

Governor Woodrow Wilson in Lincoln

Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, visited Lincoln, Neb., on his way east. The Lincoln, (Neb.) Journal gives the following report of the governor's reception:

Dr. Woodrow Wilson, the scholar-governor of New Jersey and potential candidate for the presidency of the United States, received an especially enthusiastic welcome from the people of Lincoln. He came as the guest of a non-political organization, the Lincoln Commercial club. He received marked attention from all classes of citizens regardless of politics. He visited the university and was greeted by a great crowd of students as one who speaks the language of their tribe. In the afternoon a public reception was held in his honor at the Lincoln hotel and in the evening he addressed the largest gathering ever assembled for the annual banquet of the Commercial club. From the time he arrived from the north at 3:15 in the afternoon until he left for the east at 11 o'clock in the evening, he was the recipient of every possible attention without the least political bias. At the same time everybody looked upon him as a presidential possibility, and that fact crept out continually in the conversation of those who greeted him and in the speeches of introduction at the formal dinner in the evening.

Because of the delay east of Omaha which prevented the distinguished guest from making connections with the train that arrives in Lincoln before noon, Governor Wilson was unable to reach the city until 3:15 in the afternoon. A committee of the Commercial club, consisting of W. A. Selleck, C. W. Bryan, and President George J. Woods met him at Ashland and escorted him to the city. At the Burlington depot the party was met by the reception committee of the club with several automobiles and taken directly to the Lincoln hotel.

Among those who acted on this informal reception committee were: J. E. Miller, P. L. Hall, Judge Lincoln Frost, R. M. Joyce, John Dorgan, Chancellor Samuel Avery and F. M. Hall. Governor Wilson went at once to his room but soon reappeared and held an informal reception in the lobby of the hotel. Perhaps a hundred men were there to shake hands with him. The reception committee saw to it that he was kept busy responding to introductions. W. H. Thompson, democratic candidate for the United States senate at the same time that it is rumored Governor Wilson will be the democratic candidate for president and A. E. Cady, formerly republican candidate for governor in this state, were in the city on other business. Both chatted with the executive of New Jersey. The talk was kept pretty well away from the discussion now going on concerning democratic presidential timber.

"I have been in the west many times," said the governor while shaking hands right and left, "but have never been in Lincoln before. Nice city this. I have been in Omaha several times, and do not count the west at all a stranger to me. Tomorrow I go direct to North Carolina to fill a long-standing engagement for a commencement address."

Governor Wilson smilingly refused to discuss the political situation as regards the presidential possibilities. To members of the reception committee who met him part way to Omaha he talked freely of political conditions. He declared himself surprised and delighted with the manifestations everywhere of the progressive sentiment in the west, and presaged that it means much in the future policy of the nation.

Governor Wilson on this extensive trip is accompanied by only two friends, neither of them in any official capacity. Frank Parker Stockbridge of New York, a journalistic friend of the governor, is accompanying him as a volunteer and looking after his wants as a sort of private secretary. At the same time Mr. Stockbridge is securing material for magazine stories, he doing that class of work almost entirely at this time. The governor's other companion is McKee Barclay, cartoonist on the Baltimore Sun, who is not only doing cartoon work on subjects he secures from the trip but is writing special articles for his newspaper.

Shortly after 4 o'clock Governor Wilson was again taken in tow by Commercial club members and taken first to the university campus where he viewed the annual competitive drill exercises then in progress. From there after a very short stop he was whirled to the state house. Governor Aldrich was not in the city, he having gone away to make a commencement address, but several state officers had lingered

in the governor's reception room in hope of seeing the distinguished guest. A call was made on ex-Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews, now ill in a local hospital. The chancellor and the governor were old friends, both being college professors at the same time, the one as president of Brown university, the other as professor of history at Princeton from which position he stepped to the presidency of the institution and from that to the governorship of his state. Mr. Andrews telephoned to C. W. Bryan that he would be delighted to meet his friend but considered it something of a hardship on the latter. Governor Wilson considered this the most important stop on his brief trip around the city. Fairview and the aviation grounds at the state fair grounds, were also on the trip. W. J. Bryan was not in the city.

At the state university Governor Wilson's automobile was driven into the center of a hollow square, the various cadet companies and 500 spectators ranging themselves on the four sides. The crowd then surged in about the automobile, the students cheering lustily for the former Princeton president. As Governor Wilson rose after an introduction by Chancellor Avery, the familiar college yell, "What's the matter with Woodrow Wilson?—he's all right," delayed his opening remarks.

"You are very kind," remarked the recipient of the attention. "But you are taking a great deal for granted when you say that I am all right. In viewing you it occurs to me that I am not accustomed to seeing my students in uniform. I know, however, that you are a uniform lot and I know something of what is beneath the uniforms at any rate."

"I realize that you are interested in me because of my position in politics. The college man who has the temerity to break into politics is naturally a curiosity. However, I did not go into politics; I was pulled in. For twenty years I had been preaching the doctrine that every man owed it to his country to take part to his full ability, in affairs of government. Consequently, when they came to me I had to take my medicine. It was a case of put up or shut up. Being naturally a talkative individual, I shut up."

"I know that you are not here to hear a speech, but rather merely to see a human curiosity. Therefore, I thank you."

The third annual banquet of the Commercial club was held at half past six o'clock at the Lincoln hotel. An effort to make it a formal affair was defeated by the extreme heat which caused more than one half of the members to appear in the coolest negligee costumes they could find. Three hundred and twenty-five men gathered in the foyer of the hotel, and after a brief period of presentation to the guest of honor filed into the banquet hall and took possession of five tables stretched along the length of the room. To facilitate serving so great a crowd the food was placed on the tables as far as possible and the waiters had nothing to do but replenish dishes and serve two or three courses.

During the dinner the orchestra added to the jollity by furnishing special music and singing a song in which Governor Wilson figured in a way not at all to his disadvantage. The boosters who had gathered some songs on their recent trade trip also rose now and then to help matters along, and were encored until their repertory gave out.

George Woods, president of the club, who, with Governor Wilson, Chancellor Avery, Mayor Armstrong, Victor Rosewater and members of the local reception committee, occupied the table of honor on the stage, began the formal proceedings by welcoming Governor Wilson and referring to him as one of the half dozen men from whom the people of the United States will choose their next president. Three of these men, he said, were either visiting in Lincoln, or lived here permanently. Governor Wilson was one of these and Mr. Bryan was the other two. After a short story, a few more brief remarks and a telegram from W. J. Bryan, Mr. Woods introduced Mayor Armstrong, who was received with a round of rousing and prolonged cheers.

Mayor Armstrong's voice was not strong enough to fill the large banquet chamber easily. He complimented the guest of honor as a progressive politician come out of the so-called conservative east to talk to the progressive west. The Commercial club, said he, had been delighted ever since it became known that the scholarly believer in progressive thought had agreed to speak at the annual meeting. The

mayor gave way to Chancellor Avery, introducing him to the audience.

The chancellor remarked that as he had followed the tall figure of the mayor into the banquet hall he had wondered if he should address him as "your highness." Whether or not he should be called "your serene highness" would depend on the outcome of the next few days in the city of Lincoln. This jocular remark brought instant response from the audience. Chancellor Avery paid a tribute to the speaker. In eastern college circles in which the Nebraska educator had moved the president of Princeton had been considered the greatest of them all, and since he had become the governor of New Jersey he had been known as one of the greatest governors of them all.

WOODROW WILSON'S ADDRESS

Governor Wilson, introduced by Chancellor Avery in lieu of both the ex-chancellor friend of the speaker and the absent governor of Nebraska, was received with rounds of applause, the audience rising to its feet to cheer.

After some pleasant introductory remarks and a tribute to "the great Nebraskan, W. J. Bryan," in which the speaker stated the "sage of Fairview" stands in a peculiar relation to democracy in that he had been a leader of thought in the days now past and gone when it took the utmost courage in any man to keep the attention of the people directed at the things that required a remedy. He had played a distinguished and valuable part, and now at last the nation had passed the period of awakening and was now awake.

Governor Wilson dwelt on the value of states' rights as a method by which the reforms now well under way can be carried through without wide national disturbance. He pointed out that each state represents within itself a peculiar condition and a peculiar problem set to be solved. Each state is grappling with its own paramount issue, and when taken together as a whole, the reform spreading gradually from state to state and intermingling, the whole nation is leavened. The governor declared himself a defender and a believer in states' rights, but not the kind that had disrupted the nation before the civil war. The states' rights he advocated was a doctrine without passion and without prejudice.

PEACEMAKERS FOR THE NATION

As an illustration of what he meant by the necessity of the states taking up reform each by itself, he cited Nebraska and Kansas "that brace of states in the middle west, the pace-makers for the nation," who had led in reform experiments that have now become settled policies in many parts of the nation. In the east people had shuddered at the mention of the "referendum" and "recall." They declared that the doctrine struck at the fundamental theories on which our government is constructed, that it changed representative government into direct government, and no precedent of a long life for such doctrines could be pointed to. The governor himself, in his eastern college, was won to the doctrines slowly. He used to prove to his classes that the referendum and the initiative would not work. The mischief of it was, said he, that he could still prove it. But the principle does work. It has been tried. Theory had been overthrown by practice.

In Nebraska the reforms had begun by commissions to correct the evils of corporate control of power which the people had recklessly given away years ago in order to tempt capital away from the east and into western development. That was why, said he, that the central west became a pioneer in reform. Its early policy had made the evils to be corrected more glaring than those existing in the east.

In California the people had grappled with the Southern Pacific and taken back the control unto themselves. In Massachusetts the mistakes of easy political life had been gradually corrected until on the statute books of that state are now many of the best laws to be found. A machine still exists there clothed with the odor of respectability, but the people are awakening and the delicate process of retirement is being practiced. In New Hampshire the people have taken back the control which years ago they filtered away. In New Jersey the troubles were too many to be told, but the people have awakened. This is the state by state system of reform which the governor advocated, and through which he expects to see the nation soon on a different basis, and the system which he now calls "states rights."

PEOPLE THEMSELVES TO BLAME

Governor Wilson discussed legislative reform. "Don't blame your legislators for what they

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