

On next Tuesday, November 8, the people of the United States go to the polls. National interest centers in the election of 432 members of the House, 37 members of the Senate, and the gubernatorial contests in 32 states.

There is no question as to who will control the new Congress. Republicans have no hopes of acquiring a majority in either House. They hope to recoup some of the losses suffered in the smashing defeats of 1932, 1934 and 1936. The G. O. P. is confident of gains and even Democratic leaders concede that their majorities will be reduced.

"PURGE" HOGS STAGE

There are, we think, two interesting observations in connection with the present political campaign. The first is the fact that the President's effort to liberalize the Democratic Party by eliminating some conservative officeholders attracted more attention than the congressional campaign itself. In other words, to this observer it seems that the people are more interested in the "purges" of Mr. Roosevelt than in the straight-out contests of Democrats versus Republicans.

NEW LINE-UP?

The second observation in connection with the present political campaign is that the contest is not whether Democrats or Republicans will control the Seventy-Sixth Congress but whether the opposition to the President, including Republicans and Conservative Democrats, will be large enough to seriously hamper Mr. Roosevelt's leadership during the last two years of his term. Expressed in another way, the Democratic control of Congress is so strong that its dominant New Deal faction has been able to disregard any threat of a combination of Republicans and Conservative Democrats. Whether the election next week will change this relationship is about the main question to be decided.

DEMOCRATS AT PEAK

To one familiar with the history of American politics during the present century, the upsurge of the Democrats since 1931 has been a remarkable phenomenon. During the first thirty years of the present century, the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives for six years (1911-1917) and the Senate for six years (1913-1919). Most of the states were under Republican rule.

In 1931, when the Seventy-Second Congress convened, there were 215 Democrats in the House and 214 Republicans, while in the Senate the Democrats had 47 members and the Republicans 48. In other words, the parties were about evenly balanced after the 1930 election, although the Democrats had to score heavy gains in that election to bring this about.

G. O. P. AT BOTTOM

As the Democrats took charge of the Senate and House, Republican membership dropped to new lows in both branches of Congress. In the country at large this trend affected control of the states so that today only seven of the forty-eight state governments are controlled by Republicans. Thus, today, the Republican Party is in control of few successful statewide political organizations and, with little power in national affairs, the G. O. P., as a major party, is setting a new low record in the United States.

NOTHING CONCLUSIVE

For the present, at least, the party is not united, either in leadership or upon principles, and can only hope that the present election will mark the reversal of the Democratic trend. If this is pronounced there will be the chance of a decisive battle, so far as the House is concerned, in 1940. However, under present conditions the election next week is not apt to register any very clear-cut trend between Republicans and Democrats and we doubt very much if it speaks distinctly about the great issues of the day.

National defense has become the first problem of the American Government following the astonishing surrender of Great Britain and France at Munich.

Face to face with the demands of the dictators, Great Britain with her great fleet, and France, with her great army, bowed to the superior air force of Germany. The governments of the democracies were unable to face the prospect of war because Germany, with a small navy and an inferior army, had an air fleet that was believed to be big enough to overwhelm the combined French and British aerial forces.

GERMANY DOMINANT

The revelation that Germany, for the present at least, is the (turn to page four, please)

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Volume No. 14.

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The case of Howard Delp is to be reviewed

—this month by the Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals, and will be the first case to be argued when the

tribunal convenes in Richmond on Monday, November 14. Delp was sentenced to death in Grayson Circuit Court, at Independence, in April, 1935, for the murder of Chief of Police Posey Martin, Galax, in February of that year. The extreme sentence followed the verdict of a jury finding the defendant guilty, after a sanity jury had first reached a verdict holding that Delp was sane at the time the crime was committed. Later, however, a sanity commission held the defendant was insane and he was placed in Southwestern Virginia State Hospital, in Marion.

Recently, a commission reported Delp had regained his sanity, and the case now comes before the high court on appeal from his original conviction. Delp was prosecuted during the trial that resulted in his conviction, by H. P. Burnett, now of Galax, who was at that time Commonwealth's Attorney of Grayson County, assisted by Town Attorney Jack Matthews, of Galax, and S. Floyd Landreth, Galax. The defendant was represented by Attorney Stuart B. Campbell, Wytheville.

Near Century Mark



John Collins (above), Baywood, Va., who will celebrate his 99th birthday anniversary on December 14. Mr. Collins, one of the very few remaining Confederate veterans in Grayson County, lives at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. L. Vaughan, Baywood, and is the grandfather of Mrs. Lorne Higgins, who lives at Brush Creek, a few miles north of Sparta, near the state line.

Hysteria reigned Sun. night among radio listeners

—throughout the nation and actual panicky evacuations from sections of New York resulted from a too-realistic radio broadcast describing a fictitious and devastating visitation of strange men from Mars.

Excited and weeping persons all over the country swamped newspaper and police switchboards with the question: "Is it true?"

It was purely a figment of H. G. Wells' imagination with some extra flourishes of radio dramatization by Orson Welles. It was broadcast by the Columbia broadcasting system.

The broadcast was an adaptation of Wells' "War of the Worlds," in which meteors and gas from Mars menace the earth.

Five boys at Brevard (N. C.) College fainted and panic gripped the campus for a half hour with many students fighting for telephones to inform their parents to come and get them.

It finally got so bad in New Jersey that the State police put reassuring messages on the State teletype, instructing their officers what it was all about.

And all this despite the fact that the radio play was interrupted four times for the announcement: "This is purely a fictional play."

A Carnation plant is to be built in Statesville

—soon, according to an announcement authorized Friday by officials of the company in Statesville. The announcement was authorized by A. C. Oosterhuis, director of dairy extension for which is in Oconomowoc, Wis., and Gaylord Hancock, superintendent of the Galax, Va., plant.

Officials of the company, which now operates 53 plants throughout the United States, have been considering for many months the location of a plant in North Carolina, but not until recently, have they found that sufficient volume could be produced.

Two persons were fatally injured Sunday

—night when the automobile in which they were riding left the road and was wrecked near Whitehead.

The two persons, Arch Shepherd, 41, and Connie Richardson, 19, of Scottville, died Monday morning in Wilkes Hospital. The accident occurred about eleven o'clock Sunday night.

Blaine Reed, Dodge Phipps and Reb Hubbard, who were also in the automobile, were injured. Reed suffered a wrenched back, but Phipps and Hubbard were less seriously hurt.

Shepherd was owner of the automobile. Richardson was driving.

The funeral for Shepherd who was a World War veteran, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shepherd, of Scottville, was held yesterday (Wednesday) morning, at Cranberry Church. Members of the American Legion were pallbearers.

The funeral for Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Ivin Richardson, of Scottville, was held yesterday afternoon, at Mount Carmel Church.

Alleghany voters will name county officers Tuesday

—in the general county election. In addition to the county offices to be filled, the office of Solicitor of the

11th Judicial District, State Senator for the 29th Senatorial District and Congressman from the Ninth District are to be filled.

Considerable interest is being shown in the campaign in Alleghany County, and most of the candidates are waging active fights.

A Democratic rally is to be held here, in the High School Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon, November 5, at 1:30 o'clock. At that time, among the speakers will be Congressman Robert L. Doughton, of Alleghany County, the incumbent, who is seeking reelection; William B. Austin, candidate for the State Senate, and A. D. ("Lon") Folger, of Mount Airy, who is a candidate for Congress from the neighboring Fifth District. Announcement concerning this rally was made recently by R. F. Crouse, Sparta, Chairman of the Alleghany County Democratic Executive Committee. Band music will be a feature of the rally, and the public is invited.

Monroe Adams, Republican candidate for Congress from the Ninth District, spoke here last Saturday night, October 29.

The candidates for the various offices are as follows: For Solicitor—J. Erle McMichael, Democrat, and Paul Swanson, Republican.

For State Senator—William B. Austin, Democrat, and Grant Baugess, Republican.

For Representative in General Assembly—S. W. Brown, Democrat, and S. S. Landreth, Republican.

For Clerk of Superior Court—A. F. Reeves, Democrat, and N. C. Jones, Republican.

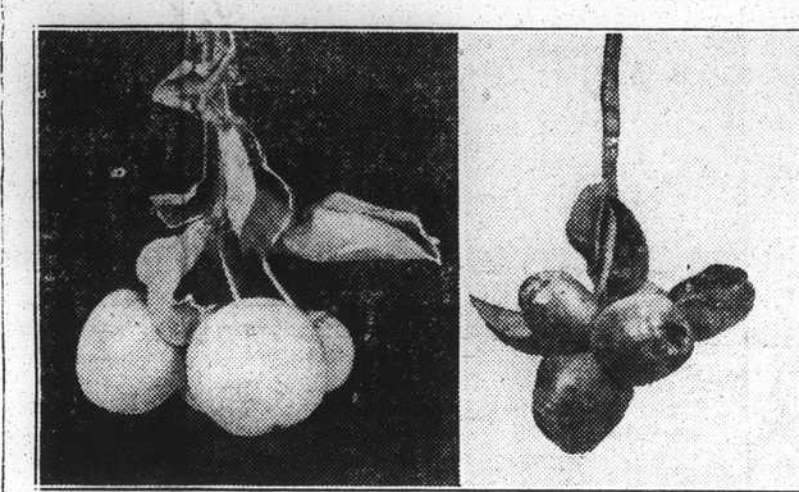
For Sheriff—DeWitt T. Bryan, Democrat.

For Register of Deeds—T. M. Gambill, Democrat.

For Coroner—Dr. B. O. Choate, Democrat.

For County Commissioner—J. C. Gambill, Democrat, and Edgar Wright, Republican.

Miracles Of Nature



Pictured above are two branches of second-growth apples, grown in the orchard of O. B. Burcham, who lives two and one-half miles south of Woodlawn, in Carroll County, Virginia. The apples trees blossomed in the late summer and two of the cluster at the left (Yellow Transparents) are fully matured. The cluster at the right is of the Virginia Beauty variety.

Next Tuesday's elections may be very significant

—and the minority Republican party is working hard to recapture legislative seats now held by Democrats.

One week from today, millions of American voters will have rendered their decision in what may prove the most significant political referendum since the world economic crash of 1929.

This year's congressional and gubernatorial elections constitute the fourth political census-taking since that collapse. The first, in 1930, saw the sweeping away of ten-year Republican control of both Senate and House and a net gain for the Democrats of seven governorships.

Just what that "black Friday" of 1929 meant to the Republicans is graphically pictured on the elections for both houses of Congress and for governor that have taken place since then. The trend against them began before Franklin Roosevelt appeared on the scene as a 1932 candidate for the White House. It has never varied up to this year.

If Republicans recapture even a small number of Senate or House seats or governorships next Tuesday it will be the first time in nine years and in four national tests that the political tide has failed to register against that party.

President Hoover's 1928 election was a high-water mark for the Republican party in more than one sense. For the first time since reconstruction days the party had captured electoral votes in the solid South. It overwhelmingly dominated both houses of Congress and held 30 of the 48 governorships.

Much interest was shown in the musical program

—that was presented at the Methodist Church Sunday morning, by a group of singers and musicians from St. Paul's Methodist Church, Wytheville, Va., of which Dr. E. A. Shugart is pastor. The program was seemingly much enjoyed by the large number of persons present.

The Wytheville Male Chorus, with P. A. Spence, director, sang several hymns and spirituals. Dr. B. A. Wagoner, of Wytheville, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wagoner, Sparta, was a member of this group, and also sponsor of the program.

This group of singers alternated with Mrs. Riley, instructor in the Hawaiian School of Music, of Pulaski and Wytheville, and two of her pupils, sons of Dr. and Mrs. Wagoner, who presented several pleasing numbers on Hawaiian guitars. Willard Sharitz played several hymns on an ordinary handsaw.

A basket lunch was served on the lawn of the Methodist Church, after which the crowd assembled in the Sparta High School auditorium for the afternoon program.

During this program some numbers were dedicated to Dr. Wagoner's parents, and to ex-Lieutenant - Governor R. A. Doughton.

Scenery along the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace

—Parkways will be protected, and hotdog stands, billboards or other unsightly roadside developments will not mar the scenic beauty of the two tourist routes, according to accounts observed by the Federal Writers' Project, WPA, which is cooperating with the Southern Highlands Recreation Committee in assembling information on the varied recreational resources of the region.

The two-lane Blue Ridge Parkway, extending from nearly 500 miles through the Virginia and North Carolina Highlands to Link Shenandoah National Park with Great Smoky National Park, is rapidly being pressed to completion by the National Park Service and Bureau of Public Roads. When finished, this park-to-park system will represent the longest single-unit recreational motorway in the country.

Now under construction, the Natchez Trace Parkway will pass in a southwest direction through Tennessee, northwest Alabama, and Mississippi. It is expected to become one of the popular approaches to the Southern Highlands region.

Skirts Mountain Crests

Skirting along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway will weave through picturesque forests, around peaks, and across valleys in a broad right-of-way averaging 800 feet wide. This feature will insure the protection of the scenic character of the countryside against objectionable structures along the edge of the road.

At frequent intervals the parkway will be tapped by state, county and national highways, making it possible for motorists to enjoy short drives as well as longer ones.

The Blue Ridge Parkway will attain its greatest elevations in its southward course through the Great Smokies, rising from 2,500 feet to 5,000 feet above sea-level to rank as the highest scenic tourist route in Eastern United States.

Markers For Natchez Trace

Originally a path of Indian travel, Natchez Trace became in 1780 the principal stagecoach highroad between Nashville, Tennessee, and Natchez, Mississippi. The National Park Service will commemorate this historic old trail by placing markers along the new parkway at points where remnants of the trace still persist.

Although there will be no general assortment of lunchstands or billboards in the areas flanking either the Blue Ridge or Natchez Trace Parkways, conveniences and recreational facilities will be installed at locations where natural beauty will not be impaired.

Proposed developments include such accommodations as gas stations, tourist cabins, camping and picnic grounds, swimming pools, footpaths and bridle trails.

A new bus line between Sparta and North Wilkesboro

—has been established, giving daily service from North Wilkesboro to Sparta, and return.

Information regarding this new bus service may be obtained from B. & T. Drug Company.

Dr. Robert R. King, Alleghany Health Officer, said

—recently that Tuberculosis is a disease that is not easily recognized in its early stages by the common method of examination. Some of the early signs are loss of weight, slight rise of temperature and a general feeling of fatigue continuing for sometime. Anyone having one or more of these symptoms would do well to have their physician make a thorough examination to seek a cause, it is said.

The tuberculin test is an aid in excluding tuberculosis as only those who have at sometime had the tubercular germ in their system respond to the test. This test is made by placing a small drop of fluid in the skin and is checked a few days later to see the effect.

The tuberculin test is of special advantage in children, as it gives warning in time to prevent serious involvement.

The tuberculin test will be given at the Health Office in Sparta any Tuesday morning from ten to twelve o'clock by Dr. Robert R. King.

All school children, and anyone else who wants to, are urged to take this test.

Fire fighters gained control of a forest fire

—in Northwestern North Carolina that had raged uncontrolled for three days in the border mountains of

Wilkes, Watauga and Caldwell counties. Sunday night the fire was reported "in hand" by E. P. Simmons, district forest ranger, who had been directing the fight against the flames since last Wednesday.

A wind, which had fanned the flames dangerously near the resort town of Blowing Rock Saturday subsided during the night and Sunday only a slight breeze prevailed.

Simmons said that the fires that had flared against the sky until Saturday, had been reduced mostly to smoldering stump and logs Sunday night. Only two new spreads were reported during the day, one near Lenoir and the other near Blowing Rock, but they were well under control.

Approximately 250 volunteers, hired laborers and CCC youths were engaged in fighting the fire, today. Members of CCC camps at Newton, Mortimer and Morganton were working in separated sections of the forests.

The fire fighters, armed with axes, shovels, picks, and portable water pumps, dug wide trenches and squelched minor blazes with water to halt further progress of the flames.

Simmons said that many of the men had been working for two days and nights without rest in an effort to stem the blaze. Mountaineers throughout the section have volunteered their services.

Simmons said that the battle against the fire would have to continue until there was a heavy rainfall. He reported that the unusually dry condition of the forests made it almost impossible to put out the fire completely.

The fire started Wednesday at the headwaters of the Yadkin River in Watauga county. Fox hunters built a camp fire Tuesday night and by Wednesday morning it had turned into a flaming inferno.

An Armistice Day celebration is to be held here

—on Friday, November 11 (Armistice Day), sponsored by the Dean Parish Post, American Legion. The celebration is scheduled to begin at five o'clock in the afternoon, with a fish fry in the Sparta High School Gymnasium.

After the supper, the festivities are to continue with an old-fashioned barn dance.

All ex-service men in Alleghany County, together with their wives, are invited to attend the fish fry. The general public is invited to attend the barn dance.

A new peace bid was made Tuesday night in England

—by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who held out his hand anew to Adolf Hitler, of Germany, in behalf of economic peace and a curb on armaments.

Interpreting to a critical house of commons his course "after Munich," the prime minister also sought quick parliamentary approval of his decision to bring the Easter friendship pact with Premier Mussolini into force. He gave commons one day to debate and decide.

"What we are aiming at is: first, a limitation of armaments by agreement, because unilateral disarmament will help nobody; and in the end their practical abolishment. That is looking very far ahead. I shall not see it, but I do not see why I should not see the first stages of it if we pursue a 'consistent policy.'"

Likewise the 69-year-old prime minister recognized Germany's geographical right to a "dominating position" in central and southeastern Europe and declared "don't let us suppose that there must be economic warfare between Germany and ourselves."

National And World NEWS At A Glance

WARNING IS ISSUED

Washington, Oct. 26.—President Roosevelt, in a virtually unprecedented condemnation of nations which suppress liberty, persecute Jews, and use threats of war to attain national ends, issued a warning tonight that the United States would protect the Western Hemisphere from interference from abroad.

CHINESE OPPOSE TRUCE

Hongkong, Oct. 27.—A group of prominent leftist-inclined Chinese, disturbed at the possibility of a peace with Japan, today demanded continued Chinese resistance and Chinese cooperation with Soviet Russia.

The demand was telegraphed to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, military and civil chieftain of the nationalist government, Lin Sen, president of the government, and Dr. Sun Fo, president of the legislative council.

WILL CLAIM COLONIES

Lodebury, Germany, Oct. 29.—Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler's deputy for colonial affairs said today Germany lays claims to all her pre-war colonies without exception.

Germany, however may not demand outright return of all of them, he indicated, but he added that in that event "we shall demand compensation for whatever we don't claim."

BETTER BUSINESS FORECAST

Washington, Oct. 30.—The bureau of agricultural economics forecast today that 1939 would be a better business and industrial year than this one but not quite as good as 1937.

In an annual report on demand and prices for agricultural products, the bureau said: "General economic conditions in the United States are most favorable to recovery."

NEW DEAL BIG ISSUE

Washington, Oct. 31.—The New Deal became more than ever the dominant election issue yesterday when President Roosevelt and Secretary Wallace took a hand in the important California and New York campaigns and Alf M. Landon declared continuation of great federal power would lead to fascism.

KIDNAP DEATH REVEALED

New York, Nov. 1.—The kidnap-slaying of a suburban business man and the cremation of his body in New York, and the hitherto unknown abductions of two Brooklyn men ransomed for a total of \$14,900 were announced tonight by J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief.

He said four men were under arrest and that "certain ones had confessed."

ROBERT WOOLSEY, OF WHEELER AND WOOLSEY

—comedians of the screen, died Monday at his home in Malibu Beach, Calif.