WILL CONTINUE HIS CONFERENCES

PRESIDENT HARDING TO CALL ON CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF PARTY FOR ADVICE.

RECOGNIZES ALL FACTIONS

Agreement on International Relations May Be Beset With Difficulties, but This May Be Left in Secretary Hughes' Hands.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—Politicians, according to their viewpoint, praised or poked fun at President Harding's conferences with the "best minds" of the country. Some persons have said that the aggregation of intellectuals really was such, and others have said that there was enough non-intellectuality in the gatherings to bring them far below the basic plane in American mentality.

However one may view the new President's many conferences, and the capabilities of the numerous ones who are called to them, it apparently is his intention almost instantly to start again his "best mind" conferences, this time bringing into the conference hall the leaders of the Republican party in house and senate to advise with them concerning legislation and the methods by which it can be put through quickly.

During the last week of the Wilson administration there were several members of Mr. Harding's chosen cabinet officials in Washington. They were in frequent conference with one another and with the Republican leaders of house and senate. Mr. Harding at the very outset of his administration will have in hand certain reports from these cabinet officials giving advance information concerning what men like Lodge, Penrose, Fordney, Mondell, Mann, McComber, Lenroot, Gillett and others think should be done to "expedite legislation and to satisfy the country."

After the President has had a chance to study these advance reports it is his intention either personally to confer with these leaders "in a bunch," or to take them one by one into conference in order that he may be able without embarrassment to either party to the conference to get straight individual opinions concerning the legislative course to be pursued.

Foreign Relations Difficult.

When it comes to a question of discussion concerning foreign relations, more difficulties probably will be found to be in the way of agreement than on any other subject which may present itself. Naturally Mr. Harding will consult the representatives of the three schools of thought on international relations, the extremists, the conservatives and the middle ground men, the extremists of course advocating one far end or the other of the matter in controversy.

It is possible, however, and mayhap it is probable, that Mr. Harding will turn over all matters relating to international relations to his secretary of state, Charles E. Hughes, for it is understood that Mr. Hughes accepted the high post in the cabinet only on condition that so far as possible he is to be given a free hand in the matter.

Among the men who will be called into the conference on international relations, whether it be in the office of secretary of state or in the President's office in the White House, will be Lodge of Massachusetts, McCumber of North Dakota, and Johnson of California. These men represent the geographical extremes and the geographical mean of the country, just as they partly represent the extremes of policy. Of course it is true that Senator Lodge is not in favor of a League of Nations as Mr. Wilson conceived it, but he is a reservationist, while Senator McCumber, it is understood, is willing to accept the league with a fewer number of reservations than Mr. Lodge desires. Senator Johnson of California is of course a no-league man.

When one gets down to actual facts in this international relations case, it must be said that the cabinet will be the deciding factor in the formulating of an absolutely binding international policy.

Extra Session in April.

It is understood that congress will be called together in extra session in April. Nearly every Republican leader in house and senate will remain in Washington, however, during the month of March, and so there will be plenty of time to work out policies prior to the convening of the national legislature, but it should be remembered in this connection that the time of an administration during the first month of its existence must be given up to some extent to the consideration of appointments. During the month of March the President will have work enough to do to keep two presidents busy, but he seems to be in good health and, with a few games of golf in between times, he probably can stand the strain of the work of conference coupled with the work of frowning on or smiling on the besieging office seekers.

The Republicans in congress probably will have little trouble in putting through any legislation which may be agreed upon by the leaders, provided it is not of a kind to arouse old time animosities.

BRITISH COMMERCE BY AIR

Foreign trade by air between the United Kingdom and the continent during the calendar year 1920 amounted to 1,022,315 pounds sterling, according to the May issue of Commerce Monthly, published by the National Bank of Commerce in New York. Of this 677,047 pounds sterling represented imports and 345,268 pounds sterling were exports. Owing to the fact that Great Britain's commerce by air was not inaugurated until Tugust 26, 1919, comparable data are available only for the last quarter of the year, the bank explains. These show that the value of such commerce for the last three months of 1920 was four times larger than for the corresponding period in 1919.

"The bulk of the imports during 1920," the bank says, "consisted of women's outer clothing and fur goods from France ,the value of which was 385,000 pounds Sterling. Hats, hosiery, feathers, jewelry and precious stones, moving picture films and perfumery were among the other articles carried. One of the largest items of export was men's woolen clothing, valued at 27,700 pounds Sterling."

Moose Jaw, Sask.—Approximately half a million eggs, comprising six carloads or 2,700 cases, were shipped from this point to Canadian and American markets during the month of March. The shipment is a record for any one prairie city at this time of the year.

Vancouver, B. C.—The consummation of a deal where the Powell River company will secure 5,000,000,000 feet of timber on the Queen Charlotte islands is now practically completed. The major portion of this timber is spruce and hemlock, which will be used in the company's pulp and paper plant. It is estimated that with proper care this timber will give a 50-year cut under normal conditions.

Vancouver, B. C.—An order for 1,400,000 feet of the regular 3x9 and 3x11 requirements in lumber has been secured by the British Columbia Mills Timber and Trading company from South Africa. This is the first order from the far south in many months. Shipments will begin within a month.