THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
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VETERANS IN CONGRESS.
That former soldiers are growing older and becoming more active in public affairs is indicated by the increase in the number of veterans in Congress. In the last Congress, there were 147 ex-service men in the House and 22 in the Senate making a total of 169. In the present Congress, there are 153 veterans in the House and 24 in the Senate making a total of 177 or a gain of 8. It means that about 35% of the House and 25% of the Senate were a part of the armed forces in time of conflict and throws some light on how Congress will feel toward national defense.

An outstanding war veteran who comes to Congress for the first time, watches the proceedings from a wheel chair. He is legless. He is Bill Miller of Connecticut. He served in aviation in the world war and a plane crash took both legs. Since then he has been American Legion Commander for the Department of Connecticut and now helps legislate. Hitch up your belts, boys!

JEFFERSON THE GREAT GADGETEER.
"Science", Said Jefferson, "is my passion; politics my duty." And he lived it. The thought comes to mind as the cherry trees are dug up around the Tidal Basin in Washington to make way for the foundations for the austere memorial which is being built to honor Jefferson's memory. Yet, Jefferson was the greatest experimenter that ever occupied the White House. He imported sheep from Spain, planted orange and pomegranate trees, brought rice from Africa. He acquired every piece of farm machinery that came to his attention. He had a corn cob crusher, a sheller, a drilling machine, and imported the first threshing machine. He used a mileage meter on his carriage. He discovered the polygraph or copy press for making copies of letters. As for his home in Monticello, it fairly abounded in all kinds of devices. Truly, a scientist.

FRONT PAGE SECRETS.
Last week, Joseph Kennedy, our Ambassador to Great Britain and Mr. William Bullitt, our Ambassador to Paris appeared before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Military Affairs to give them expert opinion as to when war might be expected in Europe. Press statements revealed that the "unprecedented course was followed of pledging all members to strictest secrecy." The Ambassadors appeared at 10:00 a.m. By 2:30 p.m. first editions of the Washington newspapers carried front page news of the secret session and virtually quoted verbatim, some of the things disclosed at the conference. Here is at once a great testimony to the resourcefulness of newspaper men and to the inability of men to keep secrets. The Gentler sex should take encouragement.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEK
You didn't know it perhaps but if, in the course of the week, you attended a movie, took a picture with your new Christmas camera or had your picture "took" you unconsciously helped honor the 100th birthday of photography. It was 100 years ago that Charles Daguerre first disclosed to the French Academy of Sciences his method for making images or photographs and from his name came the word daguerrotype or "tintype." Remember those old tintypes of Aunt Sue and Uncle Ezra! Today we laugh, as we thumb thru the album and note the poses and camera work. Yet they are the forebears of all things photographic today. On his memorial statue in Washington, the Photographic Society laid a wreath to commemorate his great service to human kind.
FRANKFURTER HEARINGS.

Whether an appearance before a Senate Committee brings out the vaudeville proclivities of witnesses or not is a mooted question but the whole world will agree that the first day's hearings on the confirmation of Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court was a sheer bit of vaudeville. First witness was a Washington lawyer who objected to the appointment on the ground that Dr. Frankfurter was born in Austria. When reminded that Associate Justice Sutherland was born in England, the witness sought by an amazing brand of logic to establish that being born in Austria and England were quite different. Next witness was a tired little man named Redd who said he represented the Constitutional Crusaders. When pinned down, he confessed that as yet, his organization had no membership but expected to have. Later he modestly modified his statement to say that he represented everybody. He talked at length about liberalism, about George Washington, about General Johnson, about the NRA, and other unrelated subjects and developed such fun as to destroy the gravity of the proceedings. Next came a man who was once the President of Washington bank. He no longer is. Somehow, the Supreme Court had ruled against him in some litigation and he appeared to be opposed to Mr. Frankfurter, the Supreme Court and Judges in general. By this time, the Senate Committee had had its share of fun for the day and adjourned. It was about the feeblest and funniest case against the confirmation of a Justice that has been heard in many a year in the nation's Capitol.