

Ridings are Holding Contests Today

LONDON, Eng., Nov. 17.—Sir George Schuster has retained for the government the Walsall House of Commons seat in a by-election fought on Prime Minister Chamberlain's foreign policy.

REDUCED MAJORITY

HIS victory was scored yesterday with a slightly reduced majority as compared with the 1935 general election. Seventy-two per cent of the electorate voted.

Sir George, a banker running as a National Liberal with full government backing, defeated the Labor candidate, George Jeger, by a margin of 7,158 votes. Sir George polled 28,720 votes to 21,562 for his only opponent.

Although Jewish suffering in Germany was brought in by the opposition to bolster its argument that the government had failed in its attempt to achieve real appeasement in Europe, Labor could not repeat its success of November 7 when it wrested the Dartford seat from the government ranks.

RESULTS IN 1935

Sir George's majority compared with a margin of 8,969 scored in the general election when the late J. A. Leckie, also a National Liberal, was re-elected in Walsall. Then the vote was: Leckie, 28,543; W. Graham, Labor, 19,594; J. A. Harper, Independent, 1,480.

The electorate recognized Mr. Chamberlain saved Britain from war and that his government afforded the best hope for better employment and a greater extension of social services," Sir George said after his election was declared.

Mr. Jeger, 34-year-old mayor of Rhodeth, contended the government would get "very little satisfaction" from the result. "The people of Walsall were so bewildered by the recent events they have not yet come to understanding of the effects of Munich on the nation's future," he declared.

THIRD OF SERIES

The election was the third of a series of seven being held to fill parliamentary vacancies caused by deaths or appointments of members to other positions, such as the bench.

In the first, Quinlan Hoar, son of Viscount Halifax, retained Oxford for the government. Then Mrs. Jennie Adamson took Dartford, formerly held by a Conservative, in a test that was widely hailed as reflecting severely upon the government's hold upon the people.

Walsall, like Dartford, was regarded as good fighting ground for both sides. Its history shows it elected a Conservative in 1918 and 1924; a Liberal in 1922 and 23; a Labor member in 1928, and Mr. Leckie twice as a Liberal supporter of the National Government.

There will be two by-elections today, at Doncaster and Ringerwater. West Ham and Pyddle will stage their elections later.

Tremp Is New Loyalist Goal

POWER PLANT CITY

Rebels Occupy All Ebro River West Bank

HENDAYE, France (at the Spanish frontier). Nov. 17.—Spanish Government forces, thrust back to the Ebro River's left bank, today stepped up a new offensive farther north in an attempt to recapture the Tremp power plant, which formerly fed Barcelona. The plant, taken by the insurgents April 7, also supplied power for many war industries of the Barcelona region. Tremp is 40 miles northeast of Lerida in Northern Catalonia. While militiamen moved toward Tremp, other government forces prepared to launch attacks along the Segre River where they have established a sector 12 miles long and three miles deep in a two-day offensive. The insurgents cleaned up the Ebro River's west bank and declared they had taken many prisoners in the Sierra de Fatarella, near the Ebro's head. Government despatches, however, said "neither a single soldier nor a single rifle remained in the enemy's power."

Outing of the government forces from Tremp and the Ebro brought military lines back to where they were July 25, after the opposing forces entrenched on opposite sides of the river which flows through Northeast Spain to the Mediterranean. Then government commanders sent their troops across the river in an offensive

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