

Harding was glad to avail himself of the opportunity to make a clear statement. While there are Republicans who are willing to play to the Sinn Fein vote, it is probable that there are many more who view such tactics with disapproval and who would prefer a more honest course. Evidently the Republican candidate resolved to consider the views of the latter rather than those of the Sinn Fein section. At all events he gave an answer that is clear and logical. "I am happy to say," he replied "that I think Great Britain is approaching 'the solution of the Irish question. I 'would no more tell Great Britain what 'to do with Ireland than I would permit 'Great Britain to tell us what to do with 'the Philippines."

Mr. Harding may lose some Irish votes by this plain statement. But he will gain or hold the votes of many Americans who would properly regard any other attitude as dishonest.

Convenient Absence

Ex-President Taft is to be congratulated on the fact that as one of the arbitrators in the Grand Trunk Railway matter he is required to be in Canada at this time. The political situation in the United States can hardly be a comfortable one for him at present. Mr. Taft, ex-President Elliott of Harvard and a few other prominent Republicans were among the earliest supporters of the Treaty of Versailles, including the Covenant of the League of Nations. Before the question took on a party shape at Washington, Mr. Taft was prominent as a supporter of President Wilson's policy. Since the Republican party arrayed itself against the League, Mr. Taft has been making not very successful efforts to square his position with that of his party. He has made various suggestions respecting "reservations" which he hoped would establish a basis of agreement. He assented to the nomination of Mr. Harding, still clinging to a hope that he could be a supporter of the League and of the Republican ticket. Now that both of the Presidential candidates have made the League the supreme issue of the campaign, Mr. Taft's position cannot be a very happy one. Ex-President Elliott has remained faithful to the League, going so far as to declare his intention to vote for Governor Cox. Mr. Taft has not reached that point. Under these circumstances he perhaps finds his residence in Canada convenient. It is interesting to note that on the Grand Trunk business he is associated with Sir Thomas White, who will have an opportunity of comparing the Taft of today with the Taft of 1911 who, according to Sir Thomas, was engaged in a conspiracy for the ruin of Canada's business and the sapping of Canada's loyalty.

Queensland's Trouble

Queensland, one of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, has been much in the public eye of late, and not always in a pleasing way. Queensland has the advantage—if advantage it be—of having a Labor Government, of which Mr. Theodore is Premier, and its Legislature has enacted a number of measures of what some people will call a Progressive nature. Even a Labor Government requires money for the carrying on of its business. So Mr. Theodore came to London lately to float a loan. To his apparent surprise the money lenders deemed it necessary to make some keen inquiries into Queensland's affairs, the result of which was that they buttoned their pockets and the loan was a failure. Mr. Theodore has returned to Queensland in a very angry frame of mind. A telegram says he has just announced his intention to raise £2,000,000 in Queensland before Christmas by a levy on the profits earned in Queensland by investors who reside in Great Britain and elsewhere—a compulsory levy if compulsion is required. Not a penny, he says, will reach the British investor by way of dividends until the Queensland Government have obtained what they need. This is not Queensland's first trouble with the British money lenders. Many years ago a Queensland loan offered in London through the Bank of England proved a failure. The Premier of that day, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, severely criticized the Bank's part in the transaction. The Bank authorities resented the criticism and for some time there was friction between the colony and the financiers of London. The breach was ultimately healed and Queensland was able to obtain in London the large sums required. A period of financial embarrassment for the Queensland Government is to be expected. In the end the Government will probably have to find some ground of compromise with the London financiers, for he who sets out to fight the London money market usually finds the battle a hard one.

New Brunswick

Our anticipation of last week that, while the Foster Government had fair prospect of success in the pending general election for the New Brunswick Legislature, the confused situation might be productive of some political embarrassment has proved correct. Hon. Mr. Foster and his colleagues on the ticket have won a substantial victory in the city of St. John, which had previously given the majority of its votes against the Government.

Of the 48 members elected to the Legislature the Government have just one half—24. This is three less than they had in the last House. From one view-point,

therefore, the Government have lost materially. They can find comfort in the fact that, if they have lost three, the regular Opposition has fared worse, having lost seven. With 24 Government men, 13 Opposition, 9 United Farmers and 2 Labor members there is a situation that will be watched with much interest. The fate of the Government will depend on the action of the Farmer members. The Premier expresses confidence that he will receive enough support from that quarter to enable him to carry on. The Opposition leader, Mr. Baxter, claims that he will have the support of these Farmers. Not until the Legislature meets will it be known for a certainty how these independent members will act.

Mr. Foster heads the largest group in the new House. A very little help from the Farmers would make his Government safe. The Opposition are in a less fortunate position, since if they could obtain the cooperation of all the independents—which is not likely to happen—they would not have a majority. The situation is substantially the same as in Manitoba. In both Provinces the probability is that the Government will obtain enough independent support to continue in office. In both Provinces the results of the election are indicative of the new alignments that are taking place in the political field.

Lloyd George's Slip

The British Premier made a slip a few days ago when he stated to an interviewer that the United States would enter the League of Nations after the Presidential election. His remark will certainly be seized upon by some of the American politicians and journals and treated as an interference on the part of Mr. Lloyd George in the American political contest. One is reminded of the error committed some years ago by the British Ambassador at Washington who, in replying to a trick letter which he mistook for an honest inquiry, he advised the writer to vote for the Democratic candidate. His letter, when published, created a sensation and the indiscreet ambassador had to be sent home. The League of Nations has just become more emphatically than in earlier stages of the campaign the main issue between the two great political parties in the States. The Democrats stand by the League. The Republicans are declaring against it in strong terms. Mr. Lloyd George's remark that after the election the United States will join the League must mean either that the Democrats are to win or that the Republicans are playing a hypocritical part in opposing the League and will, if they win, adopt the policy that they are now so vehemently condemning. Either interpretation of his words will be unfortunate and likely to lead to unpleasant comment.