

PETTENGILL

The Gentleman from Indiana

ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts proposes to abolish the Electoral College. This, of course, can be done only by constitutional amendment, to propose which would require a two-thirds vote in each House of Congress, and a ratification by at least 36 States, or three-fourths of the 48.

If Senator Lodge proposes a simple and complete abolition of the Electoral College he might as well save his breath. He will never receive the necessary majorities, either in Congress or among the States. For the present provision gives to the less populous states an advantage in the election of a President and a prestige in government which they will never give up.

Each State in the Electoral College has as many votes as the total of its Senators and Congressmen. If a state has two Senators and one Congressman, it has three electoral votes. There are six States with three votes, Arizona, Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico, Vermont, and Wyoming. There are seven with only four votes each, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Rhode Island.

These thirteen States could alone defeat a constitutional amendment, to say nothing of the States with only five, six or seven electoral votes.

Nevada, for example, has 3 votes out of 531, New York has 47 votes. But in 1936, Nevada cast only 43,848 popular votes for President, whereas New York cast 5,286,495 out of a grand total of 45,646,817.

In other words Nevada had one electoral vote for each 14,616 popular votes cast in that State, while New York had one electoral vote for each 112,478 popular votes. Each Nevada voter, therefore, was equal to eight New Yorkers in electing a President. This gives Nevada a place of importance in Washington far out of proportion to her population which she cashes in on by way of silver legislation and other benefits.

This all comes about by reason of the "great compromise" of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 under which each State was given an equal number of United States Senators. And as her number of Senators gives Nevada two out of three electoral votes she and the other smaller States enjoy an advantage which they would never give up by adopting a constitutional amendment whereby the President would be elected by direct vote of all the people.

The compromise, in pure theory, is objectionable, but we would never had had a Constitution without it. And better have an imperfect Constitution than perfect chaos.

If anything is done about the Electoral College, it should be along the lines proposed by Representative Clarence Lea of California. Mr. Lea, one of the dozen best students of government on Capitol Hill, does not propose to abolish the electoral votes. He knows that is impossible. He proposes to preserve the present system which would retain to each State its present number of electoral votes. But with it he would give expression to view that each individual voter in each State should have a real voice in electing his President.

Under existing law, the party candidate receiving a majority of one popular vote out of New York's 5 million gets all of New York's 47 votes. And the same in all other States. The minority in each State is practically disfranchised.

To illustrate, a State has 10 electoral votes, and casts 1,000,

Our world...

U. S. Will Send Japan Less Steel

Washington.—President Roosevelt yesterday placed exports of virtually all iron and steel products under a rigid licensing control, but specified that exports to Great Britain and the American republics will not be affected. The move was regarded as a direct blow at the Japanese war machine as well as a step toward conserving this country's resources for its own defense. The United States, in the past, has furnished much of the metal used by Japan in producing munitions and military equipment. It is believed that a shutdown of this source of supply will hamper, if not seriously cripple, the Japanese war effort in China.

Britain Will Not Risk Feeding Germans

Washington.—Herbert Hoover's plan for feeding the civil population in German-occupied countries was rejected by the British government last night with an announcement here that it would refuse permission "for the passage of food through the blockade." The statement by the Marquess of Lothian, British ambassador, apparently ended the prospect of any extensive American food relief to German conquered nations, including France. Lord Lothian, however, expressed his government's willingness to facilitate the passage through the blockade of "medical supplies destined for distribution in territories occupied by Germany and in unoccupied France by approved bodies."

Italians Proceed North, Quickly

Athens, Greece.—The retreating Italians suffered "heavy blows" along the northern front today, a Greek government spokesman said tonight, and left more prisoners in Greek hands. Over the entire front, the spokesman declared, it was a familiar story: A continued Fascist retreat, with rear guard fighting by the Italians "overthrown" as it developed. At Delvino, he said, "large quantities of all kinds of materials" abandoned by the Italians were collected by Greek troops. The Italian retirement north of Argirocastro was pictured as hasty.

Italians In Africa Are Confused

Cairo, Egypt.—The British army in Egypt, applying in the desert wastes the very tactics of extraordinary speed and shock used by the Germans in the blitzkrieg of the west, has destroyed the communications between Italian advance and rear, and isolated great numbers of Fascist troops. Reports from the front said the British broke through the Italian positions protecting the important Mediterranean base of Sidi Barani—a main springboard of the Fascist invasion of Egypt begun weeks ago—and pushed on to the coast.

Hitler Sure He Can Defeat The World

Berlin.—In a speech Tuesday noon to 12,000 workers in the Borsig munitions plant in Berlin, that the British claim to have bombed several times, Adolf Hitler demanded work and patience from the German people, for "with it we will defeat the entire world"; patience, because, he cautioned, "the war won't be won tomorrow." There was little reference to foreign policy, although Hitler listed "rich America" among the "have" nations and himself as the champion of all the "have nots." There was no offer of any kind, the implication being that the war with Britain is a fight to the finish between two systems; two worlds. But, he went on, "our capacity for work is our gold, our capital; and with it we will defeat the entire world."

Governor Hoey's 63rd Birthday

Raleigh.—Governor Hoey, a little stouter and a little greyer than when he took office, had a birthday yesterday—the last before he leaves the office of Governor. He was 63, and he observed it as he has observed most of his birthdays—by a good day's work. That means that for some 15 hours he conducted the state's business, with time out for meals and, for a couple of coca-colas—one in the morning and one in the afternoon—at a drug store a block from his office in the Capitol. That has been his daily routine since he took office in January, 1937, with variation when he had a speech to make or had to take a trip, and it would require more than a mere birthday to make him break it.

Railroad Accident In Georgia

Atlanta.—Twelve persons, including the railroad's president and the general manager, were injured yesterday when seven cars of the Southern Railway's passenger train, the Ponce de Leon, were derailed about one mile south of the village of Ellenwood, Ga.

000 popular votes, 600,000 Republican, let us say, and 400,000

Democratic. As it is, the Republican candidate gets all 10 of the electoral votes. The 400,000 Democrats, in effect, are counted for the Republican candidate. Congressman Lea would pro rate the 10 electoral votes in proportion to the popular vote, or, in this case, 6 Republican and 4 Democratic.

This plan would enfranchise all minority parties in all States. It would be worth while to conduct a campaign in every State, whether Mississippi or Vermont. It would quicken interest in government throughout the Union. There would be no "solid" Republican or Democratic territory anywhere. It would be impossible for anyone to be elected President who had less popular votes than another candidate, as has three times happened—a dangerous situation loaded with dynamite. It would be impossible, as under existing law, to throw the election of a President into the House of Representatives, as happened in 1810 and 1824. Mr. Lea's proposal is worthy of serious study.

Samuel B. Pettengill.

Gasoline for the average motor vehicle cost \$135.75 in 1939, of which 41% was due to gasoline taxes.

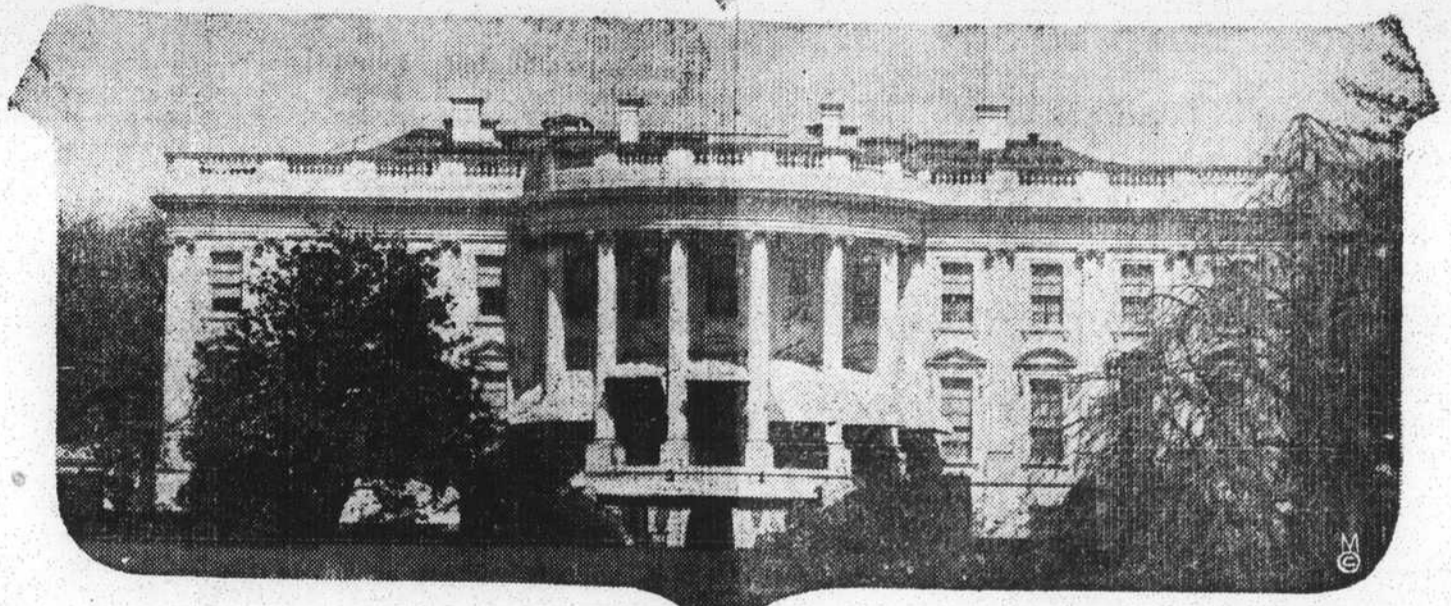
ALLEGHANY STAR-TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd Year. No. 17.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, December 12, 1940.



South front of the White House, residence of the President of the United States, and headquarters of the Executive branch of the government. This front looks out across the Ellipse to the Washington Monument.

Earl Farmer is Severely Injured

Earl Farmer, of Stratford, who owns and runs the Farmer Fishing Camp, was seriously injured, Sunday night, when he sustained a broken right leg and a badly mashed left leg.

The accident occurred while Farmer was investigating his electric light plant which is operated by an overshot water wheel. He became entangled in the pulley, and so securely were his legs caught in the pulley that he was unable to extricate himself. When he did not return in half an hour his wife went out to look for him. Finding him in a helpless condition and being unable to release himself, she called in the neighbors to help. Friends had actually to saw him out before he could be removed. He is being treated by local doctors.

Stratford

Stratford, Dec. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Sanders, of North Wilkesboro, came over one evening last week after their little daughter, and were accompanied back home by Miss Ruth Cook, who is taking a beauty course in North Wilkesboro.

Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Edwards and Edwin Esty, of Hillsville, Va., came over Sunday and moved Mrs. Esty's mother, Mrs. Gessie Esty, widow of the late D. R. Esty, and her household goods to Virginia.

Elder and Mrs. J. M. Williams have been sick but are improving.

Rex Wagoner left Sunday evening en route to Raleigh via North Wilkesboro to take a course in electric welding given by the government.

Little Christine Mabe has chicken pox.

Born last week to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Jones, who live on the farm of Misses Charity and Etta Moxley, a son.

Little Louise Caudill is recovering from an attack of pneumonia but is not able to be moved back home yet. She is with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Watson.

High School at Hudson Destroyed By Fire

The hearts of one thousand children were saddened when they went to school Wednesday morning, December 4, and discovered that a fire during the night had destroyed the Hudson High School building and extended their Christmas vacation over a whole month. Miss Faye Joines, of Sparta, English instructor and librarian, was compelled to return home until the school opens again after the Christmas holidays.

Hudson High School is located between Lenoir and Hickory, and has a roster of 28 teachers and nearly one thousand pupils. The blaze is believed to have been caused by a deficiency in the wiring. While firemen were unable to save the burning High School building they managed to prevent the flames from spreading to adjoining buildings on the campus and nearby homes. Office records and much equipment were saved.

Both building and equipment were insured. Two-thirds of the automobile tires manufactured are sold as replacements.

Better Telephone Service Promised Alleghany County

After 28 telephone users in Sparta had signed a petition threatening to have their phones removed unless they were given better service, the Central Electric and Telephone Co. investigated the situation and promised that immediate steps would be taken to improve the service.

Spartans have complained for some time because of the inadequate connections over the county lines, but not until the recent concerted protest of the townspeople has there been any definite move to remedy the situation. One chief complaint is that there is only one long-distance line going out of town. When this line is busy it is necessary for another party to put in a long-distance call to wait sometimes 30 minutes or an hour for service. Another complaint is that one regularly paid operator is inadequate for a county possessing as many telephones as Alleghany.

Reception over party or community lines in the county is reported to be very bad at times, possibly because of poor construction of secondary lines.

In a county where there are approximately 160 telephones, 85 being in Sparta proper, it is considered high time that the telephone service, local and long-distance, were improved.

Roll Call Totals Still Coming in

Although the Red Cross Roll Call Membership campaign terminated on November 30, the figures are still rolling in. The latest report submitted by Rev. V. W. Sears shows the present amount to be \$164.93. A complete list of the Roll Call Members' names will be detailed next week.

Have you bought Christmas Seals yet? They are now on sale and school teachers and children are covering Sparta and the neighboring communities with seals for sale. When you are approached by anyone selling seals, do your little bit—buy some.

Vox

Vox, Dec. 10.—Paul Sexton, of Galax, has moved to Osee Caudill's home.

Huston Maines left last week for Oxford, Pa.

Mrs. Arthur Shaw was shopping in Galax Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid Fender and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Edwards visited H. C. Evans Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jennings visited Mack Fender Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sexton, Mrs. M. C. Caudill and daughter, Violet, visited friends in Galax Sunday.

Mrs. Sarah Fender spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Matilda Collins at Baywood.

Coy Higgins and son, Robert Lee, visited Mrs. Huston Maines Sunday.

Mrs. Page Evans spent a few days last week with Mrs. H. C. Evans.

The buying power of the average American factory worker is estimated at 60 per cent higher today than in 1914.

A. O. Jones Chosen N. C. B.

At the Convention of the Baptist General Conference of North Carolina, O. Jones of Sparta was chosen a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist General Conference of North Carolina. Mr. Jones is a member of the Sparta Baptist Church. He is a member of the Baptist General Conference of North Carolina. He is a member of the Baptist General Conference of North Carolina.

The General Conference of the Baptist General Conference of North Carolina normally convenes twice a year, has charge of all the work of the convention, including Missions, Education, Benevolences, and various branches of activity.

Sparta School

The final score of any game does not always indicate which is the better team in a contest, or who played the hardest game. Last Friday's basketball totals, Beulah boys 32 as against Sparta boys 14,—is a good example in point. The locals battled gamely from the very toss-up, but it must be remembered that they were bucking up against an outfit that bids fair to be Surry county's classiest corps of cagers. Spartans have always played on the theory that "the game's the thing"—win, lose or draw, and regardless of how stiff the opposition. As long as they stay right in there and keep shooting for the old basket they're a par excellence team, no matter what the total tallies may show at the closing whistle.

The Spartan maids had little difficulty in handling the Beulah girls. As a matter of fact the local lassies practically yawned their way to capture a 28-9 decision over Beulah. Coasting on the 14 to 0 impetus gained in the early stages of the game, Coach Stuart sent in his second team to entertain the visitors for the remainder of the fray.

The Piney Creek boys copped Tuesday night's set-to from Sparta by winning hands down, 24-9.

In the feminine loop it was even-Stephen when the shouting had died away. The spirited little Spartan crew see-sawed the score back and forth to hold their much larger Piney Creek rivals to a 11-11 deadlock in one of the most exciting fracas of the current basketball season.

Women's Circle Meets Tonight

The Young Women's Circle of the Methodist Church will meet on Thursday evening, December 12, at 6:45 o'clock at Green Gables, with Mrs. Robert M. Gambill and Mrs. Dwight Greene hostesses. The program will be under the direction of Mrs. Harry Vaughan.

Christmas Service At Rocky Ridge

A special Christmas program will be given at the Rocky Ridge Presbyterian Church at Peden, on Saturday, December 21, at 7 p. m. A Christmas service, "Abide With Us," will be presented by

to display the handwork of the Economics Class since the Fall term opened in September. Approximately eighty girls, ranging from freshmen to seniors, will model in person the various styles of clothing each student has made, and parade their individual frills and furbellows from the auditorium platform.

Mrs. Hamby revealed that last year was the first time any such display had ever been given in Sparta High School. She said the girls have made print and woolen dresses, house-coats, cut out blue and wine furniture slip covers, and have lined woolen coats. Aside from wearing apparel the class has effected many novelties such as arranging belts from ordinary buttons, carving attractive leaves and signature pins from wood, plus designing some showy Christmas decorations and Christmas cards.

The Home Economics teacher has shown a genuine interest in the work of the class and is proud of the splendid progress her girls have made this year. She laments the fact, however, that a dire lack of equipment and material has hindered the students from more extensive domestic studies. At present the eighty girls taking Home Economics are forced to budget their sewing endeavors to four sewing machines. There is also a definite need for cooking facilities, a vital factor to any Home Economics course. But, despite these handicaps, Mrs. Hamby said, the girls promise to put on a worth-while fashion show. Everyone is invited to come. The time, 9 a. m. The date, December 13. The place, Sparta High School auditorium.

members of the Sunday School. There will also be a Christmas tree for the children and all who wish to exchange gifts.



Only 10 Shopping Days Until Christmas

Get your Christmas shopping done this coming week, and avoid the last-minute rush and crush.

For every dollar paid to stockholders last year, railroads of this country paid nearly three dollars in taxes.

GREEN GABLES



DANCING

Saturday Night, Dec. 14, 8 'till 12 STRING MUSIC

Sunday Dinners — 50c INCLUDING T-BONE STEAKS