

the scheme to abolish the electoral college and move forward the date for the convening of a new Congress the White House reflection of the President's views were extremely clear and definite.

In support of his position it was urged that he believed the Interregnum permits the country to cool off, forget the passions and prejudices dictated by the unexpected popular decision of the moment and permit newly elected legislators to approach their tasks free from hasty judgment and ephemeral whims.

Before the President's opinion regarding the proposed change to the Constitution became known at the Capitol Senator Norris proceeded approval of his resolution providing for the constitutional changes relating to the Electoral College and the convening of a new Congress.

In reporting his resolution to the Senate Mr. Norris and his associates expressed opposition to the resolution introduced by Senator Caraway (Ark.) to "prevent lame ducks voting on new legislation after their successors had been elected."

"Under existing conditions the New Congress does not actually convene in regular session until a year and one month after its members have been elected. When our Constitution was adopted there was some reason for such a long interval.

The report points out that since the adoption of the Seventeenth Amendment Senators have been elected by the people at the same time as members of Congress. It is therefore urged there could be no valid reason why they should not assume their duties in the January following their election.

"The only direct opportunity the citizens of the country have to express their ideas and their wishes in regard to national legislation is through the election of Representatives in November. During the campaign which precedes this election the questions demanding the attention of the new Congress are discussed at length before the people and it is only fair to presume that the members of Congress chosen at that election thoroughly represent the ideas of the majority of the people as to what legislation is desired.

"It is true that it is within the power of the President to call an extraordinary session of Congress at an earlier date than that provided by law, but the new Congress cannot be called into extraordinary session until after March 4, which would not give the new Congress much time for the consideration of important national questions before the summer heat at the capital makes efficiency difficult and good work almost impossible."

Regarding the proposal to abolish the Electoral College, provided in the Norris resolution, the Agricultural Committee report said: "The President, under our Constitution, is in reality a part of the legislative machinery of the country. In fact he probably has more influence over legislation than either branch of Congress. It is therefore just as important that the people have an opportunity to express their wishes as directly as possible as to who their Chief Magistrate should be as it is regarding their wishes for members of Congress."

At the hearing before the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Ashurst proposed Senators Cummins (Iowa) and Pepper (Pa.), Edgar Wallace of the American Federation of Labor and William Lowell Putnam of Boston, chairman of a committee of the American Bar Association, expressed approval of it. Mr. Putnam told the committee that if the amendment to the Constitution proposed by Senator Ashurst had been in effect in 1861 the "great calamity of the civil war might have been averted."

Approved by the Bar. He said that if President Lincoln had been inaugurated soon after his election his influence might have prevented the secession of the Southern States. Mr. Putnam said the American Bar Association had been in favor of the change provided in the Ashurst resolution for many years. He contended that the "short session" of Congress which sits after a new Congress has been elected accomplishes little of value.

Immediately returning the nomination of Pierce Butler the Minnesota lawyer, for the Supreme Court, the President treated the insurgent group in the Senate to a surprise. When opposition, inspired by Hendrik Shipstead, the Minnesota radical who is to take the place of Senator Frank B. Kellogg in Michigan, presented a censure of the Butler nomination, many Senators believed the President would submit the name of another man. In immediately sending back the Butler nomination, however, the President clearly revealed his determination to stand by his guns.

Birth Rate Declining, Mortality Increasing

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (Associated Press).—A declining birth rate and an increasing death rate for 1922 as compared with 1921 were forecast today by the Census Bureau.

The birth rate for the first six months of this year was 22.7 per 1,000 population, while for the same period in 1921 the rate was 24.8 and for the whole of last year 24.3. North Carolina had the highest rate for the half year, 30. Vermont had the lowest rate, 18.1.

The death rate for the six months ended June 30 this year was 12.5 per 1,000 population, while for the same period of 1921 the rate was 12 and for the whole of last year 11.8. Maine had the highest mortality rate for the half year, its rate being 15.7. Idaho had the lowest rate with 8.2.

Democrat and a member of the Catholic faith. Some of the supporters of Mr. Butler asserted this afternoon that while many "species of reasons" were advanced to explain the opposition to him, the real one was of a religious character. If this estimate is correct the opponents of Mr. Butler have studiously avoided any reference to his religion. The majority of Republican and certainly most of the Democratic Senators are believed to be in favor of confirming Mr. Butler.

It was quite evident this afternoon, however, that Mr. La Follette and his associates will aggressively oppose favorable action on the Butler nomination. While the Democratic position on the political issue involved by the Butler nomination has not been definitely decided, it is quite probable there will be votes enough contributed by the representatives of that party to finally accomplish his confirmation.

Senator Borah, who, despite the impression to the contrary, has not committed himself to the program adopted by the La Follette conference on Saturday, is for the moment centering his attention on the ship subsidy bill, or rather against it. The Idaho Senator, who has declared war on subsidies, bonuses and public gratuities of all sorts, opened his fight on the shipping measure this afternoon. He submitted three amendments to the subsidy bill. The first would make it unlawful for any common carrier subject to provisions of the shipping act to charge or receive any greater compensation for a shorter than for a longer distance over the same line or route.

The second amendment, which is in the form of a new section to the shipping bill, provides that the time for the payment of construction charges on all Government reclamation projects is extended over the time of forty equal annual payments.

The third and most sensational amendment offered by Mr. Borah provides that "hereafter no tolls shall be levied on vessels passing through the Panama Canal engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States." The amendment would also repeal other features of the canal tolls act.

Supporters of the Administration naturally interpret the Borah amendments as being intended to provide ammunition for the filibuster which is to be staged against the subsidy bill.

Chairman Nelson of the Judiciary Committee has called a meeting for tomorrow to hasten action toward confirmation. Senators Pepper and Reed (Pa.) recommended to the President today an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was followed by immediate preparations of Senate forces to fight for and against his confirmation, which was blocked yesterday at the end of the special session through opposition of Senators La Follette (Rep., Wis.) and Norris (Rep., Neb.).

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Developments at the Lausanne conference leave President Harding more convinced than ever that the policy of the United States is sound and the only one possible for this Government. It was stated on behalf of the President today that it is a matter for rejoicing that this country is not entangled in the Near Eastern situation through mandates or other political uncertainties. It is believed that the Administration is committed against accepting a mandate under any shape or form.

The situation that exists today and the political cross-currents that are baffling the conference really offer the strongest proof, the President believes, that the policy of the United States is sound and the only one possible for this Government. It was stated on behalf of the President today that it is a matter for rejoicing that this country is not entangled in the Near Eastern situation through mandates or other political uncertainties. It is believed that the Administration is committed against accepting a mandate under any shape or form.

Adoption of this attitude, the President believes, has placed the United States in a position where it can be of real service in the work of pacification. The accounts of the conference situation reaching the President through the State Department leave no room to doubt that there is need for neutral elements of pacification. This summarizes the views of the President at the moment, but at the same time the American delegation is using every ounce of influence to procure the acceptance of principles which tend to create the basis for a future and also safeguard the interests proper of the United States.

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CLEMENCEAU PAYS VISIT TO PRESIDENT

Chats for 35 Minutes and 'Agrees' With Harding on General Matters.

TO SEE WILSON TO-DAY

President Reaffirms Policy of Isolation After Call From 'Tiger'

GUEST MEETS CABINET

Talks With Mellon for 25 Minutes—Says French Will Stay on Rhine.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.

President Harding and Georges Clemenceau spent thirty-five minutes together this afternoon in the comfortable circular room of the executive offices where the President has his desk. It is doubtful, however, if history will be changed by so much as a comma as the result of the meeting with the Frenchman who wants us to intervene in the troubles of Europe and the American who does not.

The visit, in which Ambassador Jusserand accompanied Clemenceau, was regarded on both sides merely as a call of courtesy. It was said at the White House there was no serious discussion of matters of state and that the serious problems confronting France were not taken up. It was described as a pleasant little visit; the President had been glad to meet the distinguished French statesman whom he never had seen.

Clemenceau reported he had talked to pay his regards, was received with the greatest courtesy, suggested nothing and conversed with the President "only on general questions."

"I did not come to this country to preach to the President," said Mr. Clemenceau. "I did not come to speak to the President; I came to speak to the people."

While this has no direct relation to the meeting with Clemenceau it is an interesting fact that within a few hours thereafter President Harding told it is known that he is more firmly convinced than ever that the international policy adopted by this Government at its foundation is the only wise and proper one.

Such a statement on behalf of the President was regarded as a reaffirmation of his purpose to maintain the degree of political isolation from European entanglements that was established when the League of Nations was defeated by a majority of 7,000,000 in the election of 1920.

However great the pressure brought to bear on the Administration for closer participation politically in the affairs of Europe, it is the belief of the President that the American people should rejoice because they have no larger share in the heavy responsibilities of the European Powers.

That this is the case is amply proved, the President believes, by the present difficulties in the Near East, where the United States of all the Powers is able to ride clear of the political cross-currents threatening the conference at Lausanne.

Responsibility Too Great. In the President's view assumption of responsibility for the economic and political stability of the rest of the world is too much for the United States to undertake. He has let it be clearly understood that he pledges his administration against such an assumption in precisely the same way he has refused to heed suggestions that America should become a mandatory power in the torn regions of the Near East.

Clemenceau, of course, understands this to be Mr. Harding's attitude, but he continues to speak his own mind candidly. Speaking informally to Washington correspondents and editors, he said this evening: "My impression is America will have to interfere in some form or other, and the longer you wait the harder the work and the more you'll have to do. I wish you could interfere by strength of word and attitude—just to remind Germany you are there. I am not asking for money, soldiers, help; I ask for kind words and kind intervention—but I know that behind this must be action. The League of Nations? I'd rather have one good guaranty of a nation like America than England than that of twenty little nations."

Tapping the table beside which he was speaking, in the home of Henry White, Clemenceau declared that French will remain on the Rhine so long as no guaranty of protection is given to France.

Hopes America Will Stay. "And I hope," he added, "that America will not withdraw its soldiers from the Rhine. That would be the greatest encouragement to Germany."

The White House pilgrimage was part of a lively day for the indefatigable old man. Accompanied by Ambassador Jusserand, he visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, continued with the bears in the Zoo in Rock Creek Park; met four Cabinet members, including Secretary Hughes at luncheon, and went to tea at the home of Robert Woods Bliss, Third Assistant Secretary of State. Yet, after all this, when he faced the newspaper men at 6 o'clock, he displayed a much-vigilant as his large public audience has noted. The visit to Woodrow Wilson is postponed to tomorrow. It was left to Mr. Wilson's convenience and he fixed the time. The Cabinet members whom Clemenceau met at luncheon at Henry White's were Secretary of State Hughes, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, Secretary Denby of the Navy and Secretary of War Weeks. Mr. Bliss was another guest. Mr. Mellon stayed twenty-five minutes after the others left. Whether he and Mr. Clemenceau talked of the franks of France was not disclosed. Later in the day Clemenceau, without identifying anybody, said he had told "one of your public men that Germany had paid only 2,000,000,000 gold marks of her reparations debt of 5,000,000,000. Clemenceau said that the other man was much surprised at this."

PRESIDENT TO RECOMMEND IMMIGRATION LAW REVISION

Wants More of Desirable Class Admitted to Help Labor Situation, but Opposes Letting Down Bars Generally—Cabinet Divided.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.

President Harding will ask Congress to give serious consideration to the immigration situation. In his forthcoming message he will recommend changes in the present law to permit more immigrants of a desirable class to come in, but does not intend to urge the letting down of the bars to any great horde of people from southern Europe. The disposition of the Administration apparently is to leave to Congress the question of fixing the percentage of foreign quotas.

There is a scarcity of labor, according to Government experts. The labor shortage is bound to increase with the growth of the country, but workers, not peddlers, are needed.

The subject was discussed at the Cabinet meeting today but no decision reached. Secretary Davis of the Department of Labor presented facts to show that the countries from which immigrants are desired are not using up their quotas, while others are over-assigning their quotas. He reported that the 3 per cent. law is not working out as its friends thought it would.

There are conflicting views on the immigration problem in the Cabinet, Secretary Mellon, whose opinion has been expressed, thought America was responsive to his appeal for our interest in France.

He said it would be "presuming of me to answer. I came to stir up public opinion in certain matters. Whether I have done it or not I don't know. There are some questions America has been interested in before, and I wish she would be again. It would be a great mistake for me to ask for anything more precise a manner. Intervention in Europe has been an American question at one time; that it has ceased to be is equally certain."

Clemenceau said that, although he was in session, he believed he "spoke for England and France and the liberated states. I believe I speak for them all, and for America too. I thought that I was known well enough in our own country to give me the right to come, as long as it was understood I pursued no personal aims. So far as I am concerned my mission is very nearly accomplished; as for you, I have nothing to say. My impression is America will have to interfere in some form or other, and the longer you wait the harder the work and the more you'll have to do."

He thought a "word" from America would be enough to show Germany that she cannot make war. Germany, he said, "has already begun a financial revenue upon us. I don't want you to send soldiers; they are on the Rhine already; your statesmen are at Lausanne. What I ask is that you make use of the powers you saw fit to reserve. That is not a very strange thing to ask Congress to do it."

"I said at the peace conference," he went on, "that I wanted French troops to remain on the Rhine. Lloyd George offered me the British guaranty which I said I would not do. He said he would ask President Wilson to do the same. I don't know whether he did this or not, but President Wilson told me he would ask Congress to do it."

"The League of Nations? If you say so, all right—" this with a shrug and outflung hands—"but I do not think it will suppress war. The only league of nations I know was the one founded at Delphi through the God Apollo and it brought the greatest war known up to that time. It all depends on men."

He said he had come to the United States not to "interfere between your people and your President," but to "show you a state of mind which you do not know very well."

"If France were in another crisis, would not America certainly be on her side?" was another query from a correspondent.

"Ah," Clemenceau said, "how can I judge?"

Col. House has helped to arrange Clemenceau's program for tomorrow. He will visit the grave of the unknown soldier at Arlington, address the War College, go to Mount Vernon on the naval yacht Sybil, visit Ex-President Wilson and speak at a dinner of the Scotch Society. At the dinner he will meet at least five Southern Governors and give them a message for the Southern States which he is unable to visit. Tomorrow he will have luncheon at the White House. He will speak here on Friday, Philadelphia Saturday and Chicago before the American Farm Bureau and return to New York, whence he will sail for France on Wednesday.

Did you make any suggestions? "No, for the first day I came I said I would not do that. We spoke of several matters of Europe and America. There was a third visitor, Monsieur Jusserand, and we seemed to agree, for which I am very glad. I mean no irony of any kind."

He was asked to what extent he intended to visit the grave of the unknown soldier at Arlington, address the War College, go to Mount Vernon on the naval yacht Sybil, visit Ex-President Wilson and speak at a dinner of the Scotch Society. At the dinner he will meet at least five Southern Governors and give them a message for the Southern States which he is unable to visit. Tomorrow he will have luncheon at the White House. He will speak here on Friday, Philadelphia Saturday and Chicago before the American Farm Bureau and return to New York, whence he will sail for France on Wednesday.

HAVERHILL VOTERS BEAT LABOR TICKET

Bay State Town Casts Out Its Socialist Mayor by Good Margin.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Haverhill, Mass., Dec. 5.

A complete victory for the ticket supported by the Citizens Committee, which had the support of the Shoe Manufacturers Association here, over the ticket supported by the Shoe Workers Protective Union, was achieved in the municipal election here today.

Dr. William McFee was elected Mayor over Parkman B. Flanders. Mayor for the last two years and an avowed Socialist, while George L. Martin and Samuel J. Lewis were elected to the Board of Aldermen over Michael J. Keilheer and Fred W. Pierce in the most hotly contested election ever held in this city.

Aged and infirm voters were conveyed to the polls in automobiles, and invalids were taken from their beds, to swell the totals, despite the fact that a snowstorm prevailed. Dr. McFee led his opponent by 2,341 votes. The vote for Aldermen was: Martin, 10,071; Lewis, 9,595; Pierce, 5,709, and Keilheer, 5,194.

The vote was the largest in the history of municipal elections in Haverhill. The Shoe Workers Protective Union claims a resident membership of 15,000.

For the first time in the city's history union labor took an active part in the election. Since last fall, when the Shoe Workers Protective Union announced that its members would support Mayor Flanders for reelection and would in-

thought America was responsive to his appeal for our interest in France. He said it would be "presuming of me to answer. I came to stir up public opinion in certain matters. Whether I have done it or not I don't know. There are some questions America has been interested in before, and I wish she would be again. It would be a great mistake for me to ask for anything more precise a manner. Intervention in Europe has been an American question at one time; that it has ceased to be is equally certain."

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MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS VOTE ON DRY QUESTION

Elections in a number of Massachusetts cities and towns yesterday involved the wet or dry question in some form. Here are the results:

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 5.—The vote on the license question today was 7,574 by 2 to 1. Mayor Edwin F. Leonard (Rep.) defeated his Democratic opponent, George H. Wrenn, today by 9,172 to 5,855.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 5.—Mayor Harry E. Hicknell, Democrat, was re-elected today, defeating William D. Mandell, Republican, by 3,298 to 1,933. On the soft drink question the vote was 2,528 in favor and 1,887 opposed.

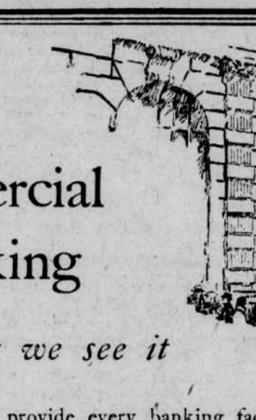
HOLYOKE, Mass., Dec. 5.—Mayor John F. Cronin was re-elected today, defeating George W. O'Connell by 7,992 to 5,274. There is no party designation. On the soft drink question the vote was 7,927 in favor and 3,988 opposed.

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