

AMUSEMENTS

THE NEW FRENCH HOUSE

Changes Ensuing Upon Election Have Deep Import.

Paris, May 10. Although at first sight the result of the French elections does not appear to have greatly altered the numerical balance of parties, the changes which have taken place in the national representation cannot fail to exercise a profound influence upon the course of French politics during the next four years.

In the last parliament the ministerial majority was mainly composed of the Radical and Radical Socialist groups, and it was so large that no possible combination of other groups could stand against it. For this reason the two Prime Ministers who successively handled it, M. Clemenceau and M. Briand, were absolute masters of the situation, and had always at their hands a perfectly docile and effective instrument for the execution of their plans.

In the present parliament M. Briand's task will not be quite so easy. The Radical and Radical Socialist groups, which for voting purposes in the Chamber are practically identical, have lost twenty-eight seats, while the Unified, or Collectivist, Socialists have won twenty seats, and eight seats have been gained by the Republicans of the Left, who, though in no sense the allies of the Reactionary or Royalist groups, are nevertheless a moderate party, strenuously opposed to Collectivist Socialism and not always in sympathy with some of the more advanced and Utopian schemes which from time to time have figured in the ministerial programme.

Consequently, the "bloc," as the ministerial majority in the last two parliaments was called, will now have opposed to it a stronger and more compact Socialist minority than has yet been seen in the French Chamber, for the Independent Socialists have lost five seats, and number now only twenty-five Deputies, as against thirty in the last parliament, and it will also have to calculate with the increased power of the Republican Moderates.

The Conservatives lose one seat, and are sixty-nine Deputies instead of seventy, as before. The Nationalists are sixteen instead of twenty. The Progressives, the most moderate of the Republican groups, lose one seat, and are sixty-six instead of sixty-seven. The combined groups which stand for moderate liberalism and are hostile to a Socialist revolution thus nearly outbalance the "bloc," which has a numerical superiority of only twenty-seven seats.

It is easy, therefore, to foresee that M. Briand's remarkable powers of diplomacy and oratorical persuasion will be taxed to their utmost during the forthcoming session in order to keep a good working majority together, and doubtless he will feel it incumbent upon him to make some concessions to the moderating spirit of the Republicans of the Left. The battle between Collectivist Socialism, led by M. Jaures, and anti-revolutionary liberalism will be all the fiercer in consequence, but instead of the "bloc" making concessions to Socialism, as so frequently happened in the last parliament, it will now be the Moderate Republicans who will receive its favors, and thus strike the balance.

Although this will involve a certain change of attitude on the part of M. Briand, there is no doubt that the change will be welcome to him, and that he will continue to dominate the situation in the mastery and masterful way which characterized his statesmanship in the last parliament, and gained for him the reputation of being the greatest Prime Minister which the present republic has yet known.

With a wise anticipation of the results which these last elections would give, M. Briand has for some little time been displaying a more and more conservative spirit. The stern energy with which he forbade the Collectivist Socialists to turn Paris into a bear garden on the occasion of May 1 gave them a foretaste of what his attitude would be toward the revolutionary groups in the present Chamber. He has had his ear to the ground, and recognized before any of his ministerial colleagues that a period of "detente," a slowing up of party contentions and the establishment of a more conciliatory spirit between the different Republican groups in parliament, was what the country needed and would insist upon having. This is what he is both willing and able to bring about.

His chief business will consist in keeping the Liberals together, so that they may present an undivided front against the increased forces of the Revolutionary Socialists, who, though constituting a hopeless minority by themselves, are flushed by their relative success at the polls, and are in a more effective state of disciplined organization than they have ever been before.

A striking feature of the new parliament is the number of new Deputies, of whom there are 206, more than fifty more than there were in the last Chamber. This is looked on as supplying another clear hint on the part of the electorate that with new blood there should be a sinking of old differences and an evolution toward cohesion and simplicity in the future conduct of the nation's affairs. The fact that one of the main issues of the election was the question of proportional representation also accounts for so many new Deputies having been returned. The partisans of the "R. P.," as this proposed electoral reform is usually designated, assert that they now have a large majority in the Chamber favorable to their scheme, and that its passage into law is henceforward merely a question of date.

Among the newly elected Deputies whose names did not figure on the last parliamentary roll are several who have played important parts in previous legislatures. Thus, M. Andrieux, who has been returned for Forcalquier, in the Department of the Basses Alpes, has had a long and checkered political career. At one time prefect of police, in which capacity he became acquainted with most of the political and social secrets of the period which immediately followed the fall of the Second Empire, he was twenty years ago a fervent Bonapartist, and after the collapse of the nationalist movement became a brilliant parliamentary free lance, whose special knowledge of "behind the scenes" and remarkable memory, coupled with a most refreshing wit, made him almost as redoubtable to his friends as to his foes.

Two former colleagues of his in the now defunct Bonapartist party, M. Georges Laguerre and M. Ernest Roche, have also been again returned after a prolonged absence from the Chamber.

M. Georges Laguerre is an orator of commanding ability, and inasmuch as he has been elected upon the ministerial ticket there is no doubt that he will exercise a real influence in the new legislature. M. de Lancesan, a former Minister of Marine and ex-Governor of Indochina, has come back, as have also the former Nationalist Castellani and the Progressist Pourquroy de Boissier. M. Thalams is a newcomer, and it is a curious fact that this ex-professor of history at the Sorbonne, who was driven from his chair by the students on account of his disdainful comments on Jeanne d'Arc, should have been elected to the Chamber on the very day that a religious festival in honor of the maid was being held in all the French churches.

Among the deputies who have failed to be re-elected the most notable is M. Doumer. Only four years ago there was a widely spread opinion that M. Doumer was the coming man in France, and it seemed quite likely that he would succeed M. Fallieres as President of the Republic. His ambitions were, however, thwarted by the active hostility of M. Clemenceau, and now he has dropped out of political life altogether, at least for the present. M. Allemane and M. Brousse, leaders of different groups of socialists, have been beaten, and their places taken by more moderate Radicals. M. Boni de Castellane, who has so long represented with dexterity, it must be admitted, the township of Castellane, in the Basses Pyrenees, from which his title is derived, has also lost his seat.

ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE

Former Police Head Acquitted of Serious Charges.

San Francisco, May 21.—The main news feature of the week here has been the trial and acquittal of Harry P. Flannery, former head of the Police Commission of San Francisco, on charges of inducing confidence men to come to this city under promise of police protection. Flannery's accuser was Joseph Abbott, a confessed confidence man, who, with several companions, was indicted in California for carrying on a "fake" poolroom. Abbott turned informer, and told a convincing story of the way he said Flannery induced him to come here from Seattle and of the alleged promises of immunity from the police.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of California was celebrated at Berkeley this week with impressive ceremonies. President Hadley of Yale delivered the baccalaureate address in the Greek theater, and the spectacle of more than ten thousand persons, one-third of whom were college students, sitting in the brilliant sunshine listening to the speaker was one which could hardly be paralleled in this country. A feature of the exercises was the procession of the various classes, when all graduates of the various classes, when all graduates, during which each class, under its leader, gave its characteristic yell. The graduating class at the university numbered 560, the largest in the history of the institution. The LL. D. degree was bestowed on Dr. S. H. Willey, who, founded California College and is the only living member of the original board of trustees of the institution which, after a long and successful career, became the present University of California.

San Franciscans interested in athletics are already laying plans for bringing the Olympic games for 1915 to this city as a feature of the projected Panama-Pacific exposition. The games under the present schedule will be held in Sweden in 1912 and in Berlin in 1916, but it is thought that a properly accredited commissioner were sent to Europe, enough interest could be excited to induce a change in the plans.

Warfare has been begun on Immigration Commissioner Hart North because of his action in admitting large numbers of Hindu laborers from India. His enemies here declare he should have barred out these low caste immigrants, as many of those newcomers are likely to become a charge on the public. These Hindus have scattered throughout the state and many are engaged in fruit picking. Reports from farmers show that these Orientals are not so effective as laborers as Japanese, while much trouble is experienced in obtaining food that they will eat and preparing it for them.

Charles A. Heinrich, of Oakland, is soliciting fifteen-year contracts for grapes around Lord, in the heart of San Joaquin County. If he can get the product of ten thousand acres he will build a winery that will cost \$250,000. He agrees to pay \$10 a ton for wine grapes, which is a much better price than grapes have averaged for the last few years.

The Mount Shasta Power Company is now engaged in boring a seven-mile tunnel through the mountains so that the water of Pit River may be diverted for power purposes. The bore will bring enough water to develop 150,000 horsepower of electricity.

Historic old Hangtown, in El Dorado County, which for thirty years has gone by the name of Placerville, narrowly escaped destruction by fire this week. The courthouse, surrounding streets, 141 residences, and many of the Episcopal church and hard work saved it. The loss is estimated at \$400,000, fully covered by insurance. The town in pioneer days was the scene of many executions by the vigilance committee, and from this it gained its sinister name of Hangtown.

W. H. Holabird, of Los Angeles, who acted as the manager of the Los Angeles Exposition, is planning to build a new hotel in the Harriman summer home on Klamath Lake, in Southern Oregon, is trying to interest wealthy San Franciscans in the building of Pelican Lodge as the headquarters of a hunting and fishing club. The lodge is on Pelican Bay, an arm of Klamath Lake, and the fishing and duck shooting are among the finest on the Coast.

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AT MUSIC STUDIOS.

Little Hans Waterberg, a ten-year-old boy, who has been studying at the New York School of Expression, under the direction of Charlotte Sully, has just completed a course in voice culture, and is now preparing to give a recital on the occasion of the school's anniversary.

THE FARMERS' TRUST

Some Figures Which Show How It is Growing. The current dispatches covering the proceedings of the convention of the Farmers' Trust at St. Louis, did not begin to convey an adequate idea of the proportions and importance of the gathering and of the organization at large. The entire country is so vitally interested in this movement that farmers belonging to this nation-wide organization have done what they expect to do and "how they expect to accomplish their ends."

Within the brief period of six years, as set forth by the report of the statistical committee, the union has established or acquired by purchase 6,000 cotton gins, 2,500 cotton presses, 1,000 cotton bales, 600 cotton packing plants, and has a representative in every important cotton market in the world, twenty banks of its own, thousands of grocery stores to fight the exactions of the "grocery trust," 200 tobacco houses, 300 produce stations, 600 grain elevators and elevators, and other hundreds of enterprises, flouring mills and so on.

Among the banks of the South, the Union has for the last three years fixed the cotton selling price of cotton. Last fall, for example, the union fixed the price of 40 cents for cotton, which was a record for the cotton market in the world.

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