THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

TEN YEARS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.

Ten years ago last week, the author of the Congressional Front, by the
grace of the people of the 16th District was accorded the high privi-
lege of representing them in Congress. It was March 1933. It was an
era of bank failures, depression, unemployment, low prices, despair.
It was an age of schemes, plans, and proposals to cure our economic
ills. Much has happened since that time and a brief review of happen-
ings in whimsical vein might be of interest.

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.

There has been a Congressional Front ever since Congress was created.
There has been activity and struggle on this front for 153 years. Some-
times it was between one part of the House and another. Sometimes
between House and Senate. Sometimes between Congress and the Executive.
Sometimes between Congress and the Executive on one side and the Supreme
Court on the other. Sometimes between Congress and the Court on one
side and the Executive on the other. So, for 153 years along the stream
of national life, there has been a Congressional front.

TEN YEARS ON THE FRONT.

The last ten years on the Congressional Front have been as epic and
eventful as any period in the history of the Republic. Of the 151 new
members who came into the 73rd Congress in 1933, only 22 remain. This
front has its casualties no less than the combat front. It was a period
marked with the repeal of the 18th amendment to enable the citizens to
get a high ball from a bar instead of a boat. It was marked with the
Blue Eagle, the double-header Thanksgiving, the Black Appointment, the
59¢ dollar, free wheeling, free lunch, unbalanced budgets, the sitdown
strike, the parade of alphabetical agencies, the bonus march, the purge
technique and what not. Events pass in review like a gay parade. In
perspective some of them appear weird and fantastic.

THE 73rd CONGRESS - 1933-1934.

It began with the inaugurations of President Roosevelt and the cele-
brated 100-day session of Congress. It saw the enactment of the Economy
Act (most of which has now been repealed), Repeal of the 18th Amendment,
the Emergency Relief Act, the Bank Conservation Act, the Tennessee Val-
ley Authority Act (now estimated to cost about 750 million dollars), the
Farm Credit Act, the Public Works Act, the Home Owners Loan Corporation,
the Securities and Exchange Act, the National Industrial Recovery Act
(familiarly known as the Blue Eagle), the Federal Deposit Insurance Act,
the Federal Communications Act, the Silver Purchase Act, the Federal
Housing Act, the Civilian Works Administration, the Gold Reserve Act
which took the country off the gold standard and ushered in the 59¢ dol-
lar and many others. It was the period in which the second bonus march
was made on Washington and the proposal for alcohol-gasoline as a farm
relief measure was being widely discussed.


Emergency relief and the public works program was continued. The Social
Security Act was passed. The Federal Alcohol Control Administration was
created. The Supreme Court killed the National Industrial Recovery Act
in the famed fight between the "sick chicken" and the "blue eagle." The
Soldiers Bonus was paid. The Merchant Marine Act was passed. The first
National Labor Relations resolution was enacted. The Rural Electrifica-
tion Administration was created. The national debt grew larger and
larger. The celebrated Potato Act went on the books. It did not last
long and has been almost entirely forgotten. Remember—it provided that
all potatoes must be marketed in standard baskets and each basket must
have a government stamp. The President was elected to a second term.
THE 75th CONGRESS - 1937-1938.

This period saw the enactment of the Bituminous Coal Act, the Railroad Carriers Taxing Act, the Farm Tenant Purchase Act, the creation of the U.S. Housing Authority, the Sugar Act, the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps on a statutory basis, the new Agricultural Adjustment Act, the new Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, the Wage-Hour Act, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. There was a business upsurge and a wave of sitdown strikes. It was the period of the Court packing fight which failed.

THE 76th CONGRESS - 1939-1940.

King George and Queen Elizabeth visited the U.S. The second World War began in Europe. Congress passed the Hatch Act to prevent political activities by Federal workers. We bartered cotton for British rubber. The Roosevelt Memorial Library was created. Likewise the Dies Committee. Appropriations had reached the staggering sum of $11 ½ billions for a single year. The TVA was authorized to buy Wendell Willkie's so-called Commonwealth & Southern utility properties. The bill to reorganize the Executive departments was passed. The National Labor Relations Board was investigated. There was the short session in September of 1939 when the Neutrality Act was amended and the nation was vocal over the "Cash-and-Carry-fight." Destroyers were exchanged for Naval bases. The first peacetime draft act was passed. The 3rd term issue engaged wide attention. The President was elected to a 3rd term.

THE 77th CONGRESS - 1941-1942.

The nation became war conscious. The Lend-Lease Act was passed and is now up for extension. Fuel oil and gasoline sales were restricted in the eastern states. There was the perfidious attack on Pearl Harbor. War declarations were enacted. The Philippines were lost. MacArthur took over the command of the Pacific. Rationing was extended. Men between 18 and 65 were registered. The Revenue Act of 1942 made income tax payers out of additional millions of citizens.

THE 78th CONGRESS - 1943.

Today American troops fight in all corners of the earth on a 20,000 mile front. A national debt of more than $210 billions is in prospect. Factories grind out munitions. Planes are being produced at the rate of 5500 per month. Officials are alarmed over a possible food shortage. Farm manpower is a lively issue. Congress is considering a measure to limit the size of the army. War appropriations for a single year are approaching the 100 billion mark. The Rumple Tax Plan to forget 1942 income and place the nation on a pay-as-you-go basis is challenging national attention. The President flew to Africa and Brazil. 106 new members came into the 78th Congress. The ratio is 209 Republicans, 222 Democrats. The Federal payroll is approaching 3,000,000 civilians. The OPA, the OWI, the EEW, the WPB, the OEM are functioning as war agencies. The WPA is about to close its books. Action on the Congressional Front continues with unabated vigor.