SENATOR FERRIS DIES IN WASHINGTON

Republican Majority Will Be Raised to 2 by Appointment to Michigan Democrat’s Seat.

FORDNEY LIKELY SUCCESSOR

Congress Honors Veteran in Politics and Education, Ending His Career at Age of 75.

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, March 23 (AP).—Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, Democrat, of Michigan, died at the Hotel Washington this morning from the attack of bronchial pneumonia he suffered several weeks ago. The death was administered, but the Senator's age of seventy-five years was against him.

Senator Ferris's death will increase the Republican majority in the present Senate by one member, as Governor Fred W. Green is a Republican and will undoubtedly appoint a member of that party to fill out the term of Senator Ferris, who resigned March 5, 1929.

Word reached Washington through private channels from Detroit tonight that it is possible Governor Green may appoint ex-Representative Joseph W. Fordney, former Chairman of the War and Means Committee, to the vacancy.

Senate and House Pay Honors.

Mrs. Ferris and two sons, Carlton, Executive Secretary of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and Phelps, the Senator’s private secretary, were at the bedside.

Both the Senate and the House adjourned in tribute to Senator Ferris after adopting resolutions appointing committees to attend the funeral.

In presenting the Senate resolution, Senator Conyers declared that, in his colleague Michigan had lost "one of its useful citizens" and the nation "an outstanding figure in practical education."

The Senate delegation at the funeral will comprise Senators Conyers, Curtis, Pease, Robinson of Arkansas, Copeland, Jenison, John G. Dill, Steiver and Brookhart.


Shift in Senate Alignment.

During his Senate service Mr. Ferris is said to have made only one speech. He devoted his time principally to committee work. He recently announced that he would not seek re-election.

When the present Senate was organized in December, it was composed of forty-six Republicans, not including Smith and Vare; forty-seven Democrats, and Senator Shipstead, the Farmer-Labor member. The death of Senator Jones, Democrat, of New Mexico, and the appointment of Bronson Cutting, a Republican, as his successor, changed the balance. Now, through the appointment of a Michigan Republican, the senatorial composition will be forty-eight Republicans and forty-five Democrats, plus Mr. Shipstead.

On paper, this would give the Republicans a majority in the Senate over the Democrats and a leeway of two over the Democrats plus Mr. Shipstead, but this will not mean that the regular Republicans will be able to control the Senate.

They will have still facing them the Republican insurgents who will unquestionably continue to exercise their own judgment, even questioning with the Democrats on occasion.

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