

# OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD IS MAN WHO MAKES FRIENDS OF ENEMIES

Long Considered, and Still Considered, to be Timber for Presidential Office.

BY J. BART CAMPBELL, International News Service Staff Correspondent.

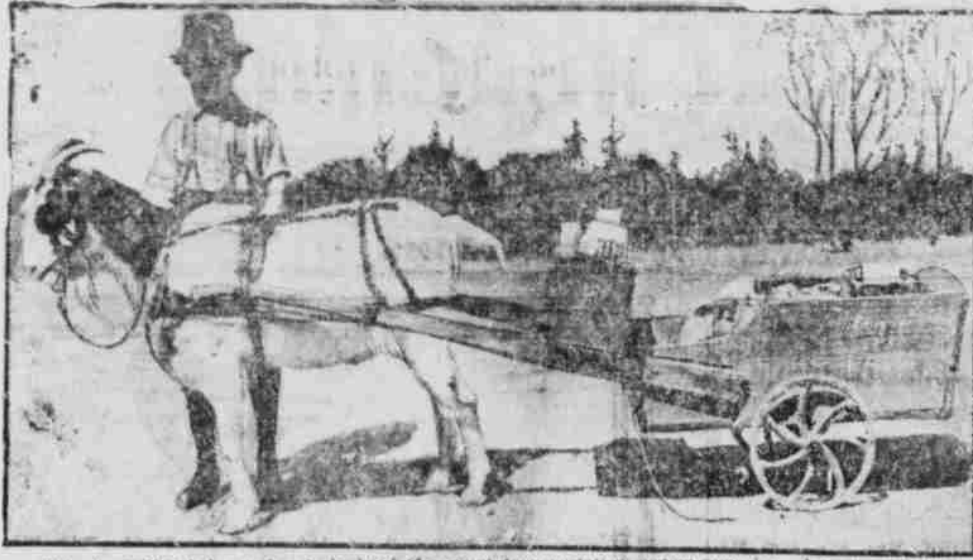
WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—The rare faculty of making warm friendships among even those who differ with him politically or otherwise is one of the happy characteristics of Senator Oscar W. Underwood, the only democrat on the American "Big Four."

Aside from his recognition of the unusual mental attainments of the democratic minority leader of the senate, President Harding is believed to have been actuated by a deep personal regard for the Alabama senator in designating him as one of the American "Big Four" at the Washington conference.

In the long, raucous senatorial fight over the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations covenant Harding, then a senator, and Underwood entertained and expressed widely divergent opinions. They were on different sides of the political fence. But, however they differed they became and remained fast friends.

In some ways the two men possess strikingly similar characteristics. Both are large men—physically. Both have

## Budding Railroad President



This Australian lad promises to be head of a great transportation system some day. A goat, a boy wagon and a few scraps of leather for harness serve as his means of delivery for a grocery. He's banking his money

an infectious smile, a countenance given to fullness and to becoming tolerance and good nature, a girl inclined to ebullience—the Fabian disposition to seek from life that which is pleasant rather than unpleasant.

And yet both can be very serious, deadly in earnest, when they find themselves in disagreement with others, when things do not "break" for them as they would like them to.

For Irony Destroys, Underwood is slow to enter a senate debate. He will sit hour after hour in his seat, usually motionless, his face expressionless, while democratic senators storm about him, or one of his

democratic colleagues delivers a long-winded speech. Even an oratorical outburst on the republican side will apparently leave him unmoved. He is a "good listener."

Then suddenly he will pull himself together, and no member of the senate commands closer or more interested attention from both sides than when he begins to speak. Born at Louisville, Kentucky, May 8, 1862, and an Alabamian by adoption, his utterances reflect the soft, soothing accents of the Southerner. His delivery is forcible, he is a keen debater, deliberate but skillful in parrying the thrusts of an opponent. In a way, he is a

employs with dexterity. His clearly-stated utterances never leave any doubt as to where he stands on a public question.

Underwood has a pleasing, gracious manner even in defeat. He may criticize his opponents, he may even "ride" them hard but he invariably commands their respect, and in many instances, their friendship. Personally he is well liked by both his republican and democratic colleagues.

Underwood has never quite lost the hope he first placed in the League of Nations. He was never, however, a hide-bound adherent of the Wilson administration, a mirror of the views and

wishes of former President Woodrow Wilson.

For a Treaty Trouble.

"The Treaty of Versailles, a part growing out of the compromises of 26 nations, did not entirely meet my views," he said when addressing the senate on one occasion, "but I thought in the main, it first led to immediate peace, and finally, through the League of Nations covenant, it led to conditions that in the future would secure the peace of the world. I was willing to take and to try it."

It was Underwood who saw, long before most democratic senators, and when Woodrow Wilson refused to believe it, that ratification of the Versailles pact without reservations was impossible. It was then he renewed his efforts to save the treaty from ultimate defeat—by conciliation and compromise. He unsuccessfully sought to secure the appointment of a non-partisan committee of ten senators "to consider ways and means of securing at the earliest possible moment" its ratification.

Underwood is a lawyer, and, if hindered by the partnership of some of his democratic colleagues he might have succeeded where others failed in effecting an agreement with "counsel for the other side" in the celebrated case of the republican majority versus Woodrow Wilson.

Even as late as May 27 last Underwood sought to have the republican majority of the senate accept a democratic resolution requesting the president to express to the council of the League of Nations the desire of the American government to co-operate with it in plans "looking toward a general reduction of armament."

Underwood said on that occasion: "If there is one great question that confronts the world today and which the world must decide affirmatively,

in order to save itself, it is the question of abandoning the great armies and navies of the past and entering on a policy of disarmament that will settle national difficulties and dangers by the rule of reason and not by the rule of the sword."

Regrets Non-Ratification.

"I realize the position of the majority party," Underwood continued. "They determined on the policy that this country should not join the League of Nations. They claimed that that determination was ratified at the polls last year. I do not say it was not one of the great questions involved in the last campaign, but as to how far it went in the determination of the last election no man at this time can say. In my judgment the reaction against war conditions that took place in every nation of the world had more to do with the enormous majority given to President Harding than any other question."

"But I recognize that it would be ill to propose that the majority party should reverse its position and affirmatively become a member of the League of Nations. I would not waste the time of the senate in conferring for such a proposition notwithstanding that I believe the great mistake of this generation was that the senate did not promptly ratify the Versailles treaty."

"But that is not the question. It is a condition that confronts us and not a theory. No man can deny that the nations of Europe and the world, except ourselves and one or two other countries, are in a League of Nations. How far it may be effective is not the question. It is an organization that has proclaimed to the world that it is prepared to stand for disarmament throughout the world. It comes to me that when it declares for disarmament it is an effective declaration."

"I do not see that the majority party would cross its own record when, on invitation of the League of Nations, it goes to join it to consult with its members about disarmament, we were to send representatives to meet an organized body of the nations of the world looking to the consummation of a great ideal. If we believe in the disarmament of the world I consider it our duty now to accept every offer that may bring about the consummation of that ideal."

Not a Pacifist.

"I believe that this nation should officially inform those who belong to an organization seeking disarmament that they will have our hearty concurrence and approval in any efforts that may be made looking to lifting the burdens of war from the backs of the people of the world."

That speech of Underwood's was typical of his oft-expressed desire for a limitation of armaments, "to take and try" the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations covenant, or any other means offering any hope at all of relieving the peoples of the world from the crushing, grinding weight of warfare and the weapons of warfare.

And yet Underwood cannot be called a "Little Navy" man, nor a pacifist. His record in the senate clearly shows that he believes in preparedness. He was found on June 1 last voting with Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and other republican senators against a move to recommit the then pending navy appropriations bill to the senate naval affairs committee, with instructions to deduct \$200,000,000 from its general total.

The move was blocked by a vote of 43 nays, 25 yeas. Senator Borah, of Idaho, then fighting to have his original disarmament proposal adopted as an amendment to the bill, supported the move. Other republican senators, like Capper of Kansas; La Follette of Wisconsin; and Norris of Nebraska, did likewise. A number of democratic senators joined them, but Underwood, without uttering a word during the debate which ensued, swung with a few other democratic senators to the side of Senators Lodge, Pinckney and other republican members of the senate naval affairs committee in helping to prevent a "Bigger Navy" appropriations bill from being "killed."

Underwood fought the adoption of the Knox peace resolution which brought about the present German-American peace treaty. He accused the republican majority of saying to Germany, "Without our ratifying the Treaty of Versailles, without our becoming a party to it, you must accept its terms and its burdens."

Th With Harding.

He charged the republicans with "building a wall of paper," of "resorting to a camouflage," in seeking to make a separate peace with Germany by congressional resolution.

"Republican senators must believe the American people very, very blind if they think the smoke clouds of this resolution are going to fool the American people," he added.

That was on May 5, 1920, and Underwood's utterances brought Irony-Jawling, then a senator, the following response: "The significance of the Knox resolution lies in its re-establishment of the constitutional powers of the American congress. It not only does that but it particularly emphasizes the powers of the senate as a coordinate body in the making of treaties. I like to think the Knox resolution is going to do for America what the world war did for the autocrat of Germany. The world war demonstrated that no one man and that no one power can rule the world, and the Knox resolution is going to be a formal demonstration that no one man can rule the United States of America."

Is Presidential Timber.

This from Harding less than a year before he entered the White House. Underwood's reply was that the Knox resolution was "merely a political play." Harding's contention was that it was the restoration to the senate of its constitutional prerogatives in the making of a treaty which Woodrow Wilson had attempted to deny it.

Underwood is as ripe as Lodge in congressional experience, as adroit in parliamentary maneuvers, as gifted in reading the moods and motives of men and in impressing them with his viewpoint. He is perhaps more tolerant of opposition than Lodge, more given to compromise and conciliation, better satisfied with half a loaf than none.

Underwood served as a member of the house from the fifty-fourth to the sixty-third congress, inclusive and as chairman of the house ways and means committee his name became a household one as the author of the present Underwood tariff law, which a republican majority is now vainly trying to successfully revise.

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Underwood did not enter the senate until March 4, 1915, but long before that he had become as commanding a figure in the highest councils of the democratic party as Lodge, for years a senator, had become one of the foremost men of the republican party.

At the historic Baltimore convention of the democrats which sent Woodrow Wilson on his way to the White House, Underwood was among those who narrowly missed the democratic nomination for president. He has been considered of presidential timber ever since and he may yet live to see the time when he will be called upon to lead his party to the polls. If not to the white house, he is as sound and as wise in the national political game as Lodge, and, like the Massachusetts senator, he will bring to the Washington conference a thorough knowledge of men and affairs that ought to stand him in good stead with foreign statesmen and diplomats versed in the intricacies of international politics.

## CLOUD BURSTS SWEEP OVER ISLE OF SICILY

MESSINA, Sicily, Nov. 22.—(A. P.)—Cloud bursts have devastated the whole country side near here, entire villages being swept by. The railroads and lines of communication are broken. Hundreds are homeless and many are reported dead.

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SUPPOSE it was Brown's case that was up for consideration. Brown is heading in a direction that has brought trouble to a lot of people—a direction known to be full of risks. Brown himself isn't going any too good. There are days when he hits the bumps harder than he can comfortably stand—and he shows it.

There's another road that Brown could travel safely—smooth, comfortable, pleasant, and absolutely safe.

And Brown came to you for advice. And you'd look at the facts and you'd say: "Why, Brown, there's nothing to this thing. It doesn't take any argument to decide this. Turn to the right and take the smooth, safe road, and Do It Now."

Suppose the road Brown is on is the coffee or tea road. Hundreds have had trouble on that road. Doctors have sounded the warning for the public, and raised the "no-traffic" sign for their patients—time and time again. The drugs, caffeine in coffee and their in tea, keep whipping the nerves—tending to interfere with sleep, upset digestion, produce high blood pressure, and to wear down health and efficiency by the disturbance of rest and nervous balance. Some folks go a long way on the road; some folks don't seem to notice the jolts—for a while, anyway.

But what would you say to Brown about choosing the safe road instead of the risky one?

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You can buy Postum wherever good food and drink are sold and served. You can begin, now, this turn to the right road which you would so quickly recommend for Brown—by ordering Postum from your family grocer or telling your waiter at the restaurant to serve you Postum instead of coffee or tea.

Make Postum according to directions and enjoy its delicious flavor; find the change in "feeling" after a week's use of Postum. Let the family join you in the trip up the sunrise way.

You'd know what to say to Brown—say it to yourself.

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