THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

SABOTAGE.

How easily that word comes to tongue! Does a submarine settle to the bottom of the sea? Sabotage! Is factory machinery crippled in the course of a strike? Sabotage! Does a plane fall from the sky for some unexplained reason? Sabotage! Whence comes the word? Centuries ago, when the Flemish lace spinners in Belgium had difficulties with their employers they would take off one of their wooden shoes and hurl it into the delicate lace-making machinery, thus ruining the machinery and stopping work. Now the name for this wooden shoe is "sabot" and the act of casting a shoe in the machinery became known as "sabotage." But what sinister implications have been read into the term with the tumbling years.

OUT OF CONFUSION A PATTERN.

Every administration has a pattern or design whereby it seeks to capture that elusive thing called prosperity. Under President Hoover, the idea was that farm prosperity would follow from expanded employment and purchasing power and that these could best be developed by making RFC loans to industries, banks, railroads and other enterprises which were large employers of labor. Under President Roosevelt the idea was to put purchasing power directly in the hands of the consumer by providing jobs thru' CWA, WPA, PWA on the theory that the public funds so expended would pass from the consumer to the retailer, the jobber, the manufacturer and the farmer. The first approach might be called "pump-priming" industry. The latter might be called "pump-priming" the consumer. Neither approach has been successful. The new design for 1940 is a combination of both. On the consumer side, there will be stimulation of purchasing power thru' WPA, FWA, NYA, Farm Security program, agricultural benefits etc. On the industry side, there will be reduced rates on housing loans to stimulate manufacturers of building material loans to railroads for equipment, and the proposed small loans to business as contained in the Mead Bill. Will it work? For the moment, your will have to write your own answer.

IF THEY DON'T HAVE SEED THEY CAN'T COMPETE.

There was a time when most of the tobacco smoked in China, India and other countries was imported from the United States and our exports ran into hundreds of millions of pounds annually. Then the oriental peoples hit upon the idea of importing tobacco seed and tobacco plants and producing some of their own tobacco requirements. This competition from foreign tobacco produced from American seed has increased in the last few years. Some enterprising tobacco man thus hit upon the idea that if we did not sell tobacco seed or plants to other nations except for purely experimental purposes, it would help re-create the foreign market for our product. This thought was embodied in a bill known as H.R. 2378 and passed by Congress. When it got to the White House, the President looked it over and sent it back with his veto on the ground that
it would set a bad precedent, would not necessarily curtail the pro-
duction of foreign tobacco and would stimulate the bootlegging of to-
bacco seed and plants. So this bit of legislative seed sprouted and
then wilted. It can be revived only by overriding the veto.

HYDE PARK LIBRARY.

Some months ago, the President proposed to turn over his extensive col-
lection of books, papers, paintings, prints and manuscripts to the Gov-
ernment, to be held and maintained for public use. The condition on
which the gift was to be made was that they were to be housed in a pri-
vate library to be built on the President's estate at Hyde Park, N. Y.
The library was to be built from private funds but the upkeep was to be
provided from public funds to be appropriated by Congress. It was of
course necessary to accept the gift and approve the plans by a Joint
Resolution of Congress and when that resolution came up for action in
the House, it was defeated. The matter developed much heat and spirit-
ed debate. Even politics and partisanship were injected into the de-
bate. Offhand it would seem that the gift should be accepted without
a dissenting vote even tho' the cost of maintaining this Library is to
be paid from Public funds. But another element comes into the picture.
Situated in Washington, D. C. is the Library of Congress and the Ar-
chives of the United States. To the Capitol come students and his-
torians who seek material and source records relating to our history.
Many of them believe and many members of Congress believe that the
President's papers should be housed in Washington rather than Hyde Park
where they will be more accessible. Moreover, they believe that the
establishment of a Library at Hyde Park might be the precedent for fu-
ture Presidents to establish Libraries in other sections of the country
so that we would have many libraries and much confusion for students
and scholars. And there it stands for the moment.

THE THIRD BRANCH RECESSES FOR SUMMER.

The Supreme Court opens its term in October of each year and continues
to hear and dispose of cases without interruption until its docket has
been fairly well cleared and then recedes for the summer. On Monday
June 5th, it handed down the last opinions for the term, drew the
blinds and took a recess until October. Two new Justices came to the
Court during this term. Illness and possible retirement of Chief Jus-
tico Hughes has already stimulated speculation as to another new mem-
ber for the next term. Notable decisions were rendered during the last
nine months. Among other things, the Court upheld the right of the
Muscle Shoals project known as TVA to carry on its power program, up-
held the contention that States can tax Federal salaries and the Feder-
al Government can tax state salaries, upheld the authority of the Fed-
eral Government to provide milk marketing agreements and enjoined the
authorities of Jersey City from abridging the civil liberties of the
people by denying them the right to hold public meetings for the dis-
cussion of controversial subjects. Several months ago, the Court out-
lawed "sit down strikes" and set aside an order of the National Labor
Relations Board which provided for the reinstatement of "sit-down"
strikers. When the Court re-convenes next October, it will again be
confronted with a crowded docket of highly explosive and controversial
cases.

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