

diately found his party unready for the choice of a leader, and there has consequently been some delay in the matter. It is expected that within a day or two Sir Robert, who has been in consultation with his Parliamentary supporters, will reach a conclusion and be prepared to submit a name to His Excellency the Governor-General. Such a change does not necessarily involve a general election. The new Premier can hold office if he has the support of a majority of the House of Commons. But sometimes a change of leadership brings about a difficult situation for which a general election is the most convenient remedy.

### Another Dark Horse

AT the moment of writing indications are that the San Francisco Democratic convention is to prove a case in which the last shall be first and the first shall be last. It is beginning to be seen that the best way to win a nomination for the Presidency is to take a quiet back seat and say little or nothing while the managers of the candidates for whom "booms" have been organized engage in contention which increases as the balloting progresses. At the Republican convention in Chicago all the leading candidates, with organized movements created by large expenditures, had to be dropped, and Harding and Coolidge, who had previously been but little talked of, became the nominees. At the San Francisco convention there is a probability of a similar situation arising. Mr. McAdoo, who led in the early balloting, had become strong because he had no organization and had positively refused to authorize the use of his name. In the face of this refusal, and in reliance on a statement once made by him that no man could properly refuse a Presidential nomination, his friends insisted on presenting his name, and it won more approval than any of the names that had been put forward as the result of active promotion. With McAdoo and Cox and Palmer all holding front places in the balloting, it seems unlikely that any of them can obtain the required two-thirds vote. A "dark horse" may again win, with probability strongly favoring John W. Davis, of West Virginia, now American Ambassador in London.

### Manitoba

THE result of the Manitoba Provincial elections has some of the remarkable features which were observed in the Ontario elections. The groups who stood apart from the old political parties were more numerous in Manitoba than in the case of Ontario, and there has been in consequence a larger measure of confusion. But the striking feature in both Provinces has been the loosening

of old party ties and the breaking away from old party standards. In Ontario the Farmer Labor party, although distinctly a minority of the people, were able to displace the old Conservative Government, form a new cabinet and carry on business with a fair degree of success. In Manitoba a Liberal Government remains in power, but in a somewhat precarious condition, since it has only 21 members in the House of 55. Its old opponents, the Conservatives, have only 10, while Labor claims 11, and Farmers and Independents 11, with two elections yet to be held. A combination of the elements outside the Government party would bring about a change of Government. What is more likely to happen is that some of these will be willing to support the Norris Government, who will thus be able to continue in office. It is not a comfortable position for the Ministry. There is discomfort for the old parties, too, in the fact that in Winnipeg, where ten members were chosen under the proportional representation system, a radical member who escaped conviction in the recent trials for the Winnipeg strike has headed the poll, and another labor leader who was sent to prison has been elected to the Legislature. These are signs of the unrest and discontent which unfortunately are widespread.

### The League in the Contest

HOW far the Covenant of the League of Nations, included in the Treaty of Versailles, could advantageously be made an issue of the Presidential elections was a question that for many months troubled the minds of the leading public men of both political parties in the United States. President Wilson, the chief author of the League scheme, was naturally inclined to magnify it and to regard it as a valuable asset to the Democratic party in the electoral contest that was not far away, an asset that would be beneficial if the treaty were ratified, and still more advantageous if the Republican party succeeded in defeating the treaty. Many Democrats, however, apprehensive that the treaty and the League would not find great favor with the people, would have preferred a less unyielding position, admitting of the acceptance of the treaty with some sort of reservations, and the elimination of the question from the issues of the Presidential contest. On the Republican side, too, there was much anxiety as to the public mind towards the treaty. While many leaders were from the beginning squarely against the League and ready to fight it to the bitter end, others saw danger in this course and favored the acceptance of the treaty with reservations of a qualifying character. The refusal of the Republicans to agree to the treaty with-

out reservations, and the refusal of the Democrats to agree to it with the reservations proposed, threw the whole question into the arena of the Presidential contest.

The managers of the Republican convention at Chicago hesitated to denounce the treaty, but practically condemned it by ignoring it and making a general declaration in favor of international agreements not inconsistent with America's freedom of action. The Democratic convention at San Francisco, dominated largely by the supporters of President Wilson, naturally made the treaty a leading issue in the platform. It is to be noticed, however, that even the President's friends no longer insisted on declaring for the treaty unreservedly. The treaty plank is long and argumentative, but in the end it admits that some reservations may have to be attached. Here is the conclusion reached:

"We advocate the immediate ratification of the treaty without reservations which would impair its essential integrity; but do not oppose the acceptance of any reservations making clearer or more specific the obligations of the United States to the League of Nations.

"Only by doing this may we retrieve the reputation of this nation among the powers of the earth and recover the moral leadership which President Wilson won and which Republican politicians at Washington sacrificed. Only by doing this may we hope to aid effectively in the restoration of order throughout the world and to take the place which we should assume in the front rank of spiritual, commercial and industrial advancement.

"We reject as utterly vain, if not vicious, the Republican assumption that ratification of the treaty and membership of the League of Nations would in any way impair the integrity or independence of our country. The fact that the covenant has been entered into by twenty-nine nations, all as jealous of their independence as we are of ours, is a sufficient repudiation of such charge. The President repeatedly has declared, and this convention reaffirms, that all our duties and obligations as a member of the League must be fulfilled in strict conformity with the constitution of the United States, embodied in which is the fundamental requirement of declaratory action by the congress before this nation may become a participant in any war."

Qualified though this is by recognition of the fact that reservations may be necessary to "make clearer and more specific the obligations of the United States to the League of Nations"—which is what many Republicans claimed—the declaration is so largely an endorsement of the treaty, and so directly at variance with the Republican platform, that the treaty and the League of Nations must become a leading issue in the conflict that is to rage between now and November. Thus the Presidential election contest, at all times interesting to outsiders, takes on this year an international character that makes it of world-wide importance.