

Washington, Apr. 5.—(AS)—It usually takes a new Congress about three months to get "shaken down" so that it can tackle matters of legislation with a clear understanding of what they are all about and what chance there is of getting action.

This 76th Congress is no exception. Here it is April and the boys on Capitol Hill have been in Washington since the first of January, learning the ropes and getting acquainted with each other's points of view. Now it looks as if they were about ready to get down to serious business.

To be sure, the department reorganization bill was serious business, but not as serious as the President's opponents made it out to be. The major points on which the reorganization bill was beaten last year have been taken out of the measure as it now stands.

While it gives the President wide powers to regroup and consolidate Government bureaus and offices and to go as far as political expediency will permit in lopping off useless jobs, the powers granted him, are not as great as those which President Hoover asked for and the House voted to give him in his last two years in office. And before Mr. Hoover, Presidents Coolidge, Wilson and Taft had asked for the same authority to introduce business-like methods into the administration of Government.

The big job which Congress is now about to tackle is taxation. Here the President lent a helping hand by agreeing to accept the proposal to amend the Social Security Act so that the increased taxes for old age retirement will not go into effect next year, as provided under the law as it stands.

Mr. Roosevelt and the Treasury are also agreeable to the elimination of the somewhat fictitious "reserve fund" for Social Security, which has been widely criticized as tending toward inflation. There seems little likelihood now that the Social Security act will be broadened to take in classes of workers not now covered by it.

### SCRAP OVER TAXES

The real scrap in Congress will be over methods of changing the tax system so that it will still produce enough revenue to run the government, yet relieve business and capital of the burdens which industrialists and economists say have been preventing expansion of business and the creation of new jobs for workers.

Details have not been made public of the Treasury's plan, which has been carefully worked out by experts, but in general it proposes to "broaden the tax base" by including in the income tax millions of persons who are now not directly taxed, providing for collection of such taxes at the source, by deductions from payrolls, scrapping all the present various forms of taxes on corporate business and substituting a single graduated tax on corporations with special preference to small businesses.

Part of the plan is to abolish all the excise and "nuisance" taxes, but here the problem of what to substitute for them arises, and is likely to cause a row. There is every expectation that Congress will pass the Rankin bill providing pensions of \$40 a month for every veteran who wore a uniform for 90 days or more during the World War, whether he ever got farther than a training camp or not.

The only veterans' organization opposing the measure is the American Veterans Association, whose spokesmen contend that the total cost to the taxpayers of the proposed pension plan will run to at least 13 billion dollars. There probably will be some exciting debates when the measure gets to the floor of both houses, but the best-informed men on Capitol Hill concede the likelihood that the measure will be passed.

### ASK \$1,000,000,000

Back of the new Agricultural appropriation bill, the largest ever proposed to Congress, the Farm Lobby is solidly lined up. The bill calls for the expenditure of a trillion over a billion dollars in the coming year, which is almost 250 millions more than the budget estimates.

More than half of the amount is for soil conservation and other direct subsidies to farmers and an additional 250 millions for "parity payments." Even with the certainty of a bitter fight on the floor, the general opinion is that there will be no serious changes in the measure.

The controversy over the failure of Madam Perkins, Secretary of Labor, to order the deportation of Harry Bridges, the West Coast Communist labor leader who is not an American citizen, (turn to page five, please)

## The list of jurors for the Spring term

—of Alleghany Superior Court, which is to convene in the Court House here on Monday morning, May 1, has been announced.

Those whose names have been drawn for jury duty follow:

E. C. Truitt, J. R. Gambill, K. W. Hudson, C. W. Irwin, Cleo Edwards, C. C. Castevens, Eugene Transon, Reeves Douglas, R. V. Thompson, F. G. Wright, W. C. Bottomley, Carlie Evans, Andy Wagoner, Lee A. Andrews, F. A. Mitchell, Lee Finney, John R. Halsey, Thomas W. Landreth, C. L. Hash, L. V. Richardson, Harmon Joines, Letcher Edwards, Will Miles, Herbert Woodruff, Y. L. Cooper, Coy McCann, J. T. Inskeep, Brady Petty, J. M. Osborne, Guy Waddell, Brant Taylor, Reece Miller, W. W. Ward, Wilmer Fender, J. H. Miller and L. K. Parsons.

## Commencement at Piney Creek High School will begin

—on Saturday night, April 22, at 7:30 o'clock, when the play, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," is to be given. Commencement this year is to be held in the new auditorium, which is almost complete. A new velour stage curtain will be installed by a Winston-Salem concern on Monday, April 10.

On Sunday morning, April 23, at eleven o'clock, the commencement sermon is to be preached by Rev. R. H. Stone, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Jefferson.

Graduating exercises are to be held on Wednesday night, April 26, at 7:30 o'clock, with Professor W. Amos Abrams, head of the English Department at Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, delivering the literary address.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES WERE ISSUED IN SPARTA

—at the office of the Register of Deeds, T. M. Gambill, during the month of March, as follows:

Olen Cornett to Ida Anderson, both of Fox, Va.; William Burchett to Opal Mae Crouse, both of Dobson; Robert W. Delp, Elk Creek, Va.; to Julia Chance, Hogan, Va.; J. B. Jones, Jr., to Opal Cox, both of Galax, Va.; Paul Benfield to June Kirby, both of Galax; John Wade Ward, Crumpler, to Glen Richardson, Furches; James Luther Hedrick, Wytheville, Va.; to Alma Gene Webb, also of Wytheville, and Ralph O'Neal, Siloam, to Stella Billings, Thurmond.

## A flurry was created Tuesday night in London

—by a speech the first lord of the admiralty, Earl Stanhope, made in Portsmouth saying that anti-aircraft guns of the British fleet were being manned "so as to be ready for anything that might happen."

This was met immediately by a statement from No. 10 Downing street—the official residence of Prime Minister Chamberlain—that Stanhope's words were not correct.

Reliable sources said, however, that Great Britain appreciated the far-reaching potentialities of her pledge last Friday to back Polish independence with armed might.

### EASTER SERVICES WILL BE HELD SUNDAY

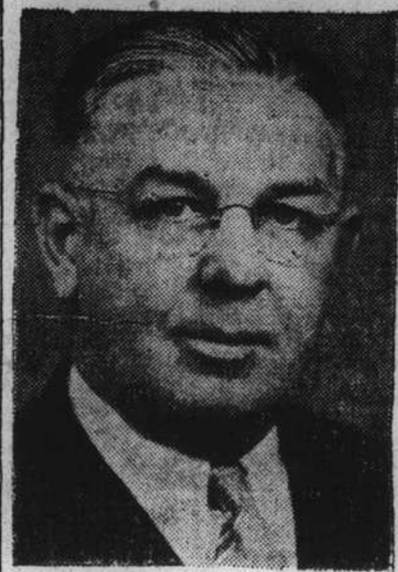
—April 9 (Easter Sunday) at 11 a. m., at the Sparta Baptist Church, by the pastor, Rev. Howard J. Ford. All members of the church are urged to attend.

### ANTIOCH CEMETERY WILL BE CLEANED THURSDAY

—April 13, and all persons who are interested in the care and upkeep of this cemetery are urged to gather at that time. It is planned to grass the cemetery, and those who go are urged to take lawn grass seed, or white clover and bluegrass mixture, and also fertilizer, or preferably lime, slag and barnyard manure.

Those who gather are also asked to take their lunch, as well as the necessary tools.

## Heads N. C. WPA



C. C. McGinnis (above), who on Saturday, April 1, entered into the office of Acting State WPA Administrator. The appointment as Administrator will become effective April 26, at which time the accrued annual leave of the retiring Administrator will expire.

## Chevrolet dealers sold 24,342 new cars and trucks

—during the second ten days of March, it was announced at company headquarters in Detroit, Mich., recently. This is a continuation of the upward trend notable since new model introduction, making the month's sales to date 36.3 per cent higher than they were a year ago. Used car sales for March this year are also running ahead of those for the same period in 1938.

Combined sales of new cars and used cars, during the second 10 days, were 66,295 units, and for the month to date, 126,373, the announcement said.

## National And World NEWS At A Glance

**GABLE AND LOMBARD WED**  
Hollywood, Mar. 29.—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio announced that Clark Gable, and Carole Lombard, film stars, had been married at Kingman, Ariz.

The studio said it received its information in a telephone call from Gable. He said the ceremony took place at 5:40 p. m. with the Rev. Kenneth Engle officiating at the Methodist Church.

### ROOSEVELT SPEAKS

Warm Springs, Ga., Mar. 30.—President Roosevelt today reiterated that the South is the nation's No. 1 economic problem and called southern industrialists to help the region "get out of hock to the North."

Speaking to the student body at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, Mr. Roosevelt urged the South to raise its economic standards.

### LIBBY HOLMAN MARRIES

New York, Mar. 31.—Dark, vivacious Libby Holman, who sang her way to fame on Broadway with the torch song, "Moanin' Low," was honeymooning in the country today with her second husband, Ralph Holmes, 23, actor and son of Taylor Holmes, veteran character actor. They were wed Monday.

### U. S. RECOGNIZES FRANCO

Washington, Apr. 1.—The United States followed the lead of other powers today and accorded formal diplomatic recognition to General Francisco Franco's nationalist regime as the legal government of war-torn Spain.

### JAPAN AND RUSSIA AGREE

Moscow, Apr. 2.—Japan and Soviet Russia today signed a fisheries agreement to settle a controversy which for months had disturbed relations and held the threat of graver trouble between Tokyo and Moscow over fishing rights off the east coast of Siberia.

### DOUGLAS CRITICIZED

Washington, Apr. 3.—Senate confirmation of William O. Douglas to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court was delayed today when Senator Frasier (R), N. D., made a lengthy address criticizing Douglas' activities as chairman of the securities commission.

## The air defense and reform bills were approved

—by President Roosevelt in Washington, D. C., Monday night, thus placing a major part of his emergency national defense program on the statute books. At the same time he wrote an end to more than two years of controversy over government reorganization.

The Chief Executive signed the national defense bill authorizing expansion of the army air corps to 6,000 war planes, bulwarking Panama Canal fortifications and education of industry in the making of vital war materials.

He also affixed his signature to the sharply-modified reorganization measure passed by Congress as a substitute for the sweeping proposals recommended by the White House in January, 1938. The first reorganization bill was defeated after a bitter congressional battle.

Under the \$364,000,000 defense bill, the air corps will have 43 new squadrons which army experts consider essential to adequate aerial defense of the nation. The measure also authorizes new proposals to man the expanded fleet.

The enlisted strength of the air corps will be increased from 21,500 to 45,000 men and the number of officers in the army will be raised from 14,659 to 16,719.

The army plans to use \$170,000,000 of the \$300,000,000 air corps authorization for buying new planes. The remainder will be used for personal increases, bombs and other equipment. The Panama Canal authorization of \$23,750,000 will be used to build or rehabilitate structures to house anti-aircraft, seacoast defense and auxiliary units. The army also is authorized to spend \$40,500,000 for educational orders designed to acquaint industry with the type of materials, labor and methods of furnishing critical material in war times.

## In Wilhelmshaven, Germany—

## Hitler avoided, Saturday, in his speech, going beyond an intimation

—that he may end the naval treaty with Great Britain that was drafted in 1935. The Fuehrer derisively threw back the Anglo-French anti-aggression challenge. "Germany will stand neither for intimidation nor encirclement," he declared. He spoke to 50,000 men and women of Wilhelmshaven and its vicinity in a 62-minute address after he had witnessed the launching of Germany's second 35,000-ton battleship this year, the Von Tirpitz.

## L. K. Halsey, of Piney Creek, has received a letter

—from the University Testing Service at Chapel Hill, stating that the annual Senior examinations there had been graded and that the mean grade for the class was 69, while of the 4,000 examinations graded at that date, the mean was 52.

The letter stated further that, if a student makes a grade of 66 or better, he or she has a reasonably good chance of doing satisfactory college work. About 89 per cent of the students' graduating scores are above 66. The entire group that took the examinations are not graduating, however, it was pointed out.

Mr. Halsey is principal of Piney Creek High School.

## Several persons from Glade Valley were guests

—of Westminster Presbyterian Church last week-end. The group consisted of E. B. Eldridge, principal of Glade Valley High School, and the Misses Maggie Sapp and Peggy Edwards, students. They presented a Glade Valley program at the Sunday School assembly Sunday morning.

Miss Sapp gave a talk on the work of the Young People's League at Glade Valley, while Miss Edwards spoke on "The Opportunities of a Christian School." Mr. Eldridge told about the work of the school, giving general information about the institution.

The Westminster church is one of the liberal supporters of the Glade Valley High School.

## Is Named Counsel



James M. Dyer (above), of Rixeyville, whose appointment as Agricultural Counsel for the Southeastern Chain Store Council was announced recently. Mr. Dyer, a native of Abingdon, will work in Va. and North Carolina.

## The annual Easter seal sale for crippled children

—is now under way in Alleghany County. Miss Lillie Ervin, superintendent of public welfare in the county, is chairman of the seal sale drive.

Everyone is urged to purchase seals, for only a penny each, as generously as they can, thus helping the crippled children of Alleghany County. The entire proceeds of the sale are used in attempting to prevent crippling conditions; endeavoring to correct and cure crooked backs, arms and legs; supplying braces, crutches, wheel-chairs, and casts; providing educational facilities and vocational training; and placing crippled boys and girls in suitable occupations adapted to their needs and physical conditions which will afford them the highest possible degree of self-support and self-respect, it has been pointed out.

## The Board of County Commissioners held a meeting here

—on Monday, April 3, it being the Board's regular session day. The Board is comprised of James McD. Wagoner, chairman, V. B. Phipps and J. C. Gambill.

A number of routine matters were disposed of. Claims totaling \$3,962 were drawn on the county, and of this amount, \$192.25 went for old age assistance, and \$73.33 for dependent children.

## "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" will be presented

—by the Senior class of Piney Creek High School on Saturday night, April 22, at 7:30 o'clock, as the opening event of the 1939 commencement program there.

"The most delightful of all plays" is the way in which the production has been referred to by an interested person.

The production is a dramatization of Mark Twain's immortal novel with all the characters that the great dramatist drew so richly.

The cast of characters has been in rehearsal for several weeks, under the direction of W. R. Francis, and a well-prepared performance is assured, it is said.

It has been explained that this play is not the same play, but a sequel to, or follow-up of, last year's Senior play, "Huckleberry Finn."

## "Hobgoblin House" will be given at Glade Valley

—High School on Saturday night, April 8, in the auditorium. This play, a mystery-farce in three acts, by Jay Tobias, will be presented by the Senior class of the school.

The time of the play is supposed to be early Spring, and the place, near the Ozark foothills.

The first act portrays a living room of the late Horace Hobgoblin's house, about nine o'clock on a stormy night, with ghosts and mystery. Act II shows the same scene about two minutes later, with more ghosts and more mystery. The same scene is also shown in the third act, one minute later, with the unraveling of the mystery.

The cast of characters follows: Darius Krupp, the old caretaker of Hobgoblin House—Bill Spencer; Miss Priscilla Carter, the present owner—Maggie Sapp; Marian Carter, her niece—Alene Phillips; Jill Carter, Marian's younger sister—Mary Emma Lagerholm; Frank Harlow, Marian's fiancé—Eugene Metcalf; Jack Loring, Jill's fiancé—Bill Cook; Susan Parkins, the "Henglish" housekeeper—Juanita Darnell; Henry Goober, the darky gardener—Howard Bundy; Delilah Worts, the darky cook—Peggy Edwards; Bluebeard Bronson, an escaped maniac—Ted Wyatt; Bill Wilkins, his keeper, John Allen, and the Headless Phantom, ? ? ?—Bobbie McCall.

## The old-time square dance has been postponed

—until Saturday night, April 15, from Saturday night, the 8th, the date originally selected. The event will be held in the Sparta High School Gymnasium.

Proceeds will be used for the improvement of the school grounds, and the public is invited to attend.

Music will be furnished by Hub Sanders, Ford McCann and the Carpenter brothers.

### CIRCLE NO. 2 OF THE BAPTIST W. M. U.

—will meet on Tuesday night, April 11, at 7:45 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Howard J. Ford.

Miss Edna Walls will be program leader.

### SERVICES ARE TO BE HELD AT LITTLE RIVER CHURCH

—on Sunday, April 16, by Elder Hall, of Winston-Salem, it has been announced recently.

## The total mileage on which no work has been done

—or funds provided in construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia is 86.3 miles, according to an official statement given the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce recently by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. The Virginia section of the Parkway totals 228 miles. The State Chamber recently protested plans to reduce Federal funds for its completion.

"No estimate can be made as to when the Parkway will be entirely completed," the Bureau reports. "The section from Jarmans Gap to Rockfish Gap will probably be open to traffic by mid-July, although it is not anticipated that guard-rail work on it will be completed by this time. The section from Adney Gap to the Meadows of Dan is now usable for traffic, though guard-rail work will be under way this summer upon it.

"It is anticipated that it will be the summer of 1940 before the section from the Meadows of Dan to the North Carolina line is completed, and this section open to traffic."

The Bureau notified the State Chamber research department that work is either under way or contracts advertised for bids on 141.7 miles of the Parkway. The longest completed stretch is one of about forty-six miles to the South of Roanoke. By the summer of 1940 it is anticipated that a continuous stretch of well over 150 miles, in Virginia and North Carolina, will be open to travel.

This summer, the figures of the Bureau reveal, it will be possible to drive from Rockfish Gap, near Waynesboro, to Front Royal, utilizing a section of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the full length of the Skyline Drive, a distance of more than 100 miles.

## Great Britain moved swiftly Sunday night

—to extend her armed "encirclement" of Nazi Germany across Europe to the Dardanelles by means of interlocked military alliances.

A pledge of armed aid to Rumania in event Fuehrer Adolf Hitler should strike again to the east along the Danube was understood to have been delivered to Bucharest.

The lure of British credits for armaments and raw materials was held out to harried Poland in an effort to obtain an outright military pact supplanting the one-way guarantee of armed aid which Britain and France gave to the Poles last Friday.

Statesmen in London understood that Rumania and Poland had agreed to revise their two-power military pact heretofore operative only against Soviet Russia—to apply to German aggression.

The pledge to Rumania was the second stage of Britain's historic abandonment of "splendid isolation" in order to throw up barriers against the Nazi frontier-smashing.

Before Easter, it was said, urgent efforts will be underway to bring Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey into the "stop Hitler" bloc.

Rumania, fearful that she may be next on Hitler's list of things-to-be-done, prepared to consult with Turkey in an agreement to open up the Dardanelles to the warships of Rumania's allies in event of war.

Rumanian leaders envisaged the eventualities of the British and French fleets steaming into the Black Sea to help defend their country against the eastward march of Hitler's armies.

## The operetta, "The King's Sneezes," was presented

—in the Sparta High School auditorium Friday night, March 31, by a cast of 75 children from the third to the seventh grades. A most enjoyable program was presented to a well-filled house.

The proceeds from the operetta, which amounted to \$47.55, will be used to purchase books for the grade libraries.