

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK ELECTION.

Coalition Government Regarded as Assured, but Whether Under King or President Is for the Future to Decide.

By ADAMANTIOS TH. POLYZOPOULOS,
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The only ones to whom the results of Sunday's election in Greece did not occasion any surprise were the Greeks themselves. Any one who was familiar with the actual facts of the Greek situation could not expect the militaryists and their Venizelist supporters to win.

The election was a repetition of that of Nov. 14, 1920, and yet in 1920 the odds were all in favor of Mr. Venizelos. He had just emerged a hero from the Peace Conference in Paris. He had in his pocket the "Sèvres" treaty; and whenever his political opponents attempted to attack his tactics in the Saloniki revolution of 1918 and his dislodgment of King Constantine, and finally his tyrannical régime between 1917 and 1920, the then all-powerful Premier was wont to pull out the map of an enlarged Greece and show the results of his policy, to which he had subordinated everything else.

Nevertheless the Greeks beat him two to one, because they wanted above everything else to be free. They considered Venizelos a tyrant at home, an unscrupulous politician who had turned his back to Greek tradition, and who, in his foreign policy, had become a mere pawn in the game between diplomats, steel and iron magnates and oil and raw material hunters.

What happened in this connection Sunday was this: The country had been under the absolute control of the military since that fateful day of September, 1922, when, following the debacle of the Hellenic Army in Asia Minor, a group of officers took charge of the Government, overthrowing King Constantine and his Government, and expelling, a year later, his son, King George II, after murdering five former Premiers and the former Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army in Asia Minor, on the assumption that they were guilty of the disaster that terminated that campaign.

To make matters worse, the militaryists belonged to a party, the Liberal Party, and, as a result, whatever they did and whatever they attempted to do was charged to the Venizelist account. Thus we explain the fact that in 1921, exactly two months before the militaryists reached Athens to overthrow King George II, the Venizelist Government was ordered out of the country, and the military revolution of 1922 had thrown the country into a state of anarchy, a signal for the disruption of the nation.

At first the division was between the Liberal, Republican Liberal and Republican Union. Subsequently the number was increased to seven, namely: Progressive Liberals, under Kafandaris; Conservative Liberals, under Michalakopoulos; Republican Union, under Papanastassiou; National Union, under Kondylis; Revolutionary Liberals, under Gounaris; Constitutional Republicans, under Poppiades; and Liberals, under Sofoulis. Out of the same old Venizelist Liberal Party were also formed the Refugee Settlement Party, the Greek Labor-Farmer Party, and last, but not least, the Greek Communist Party, which contains a minority of former anti-Venizelists.

The old anti-Venizelist alignment has also suffered during this period, although not to the same extent as the Venizelist. This was due, to begin with, to the cold-blooded murder of Demetrios Gounaris, leader of the Popular Party; Nicholas Stratos, leader of the Reformists, who had nine-tenths of the old electorate with them. The death of Demetrios Rhalis early in 1922 had also affected his partisans.

It was just before Gounaris and his Ministers were shot to death by a firing squad that General John Metaxas, known as the most brilliant staff officer of the Hellenic Army, former Chief of Staff, and a man of sound judgment and strong opinions, became the leader of what is known today as the Party of Freedom.

General Metaxas was the first to oppose the military expedition to Asia Minor, as early as 1915, when the subject was first brought to his attention by the then Premier Venizelos, who was negotiating with the Allies the participation of Greece in the Dardanelles campaign. Metaxas was then Chief of Staff, and, finding himself in disagreement with the Premier, resigned his post. For his act he was denounced as a pro-German, and suffered all sorts of persecution and exile until the election of 1920, when he was allowed to return from Corsica, where he had been held prisoner by the French since 1917.

When the military disaster came, which Metaxas predicted, his views became very popular, and when the foremost leaders of the anti-Venizelist Party were exterminated, Metaxas placed himself at the head of the Party of Freedom.

Greece at that time was under the

absolute control of the militaryists, who had succeeded in foisting upon the country a so-called "Republican régime" which was nothing but a dictatorship of a league of officers, who abolished the Constitution and ruled the country by more or less expedient decrees issued in the name and authority of the elderly Admiral Paul Kountouriotis, who became the Regent after the dethronement of the King, and who eventually was transformed into a Provisional President of the Hellenic Republic.

As already explained, the militaryists tried once to bring the country back to "normalcy" by a general election as far back as December, 1923. However, knowing themselves and the Venizelist Party favoring them as forming only a minority, the militaryists, before proclaiming the election of Dec. 15, 1923, had the electoral law so modified as to deprive the anti-Venizelists of any advantage they might derive from a free election. Under these conditions the anti-Venizelist opposition refused to participate in the election—hence the "Rump Parliament."

Thus Parliament attempted to change the Constitution, but without making any headway. As a matter of fact neither Parliament nor Government amounted to anything while the Military League remained supreme in Greece. On June 25, 1925, one of the military leaders, General Theodore Pangalos, tired of the whole mess, got two regiments of the Athenian Guard together, overthrew the weak cabinet headed by the Conservatives, and, Andreas Michalakopoulos, a former Premier.

Elections were promptly set for held Admiral Kountouriotis, who was becoming a mere puppet in the hands of the dictator and resigned early in March, 1925. Pangalos proclaimed himself a candidate for President of the republic. Incidentally he made things uncomfortable for the opposition. Although all the political parties in Greece, Venizelists and anti-Venizelists included, effected a union and joined in the support of a common candidate, Dr. Constantin Demetrios, Pangalos forced them out of the running and proclaimed himself President on March 1, 1926.

Pangalos let the election take its course, and even supported Dr. Demetrios. He later would have been surprised if he would have sanctioned the election of the republic in a way that would have made that régime acceptable to the vast majority of Greeks. Pangalos, of course, thought only of himself, with the result that he became President until Aug. 22, when he was overthrown by General George Kondylis, another representative of the military oligarchy, who was satisfied with the Premiership, and proceeded to a general election after having restored Admiral Kountouriotis to the Presidency.

The result was that not less than sixty separate parties with separate emblems took the field, while the number of candidates for the 250 seats of the Assembly ran into the tens of thousands. Nevertheless the outstanding facts were:

The main Republican or Venizelist parties were represented by the followers of George Kafandaris and Andreas Michalakopoulos, who ran as the Party of Liberal Union. Against them was the excellently organized Party of Freedom, under the leadership of General John Metaxas, and the Popular Party of Panagiotis Tsaldaris.

The result must be examined in the light of a great civil victory against the militaryists. Of the remaining parties the Liberal Union, under the joint leadership of George Kafandaris and Andreas Michalakopoulos, have claimed in the first reports coming from Athens 160 seats. Of the anti-Venizelist parties, that of General Metaxas has made the most imposing showing, with seventy seats to its credit in the first round of the electoral campaign. This means that in the second round under the regime of proportional representation system Metaxas and the Party of Freedom will increase their strength. The Popular Party, under Panagiotis Tsaldaris, has succeeded in having fifty candidates elected.

A Government formed with the cooperation of all the constructive elements of the parties that mean to reorganize Greece without regard to the immediate past will be a Government with which all foreign countries will find it easy and safe to deal.

Whether the question of the régime will be taken up at the near or distant future is not for me to say. The Hellenic nation is today the master of its destinies. The National Assembly elected last Sunday has the fate of the country in its hands. Whether Greece will find the future peace, progress and prosperity in a crowned or an uncrowned republic is on the knees of the gods.

THE SCREEN

By MORDAUNT HALL.

Ray's Irish Ellen.

PRIVATE ELLIEN MURPHY, with George Jessel, Percy Kelly, and George Jessel, in "Private Ellen Murphy," a story by Raymond L. Brice, directed by Lloyd Bacon. At

When peering under the shamrocks decorating the portals of the Hippodrome one is prepared to find a farce in the new picture there, for its title is "Private Ellen Murphy." Nothing of the sort; this production, in which George Jessel makes his film debut, is a dignified fourth cousin of "Abie's Irish Rose." It is a feature that has a decided inclination to be melodramatic and to emphasize this mood there is a wealth of tearful close-ups.

Mr. Jessel proves his ability to act before the camera, but much of his good work is wasted on this vehicle. Mr. Jessel wants something less lady-rymose and more whimsical. There are scenes in this production that betray little imagination in their direction, and, as happens in many a melodrama, the excellent of the characters, their good and bad, is in lieu of causing a set makes one smile.

The great shame of Private Ellen Murphy is that he said he was an Irishman. He told Ellen O'Hanigan that he was Jansone Patrick Murphy. Through his name and courage Mr. Murphy becomes a doughty hero in the Fighting Sixty-ninth, and it is somewhere in France that Private Murphy writes to Ellen informing her that his real name is Jansone Goldwyn. Our hero is wounded and many in the audience think that he is gone West but in the stream of khaki that pours down Fifth Avenue his familiar face is beheld. His father and mother see him and he sees them. The O'Hanigan family see him, and he sees them. Ellen is very much in love with Private Murphy and does not care a rat what his name was. So Private Murphy wins in war and peace.

Vera Gordon is excellent in the role of Private Murphy's mother. Percy Kelly Miller is droll and affectionate as Ellen. The elder O'Hanigan is well played by Gustav von Seyffertitz.

GIL VALERIANO SINGS.

Spanish Tenor Gives First Recital of Season at Carnegie Hall.

Gil Valeriano, the Spanish tenor, gave his first recital of the season at Carnegie Hall last evening, before a representative audience. A good hall might have served Mr. Valeriano's purpose better, as his voice and songs are more of the drawing-room type. Mr. Valeriano forced his upper lip when he came to his climactic song, displayed vocal agility in "Luz de Luna," and quite a good deal of dramatic fire in Casti's "Vendetta." The audience recalled the singer with enthusiasm.

Mr. Valeriano's French group, suffered from the dullness of the lyrics and the indistinctness of his enunciation. He put a great deal of sentiment in Mr. La Forge's "Love is a sickness," which is dedicated to the singer. Mr. Valeriano had reserved the Spanish songs and songs popular in Spanish countries for the latter part of the concert. These were written by Copland, Penella, Padilla, and the popular "Estrellita." Mr. Valeriano's group was numbered among them. The last group consisted of airs from Argentina, Argentina, Chile and Argentina.

David Campbell Greeted.

David Campbell, a mature pianist, of whose success report said that he came from the West "where rolls the mighty Oregon," gave a first recital in New York yesterday at Aeolian Hall. He played with the vigor, the abounding force of one accustomed to the great open spaces, and there was refreshing directness in his exposition without exaggeration of this or that classic composer. With much of Liszt first and last, he played as a sincere devotee the Beethoven sonata of "Albion and Return," a Schumann toccata, Chopin's ballade Op. 23, and pieces from the modern piano idiom by Debussy, Debussy and Rudolf Ganz.

Scottish Songs Heard.

Baldwin Allan-Alan, the Canadian-Scottish baritone, gave a recital of original folk songs and ballads at Town Hall last evening. He was accompanied by Roger MacGregor at the piano. Both wore the tartan. Mr. Allan-Alan, who made an favorable impression last season, delighted his audience again by his vivid presentation of Scottish songs. His fine baritone, and his strong, clear enunciation were particularly well fitted for the warlike tunes of "The Hundred Pipers" and the stirring "Rocks and Hills." The songs from the Gaelic (arranged by M. Kennedy-Fraser) added to the pleasure of the evening.

Elisa Blum Gives a Fine Recital.

Elisa Blum, contralto, sang in Steinway Hall last evening to an intimate audience that greeted with applause and flowers the ripe and opulent tones of a competent artist in old airs of Bechi and Monteverdi. Handling four language groups to the latter Strauss and Tchaikovsky, she added light English songs in conclusion. Emilia Rozas assisted at the piano and Vladimir Graffman played violin solos.

Spanish Envoy to Be Honor Guest.

The new Spanish Ambassador, Alejandro Padilla, will attend a performance of the Spanish play, "Saturday Night," to be given in his honor at the Civic Repertory Theatre on Thursday night of next week. The Ambassador's guests will include Colonel Thomas H. Blinn, former United States Minister to Portugal, and the Spanish Consul General, D. Rafael Casares.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

"Old Bill, M. P." will open at the Biltmore Theatre tonight. "The Bachelor Jones" will be turned at the Mayfair.

Sausages Now Have Jackets Of Synthetic Cellulose

As a result of investigations during the last ten years, synthetic sausage covers of cellulose are now replacing the old-fashioned animal sausage casing, according to The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, official publication of the American Chemical Society.

"The casings can be made in any desired size and the strands can be made any length," the report says. The sausages packed in these cellulose casings are perfectly comestible and may be cooked in any manner.

Four investigators were engaged in the research work. C. L. Weirich began the studies in 1916, Frank W. Wootton followed him the next year. William Henderson continued them from 1920 and two years later he was joined by Harold E. Dietrich.

The new casing weighs only .30 of a gram.

Postpones Suit Against Pastor.

Special to The New York Times.

THRENTON, N. J., Nov. 9.—Trial of the \$100,000 damages suit against Rev. A. James Clark, Seventh Day Adventist minister of this city, for defamation of character was postponed indefinitely today. The case may not be reached before next Tuesday. Damages are sought by Miss Theresa Fetter of Akron, Ohio, who charges that the pastor, in January, 1925, told a congregation there that she had been an intimate with Dr. J. H. Miller, an officer in the Reformed Seventh Day Adventist Church. The plaintiff is a former Bible worker.

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"Miss Bainter held last night's audience until her at the end."—BURNS MANTLE, NEWS.

"Thoroughly French in its airiness, its wit, its Love" enjoys a production beside which even put on any air. In a word, a very good show.

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FORREST

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Dreiser's Exotic Melodrama

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