

### Gen. Charles G. Dawes, Presidential Possibility

Amazed Capitol When He Bawled Out United States Senate for Antiquated Rules

The following is one of a series of "Presidential Campaign Portraits" written for NEA Service by Robert Talley, and is the last of four articles on the career of Vice President Charles G. Dawes:

So far as history records, the only man who ever bawled out the U. S. senate to its face is Vice President Charles G. Dawes.

Dawes did it on Inauguration Day, March 4, 1925, when he and President Coolidge rode in together on the crest of the Republican landslide. The outburst was unexpected as a cloudburst out of a clear sky in the middle of the Sahara desert.

The senators and congressmen were there in their long-tailed coats. The justices of the supreme court were there in their flowing black robes. The foreign diplomats were there in brilliant full-dress uniforms, heavy with gold lace and braid. The cabinet members were there, the chiefs of the army, navy and marine corps were there and so was President Coolidge, who had just taken his own oath outside.

Everybody was waiting to hear the formal speech of acceptance by a new vice-president, soon to be submerged in the four years of obscurity for which this office had been famous.

Dawes began. Quickly he turned to scathing condemnation of the senate rules. Eyes widened as Dawes gained speed, practically calling the senators a bunch of old fossils for operating under antiquated procedure. Senator Jim Reed of Missouri snickered and then doubled up in convulsions of silent laughter. Dawes became hotter and hotter, louder and louder. Coolidge looked uncomfortable; the gold-laced diplomats looked at the green carpet on the floor.

For several hours after it was over, indignant senators were busy issuing statements in reply. Jim Reed, when asked what he thought, quoted the old proverb, "It is a waste of lather to shave an ass." Other senators said things equally unkind.

But Dawes, coolly calculating from the first, had won. Newspaper headlines from coast to coast screamed with the vice-president's attack on the senate. The little known and less understood subject of senate cloture became a national topic. People began to discuss it as they would the weather or their favorite murder trial.

And so, when Dawes later made speeches urging revision of the antiquated senate rules and curbing of unlimited debate in the interest of legislative efficiency, he faced interested and informed audiences. Nothing has yet been done about it—a senator may speak until doomsday, if his voice holds out—but as the result of Dawes' "super-salesmanship" the country now understands.

Dawes entered into the prosaic obscurity of a vice-president, his sole duty being to preside over the senate. Custom does not permit the presiding officer to make a speech, nor does it allow him to cast a vote except in event of a tie.

A short time later the president's nomination of Charles Beecher Warren as attorney general came up for senate confirmation. The nomination was bitterly contested and the vote was a tie.

Where was Dawes? A senator was acting as presiding officer and the vice-president was missing. His vote was needed to break the deadlock.

After frantic search Dawes was found at his home—peacefully taking an afternoon nap. He sped to the capitol in a taxi but arrived too late. Another vote had been taken and Warren's hopes of being attorney general of the United States had died forever.

By one stroke Dawes strengthened himself with the agricultural west and the banking east when he succeeded in inducing senators to pass the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill and the McFadden banking bill. President Coolidge later killed the McNary-Haugen bill with a veto, but that did not detract from Dawes' efforts to achieve its passage.

The conference at which this was arranged was held in Dawes' office.

"I have asked you to come here," said Dawes, "to see if you cannot bring these two measures to a vote. I am not asking—"

A senator arose and obviously started a long-winded speech.

"Sit down!" barked Dawes. "There may not be cloture in the senate but there is in my office."

And proceed they did.

Vice President Dawes is wealthy, a heavy investor in public utilities and the Pure Oil company. For this reason he excused himself from participation in arrangements for a public utility investigation sought by Senator Walsh of Montana.

Beneath the fire and brimstone exterior of Dawes lies a home-loving man whose books, paintings and music are his delight. He shuns as many dinner invitations as his office will permit in order to spend his evenings with his wife and their two adopted daughters—Dana, 15 and Virginia, 13. Their own daughter, Carolyn, is now the wife of a former classmate of Dawes' son, who

### THIS WEEK

By ARTHUR BRISBANE

Vivid Youth, Dull Age Making the Mississippi Safe Depew Wise Man Could Coolidge Say No?

In youth impressions are vivid and last into old age. Therefore, the manuscript of "Alice in Wonderland" sells for \$75,259, a record price, more than would have been paid for the manuscript of Dante's "Inferno," or of Voltaire's "Zadig," each word worth a thousand "Alice in Wonderland" manuscripts. Years dull imagination. Millions that remember "Robinson Crusoe," "Swiss Family Robinson," "Gulliver's Travels" vividly have a faint impression of more important books read later.

Washington reporters say, probably inaccurately, that President Coolidge is "shocked" at the suggestion of \$750,000,000 to make the Mississippi River safe.

A country that could give ten thousand millions to Europe, and half a billion a year to railroad receipts, and plan, wisely, to cut \$200,000,000 a year from corporation taxes, need not shudder at the thought of spending part of a billion to make the Mississippi safe.

Chauncey M. Depew, dead in his ninety-fourth year, older than the Republican party, which he served long and faithfully, said: "I have lived long because I could laugh at anything."

Of Napoleon, it was said that in his youth "no one ever saw him laugh." He didn't live ninety-three years, but he did live more in one day than amiable Mr. Depew in all his ninety-four years.

Chauncey Depew attended 8,000 banquets and never let boredom drive him into eating too much. That's wisdom.

He campaigned for Lincoln, got \$1.75 for his first legal services, lived under twenty-four presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Calvin Coolidge, and knew thirteen of them personally. How many can name the twenty-four from Jackson on?

Mr. Darrow of the house naval affairs committee, told President Coolidge his friends "still hoped he would be a candidate." The president replied: "I am afraid they will have to be disappointed."

Die-hard Coolidge enthusiasts will find some comfort in that word "afraid." A man cannot help being persuaded if arguments are good.

Suppose the president were convinced, as he may be, that his re-nomination and re-election would boom business, increase employment, stabilize prosperity and free his party from oil stain danger, could he continue to say no?

Aviation is a reality, says General

was drowned in 1912.

The memory of Rufus Fearing Dawes still lives with his father. All through General Dawes' war diary one finds tender references to him, the wistful hope that he might have lived. The monuments that Dawes has erected in his boy's memory are the Rufus Fearing Dawes hotels for working men in Chicago and Boston. There the man who is out of a job can get a clean bed for a dime and a full meal for a quarter.

In the evening Dawes often improvises for hours on the piano in his home.

Perhaps in his musings the vice president dreams of a day when the family circle will gather in the evening round the famous gold piano in the White House after a hard day's work in the executive office with its great circular walls where Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Harding and Coolidge have labored.

Who knows?

Atterbury, and railroads should know it. He is said to plan for the Pennsylvania a part railroad, part flying machine service from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The traveler would spend daylight in the flying machine, night hours on the train, cross the continent in forty-eight hours, avoiding mountain flying. This rumor is not guaranteed.

New York merchants report business excellent in women's apparel. They buy more of it and less of it, more garments, less material in them. Paper underwear for ladies makes its appearance in several stories.

Silk of wool, underwear of paper—not pleasant news for cotton growers.

Old British builders of wooden ships who said ships made of steel would sink in heavy storms would be interested in the Leviathan's latest trip.

She reached New York with her fore-castle deck smashed, deck structures badly twisted by a wave said to be 150 feet high, that dropped 1,000,000 pounds of water on her deck at once.

Men build ships that the ocean cannot sink. Water waves are heavier than air waves. Airships will soon be built that no air wave will worry.

In Seattle a tiny Pomeranian barked too much. Its owner wanted the vocal chords removed, reducing the bark to a gesture, but humane societies said "No."

Dog Trainer Sanderlin removed the bark in two weeks by training. "Obedience is the secret," says he. "I taught Darkie (the Pomeranian) the meaning of the words 'shut up.'"

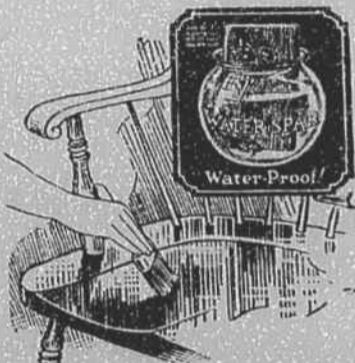
That trainer might make a fortune in politics.

Gerald: "Somebody took a roll of bills from me today."

Geraldine: "But you will have to pay them just the same, I suppose."

Jill: "Do you like the revolving door?"

Bill: "No; you can't slam it when you're mad."



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"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, "and I have shown my love of country in doing so."  
"You mean you have made sacrifices?"  
"Well, I don't exactly say a government is ungrateful, but it doesn't measure up to a big corporation in making up a liberal pay roll."—Washington Star.

Until the year 1881, wife beating was legal. Maybe that's why the old codgers think of when they talk of "the good old days."

#### Notions for Him

Applicant: I have a world of imagination, sir, and—  
The Boss: Fine! I'll put you to work at the notions counter.

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