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Coolidge Has Made Good First Year As President

Flaunted by Congress Gained in Favor of Party as Result of Firmness in Face of Congressional Hostility and Won Re-nomination Hands Down

By ROBERT T. SMALL

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Washington, July 28.—Calvin Coolidge completes this week his first year as President of the United States. Coming to the White House at a time of national mourning, the end of the year finds the President in the midst of a personal bereavement.

Between the two seasons of sorrow, the Coolidges naturally have enjoyed the greatest happiness that could come to an American family—the fulfillment of all political and social ambitions.

Politically it has been a curious year for Mr. Coolidge, but one which could not help but bring him supreme satisfaction. Here was a man suddenly called to the Presidency at a time when the leaders of his party had just about determined that he was not fit to be granted the increase.

President Coolidge told Congress the public purse would not permit of increased pensions to veterans and dependent of the Civil and Indian wars. Congress passed the Balsam bill extending these increases. The President vetoed the measure. The House repassed it, but passed over the veto in the Senate.

President Coolidge told the press that the public purse did not warrant an increase in the pay of postal employees. Congress passed a bill granting the increase. The President vetoed it and there was no attempt to revise the measure in the dying hours of the session. President Coolidge told Congress it would violate a solemn "gentlemen's agreement" and grievously offend a friendly nation if it wrote Japanese exclusion sufficiently in the new immigration bill. Japan vigorously protested.

Secretary Hughes all but demanded to resign. The President sent for the party leaders in Congress. All to no avail. Congress passed the bill just as it stood.

The President was forced to sign because of the restriction which is needed on the alien invasion, he said if he could find no investigation could possibly involve him.

Democrats claimed that Mr. Coolidge as Vice President had sat as a member of the Harding cabinet and should have known what was going on. They also said he was presiding in the Senate when the first attacks were made upon the base of Teapot Dome.

But that was as far as they went. The Republicans began to look to Mr. Coolidge as the Moses to lead them out of the wilderness. They clung to him and proclaimed him as the party's greatest asset.

Opposition to his nomination fell away so rapidly that only Hiram Johnson was left and before the convention he gave up the ghost and released the few scattering votes that had come to him in the early primaries. Coolidge won the party convention and the party primaries virtually everywhere.

This unprecedented triumph with the people, as reflected in the wishes of his own party, came to Mr. Coolidge after a Republican Congress—Republican in name—at least in name—had flaunted him as no President had been defied, not even Cleveland or Roosevelt.

Mr. Coolidge found himself at odds with Congress from the beginning to the end of the one session which has been held since he became President on August 2 last. One of the very first of the Coolidge declarations was that he would attempt so far as possible to carry out the policies of the lamented President Harding. The one outstanding Harding policy at the time of his death was that America should give adherence to the World Court of Justice as organized under the League of Nations.

Mr. Coolidge has been unable to make no headway with a recalcitrant Senate. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, from his own state of Massachusetts having been one of the big stumbling blocks encountered.

Congress passed five big measures during its session. President Coolidge vetoed three of them and would have vetoed the other two except for the belief that some means of public relief was contained in them. The two measures given his approval were denounced, however, because they included provisions against which the President had protested.

Although he had been in office for nearly 20 years, the people at large knew curiously little of Mr. Coolidge. He had been inconspicuous as Vice President. His comings and goings at the White House and the capital suggested never an element of news.

There was recollection of a firm hand in the Boston police strike, but even there it had been said that the Democratic mayor of Boston deserved a very large share of the credit for maintaining law and order. Mr. Coolidge went quietly about his task as President. The people had to wait from August 2 to the opening of Congress in December to get the first general expression of the views of the silent man from Massachusetts. The President's message, short, sharp and crisp, made a generally favorable impression, especially upon the members of his own party. Mr. Coolidge had found most of the Harding cabinet to his liking. He particularly began to turn upon Messrs. Mellon and Hughes and Hoover and Weeks and does so to this day.

In the midst of the investigations when the Senate passed a resolution demanding the resignation of Secretary of the Navy Denby, Mr. Coolidge sent the resignation back with a sharp reminder that he alone was responsible for his cabinet and it was a matter with which Congress had no concern. Later when Mr. Denby, by voluntarily resigned, however, Mr. Coolidge made no effort to restrain him. Also when Attorney General Daugherty became further embroiled with Congress, Mr. Coolidge did not hesitate to ask for his resignation. Mr. Daugherty and his friends believed he had been wronged, but the President would enter into no argument with them. There was a touch of Rooseveltian ruthlessness in this action which revealed he would take his case to the people and urge the next Congress to reframe the tax principles in accordance with the Mellon recommendations. It is to be presumed Mr. Coolidge will take this stand in his speech of acceptance.

One of these was the tax reduction measure which was framed by the Democrats and the insurgent Republicans of the Senate and House. Mr. Coolidge had voted in favor of the Mellon plan. He urged loyal Republicans in the House and Senate to stand by him in the fight. But they told him frankly the Mellon bill could not pass. They compromised. There was some doubt whether Mr. Coolidge would sign the bill. But he could not withstand the pressure for tax relief. In signing, however, he declared the bill was just about all it was worth in this action which revealed

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President Coolidge told Congress in his first message that he did not favor a soldier bonus. Congress passed one. Mr. Coolidge

HEAR DENIALS AND CONFESSIONS READ

Chicago, July 29.—Nathan Leopold Jr., and Richard Loeb, accused guilty of kidnapping and torturing Robert Franks, today sat side by side in open court. Both denied and then charged confessions of the crime.

Benjamin Bachrach, one of the attorneys for the boys, helped get into the record this final stage of the state's presentation of evidence by releasing State's Attorney Clegg of the task of reading the prosecution's transcript of the boys' admissions.

Frank's wife was worn before 30 minutes of reading when each said he was getting a little tired. The stately attorney, however, declined to give up the trial before it was over.

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