

INTEREST NOT KEEN IN GOV. ELECTION

National Primaries Attract
Little Public Attention.

BUSINESS FIRST CONCERN

Senatorial Fights in Indiana and
Pennsylvania Fail to Arouse
Voters Out of Lethargy.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15.—(Special.)—It is necessary to admit,

even with some surprise, that there

is not much interest throughout the

country in the pending primaries and

elections, nor in politics generally. If

there were any acute interest, the

place to find it would be Indiana. In

that state one of the most vital po-

litical figures of his time, ex-Senator

Beveridge, is trying to win his way

back into public life by defeating the

most substantial of the repub-

lican leaders, Senator New. The pri-

mary election, which will decide this

fight, is only 17 days ahead of us.

Normally it would be expected that

Indiana would be blazing to grass

roots. What is more nearly the

actual fact, however, is stated in a

letter from one of the most dependable

observers in that state, who

says:

"There is not as much interest in

Indiana in this candidacy as your

letters to the papers would indicate.

I have not heard of a single straw

vote, and there is little or nothing

said about the streets save among the

politicians, and yet I think that

everybody knows there is a contest

on, and I think the mass of the people

know who Beveridge is and who

New is, and in a large way have made

up their mind.

Voters Show Little Concern.

This view is borne out by an equal-

ity competent observer from one of

the considerable cities at work,

which is normally a boiling pot of

activity whenever there is any occasion

for political interest. This ob-

server says:

"But with all this, the voters do

not know at this minute that there is

a primary election scheduled for the

second of May, at which time a great

and momentous question will be set-

tled by the electorate. There is no

excitement in Indiana, and apparently

no one cares a tinker's malediction

who is who, or what is what."

A third letter, of a different sec-

tion of Indiana, begins:

"In this, the industrial section of

the state, interest in politics is dead

as a door nail. People are too much

interested in whether prosperity is

coming back."

Big Issues Held Lacking.

It is undeniable that what is here

pictured of Indiana is true of the

country generally. At each of the

two party headquarters the national

managers and organizers are at work.

Their scouts are going about the

country and the local leaders from

district sections turn up frequently

for consultation. The practically uni-

versal report is that no vivid per-

sonality and no vital issue has

aroused the imagination of the people.

They are intent upon problems affect-

ing their business.

In this general picture there is one

state which can accurately be de-

scribed as an exception, partially at

least. In Pennsylvania the effort of

Clifford Pinchot to win the republican

nomination for governor has been ac-

companied by some circumstances

that have caused it to become a

subject of popular interest.

Senators Rouse Little Concern.

This is, however, chiefly local and

has regard to the governorship

only. Two battles are on, one in

from Pennsylvania this year and in

this election for national offices there

is not as yet the kind of interest that

can be called battle. And yet the

two senators who are to be chosen

will be the successors of two men

who in different ways are the

strongest members of the United

States senate, namely, Knox and Pen-

rose. Because this is so and because

the personnel of the senate has be-

come markedly lacking in strong per-

sonalities, this Pennsylvania situa-

tion ought to arouse a national in-

terest which would appear to be

its local interest within the state.

Democratic Governor Probable.

The two senators will be repub-

licans. There can hardly be any

doubt of that. Even the local dem-

ocrats in Pennsylvania concede that

the Pennsylvania democrats regard

it as possible that out of the com-

plexities attending Pinchot's effort

to win the republican nomination, and

because the democratic candidate for

governor, McSparran, is an excep-

tionally strong man, a situation may

arise which would give the democrats

a chance to elect a governor in Pen-

sylvania for the first time in 32 years.

As to the two senators, however,

the democrats have no hope. They

concede that while the two repub-

licans win the nomination at the pri-

maries on May 16 will be elected in

November. For the succession

to Senator Knox, who was credited to

the western end of the state, there is

only one candidate. He is a relative-

ly young man, named Reed, who has

been a junior member of the late Sen-

ator Knox's law firm in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Reed is in his early 40s, but

democrats and republicans alike con-

cede that he is a man of high ability,

and democratic leaders say generally

that Reed, with experience, will make

for Pennsylvania and for the country

an entirely worthy senator.

Senator Pepper Has Opposition.

For the succession to Senator Pen-

rose there are two candidates. One

is George Wharton Pepper, who was

appointed by the governor as a sub-

stitute for Penrose to the end of the

present session. Mr. Pepper's stand-

ing is such that the democratic lead-

ers in Pennsylvania make much the

same admission as to him that they

make as to Reed. Pepper has one

opponent for this republican nomi-

nation, a labor man named William J.

Burke, who is now serving as one of

the representatives-at-large from the

state. He was a conductor on the

Baltimore & Ohio railroad for many

years and is expected to get much of

the labor vote.

Even in Pennsylvania, however, it

is as true as it is in the remainder of

the country that the people gener-

ally are thinking less in terms of

politics than in terms of business.

They are chiefly interested in whether

or not business is going to be better.

To this question the answer of the

most competent judges in various

different fields of thought is that

both in the United States and in the

world, but especially in the United

States, business is slowly but surely

digging itself out of the hole.

Coal Strike Halts Progress.

In the United States this process is

somewhat halted just now by the coal

strike, but that is not expected to be

a fatal handicap. As regards the re-

mainder of the world, the people are

finding their own salvation in an

economic sense not with the help of

the statesmen and politicians, but

rather in spite of the statesmen and

politicians.

As regards Europe, hardly anything

could be worse than the way the

statesmen and politicians have man-

aged things for the last three years.

But, ignoring the statesmen, and in

spite of them, the people are making

a beginning. The average of the

need of each man to find bread and

butter for his own family is bringing

about a situation which the states-

men have been unable to achieve

through decrees or formulas, or, so

far as the past is concerned, through

conferences. The present Geneva con-

ference may achieve some things

which will help this momentum for-

ward measurably.

Business on Up-Grade.

As regards the United States, there

can be no question that business is on

the up-grade and gathering momen-

tum. How much this has been with

us as it has been with Europe merely

the aggregate of individuals doing the

best they could, and how much it has

been helped by the government, is

not easy to distinguish. Of course

the republicans are going to claim a

good deal of credit for it, and equally

without doubt they will be helped by

it in the November elections. It is

fair to say that some things the

American government has done have

helped toward business betterment.

It is undeniable history that six

months ago, or even less, business in

WOES OF ENGLAND SEEM TO INCREASE

Engineers and Shipbuilders'
Strike Is Serious.

NEW LAW HELD NEEDED

Putting of Men on Boards of Man-
agement Declared Solution
of Problem.

BY GEORGE N. BARNES,

British Parliament Leader.

(Copyright, 1932, by The Oregonian.)

LONDON, April 15.—(Special by

Wireless.)—Ireland continues in a

state of incipient civil war, and seems

to be drifting rapidly toward a mili-

tary dictatorship.

But that is not all of Great Brit-

ain's woes. The troubles that have

befallen this country in recent days

seem to come, not in single files, but

in battalions.

We are laden with an enormous na-

tional debt. The huge army of the

unemployed grows larger instead of

smaller.

And today the country is helplessly

looking on at the spectacle of an

engineering and shipbuilding tie-up,

with its consequent setback to the

commerce of the nation just at a

time when there seemed to be a

glimmer of improvement on the in-

dustrial horizon. The situation is

serious in the extreme. It involves

the stoppage of work of nearly a mil-

lion men.

Men Want Consultation.

Our newest laboring trouble hinges

principally upon the programme of

workshop management. The men,

through their unions, claim the right

of being consulted by their employers

on dual questions of allocation of

work and limitation of overtime. The

employers insist on their absolute, un-

interfered with discretion in the man-

agement of the workshops, subject

only to the right of the men's organ-

izations to bring forward grievances

originating in the exercise of that

right, and subject, further, to the ex-

clusion of the general rise and fall

of wages, which the employers agree

to adjust with the union committees.

Under the pressure of war, with its

increased work in the lines now af-

fected, the employers were compelled

to yield certain concessions on man-

agement. They now seek to with-

draw the privileges, and the unions

have called the strike to compel their

retention.

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