

DISPELLING THE FOG
BY CHARLES MICHELSON
Democratic National Committee

"Cotton Ed" Smith's success in the South Carolina primaries is neither an employer nor is he bailed by the Republicans as demonstrating the sunset of President Roosevelt's influence with his party, and a vast encouragement of the G. O. P. followers in and out of corn fields. Just why the return to the Senate of a Democratic Senator in a state in which a Republican is a biological curiosity should be a happy augury for the minority party I leave it to Dr. Glenn Frank to explain.

Actually the results of the primaries merely showed that the South Carolinians preferred the strict performance of their picturesque old reactionary to the arguments of Governor Johnston. There were, of course, such complicating elements as the feud between Edgar Brown, who had many followers, and the Governor. Brown's withdrawal from the race undoubtedly brought Senator Smith a lot more votes than he would have received otherwise. That a majority of the voters of the state did not concur in the President's desires was as significant in the total of national affairs, as if he had pronounced against corn-bread for breakfast and the people continued on their usual diet. He never attempted to dictate how they should vote but merely expressed his own preference, and gave his reasons for not wishing so pronounced a foe of his policies to be in the National Legislature. Unquestionably Governor Johnston received more votes than if the President had remained aloof even though they were not enough to break the habit of voting for Cotton Ed.

In these contests the advantages always with the incumbent. This was demonstrated on the liberal side by the return of Senator Pepper of Florida and Alben Barkley from Kentucky, despite the circumstances that these two had formidable opposition by popular candidates. It was shown on the other side by the renomination of Senator Gillette of Iowa, whom the anti-administration people claimed as one of their own though Gillette as well as his competitor both insisted that they were real New Dealers. The defeat of Senator Pope in Idaho was a different story, for under the peculiar laws of that state Republicans could come in on a Democratic primary—which they did, and naturally voted enthusiastically for the anti-administration Senator.

The mischance that baset Senator McAdoo in California was likewise a different story. There was no question in the McAdoo-Downey primary of New Deal and anti-New Deal. The incumbent Senator was caught in one of those pension tidal waves so prevalent out there. His adversary desired a modification of the Townsend plan with sales tax stamp trimmings. Under his pro-

TAKES CORN TOLL
WASHINGTON, (AP) Dry weather, hot winds, and grasshoppers took a 112,000,000 bushel toll from the nation's corn crop during August, the Agriculture Department reported yesterday, and thereby virtually eliminated prospects of burdensome supplies of the crop.

WORD FROM A SAILOR
MIAMI BEACH, (AP) Guy Avery, Tampa laundry worker who left here July 13 to sail to Genoa in an 18-foot sailboat, notified friends yesterday he expected to reach Gibraltar in 60 to 90 days.

By and large, the complexion of the next Congress does not appear as likely to be materially changed by the primary results so far or those in prospect. Presumably the anti-New Deal Senators who will be reelected will continue to operate as they did during the last session. The majority friendly to the administration will go on as usual. There will be a new face here and there, but in no case so far has a liberal Democratic Senator given place in the primaries to a declared conservative. Indeed in nearly every instance the contender in the nomination fight has protested against being classed as a foe of the New Deal.

In the House of Representatives the situation will not be conspicuously different. About ninety-nine percent of the old Democratic members who sought renomination have been successful. Among the Republican members who have declined to accept the chances of the coming election Pettengill of Indiana and Shell of New York, the minority leader, are conspicuous. The case of Shell is of special significance as indicating the actual view of the G. O. P. as to the future prospects of that party. He has during his whole political life cherished the ambition to become Speaker in a Republican House of Representatives. That he has abandoned that goal at this stage of events tells the story of his idea of what the immediate future—which means not only 1938, but 1940—holds in store for his party.

Ordinarily at the season of a campaign year the spokesmen of the two big parties are announcing their claims, and presenting their recital of events that give validity to their claims. I have looked in vain amid the huge junk heap of Republican propaganda, statements by leaders and that sort of thing, for any expression of delight at the auguries of the election. They present cheer at the substitution of one Democrat for another in the majority party primaries, as if those primaries represented Republican victories. That itself is an entertaining feature in an otherwise featureless campaign.

They cannot vaunt the registration figures, for these everywhere show great gains for Democrats and usually recessions for the other fellow.

In short they have adopted the



KAY FRANCIS in "Secrets of an Actress," which opens at the Ritz Theatre on a double bill today, is seen at left in a street costume of chalk striped flannel with a full length coat. Her slim white chalk crepe pajamas are highlighted with a paisley scarf, while at right her evening gown is of white chiffon with draped bodice and girdle of sequins.

LITTLE BUSINESS MEETING

INDIANAPOLIS, (AP) Representatives of "little business" in Indiana are to meet here Wednesday to organize against levying of future license fees and "burdensome taxes" on small establishments, James Slane, former secretary of the Republican State Committee, said yesterday.

There are now 14,000 horses and mules in harness on American farms in addition to about 8,500 race horses, 7,500 trotting horses and 500,000 riding horses.

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