

AMERICANS MAY MISS VOTING FOR A POPE

Cardinal O'Connell, as Well as
Cardinal Dougherty, Delayed
—Former Sails Tuesday.

EFFORT TO HASTEN FAILED

Gasparri, if Elected Pontiff,
Would Continue Conciliation
Toward Italy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (Associated Press).—The two American members of the Sacred College, Cardinals O'Connell of Boston and Dougherty of Philadelphia, will leave at the earliest possible moment to attend the conclave for the election of a successor to Pope Benedict, it was said in ecclesiastical circles tonight.

Cardinal O'Connell failed to secure passage yesterday, as he had planned, and will sail tomorrow on the Presidente Wilson. Cardinal Dougherty is expected to return from a vacation trip next Friday, and probably will sail on the following day on the French liner La Lorraine.

If there is no especial reason for delay, it was said here, the conclave may meet Feb. 1. The fear was expressed that if the conclave was as short as that which resulted in the election of the late Pontiff, both the American members of the Sacred College might arrive in Rome too late to participate in the election.

After the death of Pius X., which took place Aug. 20, 1914, the conclave began on Aug. 31, and the new Pope was elected on Sept. 3. If the same procedure is taken in the present case, the election of the Pope would occur about Feb. 5.

Strong Ties With Gasparri.

Cardinal Pietro Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State and "Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church," is being spoken of here as a possible successor to the seat of St. Peter. By virtue of his position Cardinal Gasparri has been in charge of the papal household and of affairs at the Vatican since 6 o'clock this morning. He is expected to carry out the late Pope's plans with complete fidelity. With the exception of the first thirty-seven days after his election, when Benedict XV. had as Secretary of State Cardinal Domenico Ferrata, who died on Oct. 10, 1914, Cardinal Gasparri has uninterruptedly occupied the position of Secretary of State.

Persons familiar with the facts have commented on the warm cordiality and affection of the Pope toward his Secretary of State, and the devotion and affection of the latter toward the Pope. Last year when Cardinal Gasparri was ill for several weeks, the Pope visited him twice a day. These visits were not perfunctory. The Pope used to sit at the bedside of his Chamberlain, inform him of what was going on, consult with him on important affairs and discuss with him the attitude of the Holy See on the most momentous questions. No greater intimacy, no more complete identity of views and of feelings, it is said, can be imagined than that between Benedict and Gasparri.

The Pope was small of stature and very frail, while Gasparri is above medium height and rather stout. They were both indefatigable workers, who could go on without ceasing from 5 o'clock in the morning, when they arose, until late at night. They succeeded in tiring younger prelates who worked under them, including Mgr. Tedeschini and Mgr. Cerretti, the Assistant Secretaries of State, who are nuncios respectively in Spain and France.

Groups of the Cardinals.

In his position of Chamberlain during the obsequies of the Pope, which last nine days, and during the conclave, Cardinal Gasparri will be assisted by the Deans of the three orders in which the Cardinals are grouped, the Cardinals Bishops, Cardinals Priests, and Cardinals Deacons. The plenum of the Sacred College, or its authorized maximum membership, cannot surpass seventy, but now the Cardinals number only sixty-one, of whom thirty-one are Italians and thirty foreigners.

There are only six Cardinal Bishops, to whom are entrusted the six dioceses immediately around Rome. Their dean is Cardinal Vicenzio Vannutelli, who visited the United States about ten years ago, when Pius X. sent him as Papal Legate to the Eucharistic Congress in Montreal. At that time the report circulated that his nephew, Count Galileo

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Vannutelli, would marry a Catholic American girl of Philadelphia; but later he married a French girl.

Cardinal Vannutelli is not only the dean of the Cardinal Bishops, but since the death of Cardinal Gibbons he is also the dean of the entire Sacred College, having been raised to the purple by Leo XIII. thirty-three years ago. Although 85 years old, he is so well preserved and strong that, with the exception of being somewhat deaf in one ear, he does not show his age and seems twenty years younger. His tall, erect, robust figure seems more like that of a retired army officer than that of an ecclesiastic. He is a great walker, and when his brother, Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli, was alive, he went every night on foot to see him.

An unwritten rule prohibits cardinals walking inside the city of Rome, so much so that all the wearers of the purple every day motor or drive outside the walls of the city to be able to take their constitutionals. Cardinal Vannutelli did not observe the rule and after sunset dressed as a simple priest, could be seen along the narrow lanes flanking the Farnese Palace or the Palace of the Cancelleria. He was a candidate in the conclave of 1914 but on account of his age it is not believed that his name will be brought forward now.

The selection of a new Pope will have unusual interest for Italy, it was declared here, because, in view of the decidedly conciliatory attitude taken by Benedict, there will be speculation as to whether his policy will be continued. If Cardinal Gasparri should be the next Pope, a continuation of the same policy would be insured, but another Cardinal might have different ideas with regard

to the old problem on the relations between Church and State in Italy.

Cardinal Gasparri, according to the general opinion, has the greatest chance of success, but an old Roman proverb says that "he who enters the conclave as Pope comes out of it as Cardinal." This was borne out in the last three conclaves, when Leo XIII., Pius X. and Benedict XV. were elected contrary to the expectation of the majority.

The Roman question never approached so closely a solution as during the Paris Peace Conference, when Mgr. Cerretti, then Assistant Secretary of State at the Vatican, was in the French capital to insure the rights and properties of the German religious people who lived in the colonies assigned by mandate to England, France and Japan. He had then several interviews with Premier Orlando and Marquis Della Torretta, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.