

WASHINGTON SOCIAL WORLD AGLOW WITH ANTICIPATION

Republican Administration Is Expected to Renew Brilliant Society Atmosphere of Pre-Wilson Days

Washington, Nov. 22.—Not since the Roosevelt and Taft presidencies over the affairs of government and drawing room diplomacy has the social atmosphere of Washington been so electric as at present. The 400 and 4000 alike look forward to the Harding administration with something akin to the eagerness with which a small boy awaits Christmas. The feeling is everywhere that the good old days are about to return, and the capital is pleasantly excited over the prospect.

Dowager and matron, bachelor maid, miss, debutante, subtle and flapper, all share the excitement and the hope. The resident set and the congressional set are polishing up their conversation, dancing steps, wit, French, silverware, toupais and brass knockers in preparation for the inaugural ball and the social events that are expected to follow it. With the new cabinet, Senate, House and the scores of new bureau heads will come a new assortment of wives and daughters, and with them, the capital hopes, will come a revival of those formal and informal affairs without which the socially inclined are desolate and forlorn.

There is about it, too, women are expected to figure importantly in the honors distributed under the Harding administration. And what is more profitable, except an invitation to the White House, than to entertain Madame de Crupin, my dear, the new fourth assistant postmaster general?

Longworths May Reappear
If you want the answer from those who know, there is only one: Nothing? Some well-intentioned prophet with an uncertain vocabulary remarked recently that the inauguration of a Republican administration in Washington would be followed by the "reappearance" of the Longworths, who rode the crest during the Roosevelt incumbency, swam with the tide during the Taft administration, and more or less dropped from sight when the Wilsons came in. "Reappearance" was not the exact meaning he had in mind, but it conveyed his thought.

The Longworths, in the language of the lobbyists, will "come back" with their party. The social swims a year from now, unless all forecasts fail, will devote many a paragraph to the doings of the daughter of the former President and her husband.

mander of a brigade supposed to have its headquarters somewhere on the Pacific coast, will once more be back in Washington as the head of the corps. Mrs. Barnett, who is a Montague, of Virginia, and something of a dictator in the inner circles of capital society, has remained here this winter and, according to her friends, expects to stay much longer.

Capital Chiefly Republican
In the resident set there is a strong Republican predilection even among folks who never vote. The business atmosphere of the capital is Republican. The social atmosphere is Republican.

Mrs. Harding, while priding herself that she is one of the "girls," as she calls some of her close friends, and a typical and likable American matron without affectations or airs, is nevertheless fond of society and social affairs. She is counted upon to inaugurate a regime of hospitality at the White House such as has been unknown for the last eight years. She is expected to have friends around her constantly and to entertain and be entertained. This prospect contributes to the expectancy of the social set, for the highest honor American society knows is to receive an invitation to the White House.

As the first social event on the calendar, it is hoped the new President and his wife will again sanction the inaugural ball. These balls are held in

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the old Pension Building, which has the largest open floor space of any structure in Washington. They were a tradition and a function of national interest until President Wilson, looking at them with a coldly practical eye, said there would be none during his incumbency because it would result in two weeks' delay in the work of the Pension Bureau and consequent inconvenience to officials, clerks and thousands of pensioners.

Wilson's Careful Little for Society
President Wilson and his first wife cared little for society. They sought their associates among relatives, a few intimate friends and a small group of intellectuals whose company they found congenial. Their time for social affairs was further restricted by the necessities of government, for it is not disputed that the last eight years have been among the most difficult of any similar period in American political history. The President had to conserve his strength for the real duties of his office.

Possessing a keen sense of personal responsibility, and interpreting the constitution as holding the President indefinitely responsible for the conduct of governmental affairs by those under him, the office weighed heavily upon

Mr. Wilson in the sense that he always endeavored not only to direct national policies but to see that they were carried out in accordance with his directions. In addition, Mrs. Wilson was not in buoyant health, and, like Mr. Wilson, preferred the society of a few tried friends to more superficial associations.

Thus a combination of official responsibilities, personal inclinations and the dictation of ill-health served to discourage under the first Wilson administration the custom that had made the White House the center and top of the social life of the capital. When the first Mrs. Wilson died there was naturally an end to what little entertaining the White House had witnessed.

The world war also came on, and from that time forward the President found his only diversion in frequent attendance at the theatre, of which he is very fond.

Recently, of course, the President's illness precluded it. It is a common complaint among the socially elect of Washington that the Democratic administration has not shown so brilliantly in a social sense as its predecessors. Without attempting to analyze this situation, the single fact might be cited that more wealth is usually represented in a Republican administration than in a cabinet and Congress of Democrats. It would be superfluous to add that entertaining in the national capital is fully as expensive as in New York, Philadelphia or Newport.

In discussions of possible women appointments under the Harding administration, the names of Mrs. Barclay Warburton, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Medill McCormick, of Chicago; Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Mrs. "Ned" McLean and Mrs. Douglas Robinson recur most frequently. The President-elect has already indicated that he recognizes the right of women to participate



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in government. There is talk of a woman in the cabinet, but it is only talk. Unless an additional cabinet portfolio should be created, it is highly improbable that there will be any women in it, though some of the assistants or subcabinet appointments may go to the women.

All this adds to the interest displayed by the feminine world in the approach of a Republican regime. There will be many a shattered plan and many a broken heart if anything should occur to again relegate the social side of things to the background.

High School Alumnae in Show
Alumnae of the William Penn High School will appear in a musical comedy in the Academy of Music tonight. The play, "Back to Earth," is a modernized version of Mother Goose stories, in which the heroes and heroines of the old stories figure. Feature parts of the extravaganza are said to be the Pajama Girls' dance, the Spanish dance and the "Outja Girls."

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