

# The Outlook

January 30, 1924

## Riding the Storm

**N**OT since the Calliope fought her way out of the harbor of Apia to the cheers of American seamen on the Trenton and Vandalia has there been a more dramatic feat of navigation than the battle of the Shenandoah to regain her harbor in the gigantic hangar at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

While moored to a lofty mast with only part of her crew on board, the Shenandoah was torn loose from her anchorage by a sudden storm. As the photograph accompanying this account shows, the framework at her bow was badly shattered. Two of her gas-filled compartments collapsed, a disaster equivalent to the flooding of two water-tight compartments in a steamship, and she was forced to run before the gale until it abated and permitted her to turn in the vicinity of Newark. As soon as news that the Shenandoah was adrift was received, all radio broadcasting stations were closed in order to prevent any interference with messages to and from the Shenandoah's crew. Radio amateurs who listened in on the fight of the Shenandoah will not soon forget the event.

It was 7:30 when the Shenandoah broke adrift. It was nearly midnight when she began her return. Two and a half hours later she was hovering over her home port, waiting for an opportune time to land.

There are those who see in the Shenandoah's battle proof that the proposed flight across the Pole is a foolhardy venture, and those who see in this experience proof that the Shenandoah has absolutely demonstrated her air-worthiness for a polar voyage. Certainly the Shenandoah's accomplishment is remarkable, but one wonders what would have happened if there had been no port of safety within a thousand miles when she went adrift. The storm which she out-rode was violent, but comparatively brief. Storms are not always so short-lived.

## Investigating "Propaganda"

**O**N January 21 Edward Bok appeared before the Senate special committee which is investigating "propaganda." The object, on the surface, was to discover if Mr. Bok's Peace Plan has been in any way supported by foreign influ-

ence or money. The action of the Senate committee was welcomed by many who wish to discredit the winning plan in particular and all support of close co-operation with other nations in general.

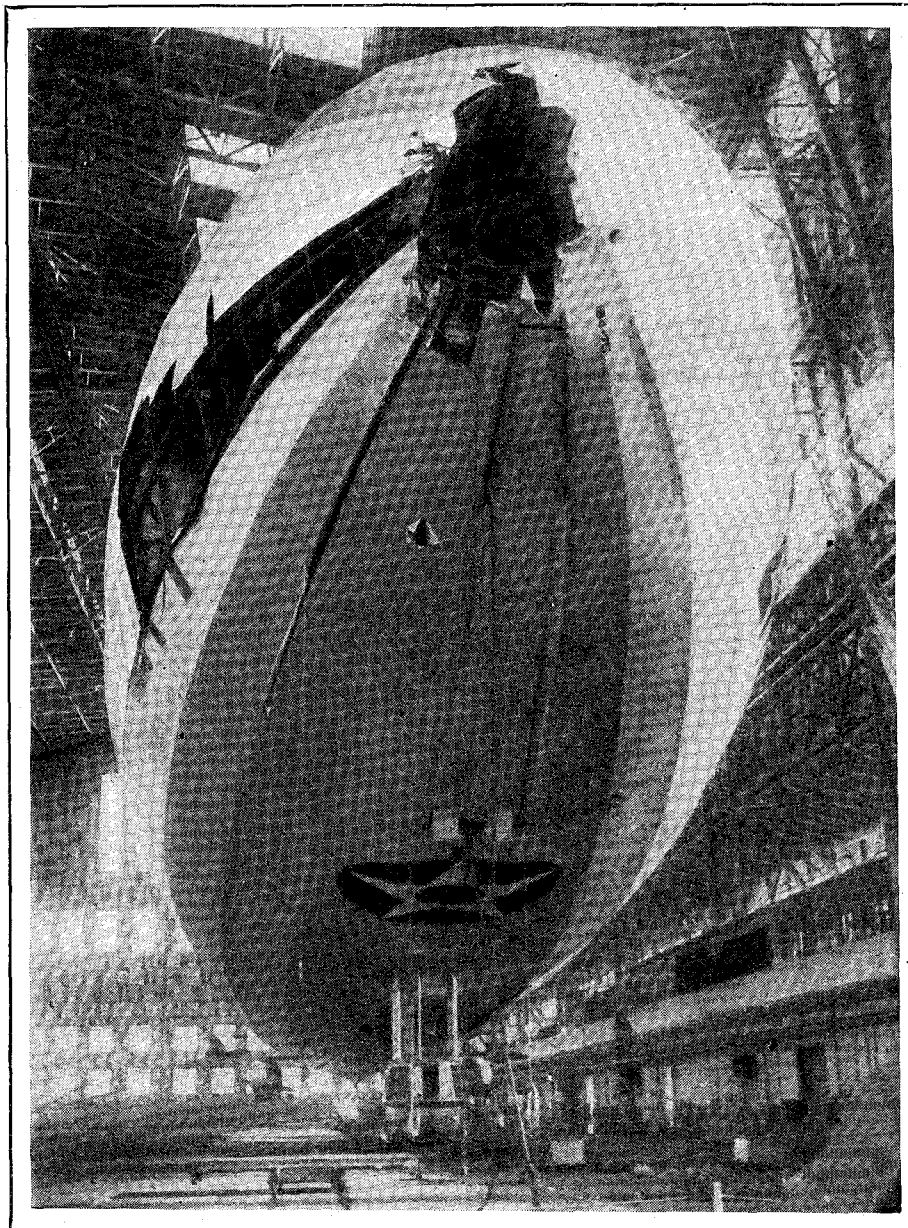
According to report, Senator Reed asked whether Mr. Bok hoped to influence public opinion.

"I hope so," replied Mr. Bok. He refused to inform the committee how much the plan and its advertisement had cost him, on the ground that it was a personal matter, concerning himself only.

Without taking any side as to this particular case, one may wonder if it is any longer possible to endeavor to interest the people of the United States in any particular question without having

motives suspected and an investigation ordered. It has been reported that 300,000 farmers have signed a petition supporting Mr. Mellon's tax-reduction plan. Can this be suspicious propaganda on the part of nefarious capitalists? Just now there is a strong campaign supported by the Boy Scouts, who are badly in need of Scout-masters. Can this be propaganda supported by the military clique? An increasing number of American Legion posts are coming out strongly against the bonus. Can this be insidious propaganda fostered by war profiteers to save themselves taxation by keeping a due reward from our soldiers?

It is quite legitimate for advocates of honest causes and policies to bring their



P. & A. Photos

The shattered frame of the Shenandoah after she rode out the storm



arguments, through publicity of various kinds, before as many people as possible. It will be a sorry day when such publicity has to pass before the censorious eyes of special Senatorial committees. The trouble with investigations instituted on frivolous grounds is that they tend to discredit any investigation that may really be needed.

### The Teapot Dome Scandal

**A**N investigation that ought not to be discredited by such exhibitions as the inquiry into the so-called Bok propaganda is that which is searching out the facts in the lease of the Teapot Dome Naval Oil Reserve to the Sinclair interests.

What the Senate wants to know is whether Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, or any one else in the confidence of the Government, personally profited by the lease of this enormous oil reserve. Mr. Fall has denied that Harry F. Sinclair ever gave him a penny, but the denial has not satisfied the Senate and has not satisfied public opinion. The suspicion that, whether Mr. Fall has personally profited or not, there is some scandal behind this lease has been intensified by Archibald Roosevelt, son of the late President Roosevelt, and himself vice-president of the export organization of the Sinclair oil interests.

After consultation with his brother, the present Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Archibald Roosevelt resigned his position with the Sinclair interests, because, as he testified before the Senate investigating committee, he could not give his employer the loyalty he should give, and he explained:

The reasons I could not give such loyalty are due, first, to the amazing testimony that has been turned up by your committee; secondly, due to the fact that I learned some things in the office which, while not proven facts as yet, at least corroborated my suspicions; and, thirdly, I noticed, as you will see from my later statement, that two of the people most concerned with the naval lease had left the United States in a hurry. I then came to my brother and gave him all of my various suspicions and various information, and he said that he felt that he had to show it to your committee and that I had to come up before your committee.

Mr. Archibald Roosevelt then gave particulars which it is not practicable in this space to recount here at length, but his testimony was specific enough to make it evident that this Teapot Dome lease should be probed to the bottom.

In this matter there should be no par-

tisanship unless partisanship can be applied to party pride. This is a scandal in the Republican Administration, and there is nothing that is more important to the Republican party than that it shall expose its own scandals and correct them itself. President Roosevelt stated the principle in a speech at Chicago in 1910:

Now, I am a good party man, but I am an American first. When we come to questions affecting the vital principles of American life, I know no party. When such a question as corruption is involved, we cannot afford to divide on party lines.

I take just this much account of party in such a case. While I will do my best to get hold of the thief of the opposite party, I will try, if possible, a little harder to get hold of the thief of my own party.

When I was President, I endeavored to act so that there should be no need of raising the cry among my opponents of "Turn the rascals out," because I turned them out myself just as fast as I could get at them.

### Confusion in Congress

**A** COALITION between the Democrats and a faction of the Republicans in the lower house of Congress has forced a change of rules which will put obstacles in the way of the passage of Administration measures.

With the new rules in force the Democrats expect to be able to prevent the adoption of the original Mellon tax-reduction plan. By the same token, those who favor a bonus for ex-soldiers regard a bonus law as a practical certainty. Whatever is done to push through important measures against the will of the minority must depend for its effectiveness on the expression of widespread public opinion. The two outstanding features of the change in the rules secured by this coalition victory are, first, the repeal of the Underwood amendment rule, and, second, the adoption of a new rule by which a committee may be discharged from the consideration of any bill upon petition of 150 members of the House.

By the repeal of the Underwood rule there has been restored the vicious practice of legislation by "rider." The Underwood rule, which was adopted when the Democrats were forcing a tariff law eleven years ago, provided that an amendment offered to a revenue bill must be germane to the particular section to which amendment was sought. Before that measures which could not be passed otherwise were tacked on revenue measures; and, since the Government had to have revenue, the Senate and the Presi-

dent were often forced to accept measures which might separately have been defeated in conference or by veto. Now this old vicious practice, which had been outlawed in the House, has been reinstated. Those who are responsible for bringing back this evil, even if they call themselves Progressives, have acted like reactionaries. The reason for the repeal of this Underwood rule is one which appeals to the politician. It enables him to put through by means of trades with other politicians legislation which otherwise would not have a chance.

The new rule for discharging committees has very much more reason behind it; but in an unwieldy body like the House of Representatives it is one which may be easily subject to abuse. It will have the effect of taking important bills out of the hands of committees that may be unfriendly to them and bringing them immediately before the whole House. Under the seniority system, which itself is a bad system and ought to be done away with, the Republicans control the committees; while the coalition apparently dominates the floor of the House. Taking a bill out of a committee and bringing it before the House, therefore, permits the coalition to offer battle upon its own ground.

As in all such revolts, those in authority are not free from responsibility for the result. The Old Guard has not been susceptible to persuasion heretofore; but now it is driven out of its trenches and for the remainder of the session there will be open fighting. There will be many battles, and not all of them will terminate one way. The Democrats and Progressives will not always be mutually yielding. As the lines shift, much legislation will be passed that the Administration desires; but nobody expects that a Republican programme can be put through as a whole. Chairman Snell, of the Rules Committee, which is the most potent force in the House, admits that the coalition can do practically anything it can agree to do with regard to tax reduction and the bonus.

Never were party lines more confused. Never was leadership in National politics in any party more obviously lacking. Never were there more cross-currents of opinion. The state of Congress is a fair reflection of the state of the Nation.

### The Boy Scouts and Their Present Need

**T**HE Boy Scouts need Scout-masters. In New York they are endeavoring to draw attention to this need. Some