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

FRIVOLITY COMES A CROPPER.

During consideration of the Hobbs Bill which tightens up the law relating to aliens and makes it an offense to induce soldiers and sailors to disregard army and navy regulations, a New York Representative offered the following amendment to show the alleged absurdity of some provisions in the bill: "It shall be unlawful for any person connected in any capacity with the Army, Navy, or Coast Guard of the United States and he shall be prohibited from reading any newspaper, book, magazine, or other publication including the Bible and Congressional Record while in said service." At once, there was an outburst of opposition. One member after another launched against the author of the amendment, stating that if it was frivolous, he was not doing his duty by encumbering the record with frivolous material and if it was serious he was taking a position against Holy Writ. The author experienced a most uncomfortable half hour after which the amendment was thunderously voted down.

CENSUS OF THE FEDERAL PAYROLL.

So huge and farflung is the business of the United States Government that it becomes necessary at intervals to make a brief census of governmental activities and the number engaged therein. Recent figures published by the Department of Labor indicate that there are 314,343 in the Civilian Conservation Corps, 227,113 in the National Youth Administration, 2,629,206 on WPA, 119,692 on Federal projects under the Works Program, 190,581 employed in Federal construction out of regular appropriations, 2255 on projects of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 5681 on projects of the United States Housing Authority, 248,864 on projects of the Public Works Administration, 350,610 in the military establishment, 5,315 in the legislative branch, 2,123 in the judicial branch, and 885,262 in the executive branch. Total, 4,981,045.

WHAT'S YOUR GUESS.

The Census of 1940 is under way. The forms are being prepared. The tabulating machinery is being installed. All is being made ready so that when the census-takers or enumerators go into the field to ask questions and obtain reports on the number of people, their ages and occupations, the number of business and the kind and amount of business they do, the number and size of farms and a host of other information, these reports can be classified and preliminary totals announced. What's your guess as to the population of the U. S. in 1940? In 1900, it was 75,994,575. In 1910 it was 91,972,866. In 1920 it was 105,710,620. In 1930 it was 122,775,046. From 1910 to 1920 the rate of in-
crease was 14.9%. From 1920 to 1930 it was 16.1%. If the rate of increase from 1930 to 1940 was 15%, the census should disclose a population slightly over 141,000,000. What's your guess?

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

Commodity Credit Corporation is a government corporation whose stock is owned by the Federal Treasury. It has a capital stock of $100,000,000. This enables the Corporation to make loans to about ten times the amount of the stock or $1,000,000,000. With this $1,000,000,000, the Corporation makes loans to farmers on wheat, corn, cotton, and other commodities. Altogether, 910 million dollars was loaned. Applications for loans on wheat have been filed at the rate of 1,000,000 bushels per day. Loans served several purposes. The first is that they keep corn off the market and prevent a complete destruction of the price level. The second is that it prevents the forced feeding of corn and the resulting glut of the market with heavy hogs which in turns destroys price levels. With a huge crop of corn and pork in the making, prices may remain at low levels in which event, the Commodity Credit Corporation will experience some loss on it's loans. It is most likely however, that the losses that would result where no loans were available would be infinitely greater than the losses suffered by the Corporation.

OUR FILIPINO WARDS.

For 30 years or more, the little brown people in the Philippine Islands whom we rescued from the hands of Spain have been agitating for independence. At long last, their wish came true. On March 24, 1934, Congress passed an act which provided for independence. Full independence was to become effective on July 4, 1946. But it is not all so easy or so beautiful as it first appears. We are the Philippines best customer for sugar, cigars, cordage, coconut oil, buttons and other commodities. The Islands enjoyed preferential treatment since they are a part of the United States. But when independence comes, they will be expected to pay duty on goods exported to the United States like other nations. Already they discern what a hardship this would be and so they have petitioned Congress for relief in the form of a bill which would provide for certain quotas of goods to be shipped to this country under a very moderate duty. This is the third time since 1934 that the Filipinos have been on our doorstep asking for relief. It may be as we approach July 4, 1946 that they will not want their independence after all.

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