

# Alexandre Millerand President of France



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Alexandre Millerand is now president of France. Only a short time ago Paul Deschanel was President. He resigned because of ill health. His successor now fills the office. Yet there were no nominating conventions. There was no campaign.

There was no election by the French people. A caucus of senators and deputies nominated Millerand. Members of parliament went to the ancient chateau at Versailles and chose Millerand eleventh President of the republic. He received 695 votes out of a total of 872. The complete vote was: Alexandre Millerand, 635; Gustave Delors, Socialist deputy from Lille, Department du Nord, 60; scattering, 20; blank, 108.

Those members who cast their votes for Delors, the socialist, were the United Socialists. Millerand had inflicted upon the Socialists a long series of disappointments, from the time he had been the first Socialist to accept a portfolio in a bourgeois ministry, away back in 1890, until the other day, when he had vehemently denounced their unadvised experiment in soviet Russia.

These Socialists professed to fear the result of "larger responsibilities" imposed by Millerand. Anyway, direct representation of all classes of society and the vesting of executive powers in the President of the republic are the salient features in President Millerand's plan to revise the French constitution, which is evoking a storm of controversy in France.

"Politics," said Millerand, in a recent speech, "are a danger to the nation placed as they are, without check or hindrance. Parliament today does not represent the people of France, but merely the great political interests. The President of the republic has no actual power, neither has the senate."

To remedy this state of affairs Millerand proposes the wholesale remodeling of the constitution. The principal points of his proposals are:  
1. The President of the republic to become President in fact as well as name; to be accorded powers similar to those held by the President of the United States.  
2. A vice presidency to be created with functions modeled after those of the same office in America.  
3. The election of the President and the president to be effected, instead of by the senate, by a national conference, delegates to which shall come from every department of France, from both houses of parliament, from one of the great corporations, from the principal labor unions, from the unions of small proprietors, from the great artistic, musical and literary societies, each of which is to have one vote.

4. Senators, instead of being appointed by the different political parties in each department, would be elected by each of the above mentioned societies and unions, from the

ranks of the professions and by the general confederation of labor.  
5. Decentralization and co-operation in all government departments.  
Such reform would go to the very roots of the French constitution and, by turning the President into an active chief executive, practically bestow upon him dictatorial powers for his term of seven years, and thereby remove all parliamentary checks on those activities which are now exercised by the premier or president of the council.

In France, under the present constitution, the President is not in our sense of the word a president; he is a sort of elected figurehead, serving for seven years, while the powers and duties involved in actually ruling belong mainly to the premier. An ornamental figure and little else, the French President lives showily in a palace, entertains visiting sovereigns.

Nor is there a French constitution in the sense in which we use that term in America. That is to say there is no single document adopted in its entirety as the basic or organic law of the republic. The French constitution consists of a series of parliamentary enactments passed under the stress of other emergencies. As a matter of fact the French constitution contains no professions of principles, no declarations of humanitarianism. The French constitution is as direct and as unemotional as a bank prospectus.

There is nothing in France that corresponds with our spoils system, nor indeed is there anything that corresponds with our party system. Parties there certainly are in the French parliament, but they are numerous and loosely knit. They are always liable to break up and to form new combinations. The absence of definite parties in France means that the life of the government is always in danger through some sudden and new coalition of the many unstable groups. There may be three or four governments in as many months, the President trying always to "send for" that particular statesman whose chance of forming a stable cabinet seems to be the best.

President Millerand has appointed as his first Premier Georges Leygues and has given Premier Leygues a ready-made cabinet. The reason for the appointment is obvious. President Millerand first offered the appointment to four other men, any one of whom would possibly have made a stronger premier. But, any one of the other four would have insisted on being premier in accordance with the established constitutional practice of the country. Leygues accepts the cabinet provided by Millerand and will carry out the orders of Millerand. With Leygues as titular premier, Millerand will be both President and premier in fact. It remains to be seen how the parliament will accept this situation.  
Alexandre Millerand has so long been one of the foremost figures in the political life of France, his entry into parliament dating back to 1885 and his cabinet experience to 1889, that it is obviously impossible to even sketch



PAUL DESCHANEL, FORMER PRESIDENT

it here. He was born in Paris February 10, 1859, and was educated for the bar. He has served in several cabinet positions, notably as minister of public works in the Briand ministry in 1900, minister of war in the Poincare cabinet of 1912, and as minister of war in the Viviani ministry until the Viviani cabinet resigned October 29, 1915.

While the peace with Germany was being made, President Poincare, in March, 1919, appointed Millerand governor of Alsace-Lorraine, France's regained provinces, and he served in this position until at the request of President Poincare in January last he accepted the task of forming a new cabinet, in which he took the premiership and ministry of foreign affairs, succeeding Clemenceau.  
Twenty-five years ago Millerand expressed the ambition to become premier of France and President of the republic. Ten years later he was expelled from the branch of the Socialist party that had been electing him to the chamber of deputies for 15 years, and in another five years he was officially expelled from the Socialist party of France. Five years ago, when minister of war, he was one of the chief causes contributing to the downfall of the Viviani cabinet. Millerand was so deep in disgrace and humiliation that it did not seem possible he could ever emerge.

But when the war was won France wanted a "bullheaded" man to rule the recovered provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and Millerand was chosen for the post. Last January he was recalled to Paris to be premier—the first of his ambitions accomplished. And as premier it was once more his bullheadedness, the very quality that caused his deep humiliation in 1915, that brought him the enthusiastic support of the French nation.

He insisted stubbornly and passionately that peace should bring France the fruits of victory. Lloyd George could not wheedle him; Wilson could not drive him; Gollitli could not bluff him and Lenin and Trotzki could not scare him. So, when Deschanel was forced to resign the presidency, Millerand was triumphantly elected President of the republic, and the second of his ambitions was realized.

"Down with dictatorship!" shouted the Socialist Deputy Udry, as he cast his vote against Millerand in the balloting for President.  
It looks as if President Alexandre Millerand of France has prepared a program that will either eliminate him from public life or make him a President with large powers.

house of the Society of Friends, known as Third Haven meeting house, was uprooted and fell with a crash. The tree made kindling wood of 50 feet of shedding where the Friends were wont to hitch their horses and teams, when attending service. This tree was one of the original grove under which William Penn of Philadelphia preached when touring Maryland, and where Lord Baltimore at one time worshiped. A tree like this fell five years ago and about five years previous to that one other fell.

extensively in temperate climates, and it is not of infrequent occurrence in cold countries such as Russia, Sweden and Norway. A moist and moderately warm climate is most favorable to its development, while intense heat or cold will usually arrest it.

**Tree That Sheltered Penn.**  
One of Talbot county's historical trees was destroyed by storm recently, says an Easton (Md.) dispatch. The large white oak in the rear of the brick meeting

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
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### LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 14

#### THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF JESUS.

**LESSON TEXT**—Matt. 8 and 9.  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness, and every disease among the people.—Matt. 9:35.  
**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Mark 1:29; Luke 7:1-10.  
**PRIMARY TOPIC**—Jesus Forgiving Sins.  
**JUNIOR TOPIC**—Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant.  
**INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC**—The Response of Jesus to Human Need.  
**YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC**—Christianity and Physical Needs.

In chapters 8 and 9 are grouped a number of miracles which exhibit what the King can do over the chief foes of mankind—sickness, sin, satanic power, death, sorrow and storms. It is fitting that they should be grouped here, following the laws of the kingdom, for they show the King's power to administer the affairs of the kingdom, and produce within his subjects the graces of character set forth in these laws. It will make the lesson too long to attempt to consider all these miracles. It will also be unsatisfactory to confine ourselves to the particular section selected by the lesson committee, so we will select several of the most outstanding ones.

#### I. Jesus Heals a Leper (8:1-4).

1. This dreadful disease was the most loathsome and hopeless known. In the Jewish ritual it was regarded as a symbol of sin. It was incurable by man. Only the Divine Physician can cure sin.  
2. The leper's faith. His cry was most pitiable, but his faith was strong. He fully believed that Jesus was able, but was uncertain as to his willingness to heal him.  
3. Jesus' power. He put forth his hand and touched the leper, bidding the disease to depart, and instantly the man was clean.

#### II. Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant (8:5-13).

1. The disease—paralysis. In paralysis the victim is helpless and disqualified for service.  
2. The centurion's faith. He believed that if Jesus would but speak the word his servant would be healed.  
3. The wonderful power of the King. He did not need to go to see the centurion's slave and touch him, but only needed to speak the word and it was done.

#### III. Jesus Calms the Sea (8:23-27).

1. The King asleep in the storm-tossed boat (v. 24). Since the King is the Almighty Creator, he had no reason to fear, and therefore, could well be resting in sleep.  
2. The terrified disciples (v. 25). If they had but known him as really the Almighty King they would not have been terrified, for they would have known that no boat could go down with the Christ on board.  
3. The King's rebuke (vv. 26, 27). (1) The disciples rebuked for their lack of faith. Instead of looking at the Lord, they were looking at the circumstances. (2) The sea is made calm. The elements of nature are subject unto him.

#### IV. Jesus Casts Out Demons (8:28-34).

After stilling the tempest Jesus crossed to the other side of the sea into heathen territory.  
1. Met by two men possessed by demons (v. 28). By referring to Mark 5:1-7 and Luke 8:27 we get a conception of the desperate condition of these men. So fierce were they that no one could safely pass that way.  
2. What they knew about Christ (v. 29). They knew that he was the Son of God and that he had come to destroy the Devil and his works.  
3. The limitation of the Devil's power (v. 31). Although the Devil is mighty, he cannot even enter a hog without God's permission.  
4. Christ's power to deliver from the Devil (vv. 30-32). The demons quailed before him not daring to dispute his power, but begged permission to enter the swine.  
V. Jesus Healing a Woman With an Issue of Blood (9:20-22).

1. Her helpless condition (v. 20). She had been a great sufferer for twelve long years.  
2. Her faith (v. 21). Her faith was so strong that she believed contact with the Master's garment would secure the needed help.  
3. Her confession (v. 21; cf. Luke 8:47). Jesus had her make a public confession. It was for her good that he had her make this confession, for faith in Christ unconfessed will naturally weaken.  
4. Christ's words of encouragement (v. 22). He told her that it was her faith, not her touch, that saved her.

#### Proper Amusements.

Thousands of people demand amusements. Thousands of dollars are spent in that behalf. But there is absence of plan, concert, and co-operation. The Devil steps in and takes the profit. The people want but little here below nor want that little long. Why may we not have more of the amusement which strengthens and enlightens? One rich man by his own untidied beneficence might provide healthful amusement for a whole city. Why does not beneficence turn in this direction?—Humphrey J. Desmond.

## PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

### Kentucky in Foree's Home Still



Charles Marshall Foree, assistant controller of the treasury, has some job. The man who will recall his agonies and distresses in making out his income tax returns; in auditing his accounts so as to determine just how much he owed Uncle Sam, will admit this when he realizes that Mr. Foree's job includes the auditing of all the accounts of the United States government. The task carries a huge responsibility and requires a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping and considerable legal talent.

Mr. Foree is a native of Kentucky, but has been long expatriated. Twenty-two years' residence in Washington, however, has not lessened in any degree Mr. Foree's allegiance to Kentucky, nor has it induced him to regard any other place than Shelby county, Kentucky, as his home. In proof of this, Mr. Foree tells of a visit which his wife, who formerly was Miss Sallie McGrath of Sneyville, made to her own and her husband's relatives in Kentucky. The "personal notes" of one of the local papers announced that Mrs. Foree of "Washington," was a visitor. Whereupon Mr. Foree wrote the editor as follows:

"Dear Sir: Your item was incorrect. It should have read that Mrs. Foree had returned to her home from Washington."

### Father of "The Little Entente"

Dr. Edward Benes, foreign minister of Czecho-Slovakia, has been the leader in the organization of what is known as the "little entente"—a league of Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Roumania, designed to guarantee their integrity and to prevent the return of the Hapsburgs to the throne of Hungary.



Asked why this new entente was necessary, in view of the existence of the League of Nations, Doctor Benes said: "It is because the League of Nations is not able yet to give complete security to us and because it does not yet have the necessary influence in central European affairs which it may have some day. It is because it has become impossible for democratic and liberty-loving nations such as Czecho-Slovakia to continue to exist peacefully and build a prosperous future that I have formed another league of nations which already has had the effect of pacifying the people, dispelling war clouds, and raising the national morale."

Doctor Benes admitted freely that his league had made provisions for a military force in case of necessity, but added: "Our union is one of defense, pure and simple. Our treaty with Jugo-Slavia calls for aid in case of attack. With Roumania a written treaty exists, but an alliance has been formed through the exchange of notes for the same purpose. Ours is a defensive union. Besides the military clauses in our treaties there are provisions for the settlement of border disputes, and there are commercial agreements which will be of the utmost importance to industry in all nations."

### Zinovieff Ousted From Germany

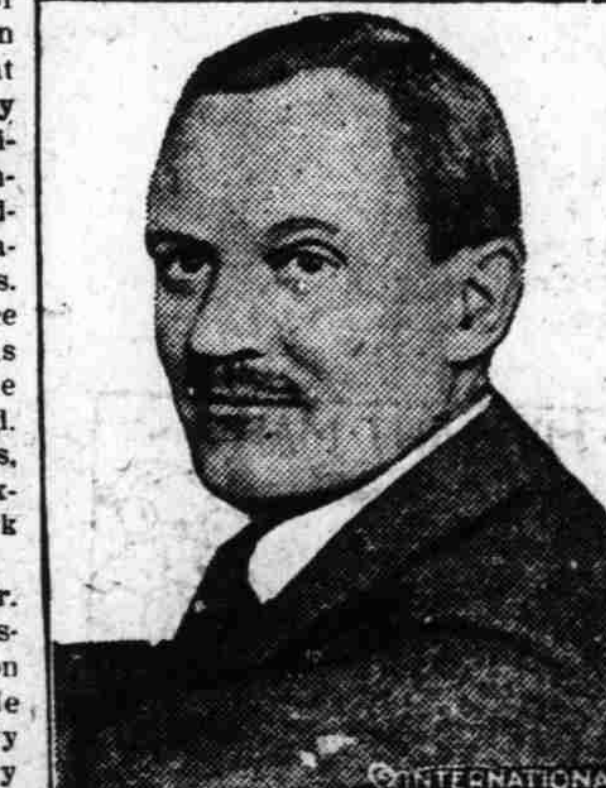


M. Zinovieff, chairman of the Third Internationale and one of the four powers of the Russian soviet government, has been ordered by the German government to leave Germany. He and M. Losowsky were the Russian soviet delegates to the conference of the Independent Socialists at Halle, and at their behest the meeting voted to adhere to the Third Internationale, the vote being 237 to 158. This action disrupted the party, for the minority, headed by Vice Chairman Crispian, left the conference hall. Under the joint presidency of Crispian and George Ledebour these seceders opened a separate convention and laid plans to communicate with the revolutionary forces in all countries opposed to Moscow and prepare an organized campaign against Bolshevik methods. They adopted Herr Ledebour's resolution of sympathy with Bolshevik aims, but expressing unalterable opposition to the policy of "destruction and terrorism" on which sovietism proceeds.

After listening to an impassioned speech by Zinovieff, the left majority under the leadership of Daumig, Hoffman, and Otto Bass, the young leader of Rhineland labor, conferred on the question of executing an agreement with Moscow for a world revolution, and directed the district leaders to prepare for a strike.

### Frederick P. Keppel's New Work

Frederick P. Keppel, director of foreign operations of the American Red Cross and formerly an assistant secretary of war, has been chosen by the chamber of commerce of the United States to be the American administrative commissioner at the headquarters of the newly formed international chamber of commerce at Paris.



Mr. Keppel will leave for Paris to take up his new duties as soon as he can do so without prejudice to the work upon which he is now engaged. As director of foreign operations, Mr. Keppel was responsible for the expenditure of \$51,000,000 in relief work in foreign lands in the last year. Born on Staten Island in 1875, Mr. Keppel has had a successful and distinguished career since his graduation from Columbia university in 1898. He started in as a member of the faculty of his alma mater, being successively assistant secretary, secretary and dean of the college. For ten years he was secretary and editor of the American Association for International Conciliation, and in 1917 he was made assistant to the secretary of war, becoming assistant secretary in the next year. He has been given honorary degrees by the universities of Pittsburgh and Michigan, and is a chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France.

### The Bubonic Plague

The bubonic plague is an epidemic disease which has been very prevalent and terribly destructive in almost every part of the eastern hemisphere since the third century B. C., and probably before that time. From the discoloration of the skin by effusions of blood, which is characteristic of severe and fatal cases, it became known as the Black Death. The disease is unknown in the tropics. It has prevailed most