

Banking and Currency Committee, was only able to get a favorable vote out of his committee on the Act by obtaining a long-distance telephone proxy vote from Senator Burnet R. Maybank (South Carolina Democrat), which broke a 6-6 voting deadlock in the committee. With Senator Maybank's proxy, the committee voted out the bill favorably, 7-6. The bill is now on the Senate calendar, although no decision has been made on when it will be called up for debate and a vote.

(2) The "Housing-for-Dollars" groups are pouring money, letters and telegrams into Washington to defeat the bill. They are astute, determined, and have ample funds.

(3) Senator Taft suffered a sharp setback as a Senate leader when he was unable to defeat the nomination of David Lilienthal as Atomic Energy Commission

head. Also, Senator Taft very definitely has his eye on the Presidential race and may conclude that it would not be good politics to push his housing bill until a number of political matters have been decided.

Aside from these pro and con facts, economic conditions in the United States and the world, will have much to do with the passage of the bill. If, as some Washington economists believe, the United States is now entering a sharp economic decline, there will be pressure for legislation which would stimulate business. Senator Taft's bill will certainly do this, and a bad break in the business barometers, and employment—with a "bust" in the construction industry—would do more to speed passage of the General Housing Act than all the oratory on the Floor of the Senate ever will.

Re-Establishment of Constitutional Government In Brazil

By E. B. ROGERS

BY electing governors and legislatures of the various states on January 19, 1947, the Brazilian people completed the re-establishment of a democratic form of government—a task on which they had been engaged for nearly two years. In order to understand the reasons for this return to constitutionalism it is necessary to outline very briefly some of the events of recent Brazilian history.

In 1930 Brazil found itself in the throes of a bitter election campaign which was cut short by a revolution headed by one of the candidates, Sr. Getulio Vargas of the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The revolutionaries succeeded in winning the support of the armed forces, and achieved their objectives quickly and without much bloodshed. Sr. Getulio Vargas

became provisional President. Surviving a revolution in the state of São Paulo, which was quelled only after three months in 1932, Sr. Vargas continued to head a provisional government until 1934, when a Constituent Assembly promulgated a new Constitution. Sr. Vargas governed under the new Constitution until 1937, when on November 10 of that year he suddenly, by a coup d'état, overthrew the 1934 Constitution and imposed a new Constitution on the country. This Constitution authorized the President to govern by decree until such time as the people, in a referendum, might be able to approve the Constitution. In fact, however, the referendum was never held, no elections of any kind were held, and Sr. Vargas continued to govern the country by decree under the authority of a Constitution which he himself had imposed upon the country.

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Having brought Brazil into the war on the side of the democracies in 1942, Sr. Vargas found himself in a somewhat equivocal position and was constrained to promise that, after the war, elections would be held. As late as December, 1944, the dictatorship imprisoned a number of the leading democrats for a short time; but in February, 1945, it made no counter-move when some of the newspapers defied the censorship and published articles attacking the régime. The following month a commission was set up to draw up an electoral law, and political parties, though technically illegal, were in fact permitted to establish themselves and to operate openly. Subsequently, an electoral law was promulgated establishing the legality of political activity, and providing for the election of a President, a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies on December 2, 1945. Sr. Vargas announced that he would not be a candidate for the presidency. Supporters of the Vargas regime chose as their candidate for the presidency General Eurico Gaspar Dutra, who had been Minister of War in the Vargas government, and the opposition chose Air Brigadier Eduardo Gomes as its candidate. As the campaign progressed it began to appear that Sr. Vargas was promoting a campaign the object of which was to "persuade" him to stand for election. A somewhat tense situation came to a head on October 29, 1945, when the President appointed his own brother as Chief of Police. The armed forces, having previously made it plain that they would guarantee the holding of free elections, regarded this as the last straw, and with the consent and co-operation of the two presidential candidates promptly deposed Sr. Vargas and installed in the presidency the President of the Supreme Federal Tribunal.

The elections for the President and for the Senate and Chamber of Deputies were held as planned on December 2, 1945, it having been decreed in the meantime that the two Houses of the Congress should first sit together as a Constituent

Assembly. The election for the presidency, which was contested by General Dutra, Air Brigadier Gomes and a last-minute Communist candidate (who polled 600,000 votes out of a total of about 5,000,000) resulted in the election of General Dutra, who was duly installed in office on January 31, 1946. At the same time the Constituent Assembly commenced to function and, after seven and a half months of discussion, promulgated the new Constitution on September 18, 1946.

Promulgation of the new Constitution and of an Act of Transitory Provisions was the last act of the Constituent Assembly, which then divided into the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The two Houses of the National Congress commenced to function immediately.

During the Vargas regime the various states had been governed by interventors appointed by and controlled by the Federal Government. This system has necessarily continued in force until the present time, and will continue in force until the results of the state elections of January 19 are known and the necessary steps have been taken to constitute the new state governments.

The Constitution of September 18, 1946, under which the state elections here held, contains many of the features of the American Constitution—notably, the division of powers. The Constitution provides for the maintenance under a representative régime of the federal and republican forms of government, and declares that all power emanates from the people and is to be exercised in the name of the people. Provision is made for the division of legislative and taxing powers between the union and the states, and it is specifically stated that all powers not implicitly or explicitly denied to the states by the Constitution are reserved to them. This independence of the states is somewhat illusory, however, for it is provided that the Federal Government may intervene in the states for a good many reasons.

In Brazilian federal and state elections

proportional representation is assured by means of the single transferable vote. This system, which is administered by electoral tribunals, involves the official recognition of political parties as legal entities. The registration of a political party having been approved by the electoral tribunal, that party may submit to the tribunal a list of candidates; and no candidate may be registered except by a political party. In federal elections each state and the federal district is a single constituency which elects a number of deputies, depending on the population of the state; and each state elects three senators. On polling day the voter does not mark a ballot but instead places in the ballot box, in an envelope given to him by the poll clerk, a printed slip of paper bearing the name of a party and one of the candidates of that party. When the votes are counted, the votes for parties are considered first. The so-called electoral quotient is established by dividing the total number of votes cast by the number of seats to be filled. Any party which receives fewer votes than the electoral quotient is ruled out, and the

seats are then divided among the successful parties in proportion to the number of votes cast for each of them. Once the number of deputies to be elected by each party has been determined, the votes for individuals are considered, and the party candidates who have polled the most votes are declared elected. Senators are elected as individuals.

If a single candidate is elected in more than one state, he must declare for one of them and his name is struck off the party list in the others, the candidate with the next largest number of votes taking his place there. Similarly, in the event of a vacancy by death or resignation, the man next on the party list is declared elected.

In the state elections the whole state is regarded as a single constituency.

Elections for President of the Republic and for Governor of the State are between individuals, the candidate with the greatest number of votes being declared elected. Candidates must, however, be nominated by a political party, and it frequently happens that the same candidate will be nominated by several political parties.

Province-Wide Hospitalization in Saskatchewan

By LEONARD S. ROSENFELD

THE increasing acceptance of the concept of health insurance in modern countries and the rapid growth of voluntary hospitalization insurance in the United States and Canada during the past fifteen years would seem to give clear indication that protection from the economic and social, as well as physical and mental, effects of illness is a basic social need. From a modest start in 1932, when the first Blue Cross Plan was established in the United States, through 1937, when total enrollment

passed the million mark, to the present time, when about 25 million persons in the United States and Canada are enrolled in voluntary hospital services plans, hospitalization insurance has become established as a significant factor in the health security of the people of North America. The value of hospitalization insurance to the families covered, to the medical profession, and to participating hospitals is now generally recognized.

Review of the enrollment experience in different states and provinces under voluntary hospitalization insurance indicates that this method of payment of hospitalization costs is not equally fa-