

ground at the expense of the Republicans both in the Senate, where they already had a majority, and particularly in the House of Representatives. At present there are 214 Democrats, 212 Republicans, 4 minor party members and five vacancies. In the new House the Democrats will now have a clear working majority, and the friction between the Executive and the Legislature is likely to be considerably eased. At the time this summary is written there are indications that in some States a Republican Governor will be succeeded by a Democrat. The defeat of isolationists, such as Senators Nye and Danahar, Representatives Hamilton Fish and Lyons, together with the vote of confidence by the people of the United States in Mr. Roosevelt's Administration to finish the war and win the peace, augurs well for the future, though Mr. Roosevelt will have to use to the full all his old skill to achieve his aims both in domestic and foreign affairs.

[See also under "Far East," "France," "Italy," "Soviet Union," "Middle East" and "Latin America."]

#### LATIN AMERICA.

The Governing Board of the Pan-American Union met on the 1st November (see *Summary* No. 265) and decided to transmit Argentina's request for a meeting of Foreign Ministers to the member Governments for study and recommendations. Mr. Stettinius, in his Press Conferences of the 1st and 2nd November, declared that the United States Government would not make any decision on the Argentine request until the other republics had considered it and there had been an exchange of views. He explained that when he had stated recently that the United States would do nothing to discourage a meeting of Foreign Ministers (a remark which seems to have caused a very favourable impression in Buenos Aires), he had in mind suggestions for a meeting to discuss post-war problems. On the latter subject a further meeting of Latin American diplomatic representatives in Washington would take place, as arranged, on the 9th November. The board of the Pan-American Union is next due to meet in December, though this date may be put forward when a majority of replies are received from the other Governments.

The Argentine Government did not consult its neighbours before launching its proposal, and the effect in Latin America has been one of surprise, tinged perhaps with a certain admiration for the boldness of the move. So far only Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador have revealed their attitude. On the 31st October the Colombian Government announced that, after consulting with Venezuela and Ecuador, it favoured, in the interests of American unity, participation in the meeting proposed by Argentina. The Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs, apparently finding discretion the better part of valour, later described this statement as premature. To judge by broadcast reports, each country tends to impute to its neighbours more tenderness for the Argentine proposal than it will itself admit to. The Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, has confessed his surprise, declaring that he finds it difficult to envisage a meeting merely to discuss the Argentine question, and the Uruguayan Under-Secretary has emphasised the need for extreme caution in his country, adding that its position is necessarily delicate and that his Government is undecided.

The Argentine move is, of course, a gamble and its results are not yet calculable. Of the various possibilities that present themselves, one is a conference without the presence of Argentina and another is one with the Argentine problem occupying an inconspicuous place in the agenda. Meanwhile, in Buenos Aires the general tendency is to regard this dangerous proposal as a "clever and probably sincere" move to ease the international position. Some Argentines, however, fear that a conference might settle their external problems without relieving them of their internal dictatorship, others feel that a rapprochement with the United Nations would be the source of internal improvement. The Government appears to be confident that if General Peluffo could meet his colleagues round a table he could convince them of the honesty of his intentions. Meanwhile, the Nationalists are busy convincing themselves of their own righteousness, and the Argentine wireless stations have broadcast rosy accounts of the reception given to their proposal in other countries. Colombia received a special bouquet as the first to welcome it, and General Farrell, speaking at Córdoba, said that Argentina "is beginning to be understood."

The Argentine police are reported to have made arrests in connexion with threatened strikes in Buenos Aires and La Plata; and broadcasts from Montevideo described disturbances in Buenos Aires on the 31st October. Some

days before there were disorders at Salta when a judge ordered the arrest of the local police chief. According to the Federal Chief of Police, Colonel Velasco, new organisations of the Communist International have been discovered and suppressed. Dr. Waldorp, a distinguished doctor and a member of the German-Argentine Association, has been appointed interventor in the University of Buenos Aires. About forty professors appointed by the Nationalist Interventor in June have been dismissed.

A decree issued by the Argentine Government has contributed to abate the vexatious decree of the 3rd June, 1944, which ordered the railway companies to hand over their share in increased freights (granted in March 1942) for the purpose of raising wages. The Government has now accepted a reduced sum, for which it will allow compensation. No progress has been made towards solving the longer-term troubles of the railway companies.

The Salvadorean Government set up by Colonel Osmín Aguirre Salinas (see *Summary* No. 264) continues to survive. Spasmodic strikes took place last week, and Sr. Miguel Tomás Molina, the President of the Supreme Court (which declared Colonel Aguirre's Government unconstitutional), has proclaimed himself President. Sr. Romero, the Democratic Union's candidate for the presidency, is reported to be returning to his country from the United States.

The Chilean Government is reported to be considering the establishment of relations with the U.S.S.R. in the near future. The French Provisional Government has been recognised by Paraguay; relations with the Italian Government have been restored, or will shortly be restored, by Paraguay, Bolivia and Panamá.

#### UNITED NATIONS.

##### *Civil Aviation Conference.*

More than 50 States sent representatives to the Civil Aviation Conference at Chicago which met on 1st November under the Chairmanship of Mr. Adolf Berle, the principal United States Delegate. Because of the world-wide interest in the subject the United States had extended its invitations to include neutrals with the unfortunate result that the U.S.S.R. had at the last moment refused to participate (see *Summary* No. 265, under "Soviet Union"). But the number of delegates and experts was so great that even the resources of the Stevens Hotel were taxed beyond capacity. It became clear also that the United States wished the Conference to go more into technical detail than had been contemplated by some other delegations, including the United Kingdom, and the Conference is likely to extend to three weeks.

The main issues of the Conference are, however, apparent, and much careful consideration and planning will be needed if a satisfactory result is obtained. It is universally agreed that it is too early to draw up a permanent convention on the subject. But it seems desirable that any interim arrangement should reflect the principles on which the permanent organisation will be based, since the future of civil aviation will be affected by what happens in the immediate post-war period. There is, of course, also general agreement that there must be a technical convention concerning such matters as safety, rules of the air, meteorological services, &c., with a suitable governing body to control these matters. But a large number of countries wish the international authority to exercise much more power than this. The New Zealand and Australian Governments have proposed that all international air services should be owned by an international transport authority. Other nations would not go as far, but there is a large body of support for the proposals of the United Kingdom first adumbrated in the White Paper, that the international authority should have power, in accordance with principles to be agreed on in a convention, to decide upon routes and the numbers and nationality of aircraft that should be used on them. Lord Swinton, the leader of the British Delegation, devoted his opening speech to the consideration of the general principles on which such proposals are based.

The United States Government, on the other hand, considers that the time has not yet arrived for so much international control. It wishes civil aviation to remain in competitive hands with as little interference as possible, and it claims that there are as yet no guiding principles on which universal agreement can be obtained. Its own preference is for numbers of planes to depend on the nationality of the passengers carried on the route. It would, however, leave the adjustment of traffic to negotiation between the competing companies in the same manner as shipping was dealt with before the war. In addition, in order that