THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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ARMY VS NAVY.

This is not a tale of a football contest between West Point and Annapolis nor a story of army against the Navy on the field of battle. It is a narrative of one Congressman versus another. Congressman Melvin Maas of Minnesota, ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs is a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve Aviation and recently returned from a tour of duty in the Solomons. On Armistice Day, Mr. Maas made a radio speech in which he charged the Navy with playing down our losses in the Pacific and with twisting announcements of defeats and disasters to make them appear like victories. This speech made a real stir in Washington. Now comes another Congressman to take up the cudgels. He is Beverly Vincent of Kentucky who served in the Army during the World War. He is a Democrat and also a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee. He at once addressed a letter of the Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee and charged his fellow Congress- man with giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Said Vincent: "if his speech had been dictated in Berlin or Tokyo it could not have been more effective in breaking down the morale of our people." Said Maas: "He (Vincent) did not even have the courtesy to show me the letter before he sent it. Obviously the purpose was to get a little publicity." So it's Army versus Navy and Congressman versus Congressman and the halls of Congress suddenly become a Third Front.

HOW THE CHILD HAS GROWN.

About one hundred sixty three years ago, could have staged a party for everybody in the employ of the government in a single room in the White House because he had but 3 Cabinet members and 345 employees in the whole structure of government. But the child has grown. In 1842, which is but one hundred years ago, there were 6 Cabinet members and 23,700 employees. When Lincoln assumed the direction of government in 1861, he had 7 Cabinet members and 49,200 employees. As the years went by the governmental child developed thyroid trouble and grew to enormous proportions. Now that he has attained the ripe old age of 165 years, his domain includes 10 Cabinet departments some of which contain as many as 27 bureaus. In addition there are 31 independent establishments, 8 regulatory agencies, 6 independent corporations, 5 other corporations, 20 establishments with separate staffs, 13 administrative committees, 25 advisory committees, 9 miscellaneous establishments and about a score of assorted war agencies. And how many does it take to operate this structure. Better hold your breath. As of August 31, 1942, there were 2,352,362 persons on the Federal payroll in Washington and 2,175,397 outside Washington, making a total of 2,450,759. Some child!

A QUORUM IS NOT PRESENT.

Friday, November 13th was a bit of an unlucky day for the United States Senate. Senator Barkley, the Majority Leader called up a bill already passed by the House to eliminate the poll tax as a requirement for voting in Federal elections. A point of no-quorum was made so the roll was called and 64 members responded which was well over the necessary quorum to do business. There began an extended argument on the question
of whether or not the bill was properly before the Senate and while this debate was in progress, the point of order was again raised that a quorum was not present. This time only 37 Senators responded. It requires a majority or 49 Senators to make a quorum so that with but 37 members present, that body could not transact business. Shortly thereafter 8 more Senators appeared making a total of 45. It was still not enough. Senator Birkley then moved that the Sergeant-at-Arms request the attendance of the absent Senators but Senator Connolly moved that the Senate adjourn. The Senate refused to adjourn. The Sergeant-at-Arms was thereupon directed to find enough absent Senators to make a quorum. After some delay, 11 more Senators were located and that body was ready for business. Thereupon Senator Connolly of Texas who is opposed to the bill before the Senate inquired rather sarcastically about the absent Senators, "Why should they have their lunch interrupted. According to the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Norris) they should continue to eat and merely send a little note to the Senate floor saying "Regard me as present and just put me down; I am present." Not in many years has it been necessary to resort to such procedure to secure a quorum.