



Keystone

The Erechtheum on the Acropolis at Athens. It was from this building that Lord Elgin took the caryatid now in the British Museum

people nor any Greek Government ever authorized the transfer of these art treasures. Greece was then enslaved under Turkey. The act was that of Turkish officials, who despised Greece and as Mohammedans disapproved of plastic art representing men, women, or gods.

A Quiet Irish Election

WHEN we remember what was going on in Ireland only five years ago in the way of civil war, the mere fact that the recent election for members of the Irish Parliament was peaceful and quiet is in itself significant.

Even the heated arguments as to what the result of the election will be are matters of words and not blows. One beneficial effect of the system of proportionate representation in political elections is that the returns are so complicated by arithmetical processes that the country has time to quiet down before the precise meaning of the election is clear.

A little more than a week after the general elections of the Irish Free State it appeared that out of the total number of seats in the Dail—namely, 152—the result was known in 117 cases. There were eight parties involved, but only three are important enough to consider. The supporters of the Government policies and of President Cosgrave won 36 of the 117 contests reported; the Fianna Fail, which is the party of De Valera, had 34 seats; the Labor Party, which has been increasing in strength in Ireland, had 20 seats.

This situation (which will not be

greatly altered by the final returns) shows that the Government has suffered a loss. Although the Government appears now to be in a minority, the supporters of the Constitution form a majority. While it is not probable, therefore, that President Cosgrave will attempt to carry on separately, it is probable that a combination of the smaller parties, together with Cosgrave's followers, will form a coalition, through which a moderate Government may be carried on. All this situation is quite constitutional and nothing more or less than what has repeatedly happened in the British Parliament. The extremists in Ireland will renew the fight to abrogate that condition of the Free State Constitution which requires a member of the Dail to swear allegiance to King George. As a matter of fact, under the present Government Ireland to all intents and purposes is as free as Canada or Australia. The "die-hards" who will never be satisfied with anything short of absolute independence for Ireland have little likelihood in the present prosperous and comparatively comfortable condition in Ireland either of achieving that end or of removing the perfectly formal condition of adherence to the throne.

France Sets Out to Redeem the Franc

PREMIER POINCARÉ has proposed to issue a new loan of ten billion francs, which would permit the retirement of an equal amount of bank notes. Briefly, the scheme as reported means

practically the conversion of ten billion francs of paper currency into Government bonds. Obviously, the result would be to raise the standing of the French franc, since with less paper currency outstanding the credit of the Government would be improved. It remains to be seen whether the determined Premier can carry through his plan. He has been equal to other national emergencies in France, and he may be able to lead the way out of the currency depression.

The step, if it is taken, is a move on the way back toward resuming the gold standard for payment of the obligations represented by the inflated currency. The Government took one step when it set the value of the franc at four cents and offered to buy foreign currency and bills at that rate. The result was that French private banks placed large foreign currency credits to the account of the Government without, however, actually being paid in francs. The printing of more francs was thus avoided, but the Government naturally became subject to possible calls for payment from the banks. The proposal for a new loan apparently is part of a Government program designed to get rid of this risk by securing new capital from popular subscription. If it is put into effect, it will afford a significant test of the financial reserve strength of the French nation.

Traffic Lessons for Pedestrians

PARIS has a new Chief of Police, M. Jean Chiappe, who believes that he can educate the pedestrians up to saving

their own lives in the streets. This is enough to brand M. Chiappe as a humorist. Traffic conditions in Paris are thoroughly comic.

In the first place, since the streets curve, change their directions, and end in "impasses," a system of lights operating over long distances, such as is possible on Broadway or Fifth Avenue, New York, for instance, is impossible. Then the speed with which taxis are driven makes existence outside them only a fraction less dangerous than riding within them. It is admitted that only a suicide would ever tell a Parisian taxi-driver to go fast. After that comes the fact that traffic going north and south, or east and west, never stops simultaneously. As the nicely dressed little policeman raises his club to stop the north-bound traffic, at his back the south-bound whizzes by. He turns and stops the south-bound, and off goes the other. The result is that the pedestrian lingers long on the curb, eventually advances gingerly to the center of the street, waits there from five to ten minutes, and accomplishes the dash to the farther side.

Any American policeman would present "tickets" to half the motorists in Paris in a day. It is a frequent occurrence for as many as five or six cars to go by after the traffic signal to stop has been given. Meanwhile the policeman whistles frantically, and eventually apparently some one feels sorry for him and stops.

More frequently, however, the police make practically no effort to control the vehicles or the pedestrians. Five men may be on duty in a line at the Etoile at six o'clock in the evening, and in that amazing circle there will be a perfect bedlam of motors, omnibuses, surface cars, and pedestrians which not one of the five will make the slightest motion to control.

As for rules against "jay-walking," no signs exist, and no one has ever been seen to be warned against it. To cross in the middle of a block is so very slightly more hazardous than crossing at the corners that it makes little difference.

M. Chiappe intends to rise superior to this situation, however. On May 19 he stationed officials of the force, aided by members of the Society for the Protection of Pedestrians (and Heaven knows they need to be protected!), at six important points in the city, where they lectured to those who would listen on how they should cross the streets. And while they talked the automobiles rolled on.

It is more to the point, however, that

traffic policemen in Paris are all being sent to automobile schools, so that they may learn to drive, start, and stop the automobiles which they attempt to direct all day long. Stop them from behind the wheel they may. The question which interests the pedestrians is, Can they be taught to stop them with a whistle instead of a brake?

Last year there were 473 deaths from motors running over pedestrians in Paris. All that can be said is that the average walker is possessed of remarkable agility in escaping.

After the Crisis

INSTEAD of thousands, the lives lost in the Mississippi flood may be numbered in a few hundreds. Even those, except for six lives lost outside of Louisiana, all perished in the first onset of the flood, before the work of protection and rescue was organized by Secretary Herbert Hoover. These are the simple facts given out with the announcement of his resignation as flood relief dictator, by Louisiana's eminent citizen and former Governor, John M. Parker.

When Governor Parker's interview was published in *The Outlook* for June 1, the danger to life as well as property was real. Now that danger has ended. Americans have a genius for organizing quickly and effectively in emergencies; but that genius consists in finding and obeying competent leaders. Such men as Herbert Hoover and John M. Parker are symbols of American democracy. They come to the front when danger calls, find themselves leaders of the people, find also at hand adjutants and willing followers, and then, when the emergency ends, retire. What happened in the Mississippi flood was precisely, on a different scale, what happened when the United States joined the World War. That is what has always made and always will make America formidable in a crisis.

But the test of American democracy does not end when the crisis ends. The flood has subsided; but the Mississippi remains. What are we as a people going to do hereafter with that mighty river? Are we going to fall back into the old way of building levees that occasionally break? Or are we going to organize permanently for the safeguarding of life and property in the region where both property and life have been periodically endangered and destroyed?

The kind of leadership needed for the times when a crisis is past is different from that needed in the crisis itself. It

is the leadership, not of quick organization and of mobilization, but of the long look ahead and of scientific planning.

Have we Americans the patience and the foresight to begin now to plan for what may have to be carried on for ten or twenty years, or for a generation, or longer? This is the question which is raised by Mr. Merritt's article in this issue as well as by the two articles of his that have preceded it, and by the two articles in *The Outlook* for June 8 and 15 by Mr. John R. Freeman, who is generally regarded as the highest authority on hydraulic engineering in the country. The one great need in solving what Mr. Freeman calls "the biggest and most costly reclamation project in the world" is investigation—"patient investigation in field and laboratory."

One outcome of the experience in this flood should be the creation of such a hydraulic laboratory as Mr. Freeman has suggested.

There are hydraulic laboratories now in the United States, but none precisely of the sort that Mr. Freeman proposes. To describe such a laboratory in detail is not our purpose, nor is it likely to be of interest or profit to any but technical engineers. Mr. Freeman has described such a laboratory in an article originally printed in the "Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers" for August, 1923, and reprinted in pamphlet form. The point is that such a laboratory enables the investigator to separate factors in the action of water and study them as one may study the action of chemicals in a chemical laboratory, to make exact measurements, and to control conditions. As Mr. Freeman says, "A week's work with a model, in which changes of shape and position can be readily made, at a total cost of a few hundred dollars, may tell more than six months' time and \$10,000 spent on an experimental dike or groyne in the field." For example, to quote again from Mr. Freeman: "In certain experiments, clear water can be circulated, into which dark-colored sand grains of various sizes are sifted and allowed to flow over a contrasting bed of plaster of paris, and special illumination in an optical plane, similar to that used with the ultra-microscope, can be used in connection with a high-speed motion-picture camera, to study the intricate laws of vortex motion and the formation of such swirls and vortices as are often observed on the surface and appear to come from some obstruction at the bottom." Mr. Freeman lists sixty-five different studies as among those which could be made in