

SEE HARDING'S NEXT BATTLE ON PRIMARIES

President Deplores Weakness of Present System.

PLAN IS FAILURE

Expects to Work for Return to Convention Method.

Special to Indiana Daily Times and Philadelphia Public Ledger. By FREDERIC WILLIAM WILE.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—To what political ideal will President Harding next turn his hands?

There are increasing indications, radiating from the White House, that the abolition of the direct primary may be the issue to which President Harding henceforth will devote his energy and influence.

His friends know he feels more strongly than ever the time has come to call national attention to the weaknesses of the primary system. The President is far from terrified by the fear that he will be pilloried as a "reactionary" in advocating a return to the old-time delegative convention method of nominating candidates for public office. Opposition to the primary is no suddenly conceived notion on Mr. Harding's part. He always has disliked it. He seldom engages in a serious political conversation with his party intimates without seeking to persuade them that the primary, brief as its existence has been, has outlived its usefulness.

What will encourage President Harding openly to espouse the cause of the direct primary, if and when he does so, is his conviction that the fight against it needs only virile leadership. Ninety-nine men of the hundred who from time to time talk politics at the White House are outspoken in the belief that the primary has finally failed to contribute to American political progress.

They have little hesitation in expressing their views in the executive mansion. But scarcely one of the primary opponents who agree with the President is willing to take an open stand for his convictions.

It was manifestly President Harding's intention that his impromptu speech before the District of Columbia Republican clubs on Lincoln's birthday should prove a "keynote" for a Nation-wide discussion of the primary. Conference treatises and books controversy papers dominate popular thought at the time. The President's plain hint of his incorrigible hostility to the direct primary was in consequence lost in the shuffle of other public considerations. The White House is gratified to observe the subject is receiving treatment now.

The President is sincerely convinced that many of the United States' present difficulties are traceable to the fact that the true spirit of party sponsorship and collective responsibility could be restored to its former predominance. It was the spirit amid which the Republican party came to birth under Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Harding would have the collective responsibility of a party or organization abide the entire spectrum of human ambition. There is hardly a politician of stature, either Republican or Democrat, who is not ready to concede that the convention method of selecting candidates produced a larger crop of political first-timers than the primary system has bred. "Accidents" and "false alarms" migrated into the system of the old system. But the average man of merit emerged. Under the primary system many politicians aver "false alarms" are the rule, rather than the exception.

PRESENT SYSTEM DISAPPOINTING.

Mr. Harding, who is sounding out a quiet majority in the hierarchy of American politics, beginning with his first fight for a seat in the Ohio Legislature, freely concedes the abuses developed in the practice of the convention system. He has seen the corporation influence and the malevolent aspects of "bossism" in full swing. But the President's thought is not so much of abolishing the abuses of the convention system, as the counter took a long step in an experiment which he makes no bones about confessing, is disappointing to him in the extreme. Mr. Harding believes any one seriously interested in politics can reach no other conclusion if he will take time to weigh the pros and cons of the primary situation in the light of actual experience.

President Harding's preference for the convention as against the primary springs from no selfish inspiration or from any personal disappointment. He came to the United States in 1915 as the first of the many political refugees of State primary law. It is significant that political leaders in Ohio are considering a modification of the existing primary system, somewhat on the lines along which progress has been made in New York State. It is being suggested in Ohio that candidates for county and State offices, under the primary law, shall have the right to name candidates for county and State offices. The proposal would not obliterate the primary, as it now operates, but it would, in the judgment of its supporters, ameliorate objectionable features.—Copyright, 1922, by Public Ledger Company.

CEDARS ON WAY TO FLOWER SHOW

Exposition Building to Be Bower of Green.

Word has been received from Homer L. Wiegand, chairman of the committee on interior decorations for the Fifth National Flower Show, that the bower of flowers, which is to be held in the Manufacturers' building at the Indiana State fairground March 23 to April 1, a carload of cedars from Connecticut are on their way to Indianapolis for use in transforming the interior of the Exposition building into a veritable bower of green.

A carload of Southern cypress has been ordered from a point in Alabama by the interior decorations committee, and a carload of tuffar oak from Ohio is expected to arrive soon so the committee may begin actual preparation for the exposition.

No bare girders or walls will be visible when the bower is completed. The work and the setting will be in keeping with the beauty of the flowers and in harmony with the plan of making the exhibit a garden of exquisite beauty.

Exterior and interior decoration will be one real features of the national flower show, and these committees in cooperation with the managers' committee, are going to considerable expense to make the decoration effective and pleasing.

PRIEST LEAVES TOWN.

SLATON, Texas, March 6.—The Rev. J. M. Keller, Catholic priest, was on his way to Dallas today, never to return to Slaton, where he was the pastor of a committee of citizens who called on him yesterday, following a "tar party" Saturday night when he was "tarred and feathered by the

'BREADLINERS' WHO ARE DOWN, BUT NOT OUT



NUMEROUS JOBS AWAIT HUGHES ON HIS RETURN

Secretary of State Scheduled for Conference With Harding.

PROBLEMS ARE MANY

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The first business upon the long schedule awaiting Secretary of State Hughes on his return from Bermuda today, was a conference with President Harding on the subject of reservations to the various treaties worked out by the arms conference.

While President Harding has very definite ideas on the subject of reservations, he has let it be known he will not oppose any provision calculated to assure those who may have qualms as to the United States entering into an "entangling alliance" and he is anxious to consult with Mr. Hughes as to the exact bearing the numerous reservations suggested will have on the treaties.

This problem, however, is only one of a number of important which confronts the Secretary. There are numerous matters left over from the armament conference which must be adjusted and the communications conference, a meeting of which is scheduled for today, has yet to solve the question of the allocation of the former German cables in the Atlantic.

EXPERTS OFFER CABLE SOLUTION.

American experts have worked out what apparently is a satisfactory solution of this problem and this plan was scheduled to have been presented to the conference by Acting Secretary of State.

It now appears that Mr. Hughes himself will have an opportunity to O. K. this plan before it is presented, and probably will fill the vacancy in the conference caused by the prospective departure of Mr. Fletcher for his new post as Minister to Belgium.

With the arms conference out of the way, the Mexican question daily looms larger upon the diplomatic horizon. Those in closest touch with the Administration explain President Harding is anxious to bring this matter to the head of the conference and it is known Secretary Hughes will give his attention to the recognition of the Obregon government immediately upon his return.

NEAR EAST CASE DEMANDS ACTION.

The Near Eastern muddle is another matter pressing for prompt diplomatic action. Numerous protests are pouring in upon the State Department from American business interests in Turkey, Palestine, Persia and Mesopotamia of alleged discrimination by the allied governments against the American nationals.

Mr. Hill is already in touch with the American doctrine of equal opportunity all over the world and it is known he intends to give a practical application to this doctrine in the Near East without further delay.

While the hope of active American participation in the Genoa conference has become somewhat dissipated, President Harding is anxious for his chief Cabinet officer to give close attention to this case. The situation has changed in circumstances makes it possible for the United States to participate without fear of compromising this Government.

HIGH TRIBUNAL HOLDS 80-CENT GAS RATE VOID

Supreme Court Sustains Ruling on New York State Law.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The 80-cent gas rate law of New York State was declared invalid by the Supreme Court of the United States today. The decision of the court was read by Associate Justice McReynolds.

The New York State law of 1906 required the supplying of gas to portions of New York City and Brooklyn at 80 cents a 1,000 cubic feet. The Federal District Court held that the price confiscatory and the law invalid.

The Supreme Court sustained this decision in the main, saying the District Court had abided grounds on which to make its decision.

The court dismissed the suit brought by the suit brought by the State of Texas challenging the legality of certain sections of the transportation act of 1906 holding that the case should have been brought first in a District Court.

Texas attacked provisions of the act providing:

Railroads can cease operations and upon their lines without consent of the State Legislature.

The railroads cannot be constructed or extended without the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

That railroads consolidations can be effected in a State without the consent of State authorities.

The Texas intrastate railroads may be authorized without State consent to increase the rates on certain certificates.

Texas also contended the provisions of the act creating the railroad labor party were unconstitutional and the actions of the board was void.

5,000 Hoosier Miners Are Idle

Special to The Times.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., March 6.—Fifty thousand coal miners in the Terre Haute field were on strike today because it was exploded a miners' train was fifteen minutes late in reaching this city Saturday evening. Twelve miners are reported idle. A freight train blocked the miners' train, according to railroad officials' explanation of the delay. The miners may return to work tomorrow.

The railroads cannot be constructed or extended without the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

For instance, Little Elbertine Riedel, daughter of Walter Riedel of Oklahoma, leader of the so-called "Green Corn Rebellion," will tell the President her father didn't take up arms against the Government, did register for the draft and only expressed opinions. She will tell the President he is needed at home.

Miners in this district, voting on the question of striking March 31 in event a new wage agreement is not arrived at, reported unanimously in favor of dropping their tools.

Masked Bandits Get \$3,500 in Bank Job

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 6.—Five automobile bandits, their faces masked with white handkerchiefs, held up the Gravois Bank today and escaped with \$3,500.

50¢ Balsam's Reloading Shaving Stick.

50¢ Balsam's Cold Cream Face Powder

\$2.00 All coarse strong black comb.

\$2.00 Strong black comb, 1/2 coarse.

75¢ Strong black fine comb.

\$1.50 Strong all coarse black comb.

75¢ Strong all coarse pocket comb.

30¢ Kolyynos Tooth Paste.

30¢ Lyon's Tooth Paste or Powder.

30¢ M. J. O'Brien's Tooth Paste.

30¢ M. J. O'Brien's Water Atomizer.

30¢ M. J. O'Brien's Water Atomizer.</p