WHY NOT AN EMBARGO ON JAPAN?

Every American heart bleeds for stricken China. Every American sympathy is on the side of China. The ruthless assault of the Japan military machine upon the patient and humble people of China has engendered a deep feeling of resentment against Japan. Many informed persons believe that the logical course for the United States to pursue is to place an embargo on all material commodities going to Japan. They believe that shipments of scrap iron, gasoline, copper and other commodities constitute assistance to Japan in this unequal struggle in the Orient. Our sympathies dictate this course. However, caution must be exercised, because there is a possibility that abrupt and overt action on our part might hurt rather than help China. Since the struggle between China and Japan is an undeclared war, the Neutrality Act does not apply and therefore we can continue to ship munitions and commodities to both countries. Within the limits of international law, this government appears to be rendering the maximum of assistance to China in the form of planes, credits and commodities and a minimum to Japan. Suppose an embargo is declared on Japan? She might declare war on China so that the Japanese fleet could lawfully blockade every Chinese port. Not a single pound of American cotton or a single American plane could then reach China. On the other hand, Japan might without declaring war on China meet any embargo which we might declare by declaring an embargo on goods to China. The net result would be that we were playing into the Japanese hands and jeopardizing the very existence of China. It is a situation that requires caution.

A CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

The U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination for the position of Student Dietitian. The pay is $420 per year. From this will be deducted the sum of $360 for food and quarters. That will leave the successful person the enormous sum of $5 per month in cash as pay. It is a one-year course. As the announcement states, "unless vacancies are available, the student dietitian will not be retained in the service after graduation." To take this examination, one must be a citizen between the ages of 21 and 28 and have completed a four year college course. Applicants must also be healthy, capable of performing hard work, not more than 70 nor less than 62 inches tall without shoes, not less than 105 pounds, have perfect sight, perfect hearing, and in general be a combination of Sandow the Strong-Man Apollo with the perfect figure, and Jupiter the all-wise. For such a composite of physical and mental perfection, Uncle Sam will pay, food, quarters and $5 per month. The only reason we allude to this notice is that perhaps the good Uncle might well apply some of the philosophy of the Wage-Hour Act to his own help.

RAISE YOUR OWN MOTOR FUEL.

On many fronts, work is going steadily ahead in trying to find a feasible and commercial method by which to convert all manner of surplus farm products into alcohol to be mixed with gasoline for motor fuel. In fact, the time is probably not far distant when engineering science will develop an automobile motor that will operate entirely from
alcohol which has been produced on the farm. There is scarcely a fruit, grain, vegetable or plant which cannot be converted into alcohol. The real difficulty lies in the yield of alcohol per ton or per acre of commodities so that the process will be profitable. Two tables, released recently by the Dept. of Agriculture are of interest. The first table shows the yield of alcohol in gallons per ton of commodity and runs as follows: Wheat 85 gallons per ton, corn 84, buckwheat 83.4, raisins 81.4, grain sorghum 79.5, rice 79.5, barley 79.2, rye 78.8, prunes 72, oats 63.6, sweet potatoes 34.2, potatoes 22. The other table is equally interesting in that it shows the gallons of alcohol "per acre" which can be derived from a given commodity. In the case of wheat, the yield would be 33 gallons per acre, corn 88.3, buckwheat 34.2, raisins 101.7, grain sorghum 35.5, rice 65.5, barley 47.9, rye 23.8, prunes 82.8, sweet potatoes 111, potatoes 178. Note that while wheat produces more alcohol per ton than corn, it produces far less per acre. These are but some of the matters receiving attention in this undertaking.

OLD SHIPS FOR NEW.

The ultimate objective of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 is to build a fleet of 500 vessels and thus re-establish the U. S. Merchant Marine Fleet on the seas. The whole program will cost well over a billion dollars. It is administered by the U. S. Maritime Commission. The government pays both construction subsidies and operating subsidies to stimulate the building of vessels, and also loans money for that purpose. There is a provision in the law which is called the "Turn-in-and build" provision. That is to say that it provides encouragement for turning in old ships, getting a credit for them from the government and then building new ones. But what happens to the old ships? Are they like old automobiles which are traded in? Well, yes except that they float around instead of standing around. We now have 116 such old ships, tied up in various ports. They belong to the government. The same law provided that except in limited cases, such vessels when 20 years of age or older cannot be used for commercial purposes. These ships aggregate 1,000,000 tons. It costs money to keep these vessels afloat. Some of them are 50 years old. At long last, Congress decided to amend the law and authorize the Maritime Commission to charter or sell these vessels for foreign, coastwise, or inter-coastal trade. Maybe Uncle Sam's used-ship lot will finally be depopulated.

142,541,828.

What's your guess as to the population of the United States as determined by the 1940 census. In a brief while, preliminary figures will doubtless be reported and now is the time to do your guessing. The above figure should be the population in 1940 for the continental U. S. if the percentage of increase in the period from 1930 to 1940 was the same as in the period from 1920 to 1930. The official population of continental U. S. (meaning that Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and other possessions are excluded) was 122,775,046. The rate of increase from 1920 to 1930 was 16.1%. The same percent of increase for the last 10 years should show a population of 142,541,828 for 1940. Think we'll make it?
In recent weeks, the name of Wendell Wilkie has appeared in the prints and in the election polls as a possible candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency. Hence the query, who is Wendell Wilkie? His grandparents came from Germany about 100 years ago. His father and mother were both lawyers. In fact, his mother was the first woman lawyer admitted to the bar of Indiana. There were 6 children in the Wilkie family—2 sons and 4 daughters. Wendell Wilkie was one of the sons. He is 47 and was born at Elwood, Indiana. He attended the University of Indiana, graduated in law and hung out his shingle. When war was declared in 1917, he enlisted on the first day of the war and became an officer in the 325th Field Artillery. With this organization he saw overseas service. As a lawyer, he was associated with a law firm which had some public utilities as clients. In this field of work, he developed a reputation as a trial lawyer and a real familiarity with the structure of public utilities. On January 1, 1933, he was made President of the Commonwealth and Southern Company, which owned and operated extensive utility properties, notably in the Tennessee River Basin and it was thru the conflict that ensued between Commonwealth and Southern and the Tennessee Valley Authority that Wilkie came into prominence. He is a fighter, a great student, a keen lawyer, and an extremely able debater. Oddly enough, in 1924, it is said that he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He is now being considered as a Republican Presidential possibility.