

REPUBLICANS ARE WITHOUT LEADER WORTHY OF NAME

Party Said to Be Drifting It Knows Not Where, With No One Capable of Guidance.

(By Universal Service.)
Washington, Dec. 16.—Republican leadership in congress is at a low ebb. It would be quite safe perhaps to say that it has descended to the lowest point ever reached in the party's history.

From a boasted record of legislative achievement, the party organization has fallen to a condition of masterful do-nothingness.

Chagrined and humiliated by the defeat in the November election, the G. O. P. is simply drifting. It goes it knows not where. It marks time waiting to see what will happen. It looks in vain for the strong hand that might lead it and lift it along a wise course, which would be more responsive to the country's needs, more in keeping with all traditions of party responsibility. It is unable to lift itself by pulling on its own boot straps.

WORSE IN SENATE

The situation and the lack of leadership are bad enough in the house. In the senate the conditions are infinitely worse. In both houses what is left of the party organization finds itself harassed upon the one hand by farm blocs and by big and little blocs of other sorts, while on the other hand there looms the shadow of big business, with its not to be denied demands for "safe and sane" legislation to combat what organized capital looks upon as a thoroughly radical program put forward by the blocs.

Being thus surrounded, the Republican organization is building up in the general atmosphere of gloom that hangs over the senate and the house.

OLD LEADERS STUNNED

Then the real troubles of the G. O. P. organization will begin. Old timers in the Republican party, schooled in the stern rule of the "organization," have come to Washington to find out for themselves what the trouble was. They have gone away, shaking their heads in sadness, stunned and amazed by the course which the party is following. They have been unable to understand why it is that congress is not functioning as it used to do, why leaders are not arising and pointing the way to the adoption of successful and popular policies, why there are affairs within the party utterly foreign to all their notions of party responsibility and party discipline.

Some of these old timers have asked: "Why doesn't the president grab the big stick and wield it over the heads of a few of these senators and representatives and make them do something?"

BIG STICK IS GONE

The simple answer is that the big stick is not here. It has been laid in its grave. The president, the big stick has passed. President Harding is powerless to wield it even if he wanted to, for the reason that congress now has the tenacity to believe it over the president nothing, that he has nothing in the way of favors or patronage to bestow and that any assertion of leadership by the president is equivalent to an invasion of congressional precedent.

There are many Republicans in both senate and house who are sincerely anxious to do something. They would like to see the ship subsidy bill pass and some legislation enacted to benefit conditions in agriculture. But there is no one to lead them, and if any ambitious one among them dares to offer a proposition in the way of now and much needed legislation, it is more than likely that he will only get bumped on the head for his trouble. So congress drifts. But the day is coming when the new, progressive group will get control and then there may be a leadership that may make things hum. Anyway they will surely make themselves talked about.

Man Accused of Using U. S. Mails In Fraud Scheme

Helping a friend in need doesn't include writing a letter to his parents, telling them all about their son's troubles, and then trying to "shake down" the old folks for a little money for their wandering boy, Robert Reed, of the Dentley hotel told Assistant United States Attorney Baldwin Saturday afternoon. After hearing Reed's tale, Baldwin issued a complaint for John L. Kemble, No. 250 Madison street, charging him with using the mails to promote a fraud. Kemble is said to have written them and said that if they did not send money at once their boy would freeze to death on a trip he was about to take to California. He said that money sent to him would reach their son. When Reed appeared in Baldwin's office he was wearing two-to-one better clothes than Kemble, but he did not have the appearance of a man in need, although but 19 years old and away from home. Kemble will have a preliminary hearing Monday.

Herrin 'Massacre' Witnesses Fearing Attack From Miners

Marion, Ill., Dec. 16.—(U. P.)—Rumblings of suspicion and fear echoed from hill to hill throughout Williamson county tonight. The farmers, fearing their testimony in the Herrin "massacre" trial was brewing a spirit of hostility among the miners, have organized a secret protective society to guard their families from vengeance. The lives of 10 miners for every farmer killed because of his testimony in the Herrin trial is said to be the slogan of this society. These facts were revealed to the United Press tonight by special investigators who have been working throughout Williamson county in search of state witnesses.

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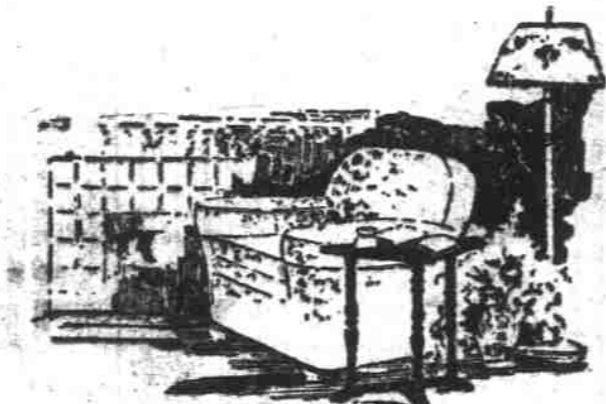
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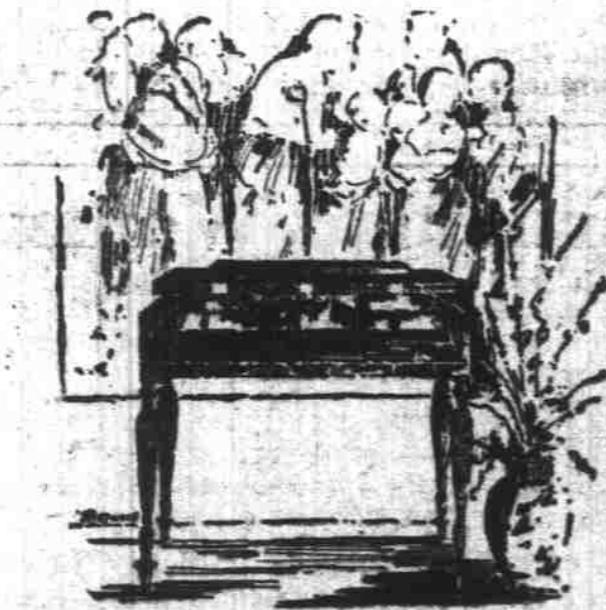
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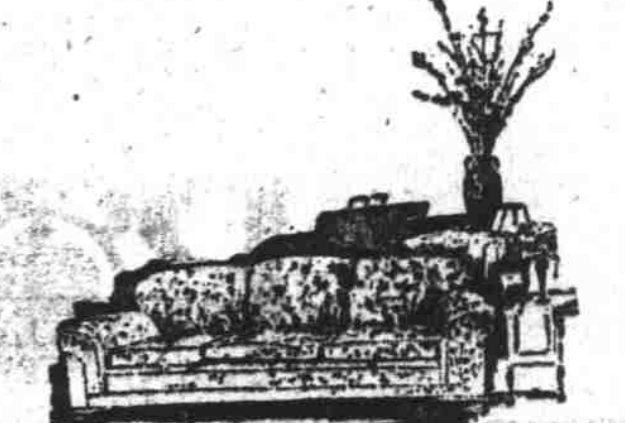
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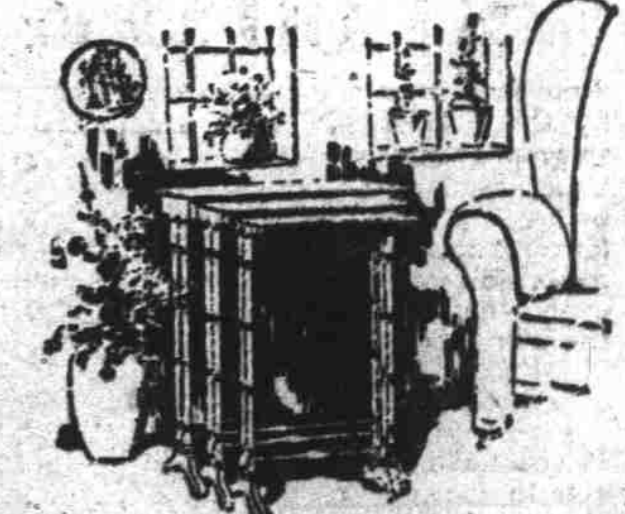
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