WOODROW WILSON'S RISE TO POWER EPIC OF DEMOCRACY

As Leader of America in War He Strove to Enforce His Ideals; Failed in Fight for Principles

By Associated Press.

Twenty-eighth president of the United States and the first democrat since Jackson to serve two successive terms, Woodrow Wilson occupied the presidency during eight years of such world upheaval and turmoil that his proper place in history cannot be assigned to him until his contemporaries are likewise assigned to their niches.

Certainly, he ranks as one of the great war presidents of the American republic and he exercised such an influence in world affairs as never before attached to his office.

Empires crumbled, thrones collapsed, the map of the world was made over, and under his administration the country abandoned its policy of isolation and became an active participant in world affairs. In all of that he took a powerful hand. No biographer could attempt to assess him accurately and in full until the processes which began in his day and with his participation have come to a conclusion.

An obscure lawyer, by nature a man of letters, he became an educator and won his first attention from the public as president of Princeton university. Then by the strange ways of a political system he became governor of New Jersey and later because the voters of the republican party were divided between Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft he became president of the United States.

During his eight years of power he traveled the gamut of human emotions—victory, defeat; courtship and marriage; responsibility for leading a nation into war with the collateral responsibility of bringing it back again to the ways of peace, and finally a daily struggle with death.

He had heard himself hailed by the millions of Europe as "the God of peace" and heard his name hissed by the same millions. Acclaimed at one time almost as a new Messiah, he heard himself excoriated and denounced as an autocrat and worse at home and abroad. No other president since Lincoln was so worshipped and hated; no other president since Roosevelt had such friends and such enemies. Through it all he preserved an outward calm while the grim destroyer which hovered close about him during the last months of his occupancy of the presidency, followed him relentlessly to the modest home where he lived the ways of a retired gentleman and knocked at his door every day until it was at last opened.

After having borne the burdens of a war president, he undertook the task of making a peace which he sincerely believed would be a lasting one and although he succeeded in getting Europe to accept it in large measure his own country rejected it. And in the fight he broke his health, wore himself out, suffered a stroke of paralysis which led to his death, and declared through it all that he would have been happy to give his life for the success of his efforts.

Woodrow Wilson was a precedent smasher from beginning to end. He began by reviving the practice of Washington and Jefferson in delivering his messages to congress in person; he finished by actually leaving American soil and going to Europe. His was the responsibility of deciding when a country with a people torn by conflicting sympathies was ready to throw itself into the great world war, and when the moment came he took the responsibility of throwing in the men and millions, which turned the scale to victory.

Whatever an army of Boswells may write, that will be the part in which he will be best remembered by coming generations.

Born in Stanton, Va., December 28, 1856, of Scotch-Irish parentage, he was christened Thomas Woodrow Wilson and he was known in early life as "Tommy." After he was graduated from Princeton in 1879 he was known only as Woodrow Wilson. His father was the Rev. Joseph Ruggles Wilson, a Presbyterian clergyman, and his mother was Jessie Woodrow.

Studies Law.

When he was 2 years old the fortunes of his father took the family to Augusta, Ga., and later to Columbia., S. C., where at the age of 17 Thomas Woodrow Wilson entered Davidson college, but left there soon to go to Princeton. After graduation at Princeton he studied law at the University of Virginia and in 1882 hung out his shingle in Atlanta, Ga. Meantime he courted Ellen Louise Axson, the daughter of a Savannah Presbyterian clergyman. They were married in 1885 and had three daughters, Margaret, the eldest who did not marry; Jessie, who became the wife of Francis Bowes Sayre, and Eleanor, who became the wife of William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury during her father's administration and later a presidential aspirant.

Mr. Wilson once said that as a young lawyer he wore out the rug in his office walking around the desk waiting for clients, so he abandoned a legal career and went to Johns Hopkins university at Baltimore for a post graduate course in letters. While there he published his first book "Congressional Government," a study in American politics. It evoked offers of professorships at Bryn Mawr and Wesleyan and won recognition at home and abroad. The young man who wrote of the defects of the American political system in 1883 found himself to deal with them later. Having written in a deprecatory tone of the tendency toward autocracy in American presidents he lived to hear himself called the greatest autocrat of them all and to see a resolution declaring his office vacant on those grounds introduced and tabled in the senate.

Becomes Professor.

Successively, Mr. Wilson became professor of history and political economy at Bryn Mawr and at Wesleyan University and later professor of jurisprudence and political economy at Princeton where, Professor Wilson had gained high reputation as a writer. Some of his works, with the date of their production, were as follows: "The State—Elements of Historical and Practical Politics," (1889); "Division and Reunion," (1893); "George Washington," (1896); "A History of the American People," (1902); "Constitutional Government in the United States," (1908); "Free Life," (1913); "When a Man Comes To Himself," (1915); "On Being Human," (1916); "An Old Master and Other Political Essays," and "Mere Literature and other Essays," were among his earlier writings. His state papers, notes to belligerent governments and addresses to congress, would fill many volumes.

The honorary degree of doctor of laws was bestowed upon him by Wake Forest college (1887); Tulane university (1893); Johns Hopkins (1902); Brown university (1903); Harvard university (1907); Williams college (1908), and Dartmouth college (1909). Yale made him a doctor of literature in 1901.

Life was a pretty well settled affair with him while he was president of Princeton. Its great oaks, shaded lawns and historic halls, furnished the settings in which Mr. Wilson did much of the literary work which later was to attract the world. He probably had little thought of being snatched into the maelstrom of politics and war. He drew some public attention in the fight for preservation of democratic ideals at the university, but he lived the life of a family man on small pay and as late as 1910 was contemplating retiring on a teacher's pension.

That years the inexorable force of events came into evidence. The tide which "sweeps on to fortune" began to rise about him. Nominated for governor of New Jersey in a political situation about which many interesting things have been said and denied with equal fervor, he was elected on the democratic ticket, and immediately took on the state "bosses" for a round of combat which attracted the attention of the country. In the Jersey legislature he found the young lawyer, Joseph P. Tumulty, who became his private secretary and biographer.

Drives Program Through

Political opponents charged Governor Wilson with radicalism but he drove his program through. The outstanding legislation was the "seven sisters laws," a series of bills drafted under his direction which dealt with trusts. New Jersey up to that time, because of its incorporate laws, had been called a rendezvous for monopolies.

Governor Wilson's nomination for the presidency at the democratic convention of 1912 in Baltimore was one of the dramatic spectacles of American political history. It was a battle royal which brought him victory after more than 40 ballots.

Champ Clark, the venerable and beloved speaker of the House of Representatives, led Wilson in the early voting—in fact polled a majority of the delegates. For the first time in history a democratic national convention refused to give the necessary two thirds to a candidate who had gotten a majority. William Jennings Bryan, himself the nominee of three previous conventions, led the fight against Clark in one of the bitterest contests ever conducted in American politics. It broke Clark's heart—he never forgave Wilson or Bryan—and he opposed Wilson's policies in congress repeatedly. Clark knew he lost not only the nomination, but the presidency, for the contest between Taft and Roosevelt assured such a rift in the republican vote that the election of a democrat was all but inevitable.

The convention realized this for the man who nominated Clark declared:

"We meet not only to choose a candidate but to choose a president."

At any rate, Woodrow Wilson got the nomination and won the election with 435 electoral votes. Roosevelt got 88 and Taft got 8. He came to the White House on March 4, 1913, signalizing the return of the democracy to power after successive defeats of 16 years.

Galvanizes Country.

Immediately he galvanized the country, appearing before congress in person, publicly denouncing "a vicious lobby" which he charged was attempting to influence in Washington and launched a legislative program which included repeal of the tariff, revision of the currency system, new styles of control of the trusts, the creation of many new government agencies, and such a multitude of other legislative business that congress and the country had difficulty in keeping up with it.

Congress thought Theodore Roosevelt a "dictator" and an "autocrat," but it soon found itself dancing to Woodrow Wilson's tune and at first it danced very obediently and with very little grumbling. Mr. Wilson early confessed that he had a "one-track mind" and he proved to congress early in his administration that he knew what he wanted and how to get it. He had a cabinet, it was true, but he consulted it after he had determined what he wanted to do. When he wanted a bill introduced in congress he frequently drew it himself and if it hesitated on passage he summoned the leaders—and it passed soon thereafter. In dealing with the cabinet he did his own thinking and conducted much important business of the various departments direct from the White House.

Hardly had Mr. Wilson gotten himself turned around when he had his first foreign situation to deal with. It was with Mexico and was a legacy from the preceding republican administration. The republican chieftains said they left it for Mr. Wilson because they didn't want to embarrass him in dealing with it. The democrats declared the republicans had "passed the buck." It came to a crisis when Huerta, the dictator, seized the reins of government and President Madero and Vice President Suarez were murdered. Mr. Wilson had very fixed ideas of his own on succession to the presidency by assassination. He thought it pretty general in Central America and he told confidantes it was going to stop. He withheld recognition from Huerta and the situation boiled until Huerta troops attacked some American bluejackets at Tampico and Mr. Wilson ordered the occupation of Vera Cruz by the American army. The official reason given for the occupation was that the German ship Ypiranga was about to land arms and ammunition for Huerta and the occupation was to prevent it. The United States demanded a salute to the flag, which, critics of the Wilson administration took delight in pointing out, never was given.

Events Solve Mexican Problem.

Events in Mexico solved their own problem in a few months when Carranza, another newly risen leader, ejected Huerta who fled. American troops were withdrawn from Vera Cruz and later President Wilson extended formal recognition to the Carranza government. But in 1920 Carranza in turn fled in the face of an armed revolution and the Mexican problem came back to a republican administration.

Mr. Wilson was much criticised for "weakness" in handling the Mexican situation, but his friends said he saw a world-war coming and had told them he "did not propose to have the United States caught with one hand tied behind its back." He did not propose to be engaged in a war with Mexico at such a time. At all events, the world war broke the same year. Woodrow Wilson added his appeals to the futile effort to stay it, sitting by the bedside of his dying wife on a memorable August 6, 1914. Mrs. Wilson passed away that day, and with a world taking fire about him, he took her body to her girlhood home in Rome, Ga., for burial. The president was almost prostrated with his grief, and returned alone to the White House to face his burden. Mr. Wilson's friends always said that from the first Mr. Wilson saw it would be a world war and that the United States eventually would be drawn in. But he realized that the country drawing its population from the states of Europe which were going to war would face a much divided sentiment and a very difficult situation. His first words to his countrymen were a caution to strict neutrality.

Mr. Wilson's efforts were devoted to keeping his country neutral until the submarine outrages began. He was at first unable to believe that the atrocities had the sanction of the German government, but was convinced when they sunk the Lusitania. That incident brought the first rift in his official family. William Jennings Bryan, secretary of state, an avowed pacifist, opposed Mr. Wilson's course and left the cabinet. Mr. Wilson nevertheless went ahead and warned the German government against sacrificing the lives of American citizens. Through a diplomatic correspondence which continued for two years the president built up a record which reached its climax when he handed passports to Count Johann Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and asked congress to declare war, which it did. With that the president led the nation into the tremendous effort before it.

Eight Years of Great Events Under Wilson

By Associated. Press.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Here were the principal events during the Wilson administrations:

The world war.

Refusal of the senate to ratify treaty of Versailles and the league of nations convenant.

Negotiation of arbitration treaties with Great Britain, Japan and many other countries.

Military occupation of Haiti, Santo Domingo and Vera Cruz.

Purchase of the Danish West Indies.

Refusal to recognize any leader in Latin America who acquired office by force.

Refusal to recognize the Russian soviet government.

Establishment of—

Federal reserve banking system.

Rural credits banking system.

Federal trade commission.

Tariff commission.

Shipping board and emergency fleet corporation.

War risk bureau.

Federal water power commission.

Employes' compensation and

Alien property custodian.

Construction of great government-owned merchant marine and government railroad in Alaska.

Enactment of—

Constitutional amendments providing for direct election of senators, national prohibition and equal suffrage.

Selective service draft act, a war measure.

Clayton anti-trust law.

Eight-hour day for railroad employes.

Workmens' compensation law.

Law for federal aid in state highway construction.

La Follette seamen act.

Immigration law with literacy test.

Revenue law with huge increases in income and other taxes.

Repeal of the clause in Panama canal law exempting American ships from tolls.

Government operations of railroads and telegraph and telephone lines as war measure, together with food and fuel control.

Sale of seized enemy dye and chemical patents to chemical foundation.

Passage of the Esch-Cummins transportation act and creation of railroad labor board.

Creation of Pacific battle fleet with transfer to Pacific of bulk of naval forces.

Wife Clings to Hand as Wilson Dies

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his memories, his hopes and his regrets, was another scene. There was a gathering of people there. It was not a crusading throng come to a mecca in pilgrimage to attest to a faith in the ideals he personified.

Kneel in Prayer.

It was a group of men and women kneeling on the pavement in silent prayer. Small prayer slips bearing the inscription "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men," held in their hands, fluttered in the chill wind which swirled up the debris and litter left by the watchers engaged in the solemnity of the death watch that the world might know.

"Mr. Wilson is attaining the peace that passeth all understanding," said their leader, while the throng sank to its knees and remained in silence for a minute. Then a sickly sun broke through a cloud bank. A little native warbler, a pilgrim venturing north in search of early sun and spring, stopped for a moment and from his twig aloft uttered a happy note.

Almost at that moment, Mr. Wilson was passing on.

Immediately, the great government over which he presided for eight years began taking steps to give marks of its respect. President Coolidge heard the word of Mr. Wilson's death while in church with Mrs. Coolidge. Immediately, at the conclusion of the services, he drove to the Wilson home and left cards.

Flags on the government buildings and government property everywhere were lowered to half mast. The news went to army posts everywhere and to the ships at sea. A 30-day period of official mourning was ordered as the government had done for Colonel Roosevelt and other former presidents. Congress arranged to adjourn tomorrow, executive departments were ordered closed on the day of the funeral; social activities at the White House coming within the period of mourning were orered abandoned.

Official telegrams were dispatched to the embassies and legations abroad for the information of foreign governments. One cablegram going to far-off Siam carried the news to Mr. Wilson's daughter, Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre. She is with her husband at Bangkok, where he is adviser to the Siamese government. Another telegram was dispatched to Mr. Wilson' other daughter, Mrs. William G. McAdoo, who with her husband and children, is speeding to Washington on a train from California.

"I Am Ready," Last Words.

Mr. Wilson's last words of sustained meaning were spoken Friday. They were, "I am ready."

Realizing fully that he could not hope to rayy from the onslaught of the digestive disorder which sapped his strength, weakened his heart and accentuated the condition which followed his stroke of paralysis, he watched for a moment when all except Dr. Grayson were out of his bed chamber. Drawing his friend and physician close, he murmured with some difficulty of articulation:

"The old machine has broken down. You've done your best for me. But it's better that I should go than to live on a helpless invalid. Tell Mrs. Wilson I want her. I'm ready."

All this without a show of emotion but in his usual measured habit of speech. Mrs. Wilson came at the physician's call and spoke for several moments with her husband during which he committed to her some last wishes. From that time on Mr. Wilson lived out his fast fleeting life with the full knowledge that he was on the threshold of the great beyond.

Martyr to Peace, Nebraskan Declares

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felt that he had seized upon the essential point. Further, Wilson was the only man that could have created the league, and for that reason he was justified in going to the peace conference.

"I felt, as I watched the work of the league committee, that it was not something being precipitated, but was a thing well threshed out. When it was in its final form, I felt, as he read the covenant and as he made the speech of explanation, that I was in one of the biggest scenes in history.

"As I stood there, an Englishman turned to me and said:

"'I'm an Englishman, but today I would like to be an American. I never have heard your president before, but I felt that I must make an effort to hear him. Now that I have, I feel like saying, "Lord, now let Thy servant depart in peace. I've heard a man."'

"And then, when the president returned to Paris, even his own delegation advised against the inclusion of the league in the treaty. He stood alone, and his ability to stand by himself saved the covenant.

"He believed firmly that the American public was with him. I recall Mr. Wickersham's telling him that, with a few changes, it would pass. When the senate resisted, he took it to the country and he did so despite the warning of Dr. Grayson that it might mean his life. For that very reason I say Woodroow Wilson was a real martyr.

"My reason for saying that Woodrow Wilson was one of the few great figures of history is that if the league is as big as I think it is, then Wilson's standing up for it and putting it over singlehanded makes it one of the great feats of history.

"I think I may best express my opinion of him, as I saw him in Paris, when I say, I felt like it was worth while being an American when America was represented by such a man."

And then, with a half sigh, he concluded, "Isn't it a pity."

League Speaking Tour Taken Despite Doctors

(Continued From Page One.)

toriums, the greatest ordeal of the trip was the sucession of long, slow automobile parades through cheering street throngs. On several such occasions, supported by the hand of Mrs. Wilson, his constant companion, he stood in his car and waved his hat more than an hour at a stretch.

The last speech was at Pueblo, Colo, on the afternoon of September 25. He began his address in his usual vigorous fashion, but those with him felt he was working under pressure. He had planned to speak only 20 minutes, but he actually talked for an hour, hesitatingly at times, and with growing effort.

Mrs. Wilson Moved.

Still less at ease was Mrs. Wilson, seated near him on the speaker's platform. She grew more and more nervous as he continued and when, toward the close of the address, he told of their visit to an American soldier cemetery in France, tears coursed down her cheeks.

Later that afternoon at Baxter's bridge, near Pueblo, the presidential specal halted for an hour, while on Dr. Grayson's order, Mr. Wilson took a long walk down a dusty country road. But he seemed in good spirits, swinging along rapidly and resolutely and exchanging pleasantries with country folk along the way.

All of that night he was ill from nervous indigestion, but the next morning as the train approached Wichita Falls, Kan., he dressed and had started working over some notes for his address there before his physician could prevail on him to go back to bed. The five speaking engagements remaining were canceled and with a clear track and without a schedule, the special train was turned eastward to Washington, which Woodrow Wilson was destined never to leave again.

Two Executives Die in 7 Months

Only One Former President, William Howard Taft, Still Living.

The death of Woodrow Wilson marks the passing of two men who were chief executives of the nation within seven months.

Warren G. Harding died in San Francisco August 2, at 7:30 in the evening.

President Harding was 57 years and 9 months of age.

Former President Wilson's age is 67 years 1 month and 4 days.

One other former president is living, William Howard Taft.

President Chester A. Arthur was the youngest at the time of his death. He was 49.

John Adams, second president, lived 25 years after the expiration of his term and was 90 when he died.

George Washington and Benjamin Harrison were 67 when they died.

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