

Washington, Aug. 23 (AS).—If anybody had any lingering doubts that the Democratic Party is split wide open, the President himself removed them in his letter to the Young Democrats' national convention at Pittsburgh. In so many words the President declared that he would bolt the Democratic Party if it nominated a conservative for its Presidential candidate next year.

Following closely upon Mr. Roosevelt's public denunciation of the Senators and Representatives of his own party who formed a coalition with the Republicans to defeat parts of the Administration's program of legislation which the President regarded as vital, this declaration is accepted here as a gage of battle aimed at the elements in his party who are lined up behind Vice-President Garner's leadership in the effort to prevent the President's own renomination, or the nomination of a candidate of Mr. Roosevelt's choice.

If Mr. Roosevelt is renominated, or the nomination goes to a New Dealer of whom he approves, there is every prospect of a bolt from the ticket on the part of Southern Democratic leaders, as serious and perhaps even more widespread than the bolt which resulted in the defeat of Alfred E. Smith and the election of Herbert Hoover in 1928.

Split Would Spell Defeat

Such a split in the party in election year would spell defeat, just as a bolt by Mr. Roosevelt and his followers would spell defeat.

But if Mr. Roosevelt and his personal following bolted the party nominee they would have no place to go except in a new third party. The situation then would be parallel to that in 1912, when Theodore Roosevelt and his personal followers bolted the Republican ticket headed by President Taft, and formed the Progressive or "Bull Moose" party.

The Roosevelt bolt in 1912 resulted in the election of Woodrow Wilson. A Roosevelt bolt in 1940 would almost certainly result in the election of the Republican candidate, in the opinion of the shrewdest and most experienced political observers in Washington.

The chief hope of a Democratic victory in 1940, it is felt here, is that the differences between the two wings of the party be completely reconciled. That is not seriously considered possible. There is too much divergence of point of view, and too much bitterness has been engendered by the defections of party members in both houses of Congress.

In the closing days of the session the lid was off, and language was exchanged between members of the same party such as had been seldom heard in Congress since the days before the Civil War, when debate more than once reached the stage of personal physical attacks by Members and Senators upon one another.

Republicans Encouraged

Naturally, such disharmony gives great encouragement to Republicans. Many of them are saying, more or less openly, that the 1940 election is already decided in their favor. That is still a rather rash prediction, but reports which have begun to come back to Washington from investigators out in the states do show, so far, a very definite swing toward the Republican party.

There still remains the riddle of Mr. Roosevelt's personal intentions in regard to a third term for himself. Some interpret his threat to bolt the ticket if a conservative is nominated as another move toward getting himself the party nominee. Whether he could get the nomination is still another question to which no positive answer can be given. Many observers here think they see the signs growing plainer that Mr. Roosevelt's candidate for President will be not himself but Paul V. McNutt.

The latest scientific poll of Democratic voters indicates a surprising gain in public favor for the genial, white-haired gentleman from Indiana. Leaving Mr. Roosevelt out of consideration, the choice of Democratic voters is for Garner first and McNutt second. Neither Garner nor McNutt is regarded by Republican leaders as a dangerous opponent; their greatest fear is that they will have to beat the President himself, and their greatest doubt is whether they could do that. It would call for far more efficient political tactics than the Republicans have displayed in the past two Presidential campaigns, and a greatly more appealing candidate at the head of the ticket.

Another caller at the Quai D'Orsay was United States Ambassador William C. Bullitt whose "informative" talks with Bonnet have been almost daily affairs. It was commonly believed that the cabinet also put the finishing touches to the last series of military decrees necessary to prepare the armed forces for any necessary test.

A battle over Thanksgiving Day seems certain

—in view of the controversy that has arisen since President Roosevelt's recent announcement of a shift in the date of Thanksgiving this year. It seems that the argument may head the White House and Congress into another disagreement.

An effort by anti-Roosevelt forces, both Republican and Democratic, to strip the president of the traditional power of his office to set the thanksgiving date is expected. It could be done by making the day a legal holiday falling on a date fixed by statute. Bills to that end are certain to go into senate and house hoppers in January, paving the way for congressional hearings to sound national opinion.

The president proclaimed November 23—instead of the traditional last Thursday, November 30—as the thanksgiving date this year.

Mr. Roosevelt also intimated that he was considering stepping Thanksgiving day forward another week next year—further increasing the probability of congressional action. Putting the observance forward to mid-November would throw it close to another November holiday, overlooked or ignored by the president in giving his reasons for advancing the thanksgiving date.

That is Armistice Day—November 11—commemorating the end of hostilities of the World War. It was fixed as a legal holiday by a statute enacted last year. Should Thanksgiving—Day, 1940, go up to the second Thursday in November, the two November holidays that year would fall in the same week, Armistice day on Monday, Thanksgiving on Thursday. Moreover, it is possible that in some years they would fall on the same day.

The president's attention has been called to the fact that Armistice day already provides a break between Labor Day and a Thanksgiving observance on the last Thursday of November.

Hundreds of thousands were called by France

—to the colors, from the ranks of reservists, to match Germany's forces, and the nation sat tight Tuesday night on her hope that Soviet Russia was up to no serious alliance with Nazi Germany. Premier Edouard Daladier stalked out of an hour-and-a-half cabinet meeting in the War Ministry in Paris to talk with calm blue-eyed Generalissimo Maurice Gamelin.

Gamelin, commander-to-be on French-British land forces, should war come, and supreme commander of his nation's land, sea and air armies, was said to have told Daladier that they were materially prepared for "any eventualities."

The number of reservists called was estimated in the neighborhood of 600,000, but the war ministry's plans for Wednesday remained secret. The superior war council met early Tuesday and was expected to meet again Wednesday.

After the cabinet meeting, only a brief communique was issued saying that new instructions had been wired "to French ambassadors abroad." The cabinet meets again at the Elysee Palace with President Lebrun this (Thursday) morning.

The French ambassador at Moscow had already asked that Russia tell her French ally just what the agreement with Germany was all about.

Both Daladier and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet remained late in their offices. Bonnet received the Polish ambassador, Jules Lukasiewicz, and the British charge d'affaires, Ronald Campbell, both before and after the cabinet meeting.

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Looking Toward 1940



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Senator Robert A. Taft, of Ohio, son of the late President and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who has announced his candidacy for the 1940 Republican nomination for President.

Hundreds were present at the Old Fiddlers

—Convention held in Felts Park, Galax, Friday and Saturday nights. The annual event, the sixth of its kind held in Galax, was sponsored jointly by the Galax Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose, and the Galax Parent-Teachers Association.

A crowd variously estimated at from 1,500 to 2,400 persons were in attendance Saturday night. Contests were held in different classes, and members of the Moose Lodge were in charge of them, as follows: Dulcimer, Gordon Stoneman; Folk Song, W. James Sessoms; Tap Dance, Boyd Fieldler; Guitar, Elmer Davis; Banjo, R. L. Nelson; Violin, Price Goodson; Clog (or Flatfoot) Dance, Paul Cornett, and Bands, Davis Winesette, Orrin S. Rhudy and Boyd Fieldler.

Winners in the various individual and band contests were as follows:

Dulcimer—Raymond Melton, Woodlawn, 1st; Velma Musser, Galax, 2nd, and Jacob Melton, Galax, 3rd.

Folk Song—W. E. Alderman, Galax, 1st; Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Ball, Rugby, 2nd, and Dixie Boyer, Fries, 3rd.

Tap Dance—Nuckolls Nester, Hillville, 1st; Pauline Landreth, Galax, 2nd, and Alma Lineberry, Galax, 3rd.

Guitar—Kelly Lundy, Galax, 1st; Robert Catron, Galax, 2nd; Pershing Worrell, Hillville, 3rd, and Clinton Lowe, Galax, 4th.

Banjo—Elizabeth Osborn, Martinsville, 1st; Wade Ward, Independence, 2nd; Pete Stone, Stuart, 3rd, and George Stoneman, 4th.

Violin—John Rector, Galax, 1st; Rafe Brady, Mount Airy, N. C., 2nd; Harvey Creasey, Stuart, 3rd, and Harvey Gravely, Austinville, 4th.

Clog (or Flatfoot) Dance—Elizabeth Osborn, Martinsville, 1st; Rafe Brady, Mount Airy, N. C., and John Viperman, The Hollow, tie for 2nd, and Parley Marshall, Laurel Fork, 3rd.

Bands—John Rector and his "Wildcats," consisting of John Rector, Kelly Lundy, Robert Catron and Iver Edwards, first; Patton Brother, of Fries, consisting of Everett Patton, Wilbur Patton, H. C. Farmer and Glen Neaves, 2nd, and the "Carolina Merry Makers," of Austinville, consisting of Malcolm Hill, Jack Porter, Eugene Pearson, Beulah Hill and Jotty Winesette, third, and the "Midnite Ramblers," of Stuart, consisting of Thornton Dalton, Pete Stone, Clyde Adams, Mr. Raper and Marvin Owens, fourth.

Wade Ward, Independence, was awarded the loving cup offered the contestant adjudged the best all-round musician in the entire convention.

An 88-year old woman, Miss Lucy McDowell, of Fincastle, who has been blind since birth, appeared on the program Saturday night. She played several piano solos.

A DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BEING HELD

—this week at the Sparta Presbyterian Church, conducted by Dr. Lowry Bowman, of Sarasota, Fla., and others.

Arrangements for the Great Galax Fair are nearly

—complete, and everything is expected to be in readiness for the opening day, Monday, August 27, when the annual event that attracts many from Alleghany and other nearby North Carolina counties, as well as Grayson, Carroll and other Virginia counties, will get under way for a six-day run. The fair, according to advance information, will furnish "six glorious days and six glittering nights" of entertainment for both young and old.

Prospects of agricultural and industrial exhibits already point to a large and brilliant display along this line, and additional applications for entry are being received by the fair management continually.

A Broadway musical revue, fast and exciting races, big and thrilling free acts, band concerts and fireworks, as well as a "mile-long" midway, will be outstanding special features of the 1939 Great Galax Fair.

On the midway will be the Art Lewis Shows, which will also present what is said to be one of the largest, spectacular, thrilling and entertaining free acts, in front of the grandstand, every afternoon and night. "Meet your friends on the midway," says the fair management, in announcing this new carnival engagement here. Many new and thrilling rides, in addition to the old stand-bys, such as the ferris wheel, loop-o-plane, merry-go-round, caterpillar, etc., are promised.

John Mac Reeves, game warden for Grayson and Carroll counties, whose wild life exhibits at the three last fairs held in Galax have been so popular, promises the greatest and most interesting exhibit seen there yet, in cooperation with the Virginia State Game Commission and the U. S. Forest Service.

A German-Russian non-aggression pact conclusion

—will be reached very soon, according to a German announcement in Berlin shortly before midnight Monday night. By the announcement, Germany upset the whole structure of the tense middle European situation. If there is to be a conflict as a result of the Polish-German dispute over Danzig and Pomome (the Polish corridor) it appeared certain that Russia will be neutral, as a result of the impending agreement.

The position of Poland, which had been counting on the effectiveness of what Germany calls the "democratic encirclement policy," appeared to have been weakened greatly.

German soldiers were massing on the Polish frontier, and now it seems certain that if they are called upon to march eastward they will not have to worry about the possibility of encountering Russian troops somewhere in middle Poland.

Germany's announcement of its diplomatic "putsch" startled all Europe.

It apparently meant that the months-long effort of Britain and France to induce Russia to enter a front to back up Poland, Rumania and other smaller European countries against aggression had failed.

For, according to the German announcement, Russia had agreed not to fight Germany.

The announcement of what diplomatic observers admitted as a master stroke by Adolf Hitler came even while British and French military officers were in Moscow going over plans of strategy with high Soviet officers.

It seemed likely that these discussions would lead to no constructive results.

A series of revival meetings is being held

—at the Sparta Presbyterian Church this week, with services beginning at eight o'clock each night. The meetings will continue Sunday morning and Sunday night.

Dr. Lowry Bowman, of Sarasota, Fla., has charge of the services.

No. 1 Farmerette . . .



NEW YORK CITY—Mrs. Lucille Gentzen, of Hackettstown, N. J., who in 1935 bought a farm in Hackettstown for \$4,200 and developed it until its value today is \$25,000, has been acclaimed America's champion farmerette.

The return of Danzig and more to Germany

—is necessary to meet the demands of Adolf Hitler, according to a statement issued by high Nazi quarters in Berlin Tuesday night. Germany's armed forces will smash across Poland "to Warsaw and even beyond" if Poland refuses to surrender immediately to the Reich every inch of territory taken from Germany after the World War, it was said.

The statement, apparently revealing Fuehrer Adolf Hitler's plans for a fourth partition of Poland, came from the same high sources who last year predicted correctly his absorption of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Thrice before in its history has Poland been partitioned.

It became evident that Hitler no longer wants merely the free city of Danzig, but insists on the amputation of the Polish corridor and Upper Silesia.

Nazis proclaimed jubilantly that Poland is "lost" and that the British-French anti-totalitarian bloc had suffered a knockout blow as result of the decision of Germany and Soviet Russia to conclude a pact of nonaggression.

Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop left Berlin's Tempelhof Airdrome at 9:24 p. m. Tuesday for Koenigsberg, East Prussia, en route to Moscow.

Ribbentrop, after planting a kiss on the cheek of his wife, left aboard Hitler's private Focke-Wulf Condor plane, piloted by the fuehrer's personal pilot.

A second plane, carrying Ribbentrop's staff, followed.

The party will halt over night in Koenigsberg, arriving in Moscow Wednesday.

An officially inspired statement to the foreign press denied that the pact constituted a "mere tactical maneuver" on Hitler's part.

"It represents a permanent realignment in Europe," it was stated.

"Poland in her present form is finished," Germans said.

Thousands of army reservists were routed from their homes and rushed to mobilization centers. Highways and railroads were clogged with green-grey German uniformed troops moving up to the Polish frontier.

Germany's military preparations were said to have reached their peak Tuesday night.

The nation was on a full war-time basis.

Poland's future depends, it was said, on whether she chooses to resist Hitler's demands.

It was admitted that the Poles were quite liable to choose to fight, instead of capitulating as the Czechoslovaks did.

If she should "bow to the inevitable" Poland will be compelled to surrender only those territories formerly a part of Germany, it was said. In this case, the Poles would be given a free port in Danzig to make up for the loss of their access to the Baltic coast, Nazis said.

"But if they choose to fight there can be no security for any of Poland," one Nazi expressed it. The shock and bewilderment caused in London and Paris by Monday night's announcement of a German-Soviet pact of non-aggression seemed to convince all Germans that Britain and France would back down and refuse to fight.

Glade Valley High School will open Tuesday, August 29

—for its 30th annual session, with the following faculty in charge:

Rev. C. W. Ervin, principal, and teacher of English and Bible; Dan D. Rhodes, Social Studies; Miss Annie Belle Corry, Mathematics and French; Miss Lena Thompson, Science and Home Economics; Mrs. Ellen Guerrant, Music and Dean of Girls; Mrs. E. B. Eldridge, dietitian, and E. B. Eldridge, Superintendent and Treasurer.

Miss Thompson is the only new faculty member. She is a graduate of Flora McDonald College, class of '39, and from Gastonia. She was vice-president of the Senior Class and a member of the student council.

Many new applications have been received, and indications point toward a full enrollment.

Sentiment for a third term for Roosevelt

—was reported Sunday night in Atlanta, Ga., to have been found, by L. W. ("Chip") Robert, secretary of the Democratic National Executive Committee, back from an eight-week "sounding" trip throughout the West. He asserted "the people west of the Mississippi River want Roosevelt to run for a third term."

Western sentiment was so strong for Mr. Roosevelt, Robert said, that "if the president does not make a third-term race, the western people will line up with anyone the president favors for the White House."

Robert said in the interview that he conferred with both business and political leaders in every state west of the Mississippi River except four—Arkansas, North Dakota, Minnesota and Colorado.

"What opposition there is to a third term west of the river," Robert declared, "is nothing at all like that prevailing in the East. Out there, the faith in Mr. Roosevelt is sufficiently strong to rally that part of the country to anyone the president has confidence in, if he himself doesn't seek the nomination."

Talk of a split in the Democratic party over the third term issue was dismissed by the Democratic national secretary as without foundation.

The Alleghany Farm Tour schedule

—has been announced and everything seems to be in readiness for the tour, which is to be held Thursday, August 31.

On this tour, the results of the use of phosphate and lime on pastures and clover, rat-proof granaries, terracing, baby beehives, model wiring of houses, successful alfalfa growing, beef cattle and other evidences of successful farming are expected to be observed, according to R. E. Black, Alleghany County agricultural agent.

Every farmer and farm woman in the county is invited to go on the tour. It will be necessary for each person going, however, to take lunch with them.

The schedule follows: 8:30—Assemble at Courthouse; 8:35—Arrive at Hort Doughton's; 9:15—Arrive at B. G. Harris'; 10:30—Arrive at J. C. McCann's; 12:00—Lunch, at Bluff Park; 1:00—Arrive at Van Miller's; 2:15—Arrive at Pearl Fields'; 3:00—Arrive at J. R. Gambill's; 3:45—Arrive at R. E. Hawthorne's; 4:30—Arrive at New River Farm, and 5:30—Arrive at Jess Moxley's.

MISS BO GENTRY GAVE A BIRTHDAY PARTY RECENTLY—at her home here, honoring Miss Mary Warren. Contests and games were enjoyed.

Watermelon was served on the lawn to the following guests: Misses Emoryetta Reeves, Nina Edwards, Vancine Choate, Wanda Choate and Tommie Gambill, Harrell Joines, Muriel Joines, John Pugh, Bill Collins, Charles Pugh and George Reeves, Bel Air, Md. Later, dancing was enjoyed at Colonial Inn, where cake, candy and lemonade were served.

England served blunt warning on Adolf Hitler

—Tuesday night in London that, regardless of the German-Soviet pact of non-aggression, Great Britain is mobilizing her armed forces to "resist to the utmost" any Nazi aggression against Poland.

Parliament was summoned to reconvene in emergency session today (Thursday) to act on measures under the new emergency powers defense bill, increasing Britain's mobilization of reserves of the army, navy and air force. Under the action to be taken by Parliament Britain will be brought virtually to the peak of her fighting strength.

Britain's 11th hour mobilization of reserves and warning to Germany against starting "a European war with all its tragic consequences" was taken in concert with France.

The French cabinet, in simultaneous session, decided to bring French armed forces to a strength of 1,500,000 men on full war footing.

The British Broadcasting Company Tuesday night summoned members of Parliament to return to London from their summer vacations.

An official announcement issued after a three-hour "crisis session" of the British cabinet at No. 10 Downing Street asserted that Britain will stand firm in her pledges to fight on the side of Poland in resisting any German aggression.

The announcement that Germany and her years-long enemy, Soviet Russia, have gotten together to conclude a pact of non-aggression can have no effect on Britain's militant stand, it was announced.

The forces of the navy, army, air corps and air raids precautionary units are being called up as a "precautionary" measure.

These reserves were identified only as "certain personnel."

If any other government insists on using force the British government is "prepared and determined" to resist it to the utmost, the cabinet specifically intended to reach Hitler.

Explaining the emergency defense measures, the announcement said: "The government remains of the opinion that there is nothing in the difficulties that have arisen between Germany and Poland which justify the use of force involving a European war."

Piney Creek High School will begin its 30th term

—on Monday morning, August 28, at nine o'clock. Rev. L. F. Strader, pastor of the Sparta Methodist charge, will make a talk at the opening exercises. All patrons of the school are invited to attend.

The new and modern \$40,000 brick school building, which contains eleven classrooms, and office and a library, will be used Monday for the first time. The faculty is composed of ten teachers, including a Home Economics teacher and an Agriculture teacher.

Sparta High School will open Monday, August 28

—at 9:00 a. m., for the 1939-40 term, with C. R. Roe, who has served for the past several years as head of the school, in charge again.

School buses and school buildings are being put in readiness for the opening, and prospects for a good school year are bright.

Patrons and friends of the school are invited to attend the brief opening exercises to be held Monday morning.

PRACTICALLY ALL SPARTA STORES WILL BE CLOSED

—on Labor Day (Monday, September 4), it has been announced. This will be in keeping with a policy followed in the past in many parts of the country, in observance of the national labor holiday.

The Sparta stores will be open again for business, as usual, Tuesday, the 5th.

DECORATION SERVICES ARE TO BE HELD AT NEW HOPE—Church on Sunday afternoon, September 3, it has been announced.