

# Today

The Nation Will Honor Woodrow Wilson. The First to Go. Now He Is Safe. Who Would Recall Him?  
By ARTHUR BRISBANE

It is to be remembered that Mr. Wilson's public services were not wartime services only. Before the war was thought of, he had been at work on public problems. The federal reserve bank, that carried this country through the financial strain of the war, was part of his work.

The land credits for farmers, freeing the farmer from "respectable" usury, in many directions, had his intense care and devotion. In many directions he worked for the public welfare, efficiently, before the devastating war broke upon the world.

Strange is the destiny that selects him, first of all the great figures of that war, to leave this earthly scene. Men much older than he, on both sides of the fight, survive the war to see the sun to summon the nations to peace.

Excepting one man, Lenin, anti-thesis of Woodrow Wilson, in everything, Mr. Wilson is first of the really conspicuous to go.

His book of life is closed, although thousands of books yet to be written will record his fame and his deeds. His last word on this earth has been spoken, although millions will speak of him for many years to come.

He is dead, and therefore he is safe. Let that thought comfort those left to mourn. He is forever free from suffering, disappointment and sorrow. He had many dreams not destined to be realized, for ages, if ever. Now, he will never know it. In his shattered body, his mind without restlessness or energy, tormented by the knowledge that his conceptions could not be made realities for lack of physical strength, all the futile, hopeless, vain yearning ends forever. He is beyond reach of disappointment, freed forever from the troubles of this world. Who would bring him back?

Nobody knows what will happen in politics now. Candidates that have been practicing corporation law of whom there are several—will have to look over their shoulders to find what clients they had, and what fees they got. Just or unjust, it may make a difference in the chances.

One wise man yesterday said: "Ford talked just 60 days too soon. If he had kept quiet, this oil affair would have given him the presidency."

Perhaps he'd rather have Muscles Shoals. His chances are good for that now. Any plans that official gentlemen may have had for turning that over to insiders on a "Teapot basis" will be kept quiet for a while at least.

The labor government of the British empire proposes to give up using flying machines against wild natives in the kingdom of Iraq and elsewhere. That would be foolish. Individuals may be sentimental if they choose, nations must not. Savage natives have got to be suppressed. You can work through their superstitions and dropping explosives from the sky suppresses and regulates them with the least possible nuisance and trouble and with the least killing of natives.

Superstition has over its victims a power often useful. In New Jersey a man is locked up for killing his daughter, 15 years old, when he was drunk. There was not the faintest hope of finding the criminal until the Ku Klux set up a blazing cross at midnight in front of the man's house. Then the aged, bedridden father of the accused man confessed. He could not stand that cross. He told how he had seen his son beat his grandchild to death. Belief in hell fire and a personal devil with hoofs and a long tail is still necessary with many of lower intellect.

The one thing disliked by the big corporations, especially the sort that hands out cash in large lumps to government officials, is public opinion.

You will hear the legal corporation jackals begin to talk about the "hounding" and "public clamor" and they will demand "orderly investigation by the properly constituted courts."

"Orderly investigation by the properly constituted courts" is all right except occasionally when you discover that the gentlemen with the satchel full of money happened to appoint the judge. It's a lucky thing that there is such a thing as "public opinion," and "public clamor," a little public clamor is apt to upset many Teapot Dome scandals and, what is more important, it has power to frighten some of the other rascals.

**\$40,000 Land Payment.**  
Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 4.—Payment of \$40,000 of school bonds which were due on May 1, was made by City Treasurer High, which reduced the 1908 issue outstanding to \$23,000. In that year the city issued \$80,000 of bonds for the high school building. Aside from the new issue of \$400,000 for the junior high school building and ward building improvements, the district has only \$23,000 bonds outstanding.

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## Tram Franchise Is Challenged

Counsel Holds Grant Expires in 1928—Company Alleges Perpetual.

The question of whether the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company has a franchise was brought up by the city council Monday in connection with a petition from the Fontenelle Improvement club for an extension of the Harny street line from Thirty-third and Parker streets to Fortieth street and Ames avenue.

The council recommended for adoption on Tuesday morning a resolution which recognizes the necessity of such extension, and that any right to order such extension vests with the state railway commission. It is proposed to bring this matter before the state commission when it meets here next week.

City Corporation Counsel W. C. Lambert warned the council against taking any action in street railway extension, lest the "rule of estoppel" might be invoked against the city to determine the franchise rights of the street railway company.

It is the contention of Lambert that the franchise rights of the traction company will expire in 1928, this being the grant given to the Omaha Cable Tramway company in 1888, and that franchise rights to make extensions were terminated in 1908. The Street Railway company claims to have a perpetual franchise.

Commissioner Joseph Koutsky said the council had no objection to the Street Railway company making any extension on any street and that his engineering department would be pleased to issue permits for such improvements.

**Nebraska Cattle First in Beef**  
Lincoln, Feb. 4.—Fat cattle displayed by the University of Nebraska Agricultural college at the National Western Stock show in Denver, won all important prizes in the beef carcass contest, according to an announcement at the agricultural college.

Willow Dell Marie, a February 16, 1923, Hereford beef calf, was declared grand champion carcass of the show. The carcass weighed 40 pounds and yielded 64.2 per cent of her live weight. This was the unanimous choice of the judges for the honor.

Second in this class was won by the Nebraska college on the carcass of a Leander, purchased by Dr. Angus Steer, bred at the college. The steer was second-prize steer on foot in the Angus class, and was a brother to the steer which produced the champion carcass a year ago at the same show. The third prize was won by the grand champion steer on foot, shown by a Denver stock raiser.

**Keith County Leads in Corn.**  
Ogallala, Neb., Feb. 4.—It is a conservative estimate that the yield of corn in Keith county this year is larger in comparison to the area than in any other county in Nebraska. It is estimated that the yield of corn in Keith county this year is larger in comparison to the area than in any other county in Nebraska.

There were 51,200 acres planted in corn in Keith county this year. The lowest yield reported is 45 bushels to the acre and the highest, 78. This would make a yield of approximately 2,560,000 bushels.

Elevators in Keith county have been shipping better than 10,000 bushels of corn per day for the last 60 days.

**Automobiles Collide.**  
V. A. Hoffman, rural route No. 1, Council Bluffs, told police that his car collided with another machine driven by an unidentified motorist at Twelfth street and Broadway. Damage was slight.

Car driven by D. A. Broadston, 2306 Sixth avenue, Council Bluffs, collided with another machine owned by G. C. Head, 1920 North Thirty-second street, parked at Twenty-eighth street and Broadway, he reported to police.

**Wife Found Wilson Felled by Paralysis in Middle of Night**  
By Associated Press.  
Washington, Feb. 4.—The real cause of Woodrow Wilson's death was a stroke of paralysis which followed his collapse in the late summer of 1919. Like Warren G. Harding, he was stricken while on a speaking trip in the west.

Up to the time of his collapse the country thought him a normally healthy man, but he was far from it. He entered the White House with a well developed start toward Bright's disease which caused his physicians to predict that he never would finish his first term. But by careful devotion to his doctor's orders he fought off the malady.

He was practically blind in one eye from a retinal hemorrhage which came while he was still at Princeton university, but the country never knew it.

Years before he had suffered a thrombosis—a blood clot in his arteries—but it was in one of his legs and never developed any serious trouble. The same thing in his brain later on laid him low and led to his death.

By his own personal directions, the exact nature of his fatal illness was concealed from the world for months because he feared public knowledge of it, while he was president, might lead to a stock market panic, and possibly far-reaching consequences to a world then passing through the first stages of post-war reconstruction. Some of the details came out piecemeal and over a long period of time. Others have not been hitherto published. It is appropriate therefore to give them now that he is dead.

**Grayson Detected First Symptoms.**  
The increasing strain on his physical resources during his speaking tour in 1919 had been growing apparent, but none of his party suspected the breaking point was so near. There was no truth in rumors that the president had become ill.

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When Mr. Wilson finished speaking at Pueblo he was exhausted and covered with clammy perspiration. An examination by Dr. Grayson disclosed nothing markedly wrong and he was put to bed. Mrs. Wilson remained up with him as he complained of restlessness. Soon after midnight he complained of feeling ill and Dr. Grayson found him in a state of nervous exhaustion, with the right side of his face twitching, as it often had done before when he was very tired and worn out.

But the physician was alarmed and shocked to note a drooping of saliva from a corner of the president's mouth and also a drooping of the facial muscles on the left side. Recognizing that a stroke of paralysis was impending Dr. Grayson warned Mr. Wilson of his grave condition; strongly suggested that he cancel the remainder of the tour, and immediately return to Washington; and in conclusion, that he try and get some sleep.

**Ordered Back Home.**  
"I won't be able to sleep at all, doctor, if you say I must cancel the trip," Mr. Wilson responded. "Even if giving my life would accomplish this object, I gladly would give it." The physician quieted his patient as best as he could and took steps to cancel the remainder of the speaking engagements and bring the president to Washington. Mr. Wilson, yielding to the entreaties of Mrs. Wilson, acquiesced.

Back home in Washington, the regimen of rest seemed to be making good progress and September 30 Dr. Grayson announced that the president had passed the best day since the beginning of his breakdown. He was permitted to sign some bills and congressional resolutions, nominations and dictate some brief letters.

About 4 o'clock in the morning of October 5, Mrs. Wilson heard the president in the bathroom calling in a weak voice. Dr. Grayson was summoned and to his horror found Mr. Wilson prostrated on the bathroom floor. In a semi-conscious condition he had fallen as if wounded in the left leg, with the member crumpled under him on the bath mat.

The physician rolled the prostrate

form fully on the rug and then grasping it by two corners dragged his burden across the hall into a bed chamber and finding himself unequal to the task of lifting the president into bed alone called Mrs. Wilson and together they succeeded. During all this ordeal the president's wife was cool and offered suggestions to the physician. Once in bed the president seemed to regain his senses and murmured that he felt sleepy. Dr. Grayson made a hurried examination of pulse and heart and found them very low. The tell-tale drooping of saliva from the president's mouth and the twitching of the face were there again. They wrote their own diagnosis.

**Wished Condition Concealed.**  
Woodrow Wilson had been paralyzed on his left side and lay in the shadow of death. With the first movement of his lips he extracted a promise from the doctor and his wife that his condition, if serious, must not become known.

A two-hour consultation developed the agreement that Mr. Wilson had suffered what is medically known as cerebral thrombosis—a blood clot in one of the blood vessels in the right side of his brain. Its effect was to impair the motor nerves of the left side as well as the sensory nerves. On that slender hope the battle for life began. An official bulletin informed the country of the serious turn in the president's condition but did not disclose the cause.

**Did Not Become Unconscious.**  
For the next week Mr. Wilson hovered between life and death. Everything that it was possible to do was done. The country, finding for the first time that the president was in danger of death, fell into gloom. It was reported that Mr. Wilson lay unconscious for a week. Truth was that he never was unconscious at any time during the illness. It was reported that he had become a maniac. Truth was that his mind always was active and he constantly gave directions to those about him.

In a few days there was some response to treatment. Mr. Wilson's spirits rose. Always a lover of music, he wanted some. Dr. Grayson ordered in a talking machine which was supplied with the latest records of lively tunes. Mr. Wilson wanted to read and could not do it in bed with nose glasses so his oculist was ordered down from Philadelphia and fitted him with spectacles.

Mr. Wilson had suffered the retinal hemorrhage in his right eye years ago and Dr. Grayson wanted the oculist, Dr. George de Schweinitz, to examine it.

**Joked With Doctors.**  
"I want to look at your pupils," said the oculist. "You'll have a long job," shot back the sick president. "I've had many thousands of them." He was thinking of college days, but the remark was an example of how he always joked with his doctors even when he was desperately ill.

Up to this time, Mr. Wilson, insisting that his condition be kept secret, had excluded from his room all but members of the family, the doctors and two trusted nurses from the naval dispensary. The valet who shaved him was barred and Woodrow Wilson grew a beard and moustache. He hadn't worn whiskers for 26 years, not since he was a student at Johns Hopkins, when he wore "burnsides." He accounted it a rather good joke and used to carefully brush the adornment every day.

Meanwhile the secrecy which surrounded the details of the president's illness gave rise to some complications. Congress wanted to know whether he had suffered a constitutional disability to perform the functions of his office. Mr. Wilson and his wife were determined that Congress shouldn't find out.

**Cabinet Barred Out.**  
Members of the cabinet found it fruitless to ask for an audience in the sick room. They sent inquiries in writing and documents for signature and Mrs. Wilson made the decisions as to whether the president could see them. Some members of the Wilson family suspected that some of the inquiries transmitted were designed to test whether the president's mind was working on public affairs, and sometimes these were gone over in family council with the object of defeating such a purpose—if a purpose it were—in returning the answers.

There were long days when even Joseph P. Tumulty, the president's secretary, was excluded from the sick room, so close was the veil drawn to conceal his real condition. Political opponents in congress who wanted to develop whether the president was in mental condition to consider a state document arranged to have sent up to the White House some resolutions which actually required a signature. Mr. Wilson signed them with great effort, but the pen strokes were the wavering, undulating lines of a palsied hand, quite unlike the positive bold strokes with which he usually wrote "Woodrow Wilson." It was reported on seemingly good authority that some of these opponents examined these signatures with the aid of a microscope, compared them with signatures on other papers signed in Mr. Wilson's health and were undecided whether they had been signed by Mr. Wilson or Mr. Tumulty.

**Lansing Grew Anxious.**  
There had been no meetings of the cabinet during this period. Some of the members who were not in accord with the policy of secrecy determined to force things a little. Secretary Lansing, then at the head of the State department, called a meeting of the cabinet and quizzed Dr. Grayson and Secretary Tumulty about the president's condition. Mr. Lansing, however, was not supported by some other cabinet members as he had probably had reason to expect he would be and the attempt failed. This incident was undoubtedly the principal factor in Mr. Wilson's abrupt dismissal of Mr. Lansing later when he learned of it, although it was not acknowledged in

But sick as he was, he chafed at confinement to bed and wanted to get up.

"Your temperature is exactly normal this morning," said Dr. Grayson on one occasion soon thereafter. "My temper won't be normal if you keep me in this bed much longer," returned Mr. Wilson.

But anxious as he was to "try his legs," his physician, knowing the true condition, dissuaded him from risking it.

Lincoln, Feb. 4.—The stock-judging team of the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis won first place recently in the secondary judging contest at the National Western Stock show at Denver, in which state high school championship teams of Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah, and the state agricultural schools of Fort Collins and Fort Lewis, Colo., also participated. Out of a possible 1,500 points, the Curtis Aggie team scored 1,322—54 more than the team winning second place. The three Curtis men stood second, third and fourth in individual ratings. Its members are Howard Hinton, Stockville, sophomore; Paul Keogh, Stockville, senior class president; El Roy Watkins, Venango, junior and captain-elect of the football team; Arch Leu, alternate of White, is a junior and also a letter-man in football.

any of the published correspondence as contributing to the event.

Vice President Marshall's attitude all this time was commented on as being conspicuously correct. He held himself apart from it all as Vice President Arthur did during the prolonged illness of Garfield. But the agitation in congress finally came to a head and it was determined to "find out whether we have a president or not," as one political leader expressed it.

**Fall and Hitchcock in Sick Room.**  
The Mexican situation furnished the occasion for passing a resolution which the senate decided warranted a conference of the foreign relations committee with the president. Senator Fall of New Mexico, a republican and administration policy opponent who became secretary of the interior under President Harding, was named as one member of a special committee to go to the White House, and Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, a democrat, a political friend and league of nations supporter, was named as the other.

Much to their surprise the senators were ushered into the sick room where the president shook hands with his right hand, fumbled with some documents with his left and discussed the Mexican situation with marked mental agility.

That demonstration exploded the rumors that Mr. Wilson was a maniac, unconscious, a prisoner, or so disabled that he was unable to talk business. It demonstrated, however, that he was still a sick man showing a remarkable display of sand.


Senator Fall said publicly after the conference that Mr. Wilson was "mentally alert and mentally able to cope with any question with which he might have to deal."

Mr. Fall observed, however, that he couldn't tell whether Mr. Wilson could move his legs, and some demoralized countered with the observation

that "Mr. Wilson didn't deal with the Mexican situation with his legs anyway."

The inside of the matter was that a remarkable will power, careful nursing and skillful medical attention had been showing their effects. All these served to prolong the sick man's life; they enabled him to walk again with the aid of a cane which he thereafter facetiously referred to as his "third leg," and they enabled him to use his left hand and arm to some extent, although when he appeared in public Mr. Wilson generally looked his left thumb in a button-hole of his coat and supported his disabled arm in that manner. His disability in walking he later referred to as "his lameness."

Winners in Judging Contest



Left to right: El Roy Watkins, Coach L. A. Townsend (above); Howard Hinton, Paul Keogh.



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## Youth Missing From His Home

Arthur Poffenberger, 14, Son of Fred Poffenberger, Now Serving a Term in the Federal Prison at Fort Leavenworth on a Charge of Robbery, Is Missing from His Home.

The boy's absence was discovered when juvenile court officials sought him there to discover why he failed to attend school, after a pair of shoes had been purchased for him in order that he might do so.

His mother told the officials she believes he went to the home of an uncle in Illinois. Judge Frank Campbell said no effort will be made to bring him back.

**Employe Flees.**  
Vincent Priborsky, 3620 Dressel street, asked South Omaha police to look for Joe Holecek. He declared Holecek, whom he employed last Saturday, disappeared with \$12.

Mrs. Harold Le Mar of Rapid City, S. D., will go to St. Joseph hospital tomorrow for a slight operation.

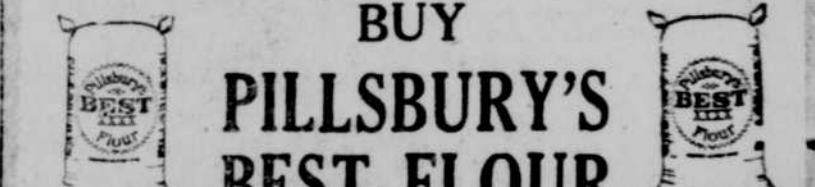
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