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The German press was rapped during a dinner talk

—Tuesday night in London, England, by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in a speech in which he roundly

criticized the German press because a part of it had called former Premier Earl Baldwin a "guttersnipe." The German ambassador and German press representatives protested the attack by their absence from the dinner. The Germans sent their regrets just before the Foreign Press Association dinner after they had read advance copies of the prime minister's speech.

Looking down on the dozen empty plates and place cards, the prime minister followed word for word that section of his prepared address which said: "I must deplore the present tone of the German press which in one case has not scrupled to pour out its vituperation upon a most respected of our statesmen, himself but lately prime minister of this country, and in few cases shows any sign of a desire to understand our point of view."

Thus Chamberlain referred to the Nazi press attack on his predecessor, Stanley Baldwin, after a refugee fund appeal last Thursday in which Baldwin spoke of "an explosion of man's inhumanity to man."

Baldwin spoke as "an ordinary Englishman shocked and distressed" at the plight of victims. So late was the cancellation of the German acceptance of the Foreign Press Association's invitations that waiters lacked sufficient notice to rearrange the dinner places to fill up the gaps.

Other German guests were to have included members of the embassy staff and journalists. Shortly before the dinner, the German embassy announced: "The German ambassador and members of the embassy staff and German journalists sincerely regret that because of certain sentences in the prime minister's speech they should not attend the Foreign Press Association's dinner in London tonight."

John E. Brown, a former State Senator, died

—on Tuesday, December 6, in Washington, D. C., after having suffered a stroke of paralysis. Ex-Senator Brown was born near Sparta, and first went to Washington in 1914 as secretary to Congressman Robert L. Doughton, of Alleghany County.

He returned to Boone two years later, however, to practice law. He served as recording clerk of the North Carolina Senate and later was elected a member of that body from Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties.

Since 1936, Mr. Brown had been an attorney in the Federal Alcohol Administration, and had been living in the national capital. Funeral services were conducted on Thursday, the 8th, in Boone, and burial took place there.

First steps to organize for peace were taken

—Tuesday at Lima, Peru, when nations of the Western Hemisphere, spurred by what Secretary of State

Cordell Hull called a "grave world situation" took action looking toward the ultimate establishment of friendlier relations between the nations of the world. Putting aside what Hull termed "excessive and short-sighted nationalism," the nations plunged into discussion of far-reaching projects before the committee on organization of peace.

In a radio address at the end of the day's sessions of the 21-nation Pan-American conference, Hull declared American nations were "keenly aware of the threat to their principles and institutions which has arisen elsewhere in nations noting alien ideas which they seek to impose by force or extend by deception."

"Unless I mistake the prevailing attitude here," he added, "the American nations are determined to defend these institutions and principles of their own choice."

The committee on organization of peace, meeting under the chairmanship of Alfranio de Mello Franco, former foreign minister of Brazil, reviewed proposals before it under four headings:

1. Perfecting and co-ordinating inter-American peace instruments;
2. Creating an inter-American court of international justice;
3. Creating a league of American nations, and
4. Declaring an American doctrine of nonrecognition of territory acquired by force.

Mello Franco named Ernesto Barros Jarpa, of Chile, general spokesman for the committee, and directed organization of subcommittees to consider each separate subject.

United States delegates said they had no desire, at this early stage, to agree on any plan advanced by other delegates for continental defense. Hull's intention, they said, was to refrain from taking a position until after full discussion of problems of defense in committee.

Roosevelt greatly expanded the federal housing

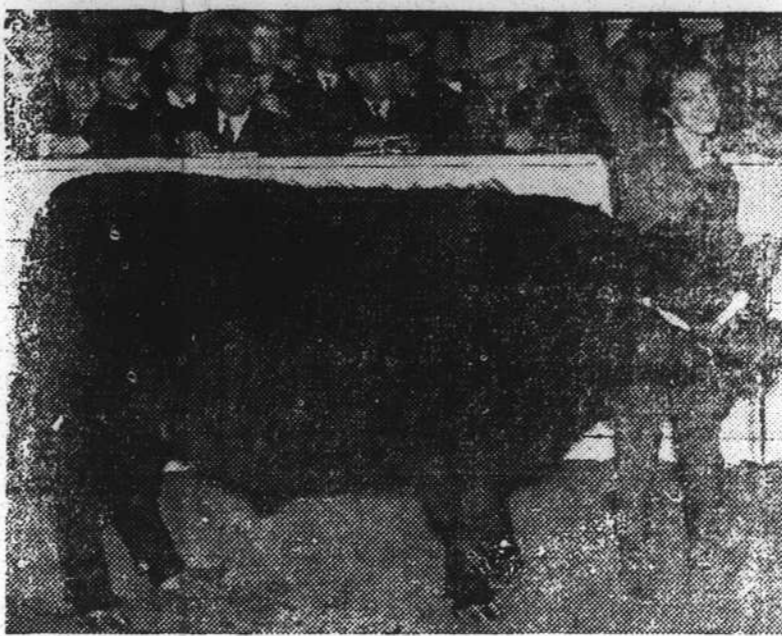
—administration's scope Tuesday in Washington, D. C., by making a \$1,000,000,000 increase in the amount of the home mortgages which it may insure.

The FHA, set up to facilitate the building of new homes, insures mortgage holders against loss. The law says the total of such mortgages under insurance shall be limited to \$2,000,000,000 at any one time, but gives Mr. Roosevelt authority to raise this limit to \$3,000,000,000. This he did Tuesday.

In a letter to Stewart McDonald FHA administrator, President Roosevelt said it was obvious that the increase was necessary if the agency was to continue granting eligible applications for insurance.

McDonald had recommended the increase in a letter to Mr. Roosevelt on December 6. He said the unobligated balance of the original \$2,000,000,000 authorization stood at \$415,000,000 on December 1. In addition, he said, mortgages in process of appraisal on that date aggregated \$115,000,000 and applications for mortgage insurance are being received at the rate of more than \$100,000,000 monthly.

Grand Champion Of Livestock Exposition



CHICAGO, Ill. . . Miss Irene Brown, 14-year-old daughter of an Aledo, Ill., farmer, won the highest honor America can confer in the livestock realm. Her sleek black Aberdeen-Angus steer, Mercer II, was crowned grand champion of the International Livestock Exposition. Irene bought the champion for \$60.

Alleghany County officers who were elected

—on November 8 were sworn into office on Monday, December 5, in the Court House in Sparta. No public installation ceremonies were held. Many people from practically all parts of the county were visitors at the Court House during the day, however.

Dewitt Bryan was inducted into office as Sheriff, and Dr. B. O. Choate as Coroner, for four-year terms, the term of Sheriff and Coroner having been increased from two to four years by a constitutional amendment which was approved by a majority vote in the November election.

The oath of office was administered to Sheriff Bryan by A. F. Reeves, Clerk of Alleghany Superior Court, who also gave the oath of office to T. M. Gambill, Register of Deeds; to J. C. Gambill, incumbent member of the County Board of Commissioners, and to Dr. Choate, Coroner.

The Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, J. C. Gambill, in turn, gave the oath of office to the incumbent court clerk, Mr. Reeves.

All Alleghany County officers elected in November are Democrats. Only two Republicans have held office in Alleghany County since the county was formed, by dividing Ashe County, in 1859. During the period since that time, two Republicans have been elected to the office of Sheriff of the county.

OUR FELLOW DRIVERS



"I'll be finished in a jiffy—or know the reason why."

Anthony Eden visited the White House

—in Washington, D. C., Tuesday, and discussed international problems with President Roosevelt for

half an hour, but left the world to guess just what had happened between them. Eden, former foreign secretary of Great Britain, has been in the United States for the past several days.

The Chief Executive and Eden met in the presidential study. The meeting was informal, but this fact failed to dispel wholly some belief that the conversation was fraught with significance for Anglo-American friendship.

The consensus in informed quarters was that no commitments were discussed or made, but that both men used the opportunity to review democratic problems in a world disturbed by power politics of totalitarian states.

Few unofficial conversations in recent years had attracted as much interest as Tuesday's meeting, partially because of the prominence of the principals and the timing of Eden's visit soon after the Munich agreement and President Roosevelt's prolonged review of foreign affairs with several of his European ambassadors.

Eden, who received a public ovation wherever he appeared, said he enjoyed the visit but left it to the President to explain further. Mr. Roosevelt simply said that he and Eden talked of many things and agreed they had a very pleasant conversation.

Both before and after his conference Eden had emphasized that his visit had no official meaning whatever, while the President also had explained he was receiving Eden at the latter's request and in his capacity as a visiting member of the British Parliament.

A burley tobacco marketing quota referendum

—will be held on Saturday, December 17, in accordance with the regulations governing the holding of the

referendum, to determine whether the farmers who engaged in the production of the 1938 crop of burley tobacco are in favor of, or opposed to, such quota. If more than one-third of the farmers voting in the referendum oppose a national marketing quota for the marketing year beginning October 1, 1939, such quota will not be in effect for such marketing year.

The places for balloting in Alleghany County will be Turkey Knob and Sparta. The polls will be opened promptly at 9 A. M. and will be closed promptly at 5 P. M. on Saturday, December 17.

Only farmers who were engaged in the production of burley tobacco in 1938 will be eligible to vote. No one will be entitled to more than one vote, even though engaged in 1938 in the production of burley tobacco in two or more communities, counties or states. There will be no voting by mail, but a duly authorized officer of an eligible corporation, firm, association, or other legal entity may cast its vote. Each of two or more persons jointly engaged in producing burley tobacco in 1938 is entitled to vote.

The United States envoy to China has been called home

—for consultations with President Roosevelt and State Department officials in Washington, D. C. The

action was taken, it has been pointed out, by the American government after it had become deeply concerned lest Japan close China's "open door" permanently.

The announcement Thursday of this step came simultaneously with further clarification by Japan of her intentions in East Asia, and directly followed Great Britain's declaration that she couldn't possibly subscribe to creation of an economic-political bloc there dominated by Japan.

Joseph E. Kennedy, ambassador to London, unexpectedly advanced his plans and announced he would sail for home Saturday. Whether this foreshadowed some parallel action by the United States and Britain in bringing pressure upon triumphant Japan to prevent her attempted hegemony over all China was not disclosed. Kennedy's return was considered highly significant, however, in view of the fact that Britain, like the United States, has displayed marked signs of worry over events in China.

In Tokyo Thursday Prime Minister Arita further outlined Japan's views to the American ambassador, Joseph G. Grew, and the British envoy. Press reports said Arita told the ambassadors separately that the principle of equality of opportunity and the open door might have to be revised in establishing Japan's "new order" program.

A long and difficult trip lies ahead for Ambassador Nelson T. Johnson, who leaves Chungking, temporary South China capital, on December 12 but does not arrive in the United States until mid-January. He will travel westward over the new military highway to Burma, take a perilous route of about 200 miles down to Rangoon, thence to London by air, and New York by steamer.

Johnson has advised the Chinese government he will be back as quickly as possible. Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, who announced Johnson's forthcoming return, said merely that the envoy had not been back for nearly four years and that it was deemed advisable for him to return in order to give the president the benefit of his views personally. His visit in this country will coincide with that of Kennedy, who is expected to spend at least two months in the United States.

The Roosevelt administration was charged

—in a speech delivered Saturday in Boston, Mass., by Senator Harry Flood Byrd, (D.-Va.) with

"fiscal insanity." In his speech, which was delivered before the Massachusetts Federation of Taxpayers Associations, which was broadcast nationally, the Virginia senator demanded an end to "nine years of fiscal insanity" and declared he was convinced the administration could not be looked to for leadership toward economy despite the "tragic failure" of its spending program.

Senator Byrd outlined a five-point retrenchment program which would include a thoroughgoing government reorganization and a "purge" of the relief rolls, he declared:

"We are facing a perilous situation and what can be done about it? Can we expect any leadership from the present administration for economy and retrenchment? As one who has fought for five years for prudent spending at Washington, I say no."

"As a Democrat I say it with sorrow, as my party is in power, but the Republican party cannot escape responsibility for their share in the present orgy of spending. Mr. Hoover added the first five billions to the public debt, and a majority of the Republican members in the senate have voted for the huge appropriation bills."

Senator Walsh, Democrat, Massachusetts, who demanded "tax reduction in every field of government," told newspapermen just before he addressed the Taxpayers' federation he was convinced President Roosevelt would not seek a third term despite pressure by his supporters.

Walsh asserted it was highly important for both the president and the next congress to "instill popular confidence that our economic system will be permitted untrammelled operation."

"A modern liberal," he asserted, "is tested and judged in proportion as to how liberal he is willing to be with other people's money."

Verbally flaying the "economic philosophy" of Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the federal reserve board, Byrd said his speech in New York last week on "promoting prosperity by spending borrowed money" indicated "to what depths of false reasoning we have sunk in the crackpot legislative ideas of those holding important public positions."

P. W. Meekins has been named by R. L. Doughton

—as the Congressman's private secretary. Mr. Meekins is a Lenoir attorney and is a former member of the

North Carolina legislature. Lenoir is the county seat of Caldwell County, which is in the Ninth District, represented in Congress by the Alleghany Countyman—"Farmer Bob" Doughton.

Meekins is a native of Dare County, in Eastern North Carolina, and will go there on Wednesday, December 21, for a short stay. He will go to Washington, D. C., about December 27, it is understood, to familiarize himself with the duties of his new position before the opening of the regular session of Congress in January.

