

The Passing of Woodrow Wilson

(From the Washington Star.)

When Gen. Smuts placed the name of Woodrow Wilson beside that of Washington and Lincoln on the roll of America's great, a large number of the newspapers of the country agreed with him. The majority, however, seem to hold with the Pittsburgh Dispatch (independent) that neither this "idealized estimate nor the denunciatory criticism of his more rabid opponents" will gauge the retired President's true place in history. More Democratic than Republican papers, naturally, are vocal.

Time must elapse before cool justice can be done to this American President, whose work and aims aroused so much of controversy and stirred such depths of partisan hatred. The contemporary mind must disappear, indeed, from the earth before a true balance of judgment can be reached concerning Woodrow Wilson.—Springfield Republican (independent).

We are glad to have had the use of his strength of egotism and will when it was needed. We are sorry for the tendencies he has strengthened in a nation badly composed to be subjected to them.—Chicago Tribune (independent republican).

He is one of the very small number of great men who in great times have done great things, and in history of the world war no figure will be more commanding than Woodrow Wilson.—Philadelphia Record (independent democratic).

As the head of the nation during a world war and as the champion of an ideal of international peace to which the aspirations of the world have rallied, Mr. Wilson has written a record of success. He can await the verdict of the future with equanimity.—New York Evening Post (independent).

No other American has made so much world history as Woodrow Wilson. No other American has ever bulked so large in the affairs of civilization or wielded so commanding and influence in shaping their ends.—New York World (democratic).

History may say that he was not a successful diplomat. But it was his rare privilege to put in words as the aspiration of America a principle which the world has accepted as its standard.—Milwaukee Journal (independent).

History will write Mr. Wilson down as one of the outstanding world figures of all time.—Houston Post (democratic).

His experiences offer a much longer record of errors to be avoided than of examples to be emulated. But it is due to him to say that he earnestly wished to make the world a better place to live in.—Buffalo Express (independent republican).

With the passing of the Wilson administration there goes the noxious theory that any man, however highly placed, can speak for all of us at all times and places. There disappears the idea that the President is somehow above and beyond the people, instead of being their temporary agent, directly responsible to them.—Providence Journal (independent).

He stands with the most achieving of those who have served the world.—Atlanta Journal (democratic).

Yet we have faith to believe that because he was the idealist, because he first stood before men as a champion of an internationalism that was simple Christianity. Woodrow Wilson's fame will grow with the succeeding years.—Chicago Post (independent).

Ours has been no mean leader, but one whom far distant generations will acclaim as among the best and truest servitors of man.—Omaha World-Herald (independent).

If Woodrow Wilson, like Lincoln, had died shortly after re-election, his name would have gone down into history as that of a great and successful President.—Baltimore Sun (independent democratic).

Wilson will stand out in that long perspective as one who sought at least to raise men higher, which is true greatness. Whether we like it or not, whether we like him or not, the name of Woodrow Wilson will fill a large place of the future.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat (republican).

Any impartial study of the colossal failure will show that it was due almost wholly to defects in the character or the temperament of the President.—Philadelphia North American (progressive).

The broad pages of the achievement stand, Woodrow Wilson has been a great President of

the United States—great not only in spiritual purposes, but in practical accomplishment.—Rochester Times-Union (independent).

He was always the leader and his leadership was invariably toward the right. His faults were never those of intention and will soon be forgotten. He becomes a citizen, but he will be America's first citizen so long as he shall live. Nothing can wrest that distinction from him.—Worcester Post (independent democratic).

In creating this world-wide sentiment for brotherly international co-operation and pointing it toward a definite goal no other man has exerted an influence in any way comparable to that of Woodrow Wilson.—Columbus Dispatch (independent).

History has a habit of pardoning faults in men who have accomplished big things. Probably it will be kinder to Woodrow Wilson than most Americans of his own time expect it to be.—Cincinnati Times-Star (republican).

Whether Mr. Wilson will take his place among the great presidents of the nation it is too early to tell. Our own opinion is that he will, although we do not believe that he will ever stand upon the same pedestal with Washington, Lincoln, or even Roosevelt.—Buffalo Commercial (independent).

Possibly never in the history of the United States, certainly never since the days of James Buchanan, has any President retired from office so generally disliked and so thoroughly discredited as Woodrow Wilson.—Fort Wayne News and Sentinel (republican).

Woodrow Wilson ranks with Lincoln and Webster in the lofty utterance he gave to the soul of America. He expressed in words of glorious distinction its reality as a land of dreams, of high purpose, of the brotherhood of man. Yet he lost the leadership of this nation more utterly than any one who ever possessed it in such measure.—New York Mail (independent).

He has laid his contribution into the exchequer of the common good and has passed straightway into immortality.—Charlotte (N. C.) News (democratic).

He determined to have his own way with the world and make it over, and the world, which has small patience with tyros, pushed him aside as in the end it always pushes aside those who get in its proper and natural pathway.—Detroit Free Press (independent).

Numbered with the mighty who wrought for mankind.—Richmond (Va.) News-Leader (independent-democratic).

It is highly probable that historians will be less interested in his statements of principles than in the extent to which those principles were put into effect. When his achievements are measured by that uncompromising yardstick it is not at all likely that posterity will be overwhelmed with awe.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (republican).

His ideals live, and when history deals with Woodrow Wilson he will be given a place among the great men, the country he loves so well, or the world, has produced: perhaps the greatest intellect the United States ever throned in the presidential chair.—Saginaw News-Courier (independent).

PUBLIC OPINION DIVIDES SHARPLY ON SALES TAXES

Staff correspondence to the Chicago Tribune, from Washington, D. C., under date of March 18, says: The most heated controversy during the revision of revenue laws will center around the proposed sales tax.

Just at present the prospects is that the sales tax will be rejected both by the house ways and means committee and by the house. There is a possibility, however, that a sales tax may be added in the senate.

Organized labor and farm organizations will fight the movement for a sales tax as an effort by banking interests and big business to pass the tax burden to the consumer.

There is reason to believe that when the former kaiser Wilhelm read that the former emperor Charles was on his way to Hungary to demand back his crown he began to sit up and notice things again. The promptness with which Charles went right back and sat down again was scarcely equalled by the speed he displayed in his advance.

WILLIAMS AGAIN TAKES HIS PEN IN HAND ON 'STEEL'

The Washington staff correspondent to the Chicago Tribune, under date of March 25, follows: John Skelton Williams, former controller of the currency, today released for publication a statement in which he replies to statements attributed to Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the U. S. Steel corporation, regarding the profits of that corporation.

In the statement the former official seeks to answer the declaration that it would have been "Utopian" for the corporation to have charged figures less than authorized by the price fixing committee during the war.

Mr. Williams asserts that official figures indicate that steel charges in excess of normal profit were nearer \$35 per ton than \$30, and then quotes the annual report of the corporation in an effort to show that surplus accumulations, after payment of \$380,000,000 in dividends, increased over \$400,000,000 since 1915.

Mr. Williams also contends that high prices of steel and iron products "artificially maintained" are blocking the road to prosperity, and alleges that the "desperate condition of our railroads is partly due to exorbitant prices of steel and iron materials, of which railroads are the biggest users." He asserted also that the cost of money required to buy a freight car is 500 per cent above the cost in 1914.

Mr. Williams has written a letter to Mr. Gary replying to his defense of the price schedule. Having been advised by the corporation that his letter of March 16 to Mr. Gary would be held for the latter's return from Panama, a month hence, Mr. Williams explained that he had decided to make public the statements contained in his letter.

He charges that the excessive prices for steel and iron have now become an active cause of unemployment and of widespread suffering.

He gives official quotations in an effort to show that steel and iron products, from ore to structural steel, are being maintained at prices 100 per cent above the pre-war basis, while other metals, such as copper, lead, tin, etc., in the production of which, he says, the United States Steel corporation does not have the same dominating influence that it has in steel and iron, have returned to a pre-war basis or less.

MR. BRYAN'S BIRTHDAY

To some old-timers it seems impossible that William Jennings Bryan can be 61 today. Why, it seems no time at all since we were hailing him as the "Boy Orator of the Platte" and lying awake nights worrying for fear he should get into the white house and turn things upside down. There is no doubt as to the extent of the scare Mr. Bryan threw into the east in 1896. After that first defeat and when it had become a habit of his to run for president the country took him more calmly. Probably if he had won in '96 the responsibilities of the office would have sobered and steadied him. Certainly in subsequent campaigns he became somewhat less radical, though he always had in tow some fad or freakish fancy that did not appeal to the majority of his fellow countrymen. "Free silver" was followed by "anti-imperialism," public ownership of railroads and guarantee of bank deposits—all cheerfully turned down by the American people.

Since the campaign of 1908 Mr. Bryan has not done any running for president, his favorite form of exercise being swinging around the Chautauqua circuit, where he has proved a more consistent drawing card than either the performing poodles or the Swiss bell-ringers from Cincinnati. His title of "silver tongued orator" is fully deserved. There is a peculiar charm in his public speaking that is essentially Bryanesque. The fascination of his personality, also, has not diminished with the years. For a quarter of a century he has held his enthusiastic following. His admirers number many of a different political faith. William J. Bryan, they feel, is square and sincere, a fair fighter and a firm friend. His moral backbone seems made of steel. In his case he has demonstrated that nothing succeeds like failure. His name is written not only on the scroll of fame, but in the books of Dun and Bradstreet. If his mental poise has occasionally slipped, in the past, he has never lost his balance at the bank. He owns flocks and herds and stocks and bonds, based on the hated gold standard, a summer and a winter home, and a statesman's frock coat. We like Mr. Bryan, after the fashion of the dyspeptic who likes many things that don't agree with him and hope he will live many more years to afford editorial topics on particularly dull days.—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.