



WILSON'S PART ON MARCH FOUR IS TO BE DRAMATIC

He Will Accompany Harding to Capitol, But Nothing Further Is Indicated as to What Retiring President Will Do in the Ceremony—Washington Started the Custom of Riding With Successor to Inaugural

By ELIZABETH KING STOKES
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—President Wilson's part in the inauguration will be dramatic. How far will he go in observing the traditional attendance of the retiring President at the ceremony, a custom begun when Washington went to the old state house at Philadelphia with John Adams? Secretary Tumulty has said that Mr. Wilson at least will accompany Mr. Harding to the capitol.

No one expects that President Wilson will break his long seclusion by appearing in any great prominence. Even if the question of his physical endurance were not to be considered, it is not his nature to lend himself readily to superficial magnanimity. Inherently he is not adaptable to a great public demonstration. He does not "show" well. When he accompanies Senator Harding down Pennsylvania avenue to the east porch of the capitol, he will sit erect and uncompromising, his shoulders stiff, his head set squarely with the pole of one who unbends with difficulty, which is the position he takes when he starts off for his daily ride around Washington. The outward difference of the President was lamented by Secretary Tumulty one night recently when he told a little audience of a conversation with his chief.

Not Built for Display
"Tumulty," the President said, "you must realize that I am not built for these things. I don't want to be displayed before the public. If I tried to do it, I would do it badly."

But President Wilson's abandonment of some of the pomp of the presidential office has established a precedent in the minds of the public, strong enough to bring pressure to bear upon Republicans and cause them to capitulate in favor of simpler ways. And the action of Senator Harding himself in requesting the elimination of display now has driven the idea of curtailment into the consciousness of all classes of the constituency. Simplicity hereafter cannot be exclusively the property of Jeffersonian Democrats. Nor will it be easy for Republicans to succeed themselves with pomp.

There is, however, a great difference in the simplicity of the incoming and retiring Presidents this year. Senator Harding's appears to be the simplicity of humility. That of President Wilson would seem to come from aloofness. Harding in truth more nearly approaches in character the homeliness of Jefferson who walked from his boarding house on New Jersey avenue, took the oath of office at the capitol, and walked back to sit at the dinner table with congressmen and other fellow boarders. But President Wilson, undoubtedly at great personal effort, has signified his intention to pay his respects to his successor—and when he stands behind President-elect Harding, the proximity will represent much more than the juxtaposition of two presidents. The two figures, side by side, this time will be symbolic to a dramatic place after the defeat of every mental strategy and nearly all of the physical strength of his predecessor at a time when the contest had world significance. No greater moving picture in American politics will be posed than the appearance of these two men standing together March 4.

Some presidents have been highly flippant to a successor, some hardly gracious, others short in their congratulations and quick to leave the city, or plainly scornful of the new administration. John Adams ignored the whole

affair of the inauguration of Jefferson, and was top-lofty about the inaugural ball, and stating to his friends that he and his family would not lend their presence to the festivities, he left town. But with Adams, the inability to meet the public half way was ingrained. John Quincy Adams deliberately went off for a horseback ride while Jackson was being inaugurated, leaving the President-elect to proceed to the capitol alone. Jefferson, by overlooking the attitude of the first Adams, really perpetuated the courtesy, initiated by Washington of sitting on the platform during the inauguration of James Madison, and attending the inaugural ball. From that time on, most retiring executives have ridden down the long avenue to the capitol with the new incumbent, bowing and giving him as happy an introduction as possible. Cleveland accompanied Harrison, holding an umbrella over his head so that he could lift his hat without being drenched. Roosevelt saw Taft inaugurated and then somewhat hastily went to the railroad station and left the capital. Mrs. Taft rode with her husband.

President McKinley, Senator Harding's mentor, was escorted to the senate by Cleveland, thence to a platform at the east portico of the capitol where the oath was administered. Afterwards both reviewed the parade at the white house. It was a simple inauguration. However, a gala of fireworks, parades, troops from all over the country, and a splurge at the inaugural ball take away the simple effect as we understand it today. "Old Glory," a pyrotechnic invention, hung "a mile high" in the air over the white house; Pennsylvania avenue was illuminated with variegated fire and the state of Ohio apparently was all but emptied of volunteers, veterans and regular artillery and cavalry troops, so imposing was the military escort in the parades.

At that time, too, it was the surrender of Democrats to Republican victory. McKinley was hailed as the "advance agent of prosperity." On the way to the capitol, McKinley occupied the left side of the coach; returning he rode on the right, the place of honor, which is part of the meticulous form of such occasions. Senator Knox, chairman of the present congressional committee, has spent weeks studying the records and recalling his own experiences so that the courtesies of the Harding inauguration will be fully observed.

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