#### Johnson Favors **DIRECT PRIMARY** FOR PRESIDENCY

By David Lawrence

(Copyright, 1920) Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 24.-Senator Hiram W. Johnson may be out ment adopted. stumping for the Harding-Coolidge PEOPLE DISAPPOINTED ticket, but he hasn't forgotten what happened at the Republican national convention in Chicago last June and just as soon as this campaign is over,

by which candidates for the presidency are chosen. Hiram Johnson has the notion that the people ought to have something to do with nominations for the presidency so that the public shall not be con-fronted with a choice between inferior men. He thinks that the primary system is both logical and democratic, and while he is expressing no opinion about the persons nominated in the last conventions of the big political parties, he is inclined to the belief that the public region in the vicinity of Sacramento would not be much worse off and per-

WANTS NEW LAW

The California senator might tell an interesting story about what took place at Chicago if he were disposed to do so. He could, for instance, reveal the absolute pledge given him by other leaders at the Chicago convention that when the recess was taken on Saturday afternoon it was with the understanding that an opportunity would be given for all concorned to agree upon a man that the progressive wing of the Republican party could support wholeheartedly.

But except insofar as it might emphasize a point now and then, the controversies of the last convention will not be revived. Senator Johnson's aim is to state is this time stronger for the League be revived. Senator Johnson's all is to state is this time stronger for the Longue get a law passed by congress that will establish presidential preference pri-maries as something more substantial than they are today.

WILSON TRIED IT The spectacle of both parties nominat-ing a man who hardly figured in the primaries while the expressed wishes of

the people in several states were com pletely disregarded will give Johnson the background for his appeal. And when he goes campaigning for Harding in Oregon, Washington, Montana and in Eastern states, he will take occasion to call by name some of the individuals who were elected in the primaries and failed to carry out their instructions at the Republican national convention. have failed. Woodrow Wilson gave a

pledge in his first message to congress that he would try to secure the end of the convention system. Indeed, it was his belief that the question of one or

should meet merely to ratify the choice Sacramento Fruit write the party platform. Nothing came of the plan, as the congressional committees before whom an attempt was made to frame legislation insisted that the right to determine the methods by which their preference shall be ex-

Senator Johnson, however, will not let the academic objection of constitutional difficulties dissuade him. The usual answer that a constitutional amendment is needed brings no relief, for it takes a generation to get a constitutional amend-

Johnson sized up California sentiment very accurately before deciding to tackle at once the question of choosing presi-dential nominees. While the McAdoo Democrats are working tooth and toenail just as soon as this campaign is over, the California senator means to lead a fight for a revision of the methods the pres-

pressed.

tion to the League of Nations, funda-mentally there is disappointment over the selections made at Chicago and San Francisco. No more opportune time could have been chosen to make an issue against the convention system, and Hiram Johnson proposes to start right in when he gets back to Washington in December.

Northern California presents a per-plexing situation politically. San Francisco leans toward Harding. It is norshows more friendliness to Cox and haps better if it tried the primary sys-tem instead of the convention method. Indeed, much more optimism about Indeed, much more optimism about Cox's chances in California is to be

found in Sacramento, where he made a splendid impression when he spoke last week, than anywhere else in the state, Of course, Sacramento has wet inclinations and many of the wets are planning to support Cox. The League of Nations has been staunchly defended by the Sacramento Union and vigorously op-posed by the Sacramento Bee, so that opinion may at least be said to be divided on that question.

The majority of the San Francisco newspapers, however, cast their influence against the league. Normally the Democratic strength came from Northern California. But the southern end of the Harding.

(Tommorw's dispatch will deal with the situa-tion in Nevada.)

Defeated Candidate Seizes Mexican City

Mexico City, Sept. 24.-(I. N. S.)-General Francisco Muguira, defeated candidate for governor of Michoacan, Public men have tried before to bring took possession of the state house Thursabout the choice of presidential candi-dates by direct vote of the people, but own legislature.

His Politics in Doubt

Merrill, Wis., Sept. 24.-(U. P.)-Peo ple of the town of Russell, near here, two terms could be best handled by the are wondering what are the politics of people in a presidential preference prim- C. L. Burt. He was named both Reary rather than at national conventions. publican and Democratic committeeman His suggestion was that conventions from his district.

swept by fire yesterday, may reach \$2,000,000, corporation officials said to-Damaged by Fire day. Four firemen were injured in the blaze which for a time threatened other day. Four firemen were injured in the industrial plants on the waterfront. The warehouse of the plant was filled with the season's pack of fruit and vegeta-Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 24 .- (U. P.)such a law would be unconstitutional as Damage to warehouse and plant No. 12 bles. As the fire swept through the

the constitution gives the several states of the California Packing corporation. warehouse, the cans exploded like shells

GOING UP HILL

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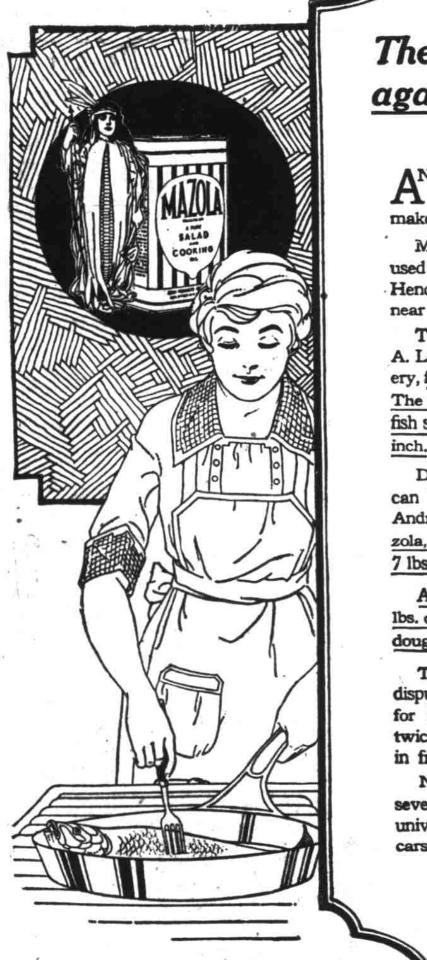
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