

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Roosevelt Presses His Fight to Assure Liberal Control of U. S. Government
President Roosevelt's highly publicized swing across the Continent has about ended and in a few days the Chief Executive will board a cruiser at San Diego for a fishing trip that will end at the Atlantic Coast.

The political campaign of 1938 is wagging its way along with the President undoubtedly taking a leading part in the discussion, framing the issues and using the full force of his office to drive home to the people the advantages of the policies that he espouses. Once more Mr. Roosevelt has demonstrated his amazing ability to set the stage, to properly time his acts and to focus the limelight where, in his opinion, it will do the most good.

The general attitude of the President toward the coming referendum at the polls is that the "people of the nation are divided between two schools of thought, classified generally as Liberal and Conservative. He urges the people to vote in their party primaries and to make healthy choice between the candidates of the opposing parties. He insists that an election "cannot give a country a firm sense of direction if it has two or more national parties which merely have different names but are as alike in their principles and aims as peas in the same pod."

Naturally, the President urges the voters to favor Liberals in all contests and is more concerned about the general attitude of a candidate towards present-day problems than attitudes toward any particular test. He warns that progress may be blocked by men who say "Yes" and then find special reasons to oppose every specific object advanced to solve national problems.

The President's idea as to the formation of distinct Liberal and Conservative parties in this country is not newly expressed. For many years, the major parties in the United States have included both schools of thought. Mr. Roosevelt, in his campaign in 1938, succeeded in securing the support of most of the Liberal element in the nation.

His political purpose since that day has been to make permanent the adherence of Liberals and to make certain that the party he leads will be the spokesman for the Liberals. He has faced a consistent Conservative opposition, which has been divided between the membership of the two parties, but he has resolutely insisted upon drawing the line between Liberals and Conservatives with what practical politicians consider a callous disregard of the fortune of parties and politicians.

In the President's opinion, the nation is engaged in a vast social and economic revolution. The struggle is titanic and more far-reaching than most Americans suspect. One leading Washington correspondent calls it, "a revolution in slow-motion." Throughout his first term and with unflinching determination thus far, the President has stuck to his battle, insisting upon reforms in the face of determined and powerful opposition. He has won many engagements and been defeated on notable occasions, but, almost without exception, he has returned to the fray, convinced that the people want the fight continued and confident in the belief that the people of the nation support his efforts.

Readers of this column may recall that some weeks ago we pointed out that the election this year would involve only a single issue. The issue was and is: Roosevelt and his New Deal. There is no reason to modify our earlier statement. Mr. Roosevelt has no idea whatever of surrendering the battle for his reforms, and, perhaps, is more confident of ultimate success today than at almost any time since he became President.

In fact, the Chief Executive is convinced that the "economic royalists" are in strategic retreat and is anxious to press them to the limit, believing that a striking victory at the polls in November will mean their utter rout. Even now, he senses signs of cooperation with the Government from those who have bitterly fought his measures. A conclusive victory by Liberals in the campaigns this year will undoubtedly convince those who "control the wealth and industry" of the nation that the time has come for them to accept what Mr. Roosevelt's friends term "economic democracy."

Regardless of whether the splurge on the Stock Exchange marked the end of the current depression or not, the amazing fact is that the President did not lose his hold upon the people. Although Mr. Roosevelt, during the recovery movement, boasted at Charleston, "We planned it that way," the evidence indicates that the popular opinion of the nation does not blame him for the economic trouble of the past year.

This fact has been reasonably well established by two polls of public opinion. The Gallup Poll disclosed that only three persons out of ten blamed Roosevelt or the New Deal for the depression. The other seventy per cent put the blame upon some-

thing else, including natural economic trends, bad distribution of national income, lack of cooperation between business, labor and the Government, maladjustment of our economic machinery, etc.

The Poll of Fortune Magazine asked, "Do you approve in general of Roosevelt?" In reply, 548 per cent of those polled said, "Yes." About eleven per cent did not know, and only thirty-four per cent said, "No." This result is more remarkable because the same poll showed general approval of the President, reported that none of his policies have the majority support of the people, except rearmament.

Is the Nation Moving Up-grade Again Or Is Recent Improvement Momentary?

Practically everybody is interested in the economic situation in the country and most of us are wondering whether we have come to the end of the present depression.

The writer is not a business expert, and cheerfully admits that most of the "sound policies" of economic and fiscal affairs have been thrown into the ash can by the experience of the world in the past decade. Undoubtedly, business signs have been more favorable in the past few weeks than was expected. The summer will probably prove more encouraging than anticipated. The spending program of the Government will have a favorable effect on Fall business and this will extend into next year. What happens afterwards depends on the ability of private industry and capital to keep the ball rolling.

Without attempting to settle the argument as to what caused the 1937-38 depression, or call attention to the significant differences which distinguished it from the earlier decline between 1929-32, it is admitted, fundamentally, that the economic dislocation is much less serious than it was nine years ago. With this introduction, we will attempt, very briefly, to recount some of the favorable and unfavorable factors now operating throughout the nation.

The heavy industries, those which make goods that last a long time, such as factory equipment and automobiles, are showing signs of a distinct revival. Steel production is beginning to move forward, following a revolutionary change in pricing tactics. The automobile industry, an important customer of steel, is doing better than had been expected, but the basic building and construction industry is somewhat uncertain. Signs of an early spring revival in construction have receded but the Housing Administration thinks that residential building will pick up and the new spending program will increase other types of construction.

The textile and shoe industries appear to be entering upon an expanding phase. Inasmuch as they employ between one and two million workers, the importance of their contribution to economic well-being is apparent.

Declining commodity prices, which usually cause buyers to postpone purchases, have been much steadier throughout the world during the past month. Certain important raw materials have advanced. Excessive inventories of manufactured goods are rapidly being reduced and their elimination will insure a revival of production, even if only to meet current needs.

The agricultural outlook is not exactly favorable, although higher prices and the Government program means that the farmers' income will be several hundred million dollars more than heretofore expected. Excessive production, carrying threats of low prices, continue to menace the security of farmers in this country. The problem is not yet solved and whether the solution will be rigid control of production or the finding of wider foreign markets remains to be settled.

Other factors on the favorable side include the effects of Government spending, which are certain to produce some measure of recovery, regardless of permanent after-effects and, if it continues, will engender optimism among leaders and encourage investment and expansion. Moreover, what are called the "natural forces" seem to be asserting themselves to put business in an expanding cycle, following the declines of the past year or so. It should be added that there seems to be a prospect for more effective cooperation between labor, capital and the Government. If this tendency proves correct, its influence will be widely felt.

The other side of the picture includes factors which are decidedly unfavorable. Unemployment, now estimated to include ten million workers, as compared with about six million a year ago, is depressing but a business upturn would tend to reduce the number of unemployed. The prospects, however, are that the nation will be plagued with the problem to some degree for many years.

The present plight of the railways is discouraging. Many of them face serious financial readjustment and most of them are restricting their purchases of much-needed equipment

FILM FORECAST AT STATE THEATRE

HERTFORD, N. C.



Monday Only, July 18th—
Don Ameche, Simone Simon

Robert Young
Simone Simon tilted her pert little chin at Opportunity and uttered a very haughty "good-bye."

The farewell had all the emphasis of an American "scram."

But Opportunity was insistent, courteous and inspired.

That is why "La Sauvage Tendre" today is the Number One screen star of Paris and Hollywood—instead of, perhaps, a well known illustrator and portraitist in charcoal.

Born in Marseilles, Simone settled in Paris to study under the tutelage of a winner of the Prix de Rome, who advised her to take up drawing as a future career. She found that her talents were best expressed in charcoal portraits, and she began dashing off portraits for delighted friends.

Then Opportunity knocked . . . or more correctly, stared.

One day in June, 1931, on the terrace of the Cafe de la Paix, her vivacious smile and sparkling blue eyes attracted the attention of a young Russian.

He stood before Simone . . . gazing at her through half-closed eyes . . . oblivious to rushing waiters and curious passersby.

Simone was half amused and half indignant until her vis a vis drew up a chair and sat down beside her.

and supplies to the minimum. No real solution is in sight, even when allowances are made for a business revival. The electric utilities, another important purchaser of the products of heavy industries, are crowded with uncertainty and the industry is not likely to resume purchasing on a large scale until the situation is cleared up.

The foreign situation is not very encouraging. Other countries have been affected by our depression and unless recovery here gives early support to world commodity markets, the international repercussion is apt to be more widely felt. Another menace in world affairs is the concentration of activity in other lands on armaments, which admittedly affects the present economic situation, but does not add to the permanence of employment.

Heavy taxes have worried some business men. Naturally critics of the present Administration have attached great importance to this factor in producing uncertainty and preventing satisfactory investment of expansion. Even those friendly to the New Deal admit that the tax situation has its difficulties. Nevertheless, there is general agreement that heavy taxation is apt to continue and that business will be compelled to adjust itself with this factor in mind.

Added to the items enumerated above is a general antipathy that certainly exists between the Government and certain elements in business. No real reconciliation has been effected as yet and none is possible so long as there is doubt as to the permanence of the reforms already instituted. There are signs, however, that the more responsible leaders in business, finance and industry are about ready to accept a certain amount of Government regulation as inevitable. If this is general, the strained relations which have existed between Government and business will disappear and the economic picture of the nation immensely helped.

CHAPANOKE NEWS

Miss Dona White, of Winfall, and Miss Louise Wilson spent Friday at Ocean View, Va., on a fishing trip. Mrs. Thomas White, of Winfall, is spending several days with her mother, Mrs. J. P. Elliott.

Mrs. J. Claude Perry and her nephew, of Elizabeth City, are spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. C. L. Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Symons and son, Jack, and Mr. and Mrs. Elihu Lane spent Sunday at Ocean View.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Jordan and

Then she was dumbfounded. "Mademoiselle must forgive me," he explained, "but I am an artist. To me you are very beautiful."

Drawing up her 5 feet 3 inches of dignity into an icicle of sub-zero disdain, Simone told Opportunity: "That is very interesting. Good-bye!!!"

Right then and there, all of the fame, fortune and adoration which has been her lot in recent years, hung in the balance.

Opportunity, however, came back for more.

"Mademoiselle, you do not understand. My name is Tourjansky. I am a film director and you are a perfect type for my next picture. I have been looking for you."

And suiting the words to action, M. Tourjansky produced a carte d'identite—passport which all must carry in France—and proved his point.

To make a short story still shorter, Simone took a screen test for M. Adolphe Osso and was given the first of a series of successful roles.

Now she is co-starred with Don Ameche and Robert Young in "Josette," gay 20th Century-Fox comedy hit to be shown at the State Theatre Monday. Bert Lahr and Joan Davis head the featured cast, which includes Paul Hurst, William Collier, Sr., and Tala Birell.

But just suppose Opportunity had not knocked twice!

children spent Sunday with Mrs. Jordan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lane.

Mrs. Bertha Whitehead had as her dinner guests Sunday her father, W. F. Howell, and brother, Louis Howell, Misses Sybil and Alma Howell, of Hertford, Mr. and Mrs. John White and children, from near Hertford, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Miller, of Winfall.

Mr. and Mrs. John Asbell and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Crafton Russell and daughter visited Mrs. James Dail, in Chowan County, on Sunday.

Miss Alcesta Whitehead has re-

turned home from Laurel, Md., after spending the past six weeks with her sister, Mrs. F. C. O'Brien. Miss Waverley D'Orsey spent the week-end in Elizabeth City. Mrs. J. C. Wilson was in Elizabeth City Thursday.

Mrs. Ruby Lane was the guest of

Miss Elizabeth Goodwin, at Okisko, on Sunday.

Miss Janet Quincy has returned from Wilson, where she visited her uncle, Edgar Towe.

Carey Quincy, Walter Symons and Tim Trueblood spent Sunday at Ocean View, Va.

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RAYMOND CRAFT—growing and knowing tobacco is his "life work"

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