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La Follette's Running Mate

THIS Presidential year is likely to be remembered for refusals of Vice-Presidential nominations. Mr. Lowden, after thrice refusing the offer of the Vice-Presidential crown, snatched it from his head when it had actually been placed there. Senator Walsh, virtually if not technically made the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee by acclamation, declared the Convention out of order, and, with fine disregard for an overwhelming chorus of noes, brought its session to a close, and thus escaped without formally repudiating the Convention's action. Others declined the Vice-Presidential nomination in advance of its being officially offered. Among the Republicans who did so were Senator Borah and Secretary Hoover. Among the Democrats ex-Secretary Meredith. All these refusals were final and decisive.

Not so Senator Wheeler's. After declaring that he could not be induced to run for Vice-President, he acquiesced in the nomination made by the committee which was acting on behalf of the La Follette Convention. Mr. Wheeler still maintains that he is a Democrat, as Mr. La Follette still maintains that he is a Republican. Thus the third ticket, if it is a sword at all, is a two-edged one. It will cut as keenly if not as deeply into the mule skin as into the elephant hide.

Mr. Wheeler's bolt from the Democratic ticket is more spectacular than Mr. La Follette's repudiation of the Republican Convention. La Follette at least served notice. His programme was placed before the Republican Convention and rejected. Wheeler, on the other hand, participated in the Democratic Convention throughout, and then when the Convention was over refused to support its nominee.

Because of his running mate, La Follette probably hopes to carry a larger number of States than he could have won by his own strength. Some Democrats of the dissatisfied regions of the West will undoubtedly vote the third ticket because of Wheeler's presence on it. His activities in the Daugherty investigation, irregular as they may have been, have a spectacular quality that makes admirers.

It is not impossible that the nomination of Wheeler may contribute to the throwing of the election into Congress.

The Possibility of an Accidental President

IF the election is thrown into Congress, it will not be without precedent. There is in fact a case on record where the result was the election by the lower house of a President of one party and by the Senate of a Vice-President of the other party. This year that is highly improbable, though it seems at present a little more probable than that Mr. La Follette could carry New York State, as one of his ardent adherents, it is said, has predicted. As we have already pointed out, if no candidate succeeds in obtaining more than half of the votes in the Elec-

toral College (that is, more than 266), Congress is charged by the Constitution with the duty of making a selection of both President and Vice-President. In that case, the House must choose between the three candidates having the highest number of electoral votes for President, and the Senate must choose between the two candidates having the highest number of electoral votes for Vice-President.

In voting for a President, the House of Representatives would vote by States. Each State is entitled to one vote. New York's vote, for instance, would be determined by the forty-three Representatives in Congress from that State. Nevada, like New York, would have one vote, and, having but one Representative in Congress, its vote would be determined



(C) Underwood

Senator Wheeler and Senator La Follette, candidates on the "third ticket," seem pleased with each other

by that one man. With three candidates in the field, a deadlock might easily ensue.

In the meantime the Senate would be making its choice between the two Vice-Presidential candidates. If they were Mr. Dawes and Mr. C. W. Bryan, it is conceivable that the supporters of the La Follette ticket, who would have no opportunity for voting for Mr. Wheeler, might cast their votes for Mr. Bryan. If the deadlock continued in the House until the expiration of Congress on the Fourth of March, the candidate chosen by the Senate as Vice-President would succeed as President. It is thus possible that, without the intervention of death, Mr. C. W. Bryan, who is now hardly known except by name throughout the country at large, and who could not be chosen President in the regular election, might become President of the United States. Those who would like to see Mr. Bryan President might conceivably best promote their object, not by voting for Messrs. Davis and Bryan at all, but by voting for Messrs. La Follette and Wheeler. A great many votes will undoubtedly be cast for Messrs. Coolidge and Dawes as the most certain method of averting the possibility of what might fairly be called an accidental President.

The Happier Wheat Farmer

WILL the wheat farmers cast a famine vote or a festive vote? A famine vote seemed likely until the improvement of the price for wheat about a month ago. The grower looks forward now to getting for his crop a price not far removed from the figure that the Government experts have figured as that yielding a fair return on his enterprise. His reaping is likely to be happier than was his sowing. The contrast may well supplant his recent discontent with thankfulness.

A tendency to plant even more wheat than before, in some of the States hardest hit by the wheat depression, renders the improvement in the prospect doubly important. Kansas, the State having usually the biggest wheat acreage, planted a million acres more last autumn than the year before. Nebraska likewise put a greater acreage into wheat. Illinois, on the contrary, having other and more valuable crops to which it could turn, reduced its winter wheat acreage seventeen per cent. In general, the States where wheat was a secondary crop withdrew land from its cultivation, having other and brighter possibilities. A number of

the States that had no other ready substitute crop played doubles or quits by increasing their planting. They would have suffered the more if the price had failed to rise. As it has risen, their wheat growers, the most hard pressed, derive the greater benefit. It benefits them further that the secondary wheat States have abandoned a great part of their acreage in the leading wheat States' favor.

The outcome bids fair to check the economic disorder that has afflicted the wheat country. It cannot cure the cause of the trouble, which is viewed as largely due to the too implicit reliance of farmers in several wheat States on a single crop. The plans outlined in President Coolidge's Message of last fall aimed at the introduction of other forms of husbandry in the wheat belt, and the dispersion rather than the further concentration of wheat culture. A happy outcome this year may put the distressed wheat grower on his feet, but only diversified farming can keep him there.

He may go to the polls in many cases feeling that all's right with the world, but the world must not forget his standing need of a surer plan of husbandry.

Grist from the Government Mill

"THE Government at Washington still lives," as Garfield once said to a New York crowd, and, despite three-cornered political warfare over the way in which it shall be conducted, continues its multitudinous activities for the benefit of the people. Mr. Davis, Senator La Follette, even President Coolidge, who has been at the head of it all for nearly a year, do not begin to know all of the ways in which the Government works for the people. In the main, its machinery goes steadily on regardless of Presidents and Presidential contests. Here are some of the more interesting items in a day's grind of Government grist:

The Post Office Department announces that world mail routings are in process of realignment as a result of the American Air Mail Service. European mail now routed via Marseilles and the Suez Canal to Australia and the Orient may be diverted to New York, with a resultant shortening of two weeks in its transit time. So with many other mail routes.

The Forest Service and the Department of the Interior announce that there has been great exaggeration in reports of havoc wrought by forest fires in California. Losses of property and life have

not been great, and the public may feel reassured.

The Attorney-General invokes the power of Federal law to protect consumers of fruits and vegetables from paying exorbitant prices.

The War Department announces that recruiting for the Army will be suspended except for the enlistment of men needed to replace future losses as they occur. There is only enough money to pay 120,000 men, and the strength of the Regular Army at present is about 124,000.

The Department of Agriculture publishes wheat production figures for the producing countries of the world, showing that the crop this year is thirteen per cent less than that of last year and that American wheat growers may hope to sell in a less crowded market.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs announces that night schools for adult Indians will be established wherever practicable. Instruction of adult Indians in night schools has already had a thorough test and has proved successful.

A campaign is instituted to stamp out trachoma, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases among the Indians. It will be extended during the coming year to every Indian reservation and every State having an Indian population.

And these are only a few culs from a large pile. If the Government published a daily newspaper, the copy hook would not often be empty.

America Is Playing Her Part

SECRETARY HUGHES's presence in London, though it does not mean even an unofficial attendance upon the Interallied Conference there, has helped to emphasize the part that America is playing in this new attempt to bring Germany to terms and settle Europe's post-war difficulties. That America is contributing materially to the improvement of Europe's condition should be a source of pride to every American. A great deal that has been said about America's avoidance of responsibility is, to put it bluntly, not true. It is true that America has not chosen to do many things that have been asked of her, but she has done some things that have been better than much that has been asked of her.

The fact that the Interallied Conference has a definite plan to consider is due to America. The fact that that Conference is considering as practicable the appointment of an Agent-General of