THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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SYMBOLIC BIRD.

The bald eagle, winged corsair of the skies symbolizes the American ideal of freedom. There is strength and majesty about this bird. He is so pre-eminently and appropriately American. Since the very beginning of the Republic there was a certain awe of his freedom and his strength to maintain that freedom against all the birds of the air. So he became our symbol and appears on the nation's seal and the seals of many states. But ironically enough with the passing years the strength of the eagle and his capacity for flight was no match for long-range weapons or the avidity of the collectors to trap and mount him. He looked so well when stuffed and mounted in some den or sportsman's lodge and was enroute toward extinction. Comes the Congress to protect the freedom of the very symbol of freedom. Under an act recently passed and signed, possession of a bald eagle is prohibited and any violation of the act is punishable by a fine of $500 or six months imprisonment or both. Thus, the symbol of freedom need no longer fear for his own freedom.

THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR.

In less than a 100 days, the men who gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 to construct a new government for a new nation framed the Constitution of the United States. They were seasoned men who came thru a war. They were discerning men who lived in a generation when war was the pastime of kings and potentates. As they wrestled with the drafting of a document to define the powers to be exercised by the executive, the legislative and judicial branches of the newly proposed government they drew upon their combined wisdom and experience and finally evolved this provision: "The Congress shall have power to declare war...." There it stands in all it's glorious brevity. The Congress and only Congress shall have the power to declare war. No other branch or agency of government has this power. It is not shared with any other agency or branch. It is an exclusive power. The elected representatives of the people can alone declare war. And those representatives are responsive to and responsible to the people. How wisely the founding fathers provided.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Thru many generations, the Monroe Doctrine has been a favorite subject of debate. Scarcely a high school debater in half a century who has not at sometime wrestled with the subject of whether the Monroe Doctrine should be abandoned, altered, expanded or modified. It was all so academic then. But it's back for discussion. And this time it's very real and very important. What is the Monroe Doctrine and how did it come about? In 1821, the Russian Emperor issued a ukase prohibiting the citizens of other nations from navigating or fishing within 100 Italian miles of the northwest coast of North America south of the Bering Sea to the 51st parallel of latitude. The effect of that order would have been to stop fishing in the rich fishing waters of the Bering Sea, Bristol Bay and other northern waters. James Monroe was President of the U.S. at the time. He promptly denounced and defied this Russian order. Two years later in 1823, Russia, France and Prussia which were then operating as a Holy Alliance to preserve a certain balance of power in the world proposed to overthrow and destroy the governments and little nations which had been erected in south and central America out of the old Spanish colonies which once existed in this hemisphere. In the face of this threat, the U.S. first consulted with Great Britain to secure her support. Thereupon, on December 2, 1823, President Monroe after taking counsel with his advisers issued his message which first re-affirmed our friendship for other nations and then stated, "In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part nor does it comport with our policy so to do......
We declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. The American continents are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers. In essence, it is a doctrine of America for the Americans.

OUR NEW FOREIGN POLICY.

By an unanimous vote in the Senate and an overwhelming vote in the House of Representatives a resolution was adopted last week which embarks this nation upon an expansion of the Monroe Doctrine. The text of the new policy speaks for itself and reads as follows: "Resolved that the United States would not recognize any transfer and would not acquiesce in any attempt to transfer any geographic region in this Hemisphere from one non-American power to another non-American power; and that if such transfer or attempt to transfer should appear likely, the United States shall, in addition to other measures, immediately consult with the other American Republics to determine upon the steps which should be taken to safeguard their common interests." There are but 74 words in the body of that Resolution but they may be among the 74 most important words ever grouped together in the English language to shape the course of world events. Any effort to transfer French, British, Dutch possessions on this hemisphere to a conquering power will require that we "determine upon the steps which should be taken to safeguard our common interests."

GRASS.

"Grass," said Senator Ingalls of Kansas in 1872, "is the forgiveness of nature - her constant benediction. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish but grass is immortal. It's tenacious fibers hold the earth in place and prevent it's soluble components from washing into the wasting sea." The boulevards and parkways of Washington abound in grass. It is so inviting. There is a richness about this verdure. It is soothing to walk on grass and to be emancipated even for a brief moment from the artificiality of man-made pavement. What person, young or old, rich or poor has not felt the vernal urge to take off shoes and socks and experience the feel of luxuriant grass upon the feet. Somewhere, to walk on grass is to escape for a brief time from maddening reality and find communion with Nature. It recalls Antaeus, the ancient giant who could not be conquered so long as he maintained contact with earth and who was slain only after he was lifted free from the earth. But all this is lost on Mr. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior whose Department has jurisdiction of the grassy plots and parkways that stretch from the capitol to Lincoln's Monument. He wants no short-cutters to tramp out the grass. He wants prim, sedate and formal stretches of grass with every blade in place. He wants no walking on the grass and has instituted a one-man blitzkrieg against those who respond to the urge of grass and take a short cut. Park policemen have been ordered to apprehend violators and bring them in for a $2 fine. There have been a number of victims. How strange that in this fitful and feverish world, the majesty of the government should stand in the way of walking on grass, "the forgiveness of nature."