

Washington, Dec. 13 (AS)—The session of Congress which will begin on January 3 will be confronted by a greater variety of problems, both foreign and domestic, than any of its predecessors since the World War. Old-time Washington correspondents look forward to perhaps the stormiest session since that of 1917.

For one thing, this is a Presidential election year, and every proposal of the President will come under closer scrutiny and be more subject to attack by his political opponents than has been the case in any preceding Congress under this Administration. While the Republicans have only 23 Senators out of 96, and only 169 Representatives out of 435, there is such a decided split in the Democratic party that nobody can foretell the outcome on any vital question which may come before the Congress. The division in the Democratic party being in the nature of a revolt of many members of both houses against the "New Deal" policies of the President, it follows that whatever Mr. Roosevelt proposes will face the possibility of a coalition of disgruntled Democrats with the Republicans to defeat his program.

Truce Ended
The truce which enabled the passage of the revised Neutrality Act definitely ended when the extra session came to an end in early November. The coming session promises to be a battle to a finish over the major issue, which is, in effect, whether Roosevelt runs again.

It has been hinted, in some quarters which are often well informed, that Mr. Roosevelt may make a public announcement early in the new session, disclaiming in unmistakable language all desire for a renomination. Such a declaration would clear the air for the consideration of public business on its merits, though there would still remain the inevitable struggle between Democrats and Republicans for political advantage in the 1940 Presidential campaign.

The field in which there is likely to be more discussion than any other is that of international relations, which have taken a new and alarming turn since the revised Neutrality Act was passed. Not only has the situation in the Far East become of more immediate concern, but in Europe the menace of Soviet Russia has been added to that of Germany.

While the general feeling in Washington is that neither Russia nor Germany offers an immediate threat to the security of the United States, and that the Japanese-Chinese situation is not likely to get to the stage of a threat to the Philippines, which this country is bound to defend if attacked, nevertheless there has been in the past two weeks a decided revival of the "war jitters" which had everybody in Washington stirred up last Summer.

Nation's Sole Spokesman
This situation works to the advantage of the President, since he is the nation's sole spokesman in international matters, short of ratification of treaties or an actual declaration of war. It is generally conceded here that Mr. Roosevelt's outspoken indignation at Russia's invasion of Finland reflects an almost universal popular feeling. His general conduct of European relations in the present war has met with such popular approval as to increase the probability of his reelection in case he should decide to run again, and should the interests of the United States seem to be seriously threatened.

There is a strong feeling in Congress that its members should interfere as little as possible in the European mess, but there is an almost equally strong feeling being expressed that the activities of the State Department in negotiating trade agreements with various nations ought to be looked into. The belief that American interests have not been best served by some of Mr. Hull's deals is gaining strength, especially among members from the agricultural states. It is certain that the demand that such trade agreements, which are authorized by the Smoot-Hawley tariff bills, should be subject to ratification by the Senate, will be put forward with vigor, especially by Republicans. The traditional division of the two major parties on the issue of Free Trade vs. Protective Tariff may come to the front once more.

In Strong Position
The President is in a strong position to press his requests for improvement in all phases of our national defense, and Congress is scored enough of being involved (turn to page 5, please)

Swint Osborne committed suicide Monday night

—December 11, about eight o'clock, while sitting alone in his automobile in front of the Court House in Sparta.

The deceased man, who was 31 years of age, was a well-known citizen of Roaring Gap. Upon arriving in town a few minutes earlier, Mr. Osborne had sent his driver, Charlie Pierce, to the telephone office with a message. Hearing a shot fired as he crossed the street, Pierce ran back to the car, and found Osborne in a dying condition. Physicians were summoned but he was already dead. He had fired three shots from a pistol.

The act is attributed to despondency, from which he had suffered for some weeks. Although a cripple since infancy, unable to walk, he was unusually ambitious and energetic, and had built up a lucrative business as salesman and had acquired a host of friends. Surviving are the mother, Mrs. E. M. Osborne, Roaring Gap; four sisters: Mrs. George Hendrickson, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. A. B. Vannoy, West Jefferson; Miss Clarice Osborne, High Point, and Lorene Osborne, Roaring Gap, and one brother, Doughton Osborne, Yuma, Arizona. Funeral services were conducted in the Sparta Methodist Church, of which the deceased was a member, yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, at one o'clock, by the pastor, Rev. L. F. Strader. Interment was in Shiloh Cemetery.

Russia curtly rejected the "invitation"

—of the League of Nations to cease hostilities in Finland and begin peace talks under league auspices. The rejection was formally tendered early yesterday (Wednesday) in Moscow.

Premier and Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov addressed a formal reply to the league's telegraphed proposal to the president of the league's special committee set up to deal with the Finnish war. He said the Soviet government declined to accept the league's offer to discuss the Finnish question, and referred the committee to his letter of last week to Joseph A. Avenol, secretary-general of the league.

That letter said the convening of the league to hear Finland's appeal against Soviet invasion was an "insult" to Moscow since Russia did not recognize the Finnish government at Helsinki as representing the Finnish people. Russia, he said, had sent Red army troops into Finland upon the appeal of the people's government at Terioki to help that government subdue its enemies. Molotov's message to the committee said: "The Soviet government thanks you for the kind invitation to discuss the Finnish question. The Soviet government does not consider it possible to accept the invitation. The reasons are indicated in my letter to Avenol of December 5. (Signed) Molotov."

Compared with usual diplomatic correspondence, the brevity and curtness of Molotov's reply was said in diplomatic circles to be almost insulting, since it was a formal message to the representatives of 45 nations. These sources forecast that Russia would resign from the league rather than face possible league condemnation or penalties.

ELDER C. R. DANCY IS SCHEDULED TO PREACH
—at the following places and times:
Union, December 22, at two o'clock; Little River, Sparta, December 22, at night and Antioch, December 23 and 24.

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE WILL BE HELD SUNDAY
—night, December 17, at 7:15 o'clock, at the Sparta Presbyterian Church, by the pastor, Rev. R. L. Berry.

The Young Women's Circle will hold a meeting

—tonight (Thursday), at 6:45 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Robert M. Gambill, with Mrs. Dwight Greene as associate hostess. Miss Wanda Choate will have charge of the program.

A mother-daughter party was given at Sparta High

—School on Thursday, December 7, sponsored by the Home Economics Department of the school. The party was attended by approximately 40 mothers.

The High School reading room was beautifully decorated in keeping with the approaching Christmas season. The girls had on display many of the garments they have made during this semester. Miss Mary Faulk, Home Economics teacher, greeted the guests at the door at 7:30 p. m. As they assembled, they examined the work on display. Then, for a time, the mothers and daughters played bingo. Evelyn Edwards received a prize for "bingoing" the greatest number of times. Various games and contests were engaged in. The mothers showed great interest in the department, and discussed ways of obtaining funds for equipment. Sandwiches, plum pudding and coffee were served at the close of the meeting.

Circle No. 2 of the Sparta Baptist Women's Missionary

—Union held a meeting on Tuesday night, December 12, at the home of Mrs. Howard J. Ford. The president, Mrs. Walter Taylor, presided during the business session, after which the devotionals were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Howard J. Ford.

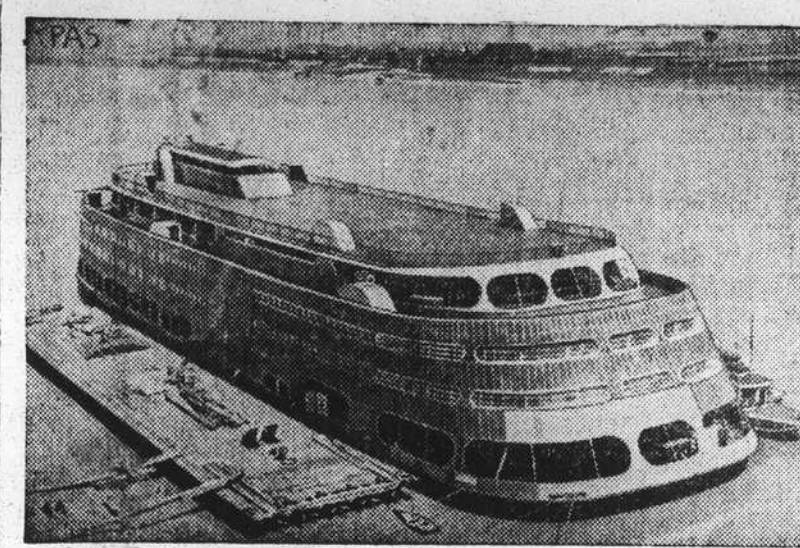
Mrs. Claude Miles presented a very interesting program on "My Responsibilities for the Great Commission," with the following members taking part: Mrs. Bruce Wagoner, Mrs. Hugh Choate, Mrs. Walter Taylor and Mrs. Roy Burgess. The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Walter Taylor; vice-president, Mrs. Roy Burgess; secretary, Mrs. Bruce Wagoner; treasurer, Mrs. Hugh Choate; personal service chairman, Mrs. R. L. Hickerson; program chairman, Mrs. Claude Miles, and publicity chairman, Mrs. J. G. Mitchell. During a delightful social hour, the hostess served fruit cake, coffee and Christmas candies.

More Alleghany people joined the Red Cross

—this year, during the recent annual Roll Call drive, than perhaps ever before, except during the World War.

Rev. R. L. Berry, chairman of the Alleghany County Chapter, American Red Cross; Rev. L. F. Strader, Roll Call chairman, and Miss Blanche Pugh, Junior Red Cross chairman, together with the various Red Cross workers in the county, have been commended for what has been referred to as the very fine work they did during the Roll Call. The workers were the Rev. Mr. Berry, the Rev. Mr. Strader, Mrs. C. A. Reeves, Mrs. Dwight Greene, Mrs. J. T. Inskip, Mrs. L. K. Halsey, Mrs. Mexa Phipps, Miss Lillie Ervin, Miss Nora Helen Doughton and C. R. Roe. A list of those who enrolled as Red Cross members during the annual Roll Call in Alleghany County follows:
George Cheek, Alton Thompson, J. Kern Wagoner, Susie Osborne, Hugh Choate, Amos Wagoner, Vera Wagoner, Muriel Caudill, Charles R. Roe, Harold H. Higgins, Aileen Perry, B. F. McCann, Mary Faulk, T. J. Haigwood, Gertrude Andrews, Arnold Jones, Mrs. A. C. McMillan, Grace Rector, Thelma Richardson, Mrs. A. V. Choate, Mrs. (turn to page 8, please)

New Streamlined Mississippi River Boat



ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Pilots of Mississippi River packets of Mark Twain's day will probably turn over in their graves when this new streamlined, five-decked excursion boat is put into operation on the Mississippi next Summer. Two screw propellers set in tunnels in the hull eliminate the traditional side or stern wheels.

"Doug" Fairbanks died Tuesday in Hollywood

—California, death coming to the great "Doug" (Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.) suddenly and unexpectedly at his Santa Monica Beach home at 12:45 a. m., of a heart attack. He was 55 years of age.

Tuesday night the family was still too stunned to think of funeral plans. Friends said the body probably would be placed in Forest Lawn Cemetery, where lie the remains of Jean Harlow, Will Rogers and many other Hollywood celebrities.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., the actor's son, remained with the grief-stricken widow, the former Lady Sylvia Ashley, throughout the day. She was prostrated.

In Chicago, Mary Pickford, Fairbanks' second wife, said his death brought "a deep sorrow to his family and friends but I am sure it will prove a consolation to us all to recall the joy and the glorious spirit of adventure that he gave to the world. . . . It is impossible to believe that that vibrant and gay spirit could ever perish." She was in Chicago for a visit with her husband, Orchestra Leader Charles (Buddy) Rogers.

Throughout the film colony there was sadness. Comedian Charles Chaplain, long a close friend and beach neighbor, was "too overcome with grief to make any comment."

Fairbanks, ruddy and active as always, last Saturday was part of the mass of 103,000 cheering fans at the U. S. C. U. C. L. A. football game—it was Doug Jr.'s 32nd birthday anniversary. Monday he had a slight heart twinge.

His physician ordered him to bed for a week's rest, and Mrs. Fairbanks called in a nurse. But no one, unless it was Doug himself, believed his indisposition to be serious.

Fairbanks must have moaned as he died. His mastiff bulldog, Marco Polo, barked so loudly he awakened Mrs. Fairbanks. She rushed to the bedside too late to see her husband alive.

Doug, Jr., and his bride of a few months, hastened from their nearby home, as did Robert Fairbanks, brother of the elder Doug, and Clarence Ericksen, Doug, Sr.'s manager.

"Don't miss 'Here Comes Charlie,' at Sparta High

—School in the auditorium, Saturday night, December 16, at 7:30 o'clock, persons active in the promotion of plans for the play said recently. The play is to be presented by the Junior Class.

"If you want to see how two real 'hill-billys' learn the ways of 'high-falutin' 'sassiety' folks," it was said further, "see this play. We promise you an evening of wholesome fun and laughter."

WILBUR C. SPRUILL DIED ON TUESDAY MORNING

—at two o'clock, in the Veterans Facility at Roanoke, Va., from the effects of an automobile accident November 23. He was manager of the Salisbury Social Security field office, serving counties in Northwestern North Carolina.

The Methodist Women's Missionary Society will meet

—tomorrow (Friday), tomorrow, at 2:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Beal Poole, with Mrs. R. T. Burchette as associate hostess. The program will be in charge of Rev. L. F. Strader.

Governor Hoey was optimistic on his 62nd

—birthday anniversary Monday, and in an interview painted an optimistic word picture of the North Carolina of the future—a state with balanced agricultural practices, a sound economic structure and a unified urge for progress.

The governor made two other predictions, but explained that both were contingent on suppositions that business would continue to improve and that there would be a consequent continued increase in state tax receipts.

Those predictions were: That there would be no diversion of highway funds during his administration; and that it would be possible, sometime next spring, to make another substantial allotment from the highway surplus for additional road betterments. The state's greatest need, he said, is a "satisfactory solution of our agricultural situation."

"We should make a transition from two or three money crops to a widely-diversified agriculture, with a consequent increase in dairying and in the raising of hogs, cattle and poultry—and with a translation of more tenants into landlords," he added.

There was one query which the governor said he couldn't answer. That was the question of what he would do after the expiration of his term, in January, 1941.

"I haven't decided yet," he said. "I'm not going to give that a thought until July 1, 1940. Six months—I guess that's long enough to think about anything."

Previously, Governor Hoey had indicated he probably would return to his home in Shelby, and resume the practice of law. Asked whether he had any further political ambitions—the governor has been endorsed for the presidency by North Carolina's legislature and numerous other state groups—he replied:

"None that I can specify. I'm not thinking in terms of that now. I'm still thinking about tending to the duties of this office." Looking back over the three years he has served as North Carolina's chief executive, the governor said he thought the state's single greatest achievement during that time was "the development of greater unity, together with the freedom from industrial disputes of a serious nature, and the united effort on the part of all the people for the progress and advancement of the state."

Among achievements accomplished by the legislature in the last three years, he listed (not necessarily in what he considered the order of their importance):

1. "Balanced budgets."
 2. "The largest public building program in the state's history, brought about despite the fact that the state's total debt is being steadily reduced. Practically every benevolent and educational institution, both for whites and Negroes, has been benefited by the program."
 3. "Adoption of a continuing revenue measure which will be a great time-saver for future legislatures and will stabilize the tax system."
 4. "Removal of the sales tax from 11 essential foods."
 5. "Free school books which were provided for all children in the elementary grades of public schools."
 6. "Enlargement of agricultural research work and coalition of effort on the part of North Carolina State College and the state department of agriculture. The last legislature made the best provision in years for agriculture."
 7. "Election law reforms."
 8. "A social security program which is in full and complete compliance with the whole federal program. As a result of the state's compliance, approximately 36,000 checks are mailed monthly for old persons, 22,000 for dependent children, and 2,000 for blind persons."
- The governor said that, at the present time, and during the last two months, more work was being (turn to page 8, please)

J. M. Broughton entered the race for governor

—of North Carolina in a formal announcement Tuesday night in Raleigh. Mr. Broughton is a widely-known Raleigh lawyer and Baptist leader.

In a 1,500-word statement Broughton set forth "in general my views on essential matters of government."

Broughton was the second candidate to announce for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, which is tantamount of election. Lieutenant Governor W. P. Horton of Pittsboro made his declaration 10 days earlier. State Senator L. L. Gravelly of Rocky Mount is expected to announce any day, and Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell shortly after Christmas. Also regarded as likely candidates are Willis Smith of Raleigh and Mayor Thomas E. Cooper of Wilmington. The primary will be held in May, 1940.

Born in Raleigh, November 17, 1888, Broughton attended Wake Forest College. Eight years after he was graduated he became a member of the Wake Forest board of trustees, a post he still holds. He taught school two years, worked as a newspaper reporter in Winston-Salem a short time, then entered upon the practice of law in Raleigh in 1914.

He represented Wake County in the state senate in 1927 and 1929. He was keynote at the state Democratic convention in 1936 and a presidential elector that year. In 1936 he also was president of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Like Governor Hoey, whom he hopes to succeed, Broughton is widely known as the teacher of a men's Bible class. He has been superintendent of the Tabernacle Baptist Sunday School since 1913 and has taught the Bible class there 15 years.

Broughton said he entered the campaign upon his own initiative, and "not as a candidate of any group, bloc or political faction. My candidacy will be directed to all Democrats in the state. If nominate and elected, I will be under no obligation except to serve the people of North Carolina to the best of my ability." He said he had made "no alliances based on any gubernatorial or other campaigns in the past" and that should he be elected he would "leave to the people the choice of my successor and shall not try to control or influence such choice."

The lawyer said he expected to speak in each of the 100 North Carolina counties next spring to discuss fully the public issues.

A total of 100 dozens of half-gallon cans

—have been filled again this year in Alleghany County and returned to the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville. This canning was done by members of the denomination in the county, and the Canning Chairman has expressed appreciation to those who have assisted in the work.

Laurel Springs Church led in filling the largest number of cans this year. Liberty had led the two previous years.

Those who participated in the canning are as follows:
Belview Church—Mrs. Maggie Atwood, Mrs. W. F. Jones, Mrs. Jeter Jones, Mrs. George Sheppard, Mrs. Ruby Mabe, Mrs. Ruby Darnell, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Floyd Rose and Mrs. Flora Mabe. Chestnut Grove—Mrs. C. G. Andrews, Mrs. Leff Edwards, Mrs. Allen Edwards, Mrs. Wayne Edwards, Mrs. Maggie Hoppers, Mrs. Nannie Edwards, Mrs. Myrtle Brooks and Mrs. Everett Fender. Liberty—Mrs. F. W. Cheek, Mrs. A. O. Joines, Mrs. A. F. Absher, Mrs. W. P. Maxwell, Mrs. J. R. Blum, Mrs. W. M. Wagoner, Misses Watson, Mrs. J. T. Fender, Miss Pearl Benge, Mrs. E. E. Caudill, Mrs. James D. McCann, Mrs. E. F. Hoppers. Laurel Springs—Mrs. Boyd Bryant, Mrs. Curtis Blevins, Miss Pauline Blevins, Mrs. Barnett Church, Miss Iva Grace Doughton, (turn to page 8, please)