

a federal government became conscious of oppression by the central government and wished to publicize a complaint, that there was no better way than through a convention. Unfortunately, from then on "it became a habit with Otis to publish defenses of the convention," and to refer to it in speeches, rather than to ignore the barbs of his enemies. Later, he became an excellent third mayor of Boston, and even returned to Congress, resigning before the end of his term. Federalists gradually joined the National Republicans, later renamed Whigs. But the old Federalist party survived as a social cult, its leaders and their descendants "long occupying a position in New England corresponding to that of prominent Confederate families."

Admiral Morrison makes no attempt to portray Harrison Gray Otis as larger than life; instead, he uses objectivity — with a touch of affection and a twinkle. As for the Hartford Convention, the author's aim was "not to defend Otis or attack Adams, but to find out from contemporary sources how the project originated, what it was expected to accomplish, and what actually happened." In summation he said that Otis acquitted himself well, with not much evidence of great or original statesmanship, and represented "all that was best of a class."

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BOOK NOTES

Republicans and Labor, 1919-1929. By ROBERT H. ZEIGER. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1969. Pp. 277. Biographical Note, Index. \$8.25.)

Robert H. Zeiger analyzes the role of the Harding and Coolidge Administrations in the decade of struggle after World War I between labor unions and industry, labor trying to consolidate its wartime gains and to secure certain basic reforms, industry determined to return to a pre-war basis. For a hundred years labor problems had needed attention; now answers had to be found; and for the first time, party leaders seemed to be aware of labor's great political power. Labor was a sleeping giant that, up to this time, had voted along local or regional, ethnic or religious lines, but never as a group of workers.

Republicans and Labor is partly the story of how leaders met — or avoided — the problems of a decade, and partly the story of almost

constant strikes; of World War I veterans desperately seeking employment; of steelworkers trying to secure an eight-hour day; of the railroad union's dislike of the Railroad Board and Ben Cooper; of the bitter struggle between proponents of open and closed shop; of an Immigration Law drastically cutting quotas in favor of northern Europeans; of the many mine strikes for higher wages and maintaining the Central Competitive Field Bargaining Unit, all the gains of twenty-five years lost in the 1927 strike.

Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce and later President, comes out best of all Republicans in government during the decade. Approaching labor problems with sympathy, engineering know-how and common sense, he believed government had to be influential but restrained, that it must urge and publicize, but not coerce. He believed in gathering information, coordinating the activities of labor and industrial representatives, consulting engineering groups, academicians, experts. Hoover and his fellow engineers saw industrial problems of the time as technical problems, and recommended that industry needed a thorough modernizing. He had much influence in the Baltimore Agreement, which helped rescue some of the railroad unions and preserve the jobs and seniority of many railroad workers.

President Harding gained the reputation of being swayed by the last man who had his ear, especially by his attorney-general, Harry M. Daugherty, who was much disliked and finally impeached. Calvin Coolidge, who advocated moderation toward labor, always displayed clever political astuteness. The book also mentions the Minute Men of the Constitution, founded by Charles G. Dawes, to oppose unrest and violence and lessen the influence of organized labor through the activities of businessmen, patriotic groups, returned veterans, and newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune*.

Robert H. Zeiger gives an objective and thorough analysis of this era of American adjustment after World War I.

English Surnames. Their Sources and Significations. By CHARLES WAREING BARDSLEY, M.A. (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., First Tuttle Edition, 1968. Pp. xxix, 514. Index of Instances. \$6.00.)

English Surnames goes deeply into the background of English nomenclature. Dip into this book where he may, the reader will find it interesting. The author believes that, after local surnames, the