THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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16th District.

ELECTION ECHOES.

Forty of the 49 states grant the right to vote without payment of a poll tax whereas 8 states, all in the south, still require a poll tax payment. How does this fact affect elections? Census Bureau figures indicate that in the 40 non-poll tax states, 70.59% of all eligible voters marched to the polls and exercised their ballot rights. In the poll tax states, the average of votes cast was but 21.1% of the whole number of eligible voters. In the state of South Carolina only 88 out of each 1000 eligible voters actually voted. In the entire 8 states in question, the total vote cast was slightly less than 3,000,000. This means that more persons voted in Illinois in 1940 than in the eight states of South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia, Tennessee and Texas combined.

PARALLELS OF HISTORY.

In that eventful year of 1914, when the conflagration of war swept in all directions in Europe, President Wilson leaned heavily upon two intimates. One of his secretaries Joseph P. Tumulty (still living in Washington) and the other was Colonel Edward Mandell House of Texas who died in 1938. Colonel House was the President’s unofficial representative in Europe, both before and after the war. He was a mousy, smallish man with clipped moustache and came to be regarded as a mystical character. It can be reasonably inferred from the intimate papers which Colonel House left to the world and in which he set down the history of that eventful period that he was urging Wilson to speed preparedness for the purpose of ultimate intervention. The scene is 1941 instead of 1914. Another war is eating at the world’s vitals. Another Presidential intimate will go to Europe as an unofficial representative. It will be Colonel Hopkins not House.

THEY WOULD COME TO THIS.

On December 21, 1940, the Voice of the Federation which is the official organ of the Longshoremen’s Association controlled by the well known Harry Bridges, carried this reward notice in a box covering a space two columns wide and six inches deep “Reward for information leading to the apprehension of JESUS CHRIST. Wanted for sedition, criminal anarchy, vagrancy and conspiring to overthrow the established government. Dresses poorly. Said to be a carpenter by trade, ill-nourished, has visionary ideas, associates with common working people, the unemployed and bums. Alien- believed to be a Jew, alias “Prince of Peace, Son of Man, Light of The World, etc. Professional agitator. Red beard, marks on hands and feet the result of injuries inflicted by an angry mob led by respectable people and legal authorities.” On December 25, 1940 that same notice appeared prominently in the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party. On December 27, 1940, it appeared on the front page of The Pilot, official organ of the National Maritime Union of America, which numbers several well-known Communists among its membership.
PHYSICAL AMERICA.

A soldier is as good as his physique. An army is as good as it's physical well being. Soldiers suffering from functional or organic ailments are no different from other folks in that they suffer from impaired morale. All of which leads us to set forth some data assembled by the Army Recruiting Office in Chicago to the effect that every other applicant for Regular Army Service was rejected because of physical disqualification while 9 out of every 10 volunteers for the Air Corps were rejected for similar reasons. Here is something to ponder.

PRIVATE AGENCIES AFFORDING FOREIGN RELIEF.

Every agency or organization which raises funds or goods for relief of stricken, destitute, or impoverished persons in belligerent nations must register with the State Department and also file a statement of its activities as well as funds collected and disbursed. In the period from September 1939 to November 1940, 306 of such groups, excluding the American Red Cross have been active and have collected about $17,000,000 in funds and 3 3/4 millions in goods and commodities. The combined administrative and publicity expense for this work was $1,693,000. Funds are forwarded to the needy in belligerent nations as is necessary. At present they have $4,374,000 on hand. Some of these relief efforts are of a general nature while others are devoted to specific purposes such as relief of children, students, wives, veterans, cities, hospitals, and for the provision of medical and surgical supplies. One organization devotes itself to supplying tobacco to the soldiers. Anyone who has ever been in the service knows that tobacco is of real importance.