

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By
Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
16th District.

11-23-40

ADDENDA.

Blame Professor Quiz Whiz or some of the other folks who have popularized questions and answers but we still receive queries as to what would happen if a President elect should die before taking office. In a previous issue of the Front we pointed out that if the President-elect should die or be disqualified, the vice-President elect would become President. If the vice-President elect should also die or be disqualified, Congress would name the person to serve as President. All this however should be qualified by saying that this is the case after the Presidential electors have met and cast their ballots for the candidates who were on the ticket. The electors will meet on December 16th for this purpose. If however, the President elect should die or be disqualified before the electors have met and cast their votes, the National Committee of the political party which was successful at the election would name the successor candidate for whom the electors would be expected to cast the ballots of the electoral commission.

MEASURE OF PROSPERITY.

If money in circulation is the measure of prosperity, we should indeed be more prosperous as a nation than ever before. Back in 1879, there was but \$16.92 in circulation for every man, woman and child. By 1914, this had increased to \$34.93 for each of the 99,000,000 persons in our population. On August 31, 1940 with a population of 132,290,000 persons, the Treasury reports a circulation of \$60.92 for every person in the land. This is an increase of more than 350% in circulating medium since the days of 1879. This may not be a specially comforting fact to those who have always contended that prosperity is determined by the "quantity" of money in circulation rather than the "velocity" or "turnover" of money.

THE SLICKERS ARE STILL WITH US.

Perhaps we should say "promoters" rather than "slickers" because it sounds more genteel. In any event, they are always at work. A couple of the smart gentry have been operating in Washington. For a fee, they offer to set contractors on the inside on defense construction contracts. Here is what they say: "Defense Housing Program! \$150,000,000. This is the beginning of a very large program to provide housing for persons engaged in national defense and their families. Authority for contract negotiations (cost plus fixed fee basis) is vested in the Public Buildings Administration. Make an appointment with us now to study from your standpoint. (1) Location of project (2) Planning and estimates (3) Units- civilian personnel and enlisted men. This department has it's own yardstick for awarding contracts to those most fitted. Keep in close touch with us in order that we may be of the greatest possible assistance." This sounds alluring. The ointment around the fly will be found in a provision which the Government inserts in all contracts awarded on the cost-plus-fixed fee basis which binds the contractor not to employ any person "to solicit or secure the contract for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee. "A breach of this provision gives the Government the right to terminate the contract or to deduct the fee from the contract price.

MR. BURNEY ALMOST TAKES HIS SEAT.

About a year ago, Congressman John Martin of Colorado embarked on the long and dreamless journey from whence there is no returning. In November of 1940 therefore, the voters of the Third Colorado District had two congressional tasks to perform. One was to select a Congressman for the unexpired term running from November 5th to January 3rd of 1941. The other was to elect a Congressman for the full term from January 3, 1941 to January 3, 1943. Strange as it may seem, the good voters of that district elected a Democrat for the short term and then generously elected a Republican for the full term. Major William E. Burney was elected to the remainder of the present term from November to January and arrived in Washington to take his seat only to discover that objection was made to his so doing until the official returns from Colorado had been received. If he is not permitted to take his seat he will be minus carfare and expenses to Washington. If he does take his congressional seat, he will be entitled to pay for the time he serves plus mileage plus other official allowances. For a time it appeared that Congress might adjourn right in Mr. Burney's face without opportunity for him to take the oath. Since the adjournment motion was voted down, there is still time for the official returns to reach Washington and permit Mr. Burney to actually become a member of Congress. So, on Monday November 18th, Representative-elect Burney almost took his seat - but not quite.

CORN CANS

The Commodity Credit Corporation, which makes loans on corn, is going in for a program of corn canning in a big way. However, it is not sweet corn nor is it a canning process whereby this corn can be dished up on the table. We refer to the galvanized steel bins which dot the Corn Belt and where corn is now stored under the loan program. Very recently more than 8,000 additional bins have been purchased by the Corporation making a total of 62,887 of such bins.