

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
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WOMEN IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE

There is a current notion that women outnumber men in the Federal Service particularly in the nation's Capitol but that notion is completely shattered by prosaic fact. In fact, the number of women in Federal service is the smallest it has been since June of 1936. As of January 1, 1940, only 18.5 of all Federal personnel were from the fairer sex. Of the 126,345 Federal employees in Washington on that date, 49,658 were women. Of the 805,960 Federal employees outside of the Capitol city, 122,611 were women. Thus, out of a total of 932,305 employees in the Executive branch of the government, 172,269 are women.

BATA OF BELCAMP

Six years ago, the Bata Shoe Company of Czecko Slovakia began negotiating for a site near Belcamp, Maryland, on which to build a modern, streamlined shoe factory together with stores, theatres, hospitals, dormitories, houses and other appurtenances for the comfort of the workers. The undertaking has been referred to as a kind of industrial paternalism. In connection with the production of shoes, the Bata organization has set up the Bata Industrial & Business Institute. All those who seek employment in the Bata factory must make application to the Institute on a questionnaire which seeks information from the applicant regarding his birth, nationality, education, physical fitness, mental attributes, family, and a host of other things. If the application is accepted, the applicant then goes thru a long period of training or instruction which in strict fact consists of working in the plant under the direction of an instructor. The instructors all come from Czecko Slovakia. Seventy six instructors were brought over. Oddly enough, many of them are around 20 years of age and receive from \$18 to \$25 per week. It is said that a Vice President was brought over as an instructor. Recently, the Department of Labor has been investigating the entry of the "instructors" into the U.S. to see whether the Contract Labor Law was violated. In fact the Department is proceeding against the Bata Company in order to deport them. Along with that, labor organizations have taken up the cudgels against the company on the ground that it constitutes a highly organized effort to use untrained American Youth at low wages by means of the speed-up system to lower American standards of living. It promises to become an interesting fight. Meanwhile, the Department of Justice is investigating Bata's alleged violation of the Wage-Hour law.

MR. SMITH GOES TO THE THEATRE.

The movie called "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington" furnished high entertainment for young and old from one end of the land to the other. Perhaps time and the theme of the picture did not permit to show that Mr. Smith Goes To The Theatre when in Washington. Which is to say that Cabinet Members, Senators, Diplomats, Congressmen, Government Employees and others go to the theatre in Washington in the same proportion as in other cities. That is to say that there is one theatre presenting stage plays, several combination picture-vaudeville theatres, and a host of picture theatres. From New York, stage plays come down to Washington

for a week's engagement. A goodly crowd turns out. Cabinet members find themselves sitting next to interested drama students, Senators find themselves sitting in the same row with stenographers, Supreme Court Justices may find themselves sitting next to freshmen law students from Georgetown University. It is all very cosmopolitan. Last week a Justice of the Supreme Court was witnessing a play. As the play progressed, he indulged himself to random comment on the cultural capacity and the perception of the average audience as they witness an "arty" play. His opinion of the audience capacity was not overly high. Some who sat near suddenly found their opinion of a certain Justice descending in the scale. In fact, it went down so far that they rushed home and ventilated their opinions on paper and rushed them to the editor. So it would seem that Supreme Court Justices carry on conversation at the theatre, just as one finds everywhere. And sometimes they talk out of turn.

SPEAKING OF LARGE FAMILIES

When all is said and done, people are still the most interesting and absorbing thing in all the world. That is why the large family from Pennsylvania which was feted in the Capitol this week caused such a stir. The father of this family is Daniel Saphore who works in a shoe factory in Churchtown Pa. Mrs. Saphore, is 29 and only a wisp of a person. Now hold your breath! They have 14 children. The oldest is 13. The youngest is a babe in arms. They came to Washington at the instance of the Chamber of Commerce of Churchtown, Pa. and were feted at the Capitol by Congressman Kunkel of that district. They attracted as much attention and comment as the Dionne Quints. As might be expected, the boys in the family, while touring the Federal Bureau of Investigation decided that they wanted to be G-Men.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES

VII. Bruce Barton - Republican

Take a man age 54 with a shock of ruddy hair and a ruddy face, put him in a brown suit which matches his hair and complexion, give him a friendly manner, throw a dash of laughter in his eyes and garnish well with personality and you have Congressman Bruce Barton of New York whose name has been repeatedly mentioned as a Presidential possibility. Geographically he is highly endowed because he was born in Tennessee, attended school in Ohio and Massachusetts, resided in Oak Park, Illinois where he was married 27 years ago and wound up in the advertising business in New York. Five states might well claim him. He first achieved wide popularity 20 years ago with such readable and provocative books as More Power, To You, It's A Good Old World, The Man Nobody Knows, The Book Nobody Knows, What Can A Man Believe, and others. He is the head of a large advertising agency in New York and was elected to fill a vacancy in Congress caused by the death of Rep. Peyser of New York City in 1937. He might properly be classified as a liberal Republican. He has a knack with language and can inject copy value and reader interest into the commonplace things. He rates well with his colleagues.