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4-22-33

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

- BOOKS.** Many books come to Congressmen. Their titles reflect the thinking of the times. Among recent arrivals - T. N. T. (dealing with Communism) Jobs or Revolution and Stabilization.
- FORESTRY CAMPS.** Today's advices from the Dept. of Labor show that 645 camps, accommodating 129,000 men have been established. Of these 166 are in California, none in Illinois. We have no state or national forest domain.
- LINCOLN** left a greater impress on the National Capital than any other President. The oil paintings in the capital, the statues and memorials including the beautiful Lincoln monument, the relics, all attest his greatness and his nearness to the hearts and minds of people even now.
- GERMANY** has sent a military attache to the United States for the first time since the war. In the presence of the writer he was photographed in the office of the Secretary of War, wearing a resplendent uniform covered with medals and decorations.
- ALCO-GAS** is making progress. A number of meetings have been held here. Big men, politically and industrially are not only interested but working in it's behalf. Even the farm relief experts see in it the most feasible scheme of relief that has yet been advanced.
- DISCHARGE RULE.** At one time, three men dominated the House of Representatives and all legislative. They were the Speaker and the two majority members of the Rules Committee. That is how Uncle Joe Cannon, the Speaker gained the sobriquet of Czar. One of the rules, whereby this was possible was that it required the signatures of 218 members to get a bill out of committee and have the committee discharged. In December 1931, when the Democrats came into power in the House, this rule was changed so that only 145 signatures were necessary. The leaders who brought about this change were Mr. Rainey, then Majority Leader, Congressman Sabath of Illinois, Cannon of Missouri and Pou of North Carolina. Recently there has been some talk of securing signatures to compel action on the bonus bill now in Committee. To prevent it, the Democrat leaders decided to return to the 218 rule. To make the change requires a vote in the House. Congressmen Sabath, Pou, and Cannon are still in charge of the Rules Committee but so determined was the opposition of new members and so grave the apprehensions of the Rules Committee members about being given "the grand razz" for their change of face that they decided to abandon the attempt.
- PERSONALITIES.** Congressman Wadsworth from New York, pioneer in the wet movement used to be a Senator. He is a brilliant and comparatively young man. Willing to serve as a House member after serving as a Senator marks him as being truly "big". Former Senator Magnus Johnson of Minnesota as well as Governor Toby of New Hampshire and former Governor Christiansen of Minnesota are members of the House. Congressman Connery of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Labor Committee was formerly an actor - and a good one, Congressman Bankhead is the father of the celebrated actress Talulla Bankhead. Incidentally, her Uncle is a member of the Senate. The new Secretary of War, former Governor George H. Dern of Utah is a real human sort of person, very affable, easy to talk to, and not nearly so reticent as some members of the Cabinet. He has the western viewpoint.
- BISHOP SCHLARMAN.** The letter and folder which was sent out by Bishop Schlarman to every priest in the diocese, to every Bishop in the United States and to a large number of newspapers was a splendid piece of work that is already bearing fruit. It was a clear, cogent and logical exposition of the alcohol-gasoline plan of farm relief and many expressions have already reached this office in response to the Bishop's endorsement of the plan.
- RELIEF.** A companion bill to the Wagner-Costigan-LaFollette relief bill was passed on April 21st in the House providing direct relief to the states. It makes available 250 million to states provided that the states must match Federal advances with 1/3 of the amount. It is a gift not a loan. After October 1st funds will be available to states without having to match Federal funds. This too is an outright relief gift to states. The bill passed by a vote of 331 to 58.
- CURRENT JOKE.** A little girl went to the meat market and asked for 10¢ worth of dog meat. While the butcher was getting the purchase ready the little tot remarked, "Please Mr. Butcher, will you cut off the fat, Ma says that Pa don't like fat."