

PRESENT LEAGUE TO BE DROPPED IN HARDING POLICY

By Robert J. Bender
United News Staff Correspondent.
Washington, Nov. 25.—President-elect Harding's choice of secretary of state will be a man who favors an immediate peace basis with Germany, complete abandonment of the League of Nations covenant as it is now drafted and a new approach to the world powers with The Hague tribunal idea as the foundation of an international means for preserving peace.

This is the definite understanding of foremost Republican leaders following the departure of Harry Daugherty, the "Colonel House" of the Harding administration, who has been here in conference with Republican senators for several days.

BELIEVE LEAGUE LOST
Daughterly for the moment is in New York and Harding is in Panama. Between their respective points of temporary habitat there is going forth much conjecture as to cabinet possibilities and the new administration's probable foreign policy. Outside of these two men, however, no one can speak with any authority on what may be in Harding's mind. And with absolutely nothing com-

ing from Harding on the subject, Daugherty left the impression here that outside of the secretary of state, Harding had given absolutely no thought to his cabinet.

There can be no doubt that leading Republicans here regard the Wilson League of Nations as destined for definite and complete abandonment by the Harding administration. As one leader put it, "The present covenant will not be recognizable in the international tribunal plan we will adopt."

NEW PEACE RESOLUTION
And in this connection it was significant that Senator Knox Wednesday broke silence for the first time since the election and declared his intention to re-introduce his original peace resolution in the senate upon reconvening congress.

His plan, to which Harding adhered consistently throughout the campaign, would effect peace with Germany as once and would then provide for the virtual rewriting of international law, such law to be enforced by an international court, all powers to agree to arbitration, and the United States to agree to enter a world conflict when, and if, civilization is again threatened.

It is regarded as axiomatic that Knox would not have made this announcement Wednesday unless he were sure of his ground.

KNOX OR HILL
While Knox believes that peace with Germany should be formally declared as soon as possible, he will not press his resolution at the short session of congress unless sufficient Democratic votes are assured in advance to override a veto of the resolution which certainly would follow at the president's hand.

While Senator Knox declined to comment upon reports that he will be made secretary of state in the Harding cabinet, there appears little doubt that he will at least be tendered the post. It is understood that his acceptance will depend largely upon the health of the

senior senator from Pennsylvania, Boies Penrose, and the adjustment of certain political obstacles which now exist in Pennsylvania.

Should it develop that it would not be advisable for Knox to leave the senate and accept the premier portfolio, David Jayne Hill, former ambassador to Germany and a diplomat of wide experience, appears to be leading second choice. Hill holds a view on the foreign policies which squares with that of Knox.

ESCAPED JOB HUNTERS
Beyond this post and the known fact that Harry Daugherty has been asked to be in the cabinet, a position he has indicated he did not personally wish unless Harding insisted, the whole cabinet situation is much today as it has been from the beginning.

Developments at the Chicago convention were such as to naturally throw certain individuals into line for portfolios, among those being Governor Lowden of Illinois, Tobe Hert of Kentucky, Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, and Will Hays.

But it may be stated on the highest authority that Senator Harding has not reached final conclusions on any of the posts to be doled out later by him and that one of the reasons he went away so quickly and so far after the election was to put time and distance between himself and certain political obligations which might be expected to influence him as a result of developments both in the Chicago convention and during the campaign.

HOOVER LEFT OUT
There is only one forecast that might be made at this time with great confidence, and that is that Herbert Hoover will not be a member of the cabinet. Hoover, it seems increasingly evident, is not blessed with a high rating in influential Republican circles.

For two reasons Senator Johnson's voice will be listened to more attentively by the new administration than in the past. In the first place his position

on the league is to be followed more closely than that of the so-called pro-league element. In the second place the Republican organization apparently has decided that it will not give Johnson cause again to jump the traces and get out of the party harness.

Myron T. Herrick is said to be under consideration for the post at the court of St. James, while Frank Munsey, publisher of the New York Sun and a number of other newspapers, has been mentioned as a possibility for Paris. George Harvey, former Democrat, but active in the Republican organization during the last campaign, is reported to be in line for some diplomatic post.

Lever Act Upheld in Coal Profiteering Case in Missouri
Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 25.—(I. N. S.)—The Lever act was upheld as constitutional here Wednesday in a decision rendered by Judge Van Valkenburgh in the federal district court. He decided that 18 Kansas City coal companies, under investigation for alleged coal profiteering, must produce their books for review by federal authorities.

Proposed Increase in Rates Postponed
Washington, Nov. 25.—(U. P.)—The Interstate Commerce commission has postponed until March 25 proposed increases in carload freight rates from South Tacoma, Wash., to stations on the Great Northern railway in Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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