

Depression And Gloom In Atmosphere Of Washington

Party Government Imperilled and Congress Faces Almost Precise Situation That Has Forced Coalition Government in Europe

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, December 4.—Regular Republicans from Wisconsin have sent word to President Coolidge that the only way to cure the insurgency which has broken out in the House of Representatives is to throw the support of the administration to their wing of the Republican party in the Badger State.

Holding up the organization of the House is but a symptom of what is coming in this session of Congress and the LaFollette Republicans who have been elected by winning the party label at the primaries have demonstrated that they do not obey the will of the majority of their party. What they have been doing on a simple question of House organization is likely to be repeated on important matters of legislation.

The President has been told that the regulars in Wisconsin have organized and are ready not only to start contesting delegations for the next Republican national convention but are prepared to carry the fight into the Congressional primaries so as to secure the nomination of Republicans who will be Republicans in fact when they come to Washington.

There is an air of confidence about the missionaries from the regular Republican camp. They say that inasmuch as Senator La Follette himself will not be running, his colleagues will be deprived of much of the strength which naturally went to the veteran Wisconsin Senator whose hold on the people is more personal than political.

For several weeks prior to the opening of Congress there have been rumors that the administration was flirting with the La Follette group. When it was announced, for instance, that Mr. Coolidge had invited Senator La Follette to confer with him, the regulars saw in that move an effort to compromise. But Mr. La Follette has not accepted the White House invitation pleading illness. Meanwhile he has directed the fight against the regular Republican organization from his home. There is a good deal of patronage to be distributed from time to time and the administration is confronted with the necessity of recognizing either the regulars, who are seeking to gain strength out of that very recognition, or the La Follette Republicans who are already in office. The latter have shown their hostility and the chances are the administration will abandon its plan of compromising with them.

The cause of the rebellion is attributed to the rules but the insurgent group knows very well that nobody can assure them of a revision of the rules except a majority of the members of the House of Representatives and that neither Mr. Gillet nor Mr. Longworth has the authority to make pledges. Without stating what reforms they want, the insurgents have used the rules issue as a basis for their warfare.

A fusion of Democrats with Republicans would easily end the present situation and make possible the passage of needed legislation but the Democrats are loath to take the initiative until the olive branch is held out to them by the majority party. Also the Democrats feel that if the Republican party cannot function the country should know it and should next time return a majority of Democrats. The argument they use is that the Republican party is no longer as efficient as it claimed to be in the past and that the Democratic party, made up as it usually is of Representatives from the South and the East, is bound to present a united front. Radicalism has not shown itself in the Democratic ranks to any extent and the Democratic leaders point to their record as proof that Democratic leadership would be better for the country.

But even in their anxiety to obtain control of the House, the Democrats frankly say they do not want it now. They insist that it would be of no advantage to have the responsibility of organizing the House under the present circumstances and that it is necessary for the people to vest in the Democrats that responsibility.

SOCIALISM REACHES BLACKS IN AFRICA

Johannesburg, Dec. 5.—Stirring evidence of the extent to which Socialist propaganda has been carried on among blacks in South Africa has been given by an incident in a Northern Rustenburg district, says the Daily Mail.

A number of farmers who required additional native labor went to Mochudi, across the Transvaal border in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and put their case before the chief Isang.

To their astonishment the chief replied that his people (Kafirs) were organizing a native labor union with a view to obtaining wages, and when

the union was formed the farmers' descriptions, also will have a large should apply to it for the labor they required.

SKIING PROMISES TO HAVE UNUSUAL SEASON

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 5.—Skiing, long one of the most popular sports in the north country, promises to have an unusual successful season during the coming winter, according to reports from local clubs and from clubs throughout the Iron Range country.

Opinion among the leading ski clubs are those at Duluth and Colebrook. The latter place has one of the best steel scaffolds in the country, though with several in its view to obtaining wages, and when many hills marked with slides of all

cities of 20,000 or more, according to the new census. One-third of the total population of the present republic reside in Vienna.

THIRD OF AUSTRIANS RESIDING IN VIENNA

Vienna, Dec. 5.—Thirty-eight per cent of Austria's population lives in Vienna, Dec. 5.—Thirty-eight per cent of Austria's population lives in

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VIENNA HAS LESS THIEVERY 'TIS SAID

Vienna, Dec. 5.—Thievery in Vienna was not as prevalent during the first five months of this year as was made to appear in a story sent out from this city last August in which erroneous figures, inadvertently used, created a wrong impression.

It was related that property of various kinds worth some 750 milliards of paper crowns had been stolen during this period of time, and that very few jewels were on display in the shop windows, the custom being regarded as unsafe. As a matter of fact, careful police records show less than nine milliards of losses, instead of 750 milliards, and the shops on the best streets of Vienna today carry a display of jewels and fine dresses equal to the Rue de la Paix in Paris.

ability at the polls.

It is not exaggerating to say that the session of Congress has opened in an atmosphere of depression and discouragement as party government stands imperilled. Coalition government has been compelled in Europe under precise circumstances, and as for the people who want tax reform and other important legislation the record of this Congress is likely to be near to zero unless a combination of the Republican and Democratic membership is forced by public opinion.

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