

LOYD GEORGE MAY BE ENVOY TO U. S.

Contingent on Success of Bonar Law's Regime, Report in Washington

DIPLOMATS ARE STIRRED

By a Staff Correspondent
Washington, Nov. 15.—Diplomatic circles here have been stirred to the depths by a suggestion that David Lloyd George may come to Washington as British Ambassador in event of Bonar Law's success with his new British ministry.

It is currently reported that should today's elections in England result in a clean sweep for the Conservatives, giving them a substantial working majority in the House of Commons, the ambassadorial post is likely to be offered to Lloyd George, with a strong possibility of its acceptance.

This report has been received with mixed emotions by officials and members of the diplomatic corps to whom it has been communicated. The suggestion that such a development is not only within the range of possibility, but under favorable conditions would be quite probable.

Naturally, it is contingent on two important considerations: First, the outcome of the British elections resulting from Lloyd George's resignation as Prime Minister, and, second, his acceptability to the Harding Administration.

Geddes Stands High
In the discussions of the possibility of a change there is nothing that reflects on the service of Sir Auckland Geddes, the present British Ambassador, whose standing is of the highest and whose contacts with the Washington Government have been particularly on Governmental friction. Ambassadors frequently change with ministries, however, and it is understood that Lloyd George would again become Prime Minister are not entirely in harmony with the policies of the Bonar Law party. This would pave the way for a shift in Ambassadorial office if the British elections result as expected.

Should Bonar Law fail to command a majority in Parliament and find it impossible to continue with his Ministry, Lloyd George would again become Prime Minister until a successor could be found who could command sufficient support to form a Ministry. It is also pointed out that as leader of the opposition party in Parliament he might find himself in a position of power from which it would be difficult to step down without appearing to desert his own supporters.

On the other hand, if he should find himself at the head of a more or less unimportant minority or otherwise so situated as to make his continued parliamentary service a more or less perfunctory affair, it is conceivable even to those who do not wholly credit the report of ambassadorial aspirations that he might welcome an assignment to Washington for a year or two, away from British politics.

While his appointment would be a distinct, if not a stirring, innovation in the history of international diplomacy, and the first instance of recent record in which a former Prime Minister had been assigned to an ambassadorial post, so many precedents have been shattered as a result of the war's upheaval that it would not cause the consternation it might otherwise—always assuming he would be persona grata to the Washington Government.

A Leading World Figure
In conformity with long-established diplomatic custom, inquiries would first have to be made to determine whether or not the picturesque Welshman, easily the foremost figure in the English-speaking world, would be welcomed in Washington. That his appointment would be generally well received throughout the country is accepted here, particularly since the establishment of the Irish Free State and the settlement, at least temporarily, of the troublesome Irish question.

But whether it would be equally popular in official quarters, considering all the circumstances of Lloyd George's long public career and his overshadowing personal qualities, is another matter.

The question is also raised here as to whether he could compress his natural ebullience into the narrow confines of diplomatic procedure and precaution. Could he forego the temptation to speak on prohibited subjects? Could he refrain from saying more than he should on permissible subjects? Would his genius for oratory, an asset in statecraft, be a liability in a diplomatic post?

To these questions the answer is returned that if he were to come to the United States as Ambassador he would naturally conform to diplomatic practice and precedent and exercise customary discretion in his official and unofficial utterances.

He would also be surrounded by a staff of experts, it is suggested, who could hold him down and see that he did not overstep the bounds of official propriety.

In favor of his appointment it is argued that Great Britain will need her ablest advocate in Washington during the next few years, and while a comparison of Lloyd George's qualifications for diplomatic service with those of Arthur Balfour, for example, might raise a question as to which would be likely to prove most valuable to his Government in a diplomatic post there is no escaping the fact that Lloyd George is younger, physically more robust, and would come here—if at all—with the advantage of a personal reputation and prestige which makes his name almost a household word in this country.

Big Task for Envoy
Great Britain's Ambassador will be called upon during the next year or two to assist in reaching an agreement with the United States Government on the refunding of the British debt, and will have an even more difficult task in following public opinion in this country on foreign affairs—particularly Old World relationship.

There is also the task of bringing

the two great English-speaking nations into closer understanding and accord in world affairs. And that, it is acknowledged here, is where a man of Lloyd George's type might play a notable role.

In his personal achievements and rise from obscure beginnings to the height of power, the life of Lloyd George is one that would further appeal to popular imagination in this country.

There is precedent for the appointment of former British Ministers to the Washington Embassy, but not for-

mer Prime Ministers. The nearest approach to it occurred during the war, when Arthur Balfour came over as head of the British War Mission to this country. Two recent Ambassadors—Lord Grey and Lord Reading—had served in the Ministry before their assignment as Ambassadors. But Lloyd George is "something else."

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