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The purge that failed in South Carolina resulted in the renomination of Senator E. D. (Cotton Ed) Smith. Of course, in South Carolina, the Democratic nomination in August is equivalent to election in November.

Early this month, Senator Smith, together with other senators from the cotton states, met in Washington to use their efforts to secure higher Government loans on cotton. They were joined by some senators who want higher loans on wheat.

After their conference, the Carolinian wanted to confer with the President at the White House, but Mr. Roosevelt, engaged in a Cabinet meeting, referred him and his waiting group to officials of the Department of Agriculture. This made Mr. Smith very indignant. He did not think the President was showing due deference to a committee of "duly elected senators, representing sovereign states." Political commentators observed that the incident might widen the breach between the President and some of the senators he opposed in state primaries.

Despite the Senator's theoretical espousal of state's rights and his talk of "sovereign states," he is considered the veteran commander of the cotton brigade and always leads its charge against the United States Treasury. Just now, he wants the Government to increase its loan rate on cotton from 8.3 cents a pound to approximately 11.9 cents. Failing to get this, he wants an outright subsidy payment of three cents a pound on the 1938 crop.

"Cotton Ed" warns that "almost universal bankruptcy" is threatened in the South because of the financial plight of cotton growers. Press reports of the conference of the cotton congressmen tell of predictions of "revolution" in the Cotton Belt unless farm prices rise.

Of course, the South is not rolling in wealth this Fall. It is feeling the pinch from the enormous crop of 1937. The 19,000,000 bale crop created such a surplus that this year it was necessary to cut the production considerably. An estimated crop of 12,000,000 bales, according to Secretary Wallace, will bring \$865,000,000 this year which is only \$117,000,000 less than that of last year. This figure, of course, includes Government payments of about \$265,000,000.

The record of Senator Smith is something worth observing. He has been lukewarm in support of all Administration farm measures since 1933. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture he has been in a position to block farm legislation. He did this very effectively in 1937, when cotton growers, freed from all restraints by the Supreme Court decision of 1936, produced the enormous crop that has wrecked the market.

While Smith has championed the cotton farmer for about thirty years, his contention in 1937 was that he did not know what the farmers wanted, that it would be necessary to hold hearings throughout the country before preparing a bill. With this idea, the Senate made no progress toward a farm bill in 1937, but "Cotton Ed" when the first early crop estimate sent the price of the staple hurtling downward, led the cotton brigade in a march to the President for help.

Subsequently, when the hearings that he scheduled showed that the farmers were in favor of the Administration plan, the Senator grudgingly observed its passage in the Senate, although proclaiming that it was not his bill but what the farmers wanted, and insisting that "if it failed," he was not responsible. On the floor of the Senate, he candidly confessed that he could not explain the bill to Western senators.

In brief, if "Cotton Ed" had legislated in 1937 instead of waiting until 1938, the cotton growers, for whom he now mourns, would not have produced 19,000,000 bales in 1937 and there would be little occasion for him to beat his chest before the White House or to berate the Government for its failure to make a loan which many experts consider economically unsound and likely to do the cotton growers as much harm as good.

Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, chairman of the temporary National Economic Committee, insists that the committee's efforts to "find out what's wrong with our economic system" is not a punitive expedition against

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Many preventable fires occur in North Carolina

—every year. According to R. D. Gentry, Alleghany County Forest Warden, during the first six months of

1938, 455 forest fires burned in Western North Carolina. Of these 455 fires, three were caused by lightning. In other words, 452 of the fires were man-caused, and thereby preventable, it has been pointed out. An article concerning forest fires and their prevention has been issued recently by Mr. Gentry as follows:

These 452 man-caused fires cost the State and Counties of Western North Carolina thousands of dollars in damage to timber and wild life to say nothing of the effect that fires have on soil erosion and the aesthetic value of our woodland.

During the summer months in Western North Carolina, our forest floor is covered with a carpet of green vegetation. The trees are covered with green foliage. Consequently, the forest is rendered fairly safe insofar as forest fires are concerned. Already with the first signs of Fall and Winter, the grasses in the forests are dying and the foliage is losing its glossy green color and beginning to fall. Therefore, the floor of the forest will soon be covered with a layer of dead and highly inflammable material subject again to the risk of more man-caused forest fires.

It is encouraging, however, to know that the number of the man-caused fires in Western North Carolina for the past several years have been steadily decreasing. You, as a citizen of Alleghany County, can render valuable assistance to your County, State and Forest Warden Organization in bringing about a still further decrease in our losses from forest fires. Here are a few of the ways in which you can help:

1. Don't toss a lighted cigarette or match out of your car. If you do so, your cigarette and match might land in inflammable material causing a disastrous fire.
2. While hunting, be sure that your match and cigarette are fully extinguished before you throw them away. Also be sure that, when your pipe is emptied, the contents are completely extinguished.
3. In building warming and

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A big increase in the naval budget for 1939

—was seen Tuesday, when President Roosevelt announced that the United States will speed up, rather than retard, its national defense program. The chief executive, in Washington, indicated that an increase of the naval budget for 1939 of \$150,000,000 will be needed.

The proposed increase, which Mr. Roosevelt said at his press conference is necessary to carry on new warship construction, would bring the naval appropriation for next year to a record peace-time high of more than \$700,000,000.

The President's decision to accelerate his "second-to-none" navy program was interpreted as an answer to German Chancellor Adolf Hitler's speech at Saarbrücken last Saturday when the Fuehrer warned the world that Germany would continue her armament program because she can not trust Great Britain and France.

This declaration, in the opinion of foreign affairs experts, precludes the possibility of a world disarmament conference for at least another year and is regarded as a blunt negative answer to proponents of a conference at this time, including Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles who a few days previously had issued an official "feeler" on the subject.

The increased naval construction program may be accompanied by larger expenditures for the army, particularly for coast defense and anti-aircraft batteries which are said to be insufficient for national security.

Livestock Judging At Alleghany County Agricultural Fair



Posed during the livestock judging at the recent Alleghany County Agricultural Fair are (left to right): R. C. Halsey, Sparta, Chairman of Department 5—Horses and Mules; F. H. Jackson, Agriculture Teacher in Sparta High School; J. W. Cassell, County Agent of Carroll County (Va.); and Herman Moore, Baywood, Va.—Photo by H. B. Zabriskie.

Look At The Smile



C. R. Roe, principal of the Sparta High School, laughs at an amusing incident during the judging at the recent Alleghany County Fair.—Photo by H. B. Zabriskie.

Colonel Lindbergh was silent when he was questioned

—in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday concerning bitter charges made against him by a group of prominent

Russian aviators. The "Lone Eagle" arrived in Berlin Tuesday by plane to attend the annual meeting of the Lillienthal Society for Aerial Research.

The American airman declined to comment on the soviet fliers' accusation that he belittled the Russian air force and thus encouraged Anglo-French capitulation to Adolf Hitler's demands for Czechoslovak territory.

Lindbergh and his wife were greeted by Lieut.-Col. Truman Smith, military attache of the United States embassy, who will be their host while in Berlin.

The Lindberghs spent a quiet afternoon at Smith's home and then went to dinner at the Neues Palais in Potsdam.

Eleven soviet fliers published a letter in Moscow Monday, alleging that Lindbergh made "insolent anti-soviet utterances" following a trip to the soviet union. The airmen charged that Lindbergh stated before guests of Lady Astor, member of the British house of commons, that the soviet air force was inefficient.

Lady Astor said Tuesday there was "no truth" in the statement and that the Daily Worker, London communist newspaper, was responsible for the report.

An old-time barn dance is to be given in Sparta

—at the Sparta High School Gymnasium on Saturday night, October 15, beginning at eight o'clock, and continuing until eleven.

A small admission charge will be made, and the proceeds are to be used for improvements on the School grounds.

National And World NEWS At A Glance

GIRL GIVEN JAIL TERM

Lexington, N. C., Oct. 5.—Lula Belle Kimel, the blonde, buxom, 22-year-old jailer's daughter who gave young desperadoes James Godwin and Bill Wilson their freedom because she feared the one she loved would die in the state lethal gas chamber, wept aloud tonight when she was sentenced to serve 60 days in jail.

MAY ABANDON PURGE

Hyde Park, N. Y., Oct. 6.—President Roosevelt was represented today by an authoritative source as having decided to make no campaign speeches in any state with the possible exception of New York, where a test of extraordinary importance is in prospect.

HITLER IS INJURED

Berlin, Oct. 7.—Germans estimated tonight that by October 10 Germany will have annexed nearly one-fifth of Czechoslovakia.

Reichsfuehrer Hitler himself toured his new territory and was scratched on the face by rose thorns when struck by a bouquet thrown by an admirer.

20 KILLED IN AIR CRASH

Soest, Germany, Oct. 10.—Twenty persons were killed today when a Belgian airliner lost a wing in mid-air and plummeted to earth in flames near this Ruhr valley community in Northwest Germany.

ROYALTY TO VISIT CANADA

London, Oct. 8.—King George VI and Queen Elizabeth will become the first reigning British sovereigns ever to set foot in "the new world" by a visit to Canada next summer which may take them to the United States.

A singing meet is to be held at the Methodist

—Church here on Sunday, October 30. The program, as now planned, will include spiritual and sacred songs

sung by male choruses and quartets from Wytheville, Va., Mount Airy and other places. Hymns, also, will be played on Hawaiian guitars.

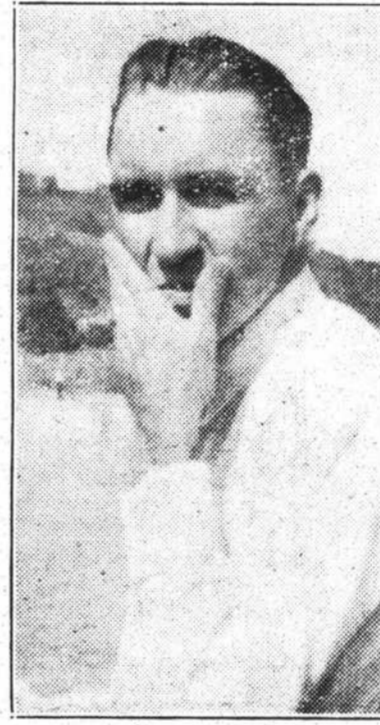
Announcements concerning the completed program will be made later, and will include a list of the different groups which will participate.

The public is cordially invited to attend this singing convention.

The Methodist Church W. M. S. will hold its October meeting

—tomorrow (Friday) afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. John Mac Edwards. Mrs. James Toms will be associate hostess, and Mrs. Grover Enopier will have charge of the program

In Pensive Mood



"Doc" T. R. Burgiss caught by the candid camera while in a pensive mood during the ball game at the recent Alleghany County Fair.—Photo by H. B. Zabriskie.

Governor Hoey spoke Tuesday in Smithfield

—at a political rally, at which he stepped into the midst of the general election campaign with an appeal to voters to support all Democratic candidates. The chief executive asserted that the Democratic party would stand on its record in the state and nation. The rally was held Tuesday night.

Hoey declared that the farmer, the laborer, the business man and the average citizen would have "nothing to gain by returning to the days and doings of Republican rule."

"The condition of this nation today, as compared with other countries and in contrast with the last Republican administration, justifies the belief that the American people will not consider returning the control of our nation's affairs to the Republican party," he said. "What has that party to offer our people? What solution is proposed for our national problems?"

As North Carolina's "record of progress," the Governor cited: "A fair and just tax system; a balanced budget; advancement in education, health, welfare, social service, and every humanitarian cause; a well-developed road program; prison reform; and steady reduction of the public debt."

The Governor said that the election was of major importance and pointed out that North Carolinians will vote for a United States senator, 11 congressmen, three supreme court justices, an attorney-general, a utilities commissioner, a labor commissioner, 12 superior court judges, 21 solicitors, the entire General Assembly, and hundreds of county officers.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CIRCLE WILL GATHER

—tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Robert M. Gambill.

A Home Economics Department has been added here

—as a part of the curriculum in Sparta High School. Miss Lois Roberts, Asheville, is the teacher in this department. Miss Roberts is a graduate of Berea College, Berea, Ky., and comes highly recommended.

A letter from the president to R. L. Doughton

—in which the chief executive asked that the Ninth District North Carolina Congressman seek another term

in the national House of Representatives, was read at the recent big Statesville Democratic rally when Representative Doughton opened his campaign for re-nomination. The letter was read by Sidney B. Gambill, of Washington, D. C., a former secretary to Congressman Doughton. The letter follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 25, 1938

Dear Bob:

Since our discussion a few days ago I have been very much concerned at the thought that you feel obliged to retire from the House of Representatives. So greatly concerned have I been that I feel impelled to write to you in the hope that you may reconsider your contemplated action and decide to continue in the public service.

No one knows better than I what your service as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the past six years has meant to me and the nation. It would be a great loss to the country to have you leave this post.

In concrete results the legislation piloted by you to enactment has included many of the most important measures of my administration. Of course that part of your work is a matter of public record but, in addition to such distinguished accomplishment, there has been a great service which you have rendered personally. Your counsel, your sound, mature judgment on public questions and the steady influence which you have exerted has been of invaluable assistance to me.

I know that under all the circumstances it will be a personal sacrifice for you to remain but I trust that in view of the important work that we have ahead that you may see your way clear to continue in public service and help to do the job entrusted to us by the people of the country.

Now, Bob, I know that I am asking a lot of you and regardless of whatever your course may be I want you to feel assured of my grateful appreciation of your distinguished service.

With affectionate regards,
Very sincerely yours,
(Signed)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

A revision of southern freight rates is favored

—by President Roosevelt, according to an impression received Tuesday by a White House caller. The

caller represented the chief executive as being convinced a revision of present schedules had become necessary.

Frank M. Dixon, Democratic nominee for governor of Alabama, said the Chief Executive expressed belief the system included unfair differentials which demanded correction.

The Alabamian did not quote Mr. Roosevelt on the means of effecting the changes, but his own suggestion was the enactment of legislation forbidding geographical differentials in rate-making.

Later Tuesday, the President told his press conference Dixon came in to pay his respects. Asked if freight rates entered into the discussion, he said they had, adding that every southern governor who called on him talked about freight rates and very properly so.

A cooperative bull sale will be held October 20

—in the new livestock Pavilion at Hillsville, Va., sponsored by Galax Association of Commerce, the Dairy Extension Division of V. P. L., Blacksburg, Va., and the Carnation Company. The sale will be held at two o'clock in the afternoon.

respectively, and the Carnation Company. The sale will be held at two o'clock in the afternoon. This is the second cooperative bull sale held in this section, a similar one having been conducted at Galax last spring.

There will be approximately sixteen bulls in the sale, eight Holsteins and eight Jerseys. These bull calves have been selected by R. G. Connelly, of the Dairy Extension Division, V. P. L., and are from some of the best dairy herds in Virginia.

All of the calves are from dams with known record and are remarkably good offerings. The breeders are consigning these bulls to the sale putting them up at public auction and taking whatever they bring. In nearly every case these bull calves would bring considerably more on the farm than they will at the sale but these progressive breeders believe that this section is rapidly developing in dairying and are willing to make this sacrifice in order to help establish pure bred lines. It is suggested that several farmers in the same community go in together and buy one of these calves.

Any further information desired may be obtained from the county farm agents, Warren B. Giersch, Galax, or a Carnation representative.

Milk production in the surrounding territories has been very satisfactory this fall because of the mild weather. So far production is perhaps above normal, it has been pointed out.

There is a considerably above average amount of feed this year, due to the exceptionally fine season during the past summer, and there is, undoubtedly, more feed than has been produced in this section for many years. The growing use of lime and phosphate fertilizers is reflected in the increased yield of tame hay. An enormous yield of Soy Beans has been reported and most of the Soy Beans was put up in excellent shape as it has not rained any recently.

Twenty-five silos have been built in this territory in the past two months and prospects are that considerably over a hundred will be built next year. This will have a marked effect on production of winter milk at a profit, it is said.

Price of dairy products are lower than a year ago but, according to Dairy reports, the relation between dairy products and the price of feed show more of a profit than ordinary. More farmers are planning to milk cows throughout the winter than ever before, it is reported.

The Sparta Public Library has been recognized

—by the North Carolina State Library Commission, and is listed in statistics compiled by the commission of North Carolina Public Libraries.

The fortitude of Columbus and his aides was praised

—Tuesday by President Roosevelt on the eve of Columbus Day. The following statement was issued by the chief executive:

"Each recurrence of Columbus Day brings to all of us a greater appreciation of the heritage we have received as a result of the faith and courage and fortitude of the Genoese navigator and his brave companions.

"Because of their vision and determination we are sharers in a new world."

A LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS AT THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR—held here September 23-24, due to its lengthiness, has been deferred until next week for publication in THE TIMES. It was stated last week that the list would appear this week, but the postponement became necessary.