies and sailors, have a stake in the weather. And for that matter, those who plan picnics, ball games, celebrations and that get continually the weather to determine how successful those outdoor ventures will be. The Federal Government plays a big part in this matter. This year, about 3½ million dollars will be appropriated by Congress for the Weather Bureau. Behind the daily weather forecasts is a huge organization of experts, equipped with scientific instruments, and scattered from coast to coast who check up on the fickleness of the weather. This Bureau makes forecasts and issues daily weather charts, storm, cold-wave, forest fire, frost and flood warnings. It measures river stages and issues flood warnings. It collects and issues data on climatic conditions over the oceans and issues weather reports to ships. It makes upper-air observations for the benefit of air travel. It records and issues data on rainfall and temperature for the benefit of agricultural interests.

It is a far-flung business which seeks to warn mankind against the vagaries of wind and wave, snow and rain.

RUBBER. Think of the vast variety of things made from rubber! Hot water bottles, tires and tubes, boots and shoes, aprons and bathing suits, rain coats and rubber bands, and a thousand and one other things. So extensively is rubber used in industry and the arts, in science and in ordinary uses that the U. S. consumes one half of the total world output of rubber. Yet, we produce no rubber whatsoever. Ninety per cent of our supply comes from the East Indies, several thousand miles away. In case of war, this nation would be in great difficulty if our rubber supply were suddenly stopped or curtailed. Too, foreign monopoly of the world's rubber supply places the consumers of this nation at the mercy of foreign industrialists. Chemists and scientists have worked for years to develop synthetic rubber but meanwhile, the Dept. of Agriculture is also working on the problem. They have taken up there Thomas Edison left off and are now experimenting with the common goldenrod which yields a juice which has the properties of rubber. They are also experimenting in Florida with the boney tree (Rubber Tree). This rubber producing tree is very susceptible to cold and can scarcely be developed in this country. There are however, prospects of developing boney trees in a commercial way in Central America and the Canal Zone. Each year, the Congress makes an appropriation for this experimental work.

WASH ERRORS. Man's natural enemies continue their unceasing warfare to destroy his food supply, and oddly enough, the more food, trees, shrubs and plants that man produces, the greater the food supply on which his insect enemies can feed. The following list of appropriations made this work by the Congress to combat plant diseases and insects indicates the scope of this continuous struggle: Fruit insects $399,000, Japanese Beetle $550,000, Mexican Fruit Fly, $140,000, Citrus Canker $135,000, Phony Peach $250,000, Dato Scale $26,000, Forest Insects $160,000, Gypsy and From Tail moth $400,000, Blister Rust $260,000, Dutch Elm Disease $261,000, Truck and Garden Insects $361,000, Cereal and Forage Insects $547,000, Corn Borers $35,000, Barberry $200,000, Cotton Insects $147,000, Pink Bollworm $720,000, Thorburnia Wovoll $240,000, Animal Diseases $437,000, Animal Tuberculosis $1,500,000, Cattle ticks $500,000, Hog cholera control $127,000, Cereal crop disease $520,000, Cotton and fibre crop diseases $606,000, Forage crop diseases $300,000, Fruit and vegetable crop diseases $1,140,000, Bang's Disease in cattle $24,000. Other millions are expended on inspections, control measures and quarantines. It is a grim, unrelenting, relentless battle that goes on for a flung battle front.