

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Feb. 3.—Topping all other subjects of conversation in Washington is the speech which Alfred E. Smith made at the Liberty League Dinner, and its possible effects upon the political situation. No utterance by a private citizen in recent political history has stirred up so much discussion. It is taken here by some political observers as the most important wedge that has been driven so far to bring about the much-talked-of split in the Democratic Party.

Of course, Mr. Roosevelt will be renominated, but there is no mistaking the intention of Mr. Smith and his followers, included in the Liberty League, to bolt the party, whether they undertake to put a third ticket into the field or not.

How serious this defection may be in its effect upon the President's chance for re-election is a question upon which opinions vary widely. Naturally, the warm supporters of the administration ridicule the idea that the Liberty League crowd can influence any material volume of votes. But behind the Liberty League is a practically unlimited amount of money, and at its head is J. P. Morgan, a very able political organizer.

Rumblings From South

Considerable significance was attached here to the declaration by the late Governor Allen, of Louisiana, that his organization would join up with the Liberty League in trying to prevent Mr. Roosevelt's renomination. Gov. Talmadge of Georgia, long an outspoken enemy of the administration, is the spearhead of another revolt inside the Democratic Party which is beginning to be taken seriously in the South. The expectation here is that the Talmadge movement may also be lined up with the Liberty League movement.

The point of greatest doubt is how far these attacks upon the President and his policies may be carried if they fail to stop his renomination. It is conceded by the political experts that a high percentage of those Democrats who dislike the New Deal will nevertheless swing into line under the party banner, preferring to retain their "regularity" than to bolt the ticket. They may, as Al Smith expressed it, merely "take a walk," rather than affiliate themselves with a third-party movement.

Townsend Plan Fades

One third-party movement that seems to have been pretty well blown up is that threatened by Dr. Townsend if the present Congress did not adopt his plan of old-age pensions for everybody. In fact, Dr. Townsend's third-party threat has had exactly the opposite effect on Capitol Hill that it was intended to have.

Instead of scaring Congressmen to flock to the support of his Old Age Revolving Pension plan, it has rather impelled many members to look upon it with less seriousness. That is partly due to the realization that from an economic standpoint the plan of paying every old person \$200 a month would be ruinous, and partly because the voting strength behind the Townsend plan is so far confined to a few areas and Congressional districts.

Representative John S. MacGraw of California has a modified Townsend plan in the form of a bill which would provide for \$50 a month (Continued on Page 8)

First Aid School To Be Held Later

The first aid school which was to have been held at the College on the evening of the third has been postponed indefinitely on account of the weather, and a further announcement will be made at some future date in this regard.

The school, which is to be conducted by Coach E. E. Garbee of the College faculty, is designed primarily for the benefit of WPA workers in this territory, and all foremen and at least one other man from each project are invited to attend. Due notice will be given as to the new date for the school.

Doughton Supports Chief On Inflation

Winston-Salem, Feb. 3.—Representative Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the house ways and means committee, said here tonight he "will stand by President Roosevelt on the question of currency inflation."

Pointing out that the President and secretary of the treasury are charged with the responsibility in matters of federal finance, he said he would respect their recommendations.

Doughton was en route to Washington from Laurel Springs, his home in Albemarle county.

Asked for his views on new taxes, Doughton replied that his committee had received no request for new revenue and no action would be taken until a message is forthcoming from the President or the treasury department. He expressed his personal hope that new taxes could be avoided this year.

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50 PER YEAR

FORD REPORTS

Auto Magnate Tells of Birthday Ball Spending



DETROIT.—Edsel Ford (above) Ford Motor Company president, as a member of the National Birthday Ball Commission for President Roosevelt, announces disposition of some of the funds raised by the annual birthday ball. Ten grants amounting to \$110,000 of 1935 funds have been allotted to 10 leading universities for research on infantile paralysis.

MANY TO ATTEND LINCOLN DINNER

Watauga to be Well Represented at Greensboro Meet; Dickinson To Speak

More than twenty-five Watauga county Republicans are expected to journey to Greensboro on the 12th, when the annual Lincoln Day Dinner is to be held at the King Cotton Hotel, and County Chairman Russell D. Hodges is very anxious that all those interested in attending get in touch with him at once, in order that the necessary reservations may be made and transportation facilities provided.

Senator L. J. Dickinson of Iowa, will deliver the principal dinner address. The Senator is known as one of the most able orators in the upper branch of Congress, has a forceful personality and is frequently mentioned as a potential candidate for Republican Presidential honors next summer.

Pastime Plays Nine Of Ten Best Films

The Pastime Theatre of Boone is rendering a superior service to local showgoers as is evidenced by the fact that of the "ten best" films produced in 1935, nine of them have been screened at the local playhouse. The top-notch pictures of the year, as determined by the Film Daily National Annual Critic Poll, were: David Copperfield, The Lives of a Bengal Lancer, The Informer, Naughty Marietta, Les Miserables, Ruggles of Red Gap, Top Hat, Broadway Melody of 1936, Roberta and Anna Karenina.

The one which has not been shown locally is Top Hat and the management of the Pastime will likely screen it later.

SCHOOL HOURS ARE CHANGED LOCALLY

Effort Made to Make Hours Better for Children During Extreme Weather

The hours at the Boone High and Demonstration schools have been changed in order to give the children a better chance to meet their classes during the cold weather, according to Professor Chappel Wilson, head of the Department of Education at the College and Director of the city schools.

Mr. Wilson states that classes are now beginning at 9:30 a. m. rather than 8:45, and that the students are being liberated at 3 p. m. instead of at 3:30 as heretofore. The change is due largely to the almost utter impossibility of many children getting to the bus routes before daylight on bitterly cold mornings, and also that the buildings may be more thoroughly heated before classes are called.

Mr. Wilson states that it has been a very difficult problem to keep the buildings warm here, and in spite of due diligence that considerable damage has resulted to the plumbing during the continued cold weather.

COAL SHORTAGE REACHES BOONE

Fuel At A Premium as Another Cold Wave Looms; Situation Improves.

The home fires have been kept burning, but in many cases not so brightly as desired due to the shortage of coal which became a problem in this community the last of the week. Many folks have borrowed small quantities of coal from more fortunate neighbors, and local dealers have rationed out the supply of fuel in an effort to make as many comfortable as possible.

Monday and Tuesday there was no fuel on the local yards at all, but in the evening a supply was received which is being divided today among the residents. Those who have been trucking coal from Virginia have been able to secure but little, and information is that the shortage over the nation is to become more acute. Monday coal mine executives estimated that production had been cut by 50 per cent. due to rains which had flooded some mines, and although the miners worked last Saturday, ordinarily a holiday, they were able to make scarcely a smudge in the empty coal bins of the nation.

The situation here is more serious because of the fact that rough weather has precluded many farmers from marketing supplies of wood in the community.

Birthday Ball Was Noteworthy Success

The President's Birthday Ball, held at the Daniel Boone Hotel last Thursday evening was pronounced a decidedly successful event, and grossed \$91.40, says Tracy Council, Chairman of the local birthday ball committee.

Some seventy-five couples took the floor, and a general good time was enjoyed, those not caring to dance taking hands of bridge or mingling with friends. The Cara Lomes furnished the rhythm, and there was an intermission while the President delivered his birthday message to the revelers.

After hotel accommodations, orchestra fees, and other expenses were paid, said Mr. Council, there remained \$54.00 of which \$37.80 remains at home. The proceeds last year for the community's share were \$53.60, bad weather and increased expenses cutting down this year's net receipts. Besides no refreshments were sold as is usually the case.

The sum of \$91.40 is now in care of the county welfare department and Miss Fisher, public health nurse, is working with the board in disbursing it to worthy cases. Those children in the county afflicted with infantile paralysis are asked to notify Miss Fisher, who will in turn, secure aid, or try to get them in an orthopaedic hospital.

Mrs. Stevenson Dies In Hickory On Tuesday

Mrs. Julia Bowles Stevenson, 68 years old, died at her home in Hickory on last Tuesday after an illness of one week, and the funeral was conducted Wednesday from the First Baptist Church of that city, with Dr. R. K. Redwine, the pastor, in charge. Mrs. Stevenson was the widow of the late Robert W. Stevenson, prominent merchant of Hickory, who was well-known to many Wataugans, and was the mother of Mr. Charles S. Stevenson, who for many years was a resident of Boone.

GROUND HOG FAILS TO CAST SHADOW

Legendary Prediction of Woodchuck Runs Afoul With Human Prognosticators.

The lowly groundhog, most primitive if not the most accurate prognosticator of pending weather conditions, couldn't have seen his shadow Sunday, even though he had used binoculars, for the sun didn't peep out for an instant in this locality. Thus in the face of radio predictions of another cold wave, that would make former efforts of King Winter look sick, the woodchuck daringly proclaims the breaking of the icy monarch's grip.

"Groundhog Day" found moderated temperatures with snow, Monday came warm and raining, Tuesday carried away the most of the snow, and believe it or not, Wednesday noon, the sun is shining, and the predicted blizzard hasn't arrived. According to the tradition of the hills, had the wild pig seen his shadow February 2, he would have retreated into the innermost recesses of his underground castle to escape the six weeks of severe weather which should have been in the offing.

ASKS TO MAKE LIE DETECTOR TEST

Inventor of Lie Detector Asks Governor Hoffman to Allow Its Use In Hauptmann Case



TRIDENTON, N. J.—Above is pictured Dr. Wm. H. Mason of New York, inventor of the Systeic Blood-Pressure Deception Test, which he has requested Governor Hoffman to allow him to use on Bruno Hauptmann, convicted murderer of the Lindbergh baby, now under reprieve from death. He is pictured demonstrating the Sphygmomanometer, or lie detector device, on Miss Dorothy Richey.

Many Local Veterans File Applications Bonus Bonds

QUEEN OF ICE



PETOSKY, Mich.—On February 7th, Gov. Fitzgerald will crown 17-year-old Shirley Squier of Harbor Springs (above) "Michigan Ice Queen for 1936." She will rule over the National Amateur Speed Skating Championship races.

REV. NORRIS HURT BY FALLING TREE

Former Wataugan Seriously Injured as Timber Is Cut For Church Annex.

Rev. J. L. Norris, Lutheran pastor at Maiden, N. C., was seriously hurt last Wednesday by a falling tree. He was assisting members of one of his congregations in cutting timber to build an annex to their church building, when a tree fell the contrary direction from which the cutters intended. The top of the tree struck the minister, breaking three ribs, one bone of a leg, and crushing his ankle. He was rushed to a Lincolnton hospital for treatment. His parents and other members of the family visited him Sunday, February 2nd, and found him doing as well as could be expected, considering the severity of the shock.

Rev. Norris is a former Watauga boy, being the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Norris of Route 1, Boone. He has a host of relatives and friends in the county who wish for him a speedy recovery.

Mother And Son Are Buried At Same Time

Brushy Fork cemetery was the scene of a double burial Monday when the bodies of Mrs. Stuart Hayes, 45, of that section, and a one-year-old son, Alton, were interred. Mrs. Hayes died Saturday, and the son the following day from an illness with pneumonia. The husband and one of the surviving twelve children are described as dangerously ill with the same malady, and for this reason funeral services were not held at the time of burial.

The Hayes family has many friends in the county, who are aggrieved on account of the deaths and continued illness.

The U. S. Forest Service will sponsor an educational program and motion picture show at Blowing Rock February 10, at 7 p. m. There is no admission charge and everyone is invited.

THE LOW DOWN ON WEATHER GIVEN; LOW RECORD IS SET

Professor Wright Has Kept Accurate Account of Weather For Seven Years.

SAYS TEMPERATURE FOR 2 MONTHS AVERAGED 30

Accurate Instruments at College Tell of Record Frigid Wave; A Resume of Weather Conditions In The Past.

Professor J. T. C. Wright, member of the faculty at Appalachian College has for the past seven years kept an accurate record of the whims of the elements, and states with authority that the months of December and January are the coldest he has known during the time or in fact since 1917-18. Professor Wright admits that for the past two months the thermometer has averaged below freezing, and at the same time gives some interesting information on the weather during the past years. Since most folks in this section are engaged in talking about the weather, it occurred to the Democrat that some of the figures might prove quite interesting.

"At the request of the publishers of the Democrat, I have compiled a few statistics on the weather in Boone over a period of the past seven years.

"I commenced keeping a record of the weather, beginning December 1, 1928, at the request of Prof. D. D. Dougherty. I immediately became interested in keeping as accurate a record of what happened as I could obtain. I have never lost interest in keeping such a record. Whenever I was absent from town, I always had some one take the daily readings for me so there would be no missing data. So far, I have not missed a single day's readings in more than seven years.

"I keep the instruments in an instrument house, constructed according to specifications supplied me by the Weather Bureau Station at Raleigh, N. C. This instrument house is located back of my house on what is known as cemetery hill. The instrument house is on page 8.

DISTRICT LEGION MEETING FRIDAY

High Officials of Soldiers' Organization Will Address Local Gathering.

A district meeting of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary is to be held at the Legion Hut in Boone Friday evening, February 7th. It was announced Tuesday.

Officials of the local post are urging all world war veterans of this territory to be present at the gathering, when full information on the bonus payment will be given. At this time veterans may have their applications for payment filled out.

Vice Department Commander Burgen Pennell of Asheville and Department Vice-Pres. Mrs. C. M. Taylor, of Oteen, will be the principal speakers of the occasion. The program will be followed by a ham and bean supper, and there will be a small charge for the benefit of the local post.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEETING

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion, seventeenth district, will meet at the Daniel Boone Hotel Friday afternoon, February 7th, at 4:30.

Mrs. C. M. Taylor of Oteen, department vice-pres., will be in charge of the meeting and a large number of ladies from the Lenoir, Morganton and Newland units are expected. All wives and mothers of world war veterans are invited to attend.

Stockholders of Bank Meet; Elect Officers

A considerable number of the stockholders of the Watauga County Bank were present at the annual meeting last Wednesday and heard reports of improved financial conditions and a greatly bettered outlook as to the future of the local institution. Confidence in the bank has been restored it is said, there are ample notes to take care of the remainder of the preferred stock, when collected, and the outlook at the bank was said to be exceedingly bright.

Mr. L. A. Green remains as president of the bank, G. P. Haganan, vice-president and P. A. Coffey, cashier, while the board of directors will likewise remain the same as heretofore: L. A. Greene, W. W. Mast, Baxter Linney, B. B. Dougherty, G. P. Haganan, S. E. Gragg, P. G. Carroll, R. C. Rivers, Mrs. Luna Robbins, J. M. May, R. H. Hardin, W. F. Winkler.

RECORDER'S COURT

After having missed two sessions of recorder's court for lack of defendants, only one case appeared on the docket Tuesday involving the possession of a negligible amount of whiskey. John Beach was assessed with the cost.

Vassar will double its present library capacity of 200,000 books.