GREETINGS. After a cessation of six months, occasioned by the adjournment of the 74th Congress on June 20, 1936, the Congressional Front again makes its appearance, to report the happenings of the 75th Congress which convened on January 5th. Since March of 1933, the Front has been going forth. It's preparation has brought unmingled pleasure and delight to the author. He humbly hopes that the readers have liked it. With humility of spirit, he hopes the readers will continue to lead an active and informed life, and help to keep it scrupulously free from partisanship. If it inspires questions in the minds of the readers, we shall be glad to try to answer them. To the editors who use the Front, we again express our gratitude. To everybody, a belated but cheerful and Happy New Year. So, Cheerio, to all, as we move forward to cover the legislative battlefield of the 75th Congress.

THE 75TH CONGRESS. From George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt, there have been 78 Congresses. Whereas other sessions have begun on the first Monday in December, this session officially began on January 3rd by virtue of the provisions of the 20th amendment to the Constitution. By Congressional Resolution, the meeting date was therefore changed to January 5th. Under the old system of meeting, a Member of Congress could be defeated for re-election and still participate in a session of Congress after his defeat. Such members were known as "lame ducks." The new system does away with "lame ducks."

MEMBERSHIP. In many respects this is an unusual Congress. It consists of 334 Democrats, 89 Republicans and 12 Progressives and Farmer Labor members. It contains the smallest Republican representation since Benjamin Harrison occupied the White House. The average member is much younger than those of past Congresses. 38 "freshmen" members. Thro the years, the number of new faces have ranged from 20 to 25% of the membership. It indicates the amazing turnover in the national legislative body. Quite a number are under age 30. The majority are still under their early forties. Reminds one of that current popular song, "Accent On Youth." Dean of the Congress continues to be Hon. A. J. Sabath of Chicago who begins his 31st year of service.

IN MEMORIAM. The Grim Reaper is no respecter of persons. No where is his harvest greater than in the Congress. Since the election of November 6, 1934, eight members of the United States Senate have been gathered unto the dust of the Fathers. All of them passed on while in office. The list includes Cushing of N.M., Long of La., Schall of Minn., Trammell of Fla., Fletcher of Fla., Murphy of Iowa., Cousins of Mich., and Norbeck of S.D. In that same period, eighteen members of the House have slipped away. Many of them were young men, still under fifty. It is the way of all flesh.

THE SPEAKER. Centuries ago, when kings ruled by alleged divine right and often invoked their harsh wills upon the people by condemning them to death without a jury trial or confiscated their property in a capricious manner, people were goaded to trial or confiscated their property in a capricious manner, people were goaded to"lame ducks." The new system does away with "lame ducks."

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THE SECOND INAUGURAL. Since the beginning of our government, inaugurals have been held on March 4th. This year, by virtue of the 20th amendment to the Constitution, it will be held on January 20th. The date was arbitrarily selected. Since the average business man of Washington have subscribed nearly $200,000 to help make the inaugural a spectacular success, their first concern is the weather. For months, weather forecasters have been consulted. The prospects for the weather seem to be safely said that nowhere in the nation is weather more uncertain than in Washington. When William Henry Harrison was
inaugurated in 1841, he rode in the inaugural parade on a white charger during a heavy storm, contracted cold and died one month later. During Lincoln's second inaugural, the weather was heavy but at the moment when he began his address, the sun burst thro the clouds. During Grant's second inaugural it was so cold that West Point cadets in the parade suffered severe frost bite, the musicians could not play their instruments, and all the refreshments were frozen. Taft's inaugural was attended by a storm of such intensity that telephones and telegraph wires were blown down and the ceremonies had to be held indoors. Herbert Hoover was inaugurated in a drenching rain. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inaugural was accomplished with reasonably fair weather. Make your own guess as to the state of the weather on January 20th but let's hope for a glorious day.

GRADUATES. About 30 members of the present U. S. Senate received their legislative training as members of the House of Representatives before they moved to the other end of the Capitol. The list includes such outstanding members as Lewis of Ill., Glass of Virginia, Byrns of South Carolina, Harrison of Miss., Barkley of Ky., and others. The last election accomplished four such elevations: Brown of Mich., Lundeen of Minn., Lee of Okla., and Gillette of Iowa, all of whom served in the last Congress have taken on the dignity that goes with a Senatorial toga.

ODDS AND ENDS. Rep. Gasque of South Carolina has introduced a resolution authorizing the President to proclaim a day of fasting and prayer with a suggestion of all day attendance at church and offerings for the benefit of the poor. Believe it or not but John K. Christmas is a Major in the Tank Corps, United States Army. Recently, he pointed out that mechanization of warfare is a labor saving development in that tanks, planes and g.s. do the work while the soldiers stay out of danger, all of which appeals to us as a program to wipe out the enemy in a manner whereby nobody gets hurt. Sounds interesting. The Library of Congress has hundreds of copies of valuable and notable bibles but the most valuable of all is a copy of the celebrated Gutonborg Bible valued at more than $350,000. A Mr. Golardi, hotel manager in London, England sent his son in New York a consignment of pheasants and plum pudding for Christmas. When these toothsome dainties arrived, there was no bill attached to show what their market value in England might be. Hence the U. S. Customs service had no way of determining how much duty should be paid and refused to release the shipment, kept it at the pier. Son Golardi must first ascertain from Father Golardi what the value is and then pay duty before he can procure release of the pheasants and pudding. Meanwhile, the pheasants, which had been shipped in ice have been without ice for fifteen days and have spoiled. So what? Rep. Chapman of Ky. believes that the walls of the Memorial Amphitheathe in Arlington where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located should be decorated with poetry. His suggestion, contained in a bill he introduced provides for inscribing the 9 stanzas of that celebrated poem "The Bivouac Of The Dead" on the walls at a cost of $1,250.