THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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TO EXPEDITE THE WAR EFFORT

Under the Constitution, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. He is the high commander. He is responsible for the prosecution of the war. It is necessary that he be clothed with whatever power and authority is essential to do the job expeditiously and successfully. That fact constitutes the moving reason for the measure recently enacted to confer broad powers upon the President. That measure confers four classes of powers. The first class gives the President authority to transfer and redistribute functions among the agencies of government so those agencies can operate more effectively. The second class makes possible the making and altering of war contracts without the requirement of competitive bidding, performance bonds, etc. The third class of powers authorizes the President to control trading with the enemy, the regulation of foreign transactions, the use and control of alien property and the property of alien nations. The fourth power authorizes the President to impose whatever censorship is necessary in the interest of public safety upon international communications whether by mail, radio, telegraph or other means.

THE LOWLY CENT

How lowly and humble the one cent piece seems in this day and age of inflation and ascending prices notwithstanding the old adage of Franklin's that money saved is money earned. When, however, all the humble one cent pieces in circulation in the United States are gathered together, they become a very impressive total and take on new significance because of the prevailing shortage of copper. On June 30, 1941 the value of all one cent pieces in circulation was $85,142,982. They contain 27,732 tons of copper. If this copper could be reclaimed, it would be sufficient to carry forward the program of farm electrification for a period of six months. Already thought is being given to a substitute for the one cent piece so that this needed critical material might possibly be salvaged for defense.

SALVAGE

Do you recall the story and the motion pictures of the fall of the suspension bridge which was built across Puget Sound at the so-called Tacoma Narrows? This was one of longest suspension bridges in the world. In November 1940 it developed a momentum as a result of a high wind and plunged into Puget Sound as a twisted mass of steel wreckage. For a long time it was forgotten. When a shortage of steel developed, interest was resumed and plans are now afoot to salvage 3,500 tons of steel which still lie in the waters of Puget Sound. This amount of steel would produce one hundred tanks or two hundred four-ton trucks or six hundred sixteen-inch shells for the Navy.
Notwithstanding the fact that the Japanese are an excluded race and can no longer come to the United States for purpose of permanent residence, we do have a substantial Japanese population on the Pacific Coast. They embrace those Japanese who entered the United States before the exclusion laws became effective and those born of Japanese parents in this country. In the State of California there are present 93,717 Japanese of which 60,148 were born in the United States and 33,569 were born in Japan. In the State of Oregon according to the 1940 census are 4,071 Japanese, 2,454 of whom were born here and are, therefore, citizens while 1,617 were born in Japan and are aliens. The State of Washington contains 14,565 Japanese of whom 8,822 are native born and 5,683 are foreign born. The City of Los Angeles with 23,321 Japs contains the largest Japanese population of any city in the United States.

INSURANCE FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

During the World War the Federal Government provided war risk insurance for all men in the Military and Naval Forces of the United States. This proved a huge undertaking and there are in force today thousands of those war time policies. When the Selective Service Act of 1940 became law, Congress at once created the National Service Life Insurance Bureau to provide low cost insurance to those in the armed forces. Recent figures indicate that 670,000 officers and enlisted men have made application for such insurance and virtually all of those applications have been approved. These policies are written on a term basis of five years with a net level premium. The total insurance in effect as of November 1st was in excess of two billion dollars and the average amount of all policies was slightly over $3,400. Now that our country is at war, it is entirely likely that war risk insurance will again be provided on substantially the same basis that obtained during the World War so that $10,000 policies payable in monthly installments to the beneficiaries will again be available.