

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY TREATY. The proposed treaty between Canada and the U. S. providing for the building of the St. Lawrence Waterway by both nations is of more than passing importance to Illinois and the central west. On January 10, the President sent a message to the Senate asking confirmation of this treaty on the ground that it would bring large benefits to the nation as a whole, would not adversely affect railroads or railroad employees, would provide employment, and provide a source of cheap power. The message was accompanied by a report from the Chief of Engineers ascertaining the U. S. cost at \$272,453,000. Opponents of the treaty point out that it virtually internationalizes Lake Michigan, that the cost will be closer to \$573,000,000 than to the figure above mentioned, that two thirds of the proposed canal lies in Canada, that it will be of no benefit to American agriculture, that the U. S. will assume about 80% of the cost even though the most of the project lies in Canada and that the treaty provides that the work "to be performed on the Canadian side shall be performed with Canadian workmen using Canadian materials." So far as Illinois is concerned, adoption of the treaty would completely blast the future prospects of the Illinois waterway, so far as heavy tonnage is concerned. The President virtually indicated as much when he said, "It is better economics to send grain or other raw material from our Northwest to Europe via the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence than it is to send it around three sides of a square - via Texas ports or the Mississippi thence thru the Gulf of Mexico and thence from the Southern end of the Atlantic to the northern end." This is almost conclusive that future waterway development contemplates making the Illinois river a strictly local affair, after all the money which was expended.

OLD AGE PENSIONS. More and more sentiment is being articulated in behalf of Old Age Pensions as a Federal proposal. In the U. S. Senate, a Resolution has been introduced to provide a pension of \$30 per month for all over 60, whose incomes are less than \$1000 per year or whose property holdings are less than \$10,000. In the House, a Resolution has been introduced to appoint a committee of 7 Senators and 7 Representatives to serve without pay, to investigate the subject of Old Age Pensions and make a complete report.

LOANS FOR INDUSTRY. A measure will be introduced soon, lengthening the life of the RFC another year and authorizing another \$850,000,000 for expenditure on various phases of the Recovery program. An effort was made in the Committee to secure approval of a provision for loans to small industries direct from the Federal Government. This proposal was defeated but will be offered as an amendment from the floor at the proper time.

PAY CUTS. Today's action in the House, when a gag-rule, to be used in connection with the appropriation measures to be introduced, was sustained by a vote of 216 to 179, spells the doom for anything more than a 5% restoration of the pay cut by June 30, of Federal employees such as mail carriers, marshals, janitors, messengers, civil service employees and others. It was contended that living costs were still substantially below the basic period in 1928 and therefore not more than a 5% restoration was proper. It might be pointed out that the Dept. of Labor schedules on which information relative to living costs is secured from 32 selected cities contains no such items as taxes, Building & Loan dues, insurance on property and other fixed items which have not varied since 1928. The 15% pay cut authorized in March of 1933 plus compulsory furloughs without pay has been the cause of a number of foreclosures.

ALKY GAS. Renewed interest is manifest. The Bureau of Standards is still experimenting. The Dept. of Agriculture is still experimenting. The Dept. of Agriculture is still interested. Hearings on alky gas will begin before a Sub-committee of the Senate Finance Committee in about two weeks according to an announcement from Senator Clark of Missouri. Experts will be on hand. In spite of the misleading propaganda appearing in various publications, accompanied by misleading figures, alky gas interest is increasing.

CAPITAL SIDELIGHTS. Memories of illustrious Americans are kept green by beautiful wreaths placed on their memorials in Statuary Hall. This week a wreath adorned the stone figure of Old Hickory Jackson. It was his birth anniversary. Iowa, Maine, Illinois and Oklahoma have certified their ratification of the Child Labor amendment to the Constitution giving Congress power to limit regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age. Thru deaths and resignations, the 73rd Congress has acquired 7 new members. Congressman DePriest, the only negro member of the body, has introduced an anti-lynching law. One of the Estonian members of the U. S.-Estonia Conciliation Commission provided by treaty bears the euphonious name of Ants Piip. If a bill now pending is enacted into law the cost of naturalization will be reduced from \$20.00 to \$6.00. The Naturalization & Immigration Division is one of the few that has been actually making money. The new play "Let 'Em Eat Cake" which is a sequel to "Of Thee I Sing" and pokes much fun at Vice-Presidents found Vice-President Garner in a box on the opening night. Vice-President Garner is very lonely in the Senate. Would prefer to be Speaker of the House where he wielded much power and could throw rocks. Senator Lewis likes ham-hocks for lunch. After amending the Liquor Tax Bill to impose an additional tax of \$3.00 per gallon on wine and \$6.00 per gallon on spirits imported from countries which were in default on their war debts, the Senate struck out the amendment before sending the Bill back to the House. Speeches in the appendix of the Congressional Record often contain quotations of poetry, yet I have heard but one actual poetic allusion on the floor during debate.