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LIQUOR QUOTAS. On the theory that there was not enough good liquor to supply the demand immediately after repeal, the Federal Alcohol Control Adm'n and the Dept. of Agriculture announced that applications for liquor imports would be received, time limit being Jan. 12. There were 1300 applications. Import awards were made among 66 nations, for 12,837,244 gallons, two thirds of which was for whiskey. Secondary applications were received until midnight Feb. 1st for the importation of one half of the above quantity. About 1100 applications were filed, requesting permits to import an aggregate of 45 million gallons. Looks as if the country will soon be wot.

BLAC. STRAP. The whole administrative scheme has been to raise commodity prices and bring about a parity between debts, farm prices, wages, and commodity values. To effect these objectives is after all the purpose of the Gold Act, the FWA, the CWA, the Silver Agreement, and the AAA. Under the AAA, the cotton farm was asked to plow cotton under, the wheat farm asked to reduce, the hog-corn farmer asked to reduce, and in addition a new policy of retiring marginal lands set in motion to bring about further curtailment of farm crops. Consistency, would indicate that if we ask such sacrifices from our own people, something should be done about importations of blackstrap and starch which are in direct competition with labor and the farmer and the grain processor. Blackstrap replaces corn. From 1929 to 1931 total importations of blackstrap molasses from all sources including Cuba and the Philippines was only 303 million gallons. They are now importing from 18 to 22 million gallons per month and to aggravate matters, the Dept. of Agriculture and the Alcohol Control Adm'n on Janu. 10th promulgated an order permitting blackstrap distillers to operate without restriction except for the usual processing and parity taxes, until March 1st in the production of neutral spirits. To ask hog-corn farmers to reduce litters and acreage and then permit importations of competitive products with only a nominal duty thereon, looks like rank favoritism to other nations at the expense of the American farmer and laboring man. An attempt will be made to cure this evil. It's success is problematical at this time.

BIG NAVY. Under authority granted in the "Big Navy Bill", the President can, if he so desires, proceed to build the U.S. Navy to treaty strength. This means some new vessels will be built in addition to what we have and a considerable number of old vessels, now over-age will be replaced. This program will call for approximately 65 Destroyers. 30 submarines, 1 Air-craft Carrier and a total of 1650 airplanes. Total expenditure will be in excess of 500 million, staggered over a period of years. The House was interested in a suggestion made by the writer that we could well afford in view of so great an expenditure for defense, to appropriate \$50,000 (the cost of two airplanes) and establish a division in the Dept. of State, to be presided over by an Under-Secretary whose title shall be Under-Secretary For Peace, and officially coordinate peace activities and develop a peace consciousness. A bill to that end will be introduced this week.

UNCLE SAM-MAIL CARRIER. Carrying mail is a big business. It involves the smallest hamlet and the largest city in the nation. It involves relationships with every nation on earth. Whether you send a letter to Paris, Illinois or Paris, France, the moment it bears a stamp and address and is dropped in a mail box, it

becomes Uncle Sams charge and in it's delivery are involved clerks, railroads, carriers, inspectors, accountants and what not. Total appropriation for the Post Office Dept. for the fiscal year is almost 671 millions. This total includes 83 million for rural service, 5 million for special delivery messengers, 46 million for postmasters and assistant postmasters,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million for village delivery, 147 million for clerks and carriers at first and second class post offices, 98 million for railroads, 50 million for railway mail service, 37 million for foreign, 14 million for airmail and a host of other items. Did you know that Uncle Sam uses \$800,000 worth of mail bags every year?

PALM TREES AND MILK COWS. Remember the calendars that depicted a beautiful scene of a South Sea maiden, standing on the beach in the moonlight, with coconut trees standing like tall sentinels along the placid water's edge. Very romantic! Very real, too! Those trees yield coconuts, which are split open, the meat dried, and is then known to the trade as copra. Copra is pressed and yields coconut oil. Coconut oil is used for oleomargarine. Believe it or not, 92 million pounds of margarine were made in Illinois alone last year. Margarine is a substitute for butter. You can understand how the romantic coconut tree loses its romance for the dairy farmer who gets 10 or 11¢ per pound for butter fat. From 1932 to 1933 there was an increase of 46% in the importation of such oils and fats without duty or tax while the farmer was asked to reduce hogs and acreage. All very strange! In the proposed Revenue Bill to be considered soon, a tax of 5¢ per pound has been placed on all coconut and sesame oil; and on all copra and sesame seed which is imported, for the purpose of conversion into oil, such oil so expressed shall also be taxed. This provision will provoke a great fight on the floor of Congress.

TID-BITS. In the shadow of the National Capital is an immense monument to General Grant, flanked with a sculptured group of artillery men on a field piece with caisson. The cannoneers carried swords. This week, someone stole one of these bronze swords under cover of night. Now what do you imagine, anyone could wish with such a strange trinket? Will Rogers and a group of Hollywood movie stars were gallery visitors this week. The house where Lincoln died after assassination is of red brick with wrought iron grills, squeezed between other dark buildings on a side street. It is open daily to visitors. Congressman Britton of Chicago has been dubbed the "Eddie Cantor of the Republican party." The Fisheries Bureau sent out 7 billion small fish and fish eggs, embracing 40 species during the last fiscal year. The Dept. of Justice has 4 million finger prints in its files.