

France Moves To Normalcy But Future Is Still Obscure

Result Recent Elections Apparently a Step in Direction of European Settlement but Complete Tranquility Has Not Yet Come in Sight

By FRANK H. SIMONDS

Washington, May 21.—To understand the present confusion in the French political situation and the uncertainty as to the character of the next cabinet and the name of the new Premier, it is necessary to glance for a moment at the chaotic condition which has resulted from the recent election. And, above all, it is necessary to appreciate the fact that under the continental bloc system our own party methods are quite impossible.

Thus in the new Chamber of Deputies with 584 members no one party has anything like a majority. The Bloc National, which supported Poincare and went to defeat, will have something like 233 members. This is the official opposition and it is a fairly homogeneous body at the moment. In addition the Royalists or Conservatives elected upwards of 20 members and these would doubtless vote with the Bloc National against any extreme radical government. Thus, at the outset, it would be fair to assume that the opposition could count upon approximately 253 votes, leaving 331 for the groups which together must make the new government.

But of these 331 only 190, namely the Radicals and the Republican Socialists with 151 and 39 seats respectively, could easily coalesce. The Radicals are led by Herriot, just now most frequently spoken of as the next Premier while to the other group belong both Briand and Painleve, the former many times Prime Minister, the latter once and disastrously during the World War.

In addition there are the Socialists, led by Blum, who count 102 seats but are pledged against taking office. This Socialist party, in combination with the Radicals and the Republican Socialists, constituted the Bloc of the Left, which united successfully to defeat Poincare but which have absolutely nothing in common in the way of an affirmative program. Finally, there are 29 out and out Communists, also opponents of Poincare but similarly opponents of any other conceivable government.

Now if Herriot, for example, formed a government, he would certainly be opposed by both the Royalists and the Bloc National; that is, the whole of the possible opposition. He could count on 151 votes from his own Radical party, but he could not even hope to form a cabinet unless he were assured the support of the Socialists, who count 102 members. But this combination alone would be approximately of the same strength as the opposition. In point of fact, it would be helpless unless supported by the Republican Socialists; that is, the Briand-Painleve Bloc, with 39 votes.

Such a combination would almost certainly be opposed by the Communists and thus a three party combination of Radicals, Socialists and Republican Socialists, counting at most 292 members, would face a minority combine of Royalists, Communists and the Bloc National of practically the same strength, namely 292. Herriot, in practice, then, could only form a cabinet which would have a chance of lasting as he was able to draw strength from the Bloc National. And at best his majority would be precarious in the extreme.

Briand's situation, on the contrary, is quite different. On the surface he would seem to have only 39 sure votes; but, once Poincare had disappeared, it is almost certain that a very large part of the Bloc National would, on terms, agree to support a Briand Cabinet, seeing in Briand a much more satisfactory premier. Moreover, what is most likely to happen is that Herriot will form a Cabinet, perhaps last for a few weeks or even months, and then give way to Briand.

Since Poincare is going into retirement, the disintegration of the Bloc National is almost inevitable. But to replace it one may expect at no distant date some combination of the moderate elements in the Bloc National with the Radicals and the Republican Socialists to face the real radical elements which are the Socialists and the Communists, although the Socialists are very far from being radicals in the extreme American sense.

The demand for the resignation of Millerand follows logically upon the fact that the President of the Republic has from the outset undertaken to interfere directly with public questions and has not only backed Poincare but more than once pushed him into actions more extreme than he might otherwise have taken. Millerand, moreover, is infinitely more conservative than Poincare.

The probability that Briand will come relatively quickly grows out of the fact that he is felt in France to be, on the whole, the man best qualified to carry on a foreign negotiation, particularly with Britain. He is unlike Poincare, a man with very limited knowledge of public questions, but with amazing dexterity. Clemenceau's bitter characterization of Poincare and Briand has frequently been recalled recently. The Tig-

AUTO ACCIDENT ENDS IN ARREST

A Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fry were released under bond of \$1,000 from Currituck jail Tuesday night, according to telephone reports received in Elizabeth City, after having been lodged there on the charge of transporting liquor.

The couple were travelling by automobile through Shawboro on their way to Norfolk Monday afternoon when the steering gear broke and the car turned over at Flora's Lane about a mile from Shawboro.

According to reports, both were under the influence of liquor, and the car was full of liquor. Their arrest followed the accident, and their release from jail came Tuesday night when the bond had been arranged. Supposedly they are residents of Norfolk.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPIED ON COMMITTEE

Washington, May 21.—The Senate Daugherty committee today was told that representatives of the Department of Justice not only had sought to "frame Senator Wheeler," its prosecutor, but had spied on its members and its witnesses and had spirited away the famous diaries of Gaston Means, who was working with it as an investigator.

One of the witnesses was W. O. Duckstein who said he knew about the whole proceedings because his wife is a secret agent of the Department and it was she who identified in his presence the records of Means after they had been secured by a ruse.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR SENIOR PLAY

Tickets for the Senior play, "All of a Sudden Peggy," went on sale at Selig's Wednesday morning and indications are that the house will be filled Friday evening. All seats will be reserved, and it will be wise to buy tickets and make reservations early.

"All of a Sudden Peggy," it is predicted, will be the best senior play ever given at Elizabeth City High School, which is saying quite a lot, for this event never fails to draw an enthusiastic crowd.

er" said: "Poincare is a man who knows everything and can do nothing; Briand is a man who knows nothing and can do everything."

Briand's political manoeuvre now is obviously to win over to himself the larger part of the strength of the disintegrating Bloc National. He would be far more moderate in temper than Poincare but on the whole much more conservative than Herriot. In this way he might create a new bloc, that is a middle or moderate group, corresponding to Lloyd George's old dream of a center party in Britain. Meantime, since he is an admirable waiter, he may very well let Herriot have his fling, which must be brief.

Whether Herriot or Briand comes, French foreign policy will now be more conciliatory in tone, although it may be doubted if there will be any sweeping modification of French demands. A combination Herriot-Briand Ministry is even conceivable, with Briand in charge of foreign affairs. But, in any event, what is certain is that the next French Cabinet will proceed to a discussion of the Dawes report and seek a restoration of the Anglo-French entente. Should Herriot come, it is also very likely that some conciliatory gestures will be made in the direction of Germany.

Herriot's radical party is the party of Caillaux, who always favored Franco-German co-operation and looked with something like hostility at Great Britain. Briand, on the contrary, followed the Clemenceau view of Anglo-French co-operation, while Poincare partly by reason of the course of events, partly because of personal views, aimed to give France an independent role, while drawing to her the minor states in the center of Europe which shared French dangers on the German side.

Accepting the fact, which has been generally noted, that the French election represents a gain for the cause of European settlement, it must still be recognized that the character of party lines in the new Chamber makes for much obscurity and not a little insecurity. Once more, as at Cannes when Briand fell, a change of government is possible at almost any moment. This is unmistakably a French return to normalcy, but hardly to the British counterpart, which is tranquility.

Worthless Check Is Poor Pay For Watch

But It's What Prepossessing Youth Left In Trail Through Elizabeth City

H. C. Bright, local jeweler, has on his hands a worthless check for \$40 and somewhere in the U. S. A. a neatly dressed young man in all probability is wearing a \$40 watch which he obtained for the aforesaid check. Mr. Bright would give more than \$40 to know the young man's whereabouts.

Something like two weeks ago a slim stranger not, apparently, more than 25 years of age or exceeding 135 pounds in weight stopped in Mr. Bright's store and wanted to buy a watch. He represented himself to be W. Norman House of the Weldon Motor Company of Weldon, and presented a business card of that firm with the name that he was claiming printed in the lower left hand corner. The young man was of good address, inquired as to the residence of a former Trinity student—himself whom he claimed to have known at college, exhibited his Ford coupe parked across the street from Mr. Bright's store, asked questions about how to get to Plymouth, and altogether made such a good impression that Mr. Bright accepted his check signed "W. Norman House, Weldon Motor Company," in payment for the watch and thanked him in the bargain, the favorable impression "Mr. House" had made in the first place not being at all detracted from by discovery of the fact that the Weldon Motor Company had an excellent financial rating.

A few days later, however, Mr. Bright got a jolt when his bank informed him that the check, which had been duly deposited, had been returned unpaid. Accordingly Mr. Bright made haste to write to W. Norman House, Weldon Motor Company, Weldon, North Carolina, to ask an explanation and that the check be made good. By return mail he had a letter from Mr. House stating that he had never given Mr. Bright a check and had only been in Elizabeth City but once in his life and that about three years ago. Furthermore, Mr. House went on to say, he signs his name W. N. House, and not W. Norman, as it appears on the check. The card, however, was genuine, printed for him by the firm by which he is employed with the middle name spelled out because his friends call him Norman.

Mr. House says he has no idea who it was that forged his name here nor how he came into possession of the business card which he used so adroitly. He kindly offers, however, to co-operate with Mr. Bright in any way possible to bring the offender to justice.

When in Elizabeth City the fictitious Mr. House wore a dark blue or black serge coat and a soft hat. He had dark hair and brown eyes.

TO CONSIDER ACTION ON THE WORLD COURT

Washington, May 21.—The Senate foreign relations committee was today called for the first time to consider at the present session of Congress action on the proposals for American membership in the World Court.

The meeting was called at the request of Senator Swanson of Virginia, ranking Democratic member of the committee.

STATE LETS CONTRACT FOR CAMDEN PROJECT

The contract was let at Raleigh Tuesday, according to news received here Wednesday morning, for grading and structural work on the new road by way of Belcross from Camden to Sligo.

Work of grading and bridge building on this highway, then, will begin early in June, it would seem, as the contractor is given about 20 days from the awarding of the contract to begin work.

ARMY AVIATORS ARE DELAYED BY WEATHER

(By The Associated Press)
Tokyo, May 21.—American Army aviators flying around the world are being delayed at Hitokappu Bay, Yotorofu Island, by bad weather. An official dispatch to the Japanese navy department from a Japanese destroyer on duty with the fliers said that the Americans were waiting until the foggy weather clears.

Says Hertford County Is Strong for Aydtlett

W. R. Johnson and W. W. Rogers of Ahooske, Hertford County, were visitors in Elizabeth City Wednesday. Mr. Johnson was formerly representative from Bertie County and Mr. Rogers is a candidate for representative from Hertford County in the coming primary.

Hertford County is strong for Aydtlett for Congress, according to Mr. Johnson, who believes he will carry the majority in that county in the primary.

BRITAIN SEEKING COTTON SUPREMACY

New York, May 21.—Edward Bartlett, president of the New York Cotton Exchange, said today upon his return from Europe that the United States was not fully alive to the efforts being made by Great Britain to gain the cotton supremacy of the world.

Emphasizing the seriousness of the boll weevil in this country Bartlett advocated immediately attention not only by private interests but by the Government to insure heavy production.

Should prices continue high, Great Britain would do her own producing, he asserted, and America would lose a valuable cotton consumer.

SAYS LIQUOR LAW IS NOT ENFORCED

Hobbs Thinks Sheriff Should Try Enforce All Law Alike and Not Let One Law be Dead Letter.

At least one candidate for sheriff is making the race on an unequivocal platform of better enforcement of the law prohibiting the manufacture, sale and possession of intoxicating liquor.

That candidate is J. Walton Hobbs of Salem Township, who makes no bones of saying that he believes that the sheriff of Pasquotank County could if he would do a great deal to dry up some very moist spots in the County.

Mr. Hobbs wants it understood, however, that the prohibition law enforcement is not the only plank in his platform. "I favor law enforcement," he says, "as a general proposition and, as to the prohibition law, I believe it should be enforced exactly and precisely as any other law."

"In other words, I think all laws ought to be enforced alike. We see our people haled into court, some for violation of the cattle-dipping law, some for violation of city parking ordinances, and some for operating automobiles with defective lights, or for other minor offenses, while violations of the prohibition law go on with no visible effort on the part of officials to bring the offenders to justice."

"You people in town may not know it," said Mr. Hobbs, "but violations of the liquor law are doing a great deal more harm in rural Pasquotank than they are in Elizabeth City, because people in the country know more about what their neighbors are doing, and the sale of liquor is a matter of such common occurrence in some of our rural communities that even little children are quite aware of what is going on. Why I know to my own knowledge that purchasers are buying liquor that is being placed in their hands, in some instances, by any member of the family of the seller who happens to be present when the sale is made. In such an atmosphere, how can these children be expected to grow up with anything except contempt for the prohibition law and so for all law?"

"I have made up my mind that if I am elected sheriff I will do all in my power to see that such practices as this are broken up. I do not believe that it would take a great deal of time or effort to make Pasquotank County clean. I believe that the only thing necessary is a real desire to put a stop to the traffic and the determination to stamp it out. As soon as the bootleggers realize that they have in office a sheriff with that desire and with that determination, if he is given any sort of co-operation at all, I am fully convinced that they will quit the business or move into some other county. So far as I am concerned, for my own sake and for the sake of the adult citizenship of the County I would not think this fight worth while making, but when I think of the influence under which the children of our day are growing up and especially the children of the rural districts I am thoroughly persuaded that the matter is one which deserves the hearty support of all our people who believe in law enforcement. If all who profess so to believe will give me their support I am confident that I will be the next sheriff of Pasquotank County."

"I have personally never been a strict prohibitionist, and as long as it was possible to obtain liquor lawfully did not see any objection to a young man's taking a drink occasionally if he could do so in moderation. But since seeing for myself the corrupting results among the young people of the traffic as it is carried on now, I am thoroughly convinced that it should be put a stop to, and for the sake of the boys and girls growing up in the County I am willing to undertake, if elected sheriff, to use all the powers of the office to that end."

Men who know Mr. Hobbs have been heard to say that he is one who can be depended upon to keep a pledge and who has the courage and determination when he undertakes anything to see it through to the finish.

Roads On Dare Mainland Would Bring Trade Here

Stumpy Pointer Thinks Road from Stumpy Point and East Lake to Manns Harbor Would Mean Establishment of Ferry from Manns Harbor to Currituck

CONFEREES AGREE ON TAX REDUCTION

Washington, May 21.—Unanimous agreement was reached today by conferees on the tax reduction bill. Hope was expressed by the Republican organization leaders that the bill as now framed would meet the approval of President Coolidge who had declared his opposition to both the publicity and corporation proposals which have now been eliminated.

BANK ACCOUNT WAS USED AS SLUSH FUND

Washington, May 21.—An account maintained by former Chairman Lobb of the Farm Loan Board in a local bank was used "at times" as a slush fund, Senator Howell, Republican, of Nebraska today charged in continuing his opposition to the confirmation of four pending nominations to the board.

WEST INDIAN ISLANDS VERY LOYAL TO ENGLAND

Plymouth, England, May 21.—Sir Eustace Fiennes, governor of the Leeward Islands, on a recent visit to England, told reporters that he was certain the British West Indian possessions would never be ceded to American for war debt. The sentiment of the people was strongly against such a change of flag and they were very loyal to Great Britain, the governor said.

Sir Eustace said also that despite the commercial loss occasioned by the war and four successive years of drought, the future outlook for the islands was excellent.

JAPAN EXTENDS LAWS TO COVER SAGHALIEN ISLAND

Tokyo, May 21.—To knit a Japanese Saghalien more closely to the rest of the empire, the cabinet has decided to put into force there several laws which heretofore have not applied to the northern possession. These include the conscription law, which will make inhabitants of Saghalien liable to service in the army, the nationality law, and the census registration law, all calculated to insure the cohesion of the empire and to increase the control of the central government.

The southern half of Saghalien, which became a Japanese possession as a result of the Russo-Japanese War, has made remarkable progress in the development of administrative organs and community life, according to Tokio officials, and the time is considered ripe to administer that territory as an integral part of the empire.

BUSINESS DULL BUT ATLANTA IS OPTIMISTIC

Atlanta, May 21.—Unfavorable weather is responsible for some of the slackening of business in the south-east. This dullness is reflected in jobbing centers, although the decline has not been acute. The optimistic attitude of retail merchants is exemplified by the announcement by Daniel Brothers, distributors of men's furnishings, that they will erect immediately a 12 story building to be occupied by them exclusively. The state is assured of a bumper crop of peaches and apples.

REVIVAL IN PROGRESS AT FREEWILL BAPTIST

Rev. J. C. Griffin preached an earnest sermon Tuesday night at the Freewill Baptist church, his text being taken from the thirty-first verse of the fortieth chapter of the Book of Isaiah, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

"To my mind it was a great sermon and worth while for every one to hear," said a layman of another church who attended the service. Mr. Griffin will preach tonight at eight o'clock and the public is invited to hear him.

RADIO ARTICLES FOR ALL

The Radio Magazine, given free with the New York Sunday World, is in demand with the radio public because of the many articles of interest in each issue. A partial list for next Sunday is as follows: Defeating Earthquakes by Radio Before They "Happen"; A DX Reflex with Sodion Detector; Broadcasting without a carrier wave; An amplifier that Gives Perfect Reception; Why Your Receiver Tunes Broadly; To be sure of a copy order The Sunday World in advance.

"While The Advance is trying to create and encourage sentiment in favor of annexing Hyde and Tyrrell to Elizabeth City's trade territory by means of a road from Fairfield to Columbia and ferry service from Tyrrell County to Pasquotank, why permit your people to overlook the possibilities of establishing closer relations with Dare County?"

This is a question asked a representative of this newspaper by L. W. Hooper of Stumpy Point, who was in the city this week. His idea is to build a road from Stumpy Point to Manns Harbor, with a spur leading off from it to East Lake. Manns Harbor is but 10 or 12 miles from Point Harbor in Currituck, and ferry service would seem easily practicable between these points, especially as it might be easily possible to arrange a schedule that would also serve Mantoo and Nags Head.

The State has now built a good dirt road to the Point in Currituck County and many people believe that a resort on Currituck Beach near the Point would vie in popularity with Nags Head and would in itself justify the establishment of a bus line from here to the beach. With his family at Nags Head, the Elizabeth City business man must leave here at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon to arrive at Nags Head in time for supper. In order to get back to Elizabeth City the next day he must leave Nags Head at about 6 o'clock in the morning and does not get in until toward 11 o'clock, thus losing practically half a business day each way enroute. To spend Sunday at Nags Head he must leave Elizabeth City at 8 o'clock Sunday morning, arriving only in time for dinner, and must leave in the late afternoon which is the best part of the day on the beach. In other words, to spend a whole day at the beach he must spend a whole day on the boat, counting a day in terms of work hours.

With a resort at Currituck Beach, the Elizabeth City business man could leave here any afternoon or evening after the close of business, motor to the beach in about two hours, and return the next morning. On Saturday evening after the close of business he could motor to the beach and spend all day Sunday, returning Monday morning and reaching town at the beginning of the business day.

Now if a ferry service could be established between Point Harbor in Currituck and Nags Head, this service would make it possible to lop off a full hour each way from the time now required to reach Nags Head, and, if this ferry could be operated on a six or seven round trips a day schedule, by adding an hour to the time required to go to the beach the Elizabeth City business man could go to Nags Head.

Mr. Hooper's suggestion would, if carried out, enable a bus line from Elizabeth City to Point Harbor in Currituck to serve still an even larger number of people. Something like 1,200 people live on the Dare County mainland in the communities of Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor and East Lake, to say nothing of those who live along the banks and could come in their own boats to the terminal of the bus line at the beach for a trip to Elizabeth City.

Inhabitants of Dare County probably send more money to mail order houses per capita than those of any other county in the State. If these Dare County people could get to Elizabeth City in something like three hours and return the same day, a large proportion of the money that they send to mail order houses now would be spent in Elizabeth City. That Dare County folk have money to spend, especially at the end of the shad fishing season, is indicated by a report that an insurance agent placed \$50,000 in life insurance in the 51 homes of Stumpy Point on one trip recently.

Talk of establishment of a bus line from Elizabeth City to Point Harbor has revived interest in the proposal which some years ago failed to open up a direct road from Elizabeth City to Coinjock which would eliminate the Currituck Courthouse elbow and shorten the distance to Coinjock about 12 miles.

NORRIS BILL SHOWS STRENGTH IN VOTE

Washington, May 21.—The motion to report the Ford bill providing for the leasing of Muscle Shoals was lost by the vote of 10 to 6 today in the Senate agriculture committee. The strength of the Norris bill was shown when its advocates opposed immediately closing the hearings and defeated such a motion by 10 to 6.

COTTON MARKET

New York, May 21.—Spot cotton closed steady today with an advance of 62 points, Middling 32.50. Futures closed at the following levels: May 32.13, July 29.37, October 25.98, December 25.26, January 24.97.

New York, May 21.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: May 31.70; July 29.15; October 25.65; December 24.88; January 24.60.