

TIME

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March 3, 1923

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENCY

Mr. Harding's Defeat

Seeking only the nation's welfare, Mr. Harding has suffered defeat at the hands of Congress. Not only that, but the man who was elected President by the largest plurality in history has been reproved by a Congress controlled by his own party.

The Ship Subsidy Bill, never popular, and never made so by the President, was politely strangled to death.

The wisdom of some of the most important of the President's appointments has been questioned. For example, Daugherty, Butler, Reilly.

The Bonus ghost is not laid.

Nothing which has recently emanated from the White House which could be called a foreign policy has secured the united support of the President's party.

Today Mr. Harding is prepared to draw a deep breath, for Congressional politics will soon drop over the horizon. After a short holiday in Florida he will gather about him the business men of his cabinet and continue to manage the affairs of the nation, untrammelled until a new Congress rises—from the West.

In 1924

Who will be the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1924?

Before Senator Oscar Underwood sailed for Egypt last week he wrote the following sentence in a letter to a fellow Alabaman: "When I return I shall give very careful and thorough consideration to the friendly suggestions that are being made in reference to the advisability of my entering the fight for the Presidential nomination of our party."

Mr. Underwood's candidacy is being advanced by the more conservative element among the Democrats.

Mr. Ford and Mr. McAdoo, both of whom may fairly be classed as progressives, have received most of the boom advertising thus far.

Democrats who do not take kindly to either Mr. Ford or Mr. McAdoo extol Oscar W. Underwood as a "second Grover Cleveland." And Mark Sullivan, dean of Washington critics, adds: "Underwood's relation to his party and public life generally is not unlike the relation of the new British Premier, Bonar Law, to British public life. Underwood, indeed, might claim not unreasonably that he is probably, on the whole, a somewhat abler man than Bonar Law. Certainly he has a greater experience in public life and in party leadership."

A New World Court

Mr. Harding and Mr. Hughes proposed that the United States join The Hague Permanent Court of International Justice. The suggestion gained the support of two men as far apart politically as former President Wilson and Ambassador Harvey.

The Court acts independently of the League of Nations. It is composed of 15 judges, chosen by the League, who serve nine-year terms. They will build up a body of law upon which to base their decisions, which will not be reviewed by the League. The decisions will not be put into effect by force, but by prestige and public opinion.

"Such action," Mr. Harding told the Senate, "would add to our own consciousness of participation in the fortunate advancement of international relationship and remind the world anew that we are ready for our proper part in furthering peace and adding to stability in world affairs."

Whether or not the plan is put into effect by this Congress or another or not at all, the multiplication of such proposals coming from our own government shows a growing sense of American discontent with isolation.

THE CABINET

Postmaster-General New

The name of Mr. Harry S. New, retiring Senator from Indiana, will be presented to the Senate for confirmation of his appointment as Postmaster General some time before that body disperses.

At the same time the nomination of Postmaster General Hubert Work as Secretary of the Interior will go to the Capitol.

President Harding has a Cabinet again. The resignation of Secretary Fall for announced reasons of ill health left a vacancy difficult to fill. When Secretary Hoover and Mr. John Hays Hammond, obvious first choices, refused the position, the President found himself in a difficulty.

Mr. New is 64. Included in his qualifications is experience as a big game hunter, as an editor, and as a soldier in the war against Spain.

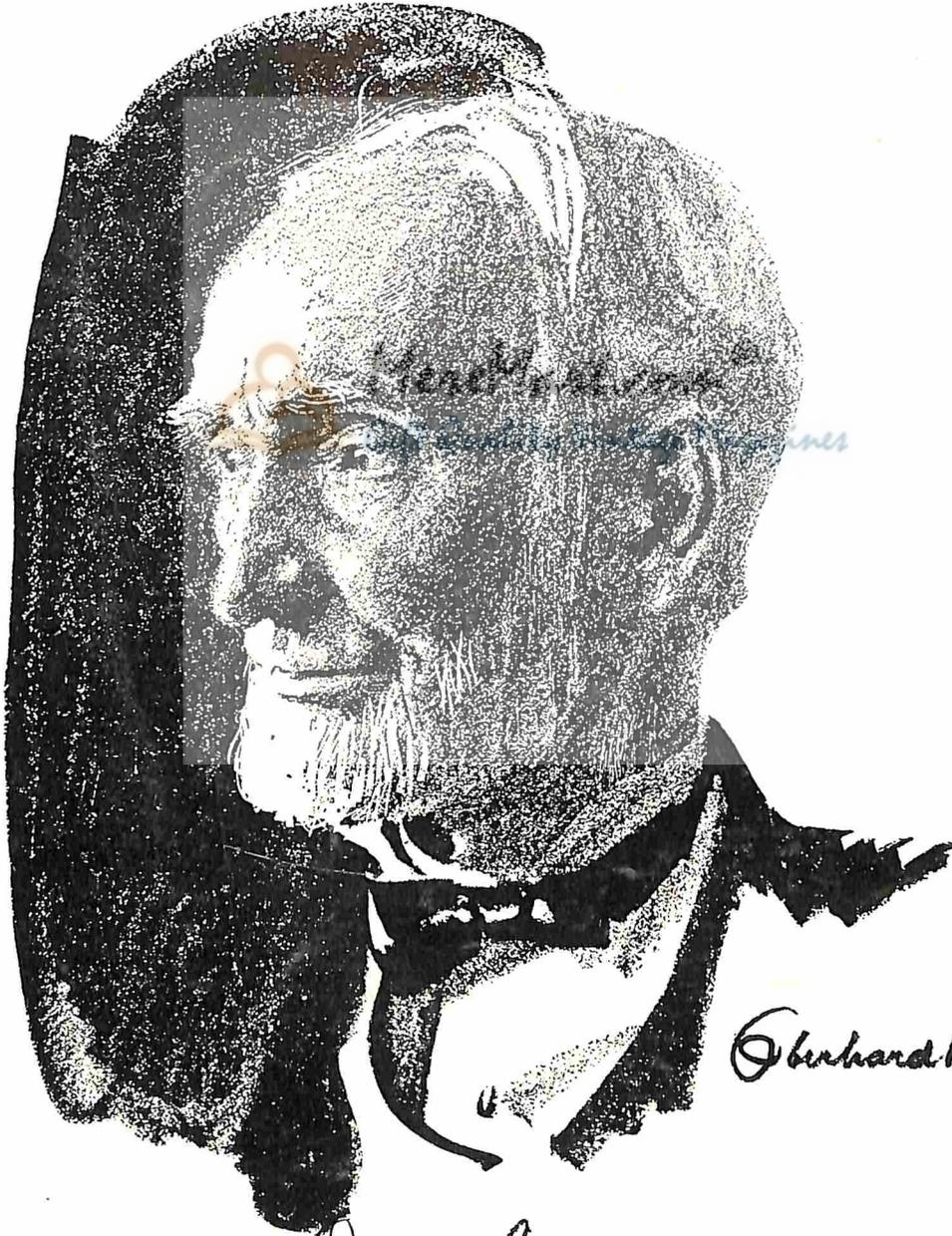
CONTENTS

	Page
National Affairs.....	1- 6
Foreign News.....	7-11
Books.....	12-13
Art.....	13
The Theatre.....	14-15
Cinema.....	15
Music.....	16
Education.....	17
Religion.....	18
Medicine.....	18
Law.....	19
Science.....	19
Finance.....	20
Sport.....	21
Aeronautics.....	21
Crime.....	22
The Press.....	23
Milestones.....	24
Miscellany.....	25
"Imaginary Interviews".....	26
Point With Pride.....	27
View With Alarm.....	28

FIFTEEN CENTS

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