

# HARDING'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON SENATE

Foreign Policy Must Be Acceptable to Two-thirds Majority to Avert Failure

WILL STRIVE TO OBTAIN IT

By CLINTON W. GILBERT  
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Washington, D. C., Nov. 25.—President-elect Harding's administration will be made or marred at the Marlon conference. Not only is his whole theory of party government based upon such conferences as these so that if they fail to result practically his whole theory breaks down, but the failure to obtain a two-thirds majority of the Senate to a League of Nations policy is going to be the touchstone of the new administration.

Unless Mr. Harding succeeds in putting through the Senate some kind of association of nations, his administration will start with failure. He will have repeated President Wilson's blunder. The people were impatient with Wilson because, while two-thirds of the Senate plainly wanted the league in some form, Wilson was not practical enough to get it passed. The Senate is in the same condition today. Only a small minority is opposed to the league in any form. If Mr. Harding lets that small minority dominate and prevent the adoption of some form of international association, which will command a two-thirds vote of the Senate and the adhesion of foreign nations, he will start badly in the eyes of the American public.

And he will start badly in the eyes of the world. The restoration of American prestige in Europe depends upon our capacity to agree upon some practical policy with respect to international association. If Mr. Harding's policy decided upon at Marlon gets less than a two-thirds majority in the Senate, and the deadlock of the last two years is continued into the next administration, Europe will look upon us as a nation which has no capacity to adopt a foreign policy. The failure of the last two years the world blames upon Mr. Wilson. But, if it is repeated, the world will blame it upon American institutions. So Mr. Harding's success is going to be largely tested by what happens at the conference, whether they lead to a practical policy or not.

Fear Harding Has Lost Time  
There is a growing feeling here that Mr. Harding has lost time and that the bitter-enders have gained ground since the election. The President-elect did not take command of the situation at

once and the bitter-enders have done so. Mr. Harding is waiting until the party in conference adopts a policy. The bitter-enders are not. They are conducting an active propaganda and announcing their determination not to accept the League of Nations in any form whatsoever. They are endeavoring to force Mr. Harding's hand. Some of them are bent on wrecking the Harding administration. Being indifferent to consequences, they are the most positive force in the treaty situation.

They are the greatest danger of the Harding administration. If Harding yields to them in the coming Marlon conference, he will probably be able to hold his party together. The pro-league Republicans will probably go with the new President out of loyalty to his administration. But it is doubtful if any policy to which the bitter-enders will agree will command a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

If President Harding pays too much attention to the bitter-enders' threats and determines to hold the party together as the first consideration, the Marlon conference will lead to the scrapping of the existing League of Nations and to an attempt to build on the basis of the Hague Tribunal. If that policy is adopted, Mr. Harding is not likely to obtain a two-thirds majority for it. The utmost that will be done will be the making of peace with Germany by resolution. The Republican party will probably stand before the country as having failed to establish an international association to lessen the chances of war. And America will not recover its position in the international world.

Will Have to Take Command  
At some point of the conference Mr. Harding will have to come before the listener to his party and take command of it. When he does so, only the Republicans who wish to wreck his administration will refuse to obey. Mr. Harding might have done this during the campaign. Whatever he had said on the League of Nations then would have been party doctrine. It would today control the votes of all Republican

senators who wish to see their party and the new administration succeed. Mr. Harding might have taken command again right after election, by promptly appointing, let us say, Elihu Root as secretary of state, and by that act challenging any Republican to be loyal to the new administration's league policy who dared. All the Republicans, those who wish to wreck the Harding administration, would have accepted the will of the chief.

Mr. Harding still has the opportunity to take command. He can do so at any stage of the conference, just as the commander-in-chief of an army at a council of war, after listening to his advisers, announces his decision. And, in spite of all the noise the bitter-enders are making, Mr. Harding's decision is likely to carry virtually all his party with it.

All of them, except the two or three who wish to wreck the Harding administration are under the same compulsion as Harding himself. They desire to see party success. To succeed before the eyes of the country, the Repub-

can party must accomplish what Mr. Wilson failed to accomplish—the entrance of the United States into some arrangement with foreign powers to preserve peace. The party is pledged to this. To do this, the party must adopt a program which will win certain Democratic support. And Mr. Harding, by a certain general sympathy with the bitter-enders point of view, is especially qualified to lead the bitter-enders to accept the practical course. If Mr. Harding leads toward the present League of Nations instead of away from it, the bitter-enders will not feel that he does so from any predisposition in favor of it, but because that is the only way to avoid party failure.

### COMMUNE IS SHORT-LIVED

Socialist City Government Ended by Buenos Aires Governor  
Buenos Aires, Nov. 25.—(By A. P.)—Establishment of a commune by the recently elected Socialist municipal government of the city of Mar Del Plata resulted in forcible ejection of the Socialist administration yesterday by order of Governor Crotto, of Buenos Aires province.

Although violence was threatened by the Socialists when Governor Crotto recently announced his intention to intervene, there was no resistance when the provincial inspector general of police took possession of the municipal buildings. The provincial government charged that the Socialists violated the law in their attempt to administer the city's affairs on a communistic plan. The city of Mar Del Plata is noted as a summer resort, but has a permanent population of only 30,000.

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