Coolidge Faces Acid Test Until Convention

Confidence of Public Best Asset

Country Reserves Judgment of President Until He Reveals Policies in Message to Congress.

Wants Sound Remedies

By MARK SULLIVAN.

As things stand today, it would not be too much to say that Coolidge is as good as nominated. But most decidedly the reader should understand the emphasis of the first part of the preceding sentence. Coolidge today is as good as nominated, but it does not follow with certainty that he will be nominated next June. If the convention should be held next week Coolidge would get the nomination on the first ballot. It may be that things will go along as they now are and that when June comes it will still be true that Coolidge is to be nominated on the first ballot.

At the same time, Coolidge must bear and cannot escape the hazard of everything that may happen between now and June. It is sometimes said that the only thing Coolidge needs to do is avoid mistakes. If this were true the nomination would be almost assured to him, for the most characteristic thing about Coolidge's career is his cautious steering clear of mistakes.

But Coolidge's hazards are by no means limited to the mistakes he may make. Coolidge may be injured—and may be injured to such an extent as to make his nomination inexpedient—by things wholly beyond his control. He is at the mercy of everything that comes up between now and next June. For example, only last week the administration came to a fixed date on which it was compelled to decide whether to sell all of Muscle Shoals to Henry Ford or to sell a portion of it to the Alabama Power company. Under the law and under the conditions of the contract made six years ago Coolidge and the secretary of war felt they had no choice except to let Henry Ford's rival have the Gorgas plant. That was an act which, under the law and the terms of the contract as Coolidge and Weeks saw it, they could not avoid. But by the same token it is an act which will make for unpopularity for the administration. It is the sort of thing which, added to enough other things—if enough other things should arise—would make Coolidge's nomination inexpedient.

Want Guaranteed Remedy.

There is another condition Coolidge cannot avoid and which may make his nomination seem inexpedient to the party leaders. That is the distress among the farmers. Nobody denies the existence of this condition. Nobody denies that it is deplorable and ought to be prevented. But with equal certainty nobody knows how it can be prevented. Some of the ablest men in the administration—and Coolidge himself—are putting their best thought on this problem of the farmer. Up to date they are willing to confess that they do not see the cure. Coolidge is too honest to pretend to see a cure when he does not. He is too honest to propose any kind of quack cure. He and his cabinet are sure-footed men who will not depart from sound principles of government and economics, and so they will refrain from proposing any remedy they think is not economically sound.

If this condition should continue, if the farmers' distress should continue or be accelerated and if the administration should continue to be unable to find a remedy, then in that event Coolidge's nomination will be deemed inexpedient next June. This distress of the farmer is certain to be the one subject most talked about when congress comes into session in December, and by the time the convention is here in June it and conditions associated with it will be looked upon as the most important factor in the campaign.

Coolidge's present favor with the bulk of the republican politicians rests almost wholly on the logic of the situation, a situation which arises out of the extraordinary vicissitudes of destiny more than anything else. Specifically it rests on the fact that Coolidge is in the White House. And that fact rests on the whim of destiny that struck Harding down. Coolidge is no better and no worse a man for president than he was the day Harding died. If Harding had not died, if Coolidge stood merely on his own bottom, on a parity with all the other candidates, there are a score of potential candidates who would have been put forward more strongly than Coolidge. Apart from the accident that he is actually in the White House, Coolidge would have cut no greater figure in the convention of 1924 than he did in the convention of 1920. But the mere accident that Coolidge is president makes all the difference in the world as respects the convention of 1924.

Has No Mark Hanna.

Coolidge has no Mark Hanna, no Harry Daugherty. There is no one in politics who has to Coolidge the relation Daugherty had to Harding or Hanna to McKinley. There is no superpolitician who is giving all his time and thought to getting the next republican nomination for Coolidge. Coolidge has no such personal relationships as this whatever. The one man identified with Coolidge, Franklin Stearns, is not a politician, but an altruistic retired Boston merchant, with a benevolent, almost paternal, interest in Coolidge—an interest which began years ago with the fact that one was an old Amherst graduate and the other a young one, and which grew on strong personal regard, almost intimeate affection. Stearns' relation to Coolidge is one of personal helpfulness. Stearns is not a politician. If Stearns knows any politics at all it is what he has happened to learn from Coolidge. Stearns can't go out and gather in delegates. He wouldn't know how to go out and gather in delegates and would make a mess of it, if he didn't have what he has, namely, the good sense not to try it.

Coolidge never had but one political mentor of the Hanna sort. That was the late Senator Murray Crane of Massachusetts. With Crane's death Coolidge had no one to rely on for paternal political guidance and no one to whom he owes any political debts.

Not only has Coolidge no individual Mark Hanna to take his political fortunes in hand, neither has he any group who will fight and sweat and pull wires for him on the basis of personal devotion. Of course the Massachusetts men in the government are for him, but not much more so than many others. Their fraternity with the president is no more than a mere geographical affinity and that sort of thing is always pretty tenuous. Neither among the Massachusetts politicians nor outside of them does Coolidge have any political "pals." During his vice presidency, when he presided day after day for more than two years over the deliberations of 96 senators, there was no group of these senators, and no one of them, who could be said to have a relation of greater intimacy with Coolidge than any other one. There are many republican senators who favor nominating Coolidge—some strongly, in the belief that it is sound policy, and some tepidly, merely because there is no one more available in sight. But no senator and no other politician is out beating the bushes or burning up the grass for Coolidge on the basis of personal relations or on the basis of favors, past or hoped for.

Backed by Hardingites.

Coolidge will have the help of what politicians call "the Harding crowd." He will not have it in the devotedly loyal sense that Harding had it, but he will have it in such a way as to make it the backbone of his organized aid. The moment Coolidge assumed the presidency he made it a point to emphasize the continuity both of Harding's policies and of the personnel of Harding's administration. On this Coolidge was insistent and meticulous. When various members of the Harding administration tendered their resignations as a matter of form, Coolidge rejected them. He made it clear that he wanted all the members of the Harding administration, high and low, to remain with him. There were cases in which he went to great pains and exercised personal pressure to persuade subordinate members of the Harding administration to continue in office. Those who are cynical will say that Coolidge's motive was political. Undoubtedly it was wise politics, and the only kind of politics Coolidge could practice. But those who are not cynical can assume that it had, in addition, a higher motive.

When Harding's sudden and tragic death struck the country into a mood of seriousness the best means of avoiding any apprehension, the most immediate device for maintaining confidence, was to give the public the picture of the Harding administration in all its details continuing to carry on the business of the country, with no change whatever except the inevitable one at the top, and with that one change Coolidge himself giving the spectacle of having it as his first principle to maintain the continuity of the Harding administration. The motive was to maintain confidence and to avoid a break in the public business; the political effect is to give to Coolidge the entire Harding strength.

An example of this is illustrated in the case of Ohio. Within the last few weeks one of the two republican senators from Ohio, Senator Willis, has announced that he is for the nomination of Coolidge. In connection with the fact that Daugherty remains in the cabinet, Ohio is more or less assured to Coolidge. If Daugherty had left the cabinet the inference and the possibility would have been that Ohio might have another candidate for the nomination.

Could Swing Easily.

If things should go along as they now are there would be an obvious sequence of results in somewhat the following order: It would be taken for granted that Coolidge is to be nominated; that being so, there would be no tense fights in the direct primary states; there would be very little interest in these primaries and comparatively few of the voters would come out. The result would be that the great majority of the delegates would go to the convention for Coolidge, but yet rather tepidly for him. They would be prepared to vote for Coolidge's nomination, but they would have no strong personal attachment for him. Neither would they have any strong personal attachment for any other candidate.

All this being so, the next republican convention would be one in which ties are loose. It would be more like the old conventions of the past before the direct primary was invented. It would be a convention in which a majority of the delegates would be without instructions and in which the instructed delegates would feel their obligations loosely.

The most probable outcome of such a convention would be to go on with the taken-for-granted program and to nominate Coolidge. At the same time, this would be the kind of convention in which if any obstacle to Coolidge's nomination should develop it would be easy for the leaders to mold the somewhat indifferent delegates to the nomination of another man. In fact, if this present mood of taking Coolidge's nomination for granted should continue, the next convention would be largely a professional one. In such a convention the leaders might go on with the program of naming Coolidge, but it would be very easy for them to make a switch if they should deem it desirable to do so.

Probably Coolidge's greatest asset is the attitude of the public toward him. Up to the present this attitude is a friendly and human feeling that Coolidge must have his chance to make good. Any other republican leader who should today announce that he is a candidate for the nomination against Coolidge would thereby incur public disfavor. Such an action would be looked upon as an ungenerous hindrance to Coolidge's chance to make good. This friendly human attitude of the general public mind is probably Coolidge's greatest protection gainst other aggressive candidates. This is the thing that so far prevents other men from formally throwing their hats into the ring. So long as the public continues to have this "give-him-a-chance" attitude about Coolidge no other candidate will want to announce himself. To do so would violate public sentiment. It would run counter to the common man's sense of fair play. It would give the people the idea that the contender was overcharged with personal ambition. The very act of too early an announcement of candidacy against Coolidge would be almost certainly a serious handicap.

The question then arises: How long will this public attitude toward Coolidge last? How long will it continue to be impossible for any one to announce himself against Coolidge without incurring the displeasure of the public?

If Coolidge should have extraordinary good luck it might last right up to the convention. But this public mood is subject, on the one hand, to violent change and, on the other hand, to gradual ebbing. The politicians have a phrase for this period of public friendiness that accrues to every new president. They call it "the honeymoon." And it is subject to all the various kinds of endings, sudden or gradual, that honeymoons have.

Must Show Self Dec. 3.

There is one fixed date that is full of menace for Coolidge. That is Monday, December 3. On that date congress meets and Coolidge must deliver his regular message.

It is commonly understood in Washington that Coolidge is waiting for this occasion to reveal himself, reveal his policies and reveal his attitude toward congress—the precise degree of aggressive or unaggressive leadership he intends to assert toward congress. It is commonly understood that Coolidge is refraining from making important speeches and from making important public appearances until this December meeting of congress. By the speech he must make then the country will judge him and his policies. In that speech he must reveal perhaps all, certainly the bulk, of his policies.

And it is when Coolidge makes this revelation of his policies that his potential opponents for the nomination will try to find their opportunity. Hiram Johnson, for example, will give a devoted and meticulous attention to that address. He will be alert to find in it anything with which he disagrees or with which he can set up disagreement, anything that will justify him in announcing to the world that his principles demand that he oppose Coolidge for the nomination. For example, if Coolidge in that address should seem to endorse the international court it can be taken for granted that Johnson will have his hat in the ring as quickly as he can write a statement setting forth his contrary views on that issue.

The best jugment is that Johnson will find this or some other justification for being a candidate. Every observer agrees that Johnson wants to be a candidate. He has said so himself in private communications. Johnson's friends urge him to be a candidate and some of these friends have relations with Johnson such that it is difficult for him to resist their urging.

Although it cannot be put as a certainty, decidedly the best judgment is that sooner or later Johnson will be in the race formally. He may not even wait until December. Some of his friends and backers are urging him to act in the near future.

And, once Johnson breaks the ice, others will follow. One reasonable certainty is Lowden. Indeed, Lowden's friends are already so active in various parts of the country that it seems far-fetched to continue to speak of him as merely a potential candidate. Lowden will not initiate any aggressive country-wide fight against Coolidge. He will not try to break up the administration organization. But in case any other opposition to Coolidge develops Lowden will be a candidate and will be a beneficiary of the changed situation. Lowden is looked upon by some who are quietly putting him forward as the one man who can hold together the two great elements of the republican party, the farming west and the business east.

(Copyright, 1923.)

Franklin County Fair Association Elects Officers

Franklin, Neb., Oct. 6.—At the annual meeting of the Franklin County Fair association, the following officers were elected for the year:

President, L. B. Robinett, Franklin; vice president, Ed Vanear, Hildreth; secretary, A. T. Roady, Franklin; treasurer, James Grout; superintendent of grounds, S. N. Braden; superintendent of the hall, R. M. Trumball; marshal, C. G. Garrett.

All these officers were re-elected except C. G. Garrett, who succeeds Henry Stienkruger.

The reports show that the receipts will probably exceed the fixed expenses by a small margin.

Christian Association to Dedicate New Quarters

The Negro Women's Christian association has purchased the property at 933 North Twenty-fifth street, for permanent headquarters. The new quarters will be dedicated Sunday afternoon at 4. Martha Taylor Smith is president of the organization.

NEW YORK, THE MODERN Babylon, the most fascinating city in the world today. Visit it through the eyes of O. O. McIntyre, who knows New York as no other man does. His column, "New York Day by Day," is a regular feature of The Evening Bee.

Kiwanis Clubs of Nebraska-Iowa District to Meet at Lincoln

Will T. Graham of Omaha Is Chairman of Program Committee.

Will T. Graham, vice president of the First Trust company of Omaha, is chairman of the program committee for the fourth annual convention of Nebraska-Iowa district of Kiwanis clubs which will be held in Lincoln October 12 and 13.

Mr. Graham has been an active member of the Omaha Kiwanis club ever since 1918, when it was organized. He is a director of the Omaha club and one of the chief workers for Father and Son week observed by Omaha Kiwanis each year.

Other members of the committee making arrangements to entertain more than 3,000 Kiwanians are: George L. Towne, Lincoln; Lloyd Hansen, Hastings, Neb.; Ossian H. Brainerd, Iowa City, Ia.; Edward Evans, Council Bluffs; Raymond M. Crossman, Omaha, district governor; Sam C. Waugh, president of the Lincoln Kiwanis club; Will C. Beachly, Lincoln, and C. W. Watson, Lincoln.

Three international officers of Kiwanis will address the convention. Delegrates from more than 40 Kiwanis clubs will attend. Headquarters for the convention will be at the Lincoln hotel.

Will T. Graham.

Zionists to Give Ball to Remove Treasury Deficit

Omaha Zionists will give a ball at the Auditorium today, the proceeds to be used to clear a deficit in the treasury of the local district organization.

Annette Riklin, dancer, will dance a solo number. Johnn Feldman is chairman of the affair. A piano will be given away during the evening. The piano was sold at cost to the Zionists by Burgess-Nash company.

Convention of Baptists in Omaha October 10 to 14

Baptist ministers from all over Nebraska, will meet here October 10 to 14 for the state Baptist convention. The sessions are to be held in the Calvary Baptist church. Speakers from New York and Chicago will address the convention. Women's sessions will be held at the same time as the conference.

Wymore to Have New School Building to Cost $200,000

Wymore, Neb., Oct. 6.—A new school building for Wymore is assured. At a meeting of the school board and taxpayers the matter was definitely settled and sealed bids will be received by the board until November 5. The building is to be of face brick and modern in every respect.

There are over 800 pupils in the schools of Wymore and some grades are crowded, with three ward and auxiliary buildings in use. The new building will be 90 by 160 feet and is expected to cost approximately $200,000.

Omaha Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings for this week were $38,703,193.81; last week, $35,476,773.82, and corresponding week a year ago, $45,080,124.84.

TOMORROW
At Thompson-Belden's

On Looking in a Book

Now this is the way every mother wants her little dears to look, I decided in glancing at the delightful children that stroll through the enchanting pages of the new "Children's Royal" in such well-bred fashion. What wouldn't she give to have them dressed in such out-of-the-ordinary clothes that each small person would appear the extraordinary child each mother knows it really is. Immediately the meager twenty-one inches of this column seem all too short in which to tell mothers of all the adorable things of this sort I spy in going about this pleasant store.

Small Laundry Bills for Jack and Jill

—when mother puts them in wool Jersey. Appliqued on Jill's tan frock are saucy scarlet flowers that match her roll collar and the bands of the wee bloomers that peep out at the bottom. Jack becomes a model of tailored perfection in an Oliver Twist suit of the same soft shade. To mention but two of the clever wool models for cool days or traveling emergencies that make laundry a problem. Sizes 2 to 6 years are $5.95.

Pony Hose for Rough Riders

The charge of San Juan Hill was a mild assault compared with those on the knees of a lively young-ster's stockings. So the makers of Pony hose have knitted them three times as strong. This is but one of the special points of construction that make Pony hose the best wearing kind for boys and girls. Several good styles at 50c a pair.

Puss in Boots Would Specify Sorosis

—when asking his master for a new pair of boots, I'm sure had he seen our new fall models for boys and girls. For Puss was a clever fellow and would appreciate the perfectly corking pair I saw in brown calf with tan suede uppers. Oh, boy! but they're good looking! $5 or $5.50, according to sizes.

It's a Good Trick—Any Woman Can Do It

Just two underarm seams and three buttons to sew on—presto! you have made an exquisite baby dress. The material for this sleight-of-hand performance comes from the Embroidery Section in the form of little nainsook dresses hand embroidered with wee sprays of flowers and scalloped edges. Even the placket is scalloped and the buttonholes made! Sizes 6 months to 3 years are $2.75.

A Newcomer

Now about the Children's Royal that started the whole story—you know it is issued every two months by Conde Nast, publisher of Vogue. It contains patterns of most out-of-the-ordinary clothes for boys and girls that may be purchased in our Pattern Department for 50c. The "Early Winter Fashions" number is so fascinating I'm afraid they think I've mistaken the pattern counter for the reading room! Why don't you look it over tomorrow?

G. P. S.

Thompson, Belden & Co.
Phone AT lantic 0600

Fall Frocks
In the Three Smartest Materials

In Satin

Fine pleating, brilliant embroideries, flounces and bustles are among the styles reproduced in frocks of rich black satin.

$49.50 to $98.50

In Charmcen

The suave beauty of this new twill fabric is highly effective in tailored tier and flounce models in navy, cordovan brown and the new rosewood shade.

$69.50

In Velvet

Russian models, fur trimmed and straight of silhouette; peasant neck and bishop sleeves outlined in brilliant embroideries; cascades faced in color. These are some of the novel treatment found in frocks of black chiffon velvet.

$69.50 to $125.00

Fall Coats
To Wear With Your Own Furs

Smart lines and tailored stitching are the source of good looks in a handsome coat of black lustro lined throughout with crepe silk.

This model is typical of a group of dress coats we are showing for the woman who prefers a coat without fur trimming.

$49.50

Third Floor

Redfern WRAP-AROUND

The new wrap-around corset is particularly adapted to the woman of slender form. The firm elastic insets grip the figure snugly, yet give absolute freedom of movement.

They also give the flat back and graceful hip-line so desirable for the present-day gown. Medium and long in the skirt, in lovely mercerized brocade,

At $5.00

Your Credit IS GOOD HERE!

GOOD CLOTHES—
Men, Women, Children.
QUALITY DIAMONDS—
Elgin Watches, 1847 and Community Silverware.

Advance Styles In EVERY Dept.
Six Big Stores mean larger volume, lower prices and easy terms. Dress well without missing the money. Open your account Tomorrow, or write for Free Catalog.
Omaha's Greatest Credit Store

HARRIS-GOAR'S
507 & 511 SOUTH 16TH ST

"A Hat for Every Woman"

Julius Orkin
1512-Douglas St.

"A Hat for Every Occasion"

Tomorrow--A Remarkable Sale,

We offer your choice

WHILE THEY LAST!—

250 SMART FALL HATS

That Were Formerly Priced $10 and $15 Sacrificed at **7.50**

IN order to make room for the new Hats that are coming in, we make this sweeping reduction on 250 smart new models for the matron, the miss and the young girl! Velvets, pannes, felts and clever combinations fashion Hats of much distinction.

The color range permits the matching of every costume

No Returns! *No Exchanges!*

Millinery Section—Third Floor

Every Music Lover of This City

is cordially invited to see the special

Premier Baby Grand National Exhibit

October is the Premier National Exhibit Month and we are participating with a nation-wide chain of Piano Merchants from coast to coast, in presenting the varied features of America's foremost popular priced small Grand.

PREMIER GRAND-PIANO

Come in today—now—to see and hear this thoroughbred instrument—this National Display has a time limit.

$650 and upwards

Our terms are as attractive as the prices themselves. We will accept your piano or phonograph as part payment.

Schmoller & Mueller Piano Co.
NEBRASKA'S OLDEST & LARGEST MUSIC HOUSE
1514-16-18-Dodge St. - - - Omaha