

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
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16th District.

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LaFAYETTE. Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de LaFayette came to America at age 20 to aid Washington and the colonies in their struggle for independence. He rendered valiant service and gave freely of his money in the cause. He died on May 20, 1834. On Sunday May 20, 1934 the President addressed the Congress, the Cabinet, diplomatic officers and other high officials in a Joint Session held at 11:00 a.m. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. Count Rene de Chambrun, direct descendant of LaFayette was among the notables. In this connection it is interesting to note that recently a young Frenchman made application for admission to the bar in New York. He was well qualified but not a citizen. One requirement of admittance to the bar is citizenship. It looked hopeless for him. Suddenly, he presented a certificate showing that he was a direct descendant of the Marquis de LaFayette. Then he presented a resolution passed in one of the original thirteen states almost a 100 years ago, conferring citizenship upon the Marquis de LaFayette and all his male descendants. The young Frenchman received his certificate.

BEEF CATTLE. One hundred fifty million will be expended to aid the beef cattle industry and seek to bring about better prices and controlled production. Of this amount 24 million will be spent for disease control, 25 million for the purchase and distribution of dairy products for relief purposes, 50 million for the purchase of 2 million cows at not to exceed \$25 per head, these cows to be slaughtered and the meat distributed for relief purposes, 44 million to the farmers and livestock raisers as benefit payments for their cooperation with this control program, and 6 million for the purchase and removal of cattle from those areas which have been stricken by drouth. About  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million will be needed for expenses in administering this program. About 6000 persons will be hired for this purpose. Processing taxes, if levied, may run about 2¢ per pound on butterfat and 50¢ per hundred on cattle. One of the disquieting facts brought out in the course of debate on this measure was that, it suggests the slaughter of 2 million cows, while at the same time, we are importing about 20 million pounds of beef annually from the Argentine and thousands of head of livestock come in from Mexico across our southern border. A suggestion was made to put a ban on all imports of beef and livestock but the Committee in charge of the measure ignored the suggestion.

LIQUOR. Total capacity of all distilleries thus far licensed by the U.S. is about 270 million gallons annually. On the basis of the capacity of illicit stills seized since repeal of the 18th amendment became effective, it is estimated that total capacity of stills in operation for bootlegging purposes would be 271 million gallons. Since December 5th, 2407 stills have been seized, some with a capacity of 7000 gallons per day. When the revenue law was passed in January, it was estimated that revenues from spirits and wines would run about 500 million annually. On the basis of present collections it will run only 150 million. That's why Uncle Sam is so deeply interested in the bootlegging problem. Revenues were estimated and then allocated for expenditure. If they fall short of the estimate, there will be a deficit. Of interest is the fact that in the raids in New York and New Jersey, 3 tons of labels and caps were seized. That's a lot of lables and caps. Among them were counterfeited labels for Candaian Club, Old Crow, Old Taylor, Four Roses, Golden Wedding and other popular brands. They were so expertly made that experts could scarcely discern a difference between the real and the forged labels. Apparently, the only assurance of purchasing genuine, legal liquor lies in the reputation of the dealer from whom it is purchased.

CREDIT UNIONS. A nationwide interest is manifest in a bill now pending before Congress, providing for the organization of credit unions under Federal supervision. Credit unions are cooperative associations organized within a group of employees in a particular industry or locality, self-managed and under state supervision. These unions enable employees to save their money, and to borrow for provident purposes when in need. They have been called "baby banks." They have been characterized as "every man his own banker." Among farmers, they loan money for feed, seed, and stock. Among urban dwellers, they loan money to pay hospital and doctor bills, to buy necessaries, or to go into business. All loans must be for useful purposes. These unions have only developed within the last 10 years. There are now more than 2300 in the various states. They have 500,000 members and their resources are estimated at 65 million. They are intended to serve the person of small means. In other countries, the credit union idea has been developed to a high state as evidenced by the fact that

they now operate in every corner of the globe, including Africa. Germany has 20,000 such unions. If the pending bill is passed, it will give great impetus to the organization of such credit unions in other industries and in other localities.

SILVER COMPROMISE. It seems that the President and the silver advocates have reached an agreement. The bill is being drawn. It will probably pass if time permits. It proposes to (1) establish a metallic reserve to back up our money which reserve shall consist of 75% gold and 25% silver. (In other words, three fourths of our paper money will be backed by gold, one fourth by silver. (2) the President will be empowered to buy silver in world markets until we have enough silver to create the metallic reserve on the above basis. (3) Silver certificates (all \$1 bills are silver certificates) shall be issued in payment for the silver that is purchased. This would require the purchase of about 1 billion 800 million ounces of silver and the issuance of about 2 billion 300 million in certificates. The theory of course is that it will stimulate trade with silver nations such as China and Mexico and India and that the more money there is in circulation, the higher the price levels will go.

GOLD DEVALUATION. When the gold dollar was devalued to 59.06¢ and a fund of 2 billion was created to be used in keeping the dollar down and prices up, there was much discussion and much controversy. Nobody knows what the operations of the Stabilization Fund is about because it's a secret. Some of the 2 billion has been used but nobody knows what for. Here however, is what has happened so far as is known. England did not follow suit and devalue the pound sterling any further. Gold countries like France have remained on the gold standard. Prices did not go up in any appreciable degree. Foreign importers did not buy larger quantities of our goods. Merchandise continued to move very slowly in world markets. Foreign nations like Germany, Japan, France and England establish quotas on imports of foreign goods and set up a lot of financial restrictions on imports. Production of lard, bacon, beef, wheat and other commodities was stimulated and heavily subsidized in foreign countries. Japan and England are now engaged in a trade war on textiles and cotton goods. The world conference on wheat production has failed to reach an agreement. The question is: If gold devaluation has failed to bring about any expansion of trade or increase in prices, will silver expansion be able to do it?

FLASHES. Congressman Jones of Texas referred to Congressman Truax of Ohio as a long-haired brindle cow that ate more, bawled more, and gave less milk than any other cow in the herd, when Hon. Truax, Democrat from Ohio (incidentally candidate for U. S. Senator from Ohio) stated that the administration policy on agriculture was making the farmer sick. Congressman Truax then estimated that of all the animals on the farm, the braying jackass was the loudest (meaning Mr. Jones). Oysters are planted like onions. Recently 135,000 bushels were planted in the oysters beds of Chesapeake Bay. Shells are planted around the beds. Oysters spawn, break loose, attach themselves to a shell and develop into a full sized oyster. Believe it or not, the watermelon growers of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina, are asking for a marketing agreement to limit shipments to market and protect prices.