BUSINESS WITH SOUTH AMERICA.

Recently, Congress authorized an increase in the capital of the Export-Import Bank by the sum of $500 million dollars to give assistance to South American countries whose foreign trade has been sharply curtailed as a result of the European war and who now have growing surpluses. In a general way, the 10 leading Republics of South America buy about $1100 million dollars worth of goods annually of other countries for themselves and sell $1500 million. Of the products which they sell abroad, about $490 million or roughly 31% goes to the continent of Europe. That business has been virtually destroyed by the war. In fact, their annual exports to Europe are greater by 150 million than those to the U.S. and hence, a huge economic interest keeps them alert to European developments. Their exports include cotton, coffee, nitrates, copper, tin, beef, hides, corn, wheat, petroleum etc. With the exception of coffee, tin and nitrates, their principal surplus products are much the same as those of which we also have a surplus and hence, their problem in this field becomes difficult, especially in agricultural commodities.

DEFENSE HOUSING.

Concentration of employees in and around arsenals and industrial plants where defense material, equipment and supplies are being manufactured means that such employees must have places to live. Likewise the men in the army, navy and air corps who have families must have proper places in which to dwell. It is estimated that 42,000 of the enlisted men in the Navy are married and that most of them have families. This means that while doing shore duty, they and their families must be housed. The armed services recognize that by making it possible to have enlisted men live with their families in decent surroundings, the morale is vastly improved. A preliminary estimate indicates that the Navy will require 66,000 housing units for civilians and enlisted men, the aircraft industry will require 18,400 units in proximity to the plants which are speeding aircraft production, and the War Department will require at least 10,000 or more. This means that the equivalent of 95,000 houses must be provided in a short space of time. Emphasis is being placed on small, inexpensive houses that can be built for $2500 or less. The Navy is now engaged in a trial experiment on 50 small houses to cost less than $2000 each and which are to be completed in a period of 50 days. Housing is but one of the many incidental aspects to the defense program but an important one.

RESEARCH.

Research! More and more, we hear that word. Literally it means to search back. Once it probably had a limited meaning and concerned itself with searching back through the pages of literature and history for new material or for a fresh viewpoint on old material. Today, we invest it with a more scientific meaning and apply the term to inquiry and investigation which is designed to find solutions for modern problems. It is estimated that only two years ago the U.S. expended $108 million for research, industrial laboratories spent an estimated $100 million, and Universities and colleges another $50 million. More than 50,000 workers were engaged in such research. Today the Federal Government has laboratories staffed by competent men of science to find new uses for farm products; industries are constantly experimenting to find new uses for their products. Now comes the defense program and the establishment of laboratories to develop better aircraft engines and aircraft, new and more deadly gases, more effective gas masks, speedier and more efficient guns, instruments for detecting the approach of enemy planes, automatic range finders, delicate bombsights, metals, to be used in the manufacture of bombs and projectiles to make them more efficient and more deadly, and a host of other things. In peace or in war, in the field of security or subsistence, human ingenuity continues to translate itself in terms of research for that which is new, better, more efficient, cheaper.
On June 4th, the President suggested that Congress wind-up its work and go home. From that day until now, Congress has passed 12 appropriations bills carrying nearly 15 billions of direct appropriations and authorizations, given the President authority to call the National Guard (3) authorized a two-ocean Navy (4) enacted amendments to the Hatch Clean Politics Act (5) enacted the Alien Registration Act (6) enacted a law to regulate investment trusts (7) disposed of the Transportation Act of 1940 (8) passed a billion dollar defense tax measure (9) passed a conscription bill (10) provided 150 million for national defense housing (11) passed a codification of the Nationality acts (12) provided for new drydocks and ship-building facilities for the Navy (13) restated and expanded the Monroe Doctrine (14) confirmed appointments of new secretaries for War, Navy, Commerce, and the Postmaster General (14) and passed a variety of other essential legislation. Truly, some monumental enactments have occurred since June 4th.

DUAL NATIONALITY

Until 1906, when Congress enacted the first basic Naturalization Act, the problems of citizenship and nationality received only a moderate amount of attention. This might be attributed to the fact that we had no pressing domestic problems of the magnitude which some of those problems have assumed today and to the further fact that we were glad to have large migrations from foreign lands to help expand our own country. The continuing problem of unemployment directed more and more attention to questions of immigration and naturalization and each Congress enacted laws to cover certain situations. Sometimes these enactments were in conflict and their enforcement became a real task for the administrators of such laws. Thus and again, it was suggested that the nationality laws to be codified, revised, clarified and strengthened and at long last, the matter received attention. After 5 years of expert effort by the State, Justice and Labor Departments and another six months of work by a Committee of Congress, a complete codification of nationality laws has been passed by the House and now awaits Senate action. An illustration of some of the anachronisms in the present law can be found in the case of a man and wife who may migrate from a foreign country to the United States, become naturalized, return to their native land, remain there and have children who are American citizens because the parents were naturalized, and who also partake of the nationality of the land where they are born. There are many persons today who have this status of dual nationality. The new codification, when finally enacted will carefully prescribe the conditions under which such persons would be divested of their American citizenship.