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4-8-33

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
(By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen)

POHICKS CHURCH. Last Sunday we attended services at Pohicks Church where George Washington worshipped. It is a delightful place, just three miles from Mount Vernon and while it has been restored, it has exactly the same kind of pews, baptismal fount and arrangements that prevailed when the first President of the nation performed his devotions there.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN HULL. Returned to Washington from a West Indies Cruise this week and spent some time in Washington. He has been extremely helpful and cordial in giving the present Congressman the benefit of his long experience in the House. He conferred at length with party leaders in Washington and has submitted a new plan for national organization work.

ILLINOIS SOCIETY. Each state has a state society in Washington, which meets monthly to renew acquaintanceships. The Illinois Society met Wednesday night at the Hotel Shoreham. Senator Dieterich is the President. Hon. Henry T. Rainey, Speaker of the House and Hon. Harold L. Ickes, of Chicago, new Secretary of the Interior were the speakers. A large crowd, consisting of people from Illinois were in attendance.

BEER. Cafes, hotels, and restaurants and bar-be-cues were crowded at midnight Thursday to indulge in the 3.2 per cent beer. The first beer was delivered to the White House. Despite the rain, downtown Washington was filled with traffic. It looked like a celebration of the Armistice.

UNEMPLOYED. They have them here as elsewhere. On Pennsylvania Avenue within a few blocks of the National Capital are Gospel Missions where unemployed are fed daily. Huge crowds gather at every meal time. How tragic that within the shadow of the National Capital of the wealthiest nation in the world, there should be bread lines.

BESHERS PLAN. There is steady progress on the plan to legislate for the blending of alcohol made from domestic grain with gasoline as a farm relief measure. House Members from Indiana, Illinois and Iowa had a meeting this week and appointed a Steering committee of which the author is the Chairman. Speaker Rainey expressed himself as favorable to the idea and it is quite probable that hearings will be held shortly and one of the bills on the subject reported out of committee. There is a definite possibility of legislation on the matter.

REFORESTATION CAMPS. The director for Reforestation work has been appointed, the procedure for enlisting men perfected, and enlistments have begun here. Thus far, the projects designated for these camps are all in the south and in the east. Preferences are given to unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25.

FISH. The Bureau of Fisheries has agreed to send a shipment of small bass, croppies, sunfish and perch to help restock Spring Lake, one of the leading fishing resorts in Illinois.

PERSONAL GLIMPSES. Henry Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture, has long hair which constantly drops down and must be brushed out of his eyes. In spite of long arduous days, he is always smiling and has a certain freshness. I found him that way at half past five in the evening, after receiving delegations of farm leaders the entire day. He believes in agriculture. He lives it. He is sincerely seeking relief for the farmers. While he might make mistakes, no one can ever doubt his sincerity. Hon. Homer Cummings, the new Attorney General is one of the most personable and approachable men who ever held that office. He is tall, broad shouldered, has a hoarty laugh, is always affable, and has the quality of imperturbability. His memory must be wonderful. After suggesting a legislative matter to him about ten days ago, I found that on my second visit a week later, he remembered the incidents and facts relative thereto, immediately upon my entry into his office.