

112 17

## Act Signed to Ban Arms Sales to Britain From Surplus Stocks of the Army and Navy

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, July 1—The government has practically shut down during the last ten days on the supply to Britain of munitions from the United States Army and Navy stocks.

Today, with the signing by President Roosevelt of Bill 9822, "an Act to Expedite National Defense and for Other Purposes," the ban was made statutory. Section 14 of this act prohibits the sale or transfer of any vessels, weapons or munitions to any foreign government unless the chief of Naval Operations or Chief of Staff certifies that they are not essential to the national defense.

Since it is believed that neither the head of the Army nor of the Navy would be willing to take the responsibility of certifying in writ-

ing that anything sufficiently useful to cause Great Britain or her empire to bid for it was not essential to the national defense, purchasing officers saw in this section of the act the last blow to their hopes of obtaining here material with which Great Britain might defend herself.

This development comes on the very day that American-born C. D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Munitions and Supply, and English-born Arthur E. Purvis, the Canadian who has headed the British Purchasing Mission in the United States, had at last received carte blanche to buy what they could find on this continent.

The Allies want primarily rifles, ammunition and field guns. They

had been taking hope from the Gallup poll, which indicated that President Roosevelt's previous sales of munitions to the Allies had been approved by a majority of the American public.

Even the Lee-Enfield rifles left over from the World War, which were offered to the Canadian Government just before this war began and refused and which a few weeks ago were being represented as available to the Allies, are now being conserved.

A substantial number of these weapons were bought by Canada and Britain before the War Department and the Administration changed their minds. Now Canada and Britain are trying to buy more of them, but are unable to do so. A few weeks ago the Navy endorsed the delivery of twenty torpedo boats to Great Britain, but the endorsement was canceled later.

British purchasing officials admit that they snapped up most of what was available before the embargo went into effect. Left now are only odds and ends, if precious ones. But they had expected that in a few months, as deliveries of new material were made, the Army and Navy might have been disposed to release more old stocks.

Ireland also has come into the scene as a prospective purchaser of munitions in America. Inquiries are now being made on her behalf for guns and rifles with which to protect herself should Germany try to occupy that country.