

::: The New White House :::

When President Taft stepped into the White House on the 4th of March he found a model home with every convenience—something that former Presidents found not. Before the election of President Roosevelt few changes had been made in the White House since the days of John Quincy Adams, when it was rebuilt after being fired by the marauding British

The east entrance by the colonnade leads to the basement corridor, on the walls of which are hung the portraits of the former mistresses of the White House including that of Mrs. Roosevelt. The portrait of Mrs. Hayes was presented by the Woman's National Temperance Union, in recognition of the cold water relay at the White House during President Hayes' term.

against another McKinley tragedy the secret service force assigned to protect the President has been doubled, and these men are the only ones in the government's employ who can safely disregard the Chief Executive's orders. These hawk-eyed men are forever on the job, and the President is never out of sight of some of them. They even guard his bed chamber

uriantly furnished to meet the demands of the Chief Executive and his family. The President may also call into use a battleship or cruiser if he prefers a larger vessel. Mr. Taft proceeded to Panama in one of the navy's fast cruisers.

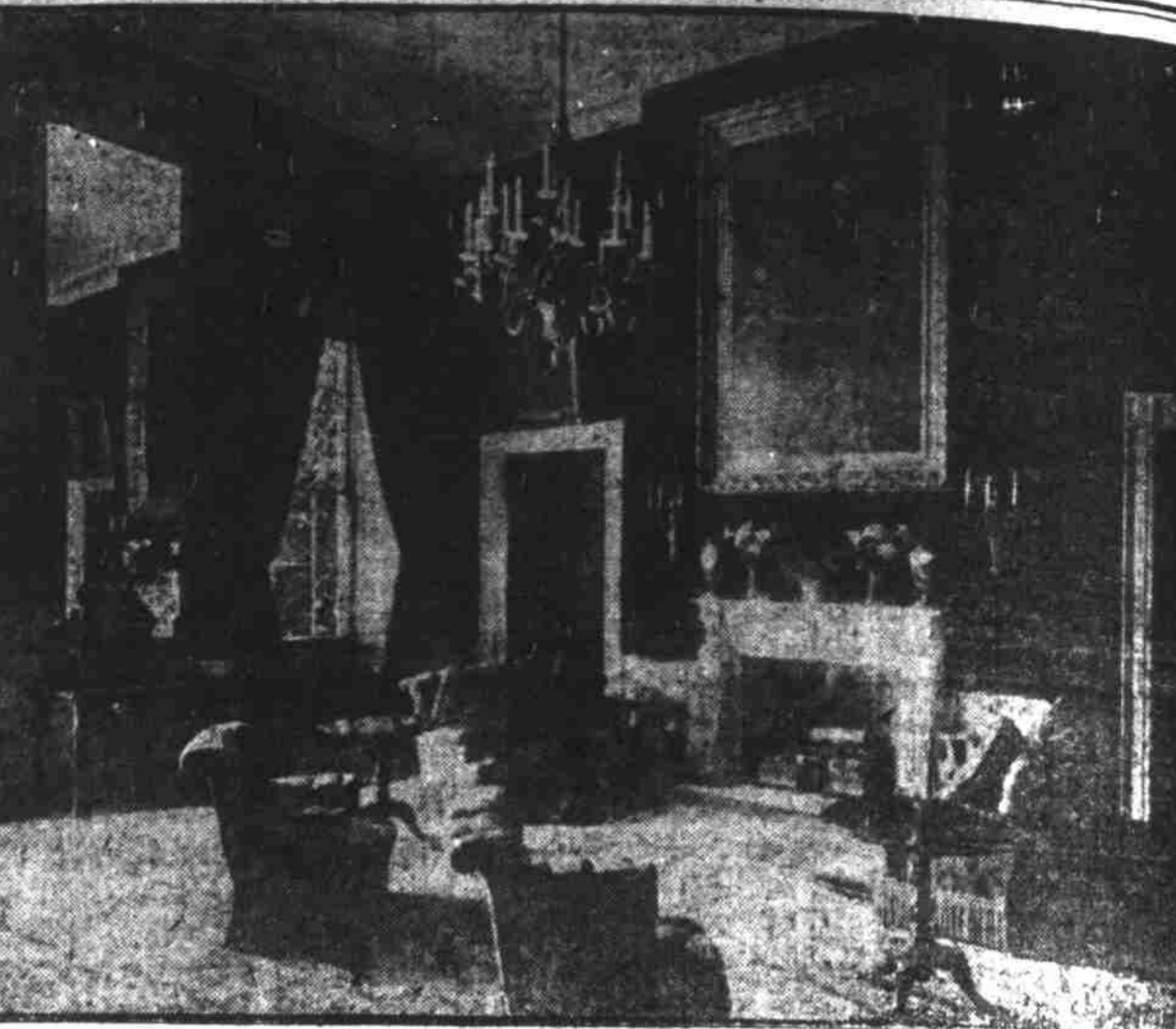
The new President has no doctor bills to pay, for being commander-in-chief of the army and navy he may call on either branch for medical services. It is generally the custom, however, to select only one medical attendant, who would call in other doctors should a case require it. If the President, moreover, should die in office, all of his funeral expenses will now be defrayed by the government, and his widow would be granted a pension of \$5,000 a year for life with the free use of the mails. In order to keep petty details away from him an office force receiving \$2,000 a year, headed by a private secretary who receives \$7,500 a year additional, has been provided. A contingent fund of \$20,000 is allowed for stationery, reference books and the like. Mr. Taft will not be bothered with any great amount of official mail. His secretaries will attend to all matters of minor importance, and there will be but a small percentage of his mail to which he will have to dictate replies. It will be a rare occasion when he will have to pen a letter as Presidents of old had to do.

SERVANTS ON PAY-ROLL.

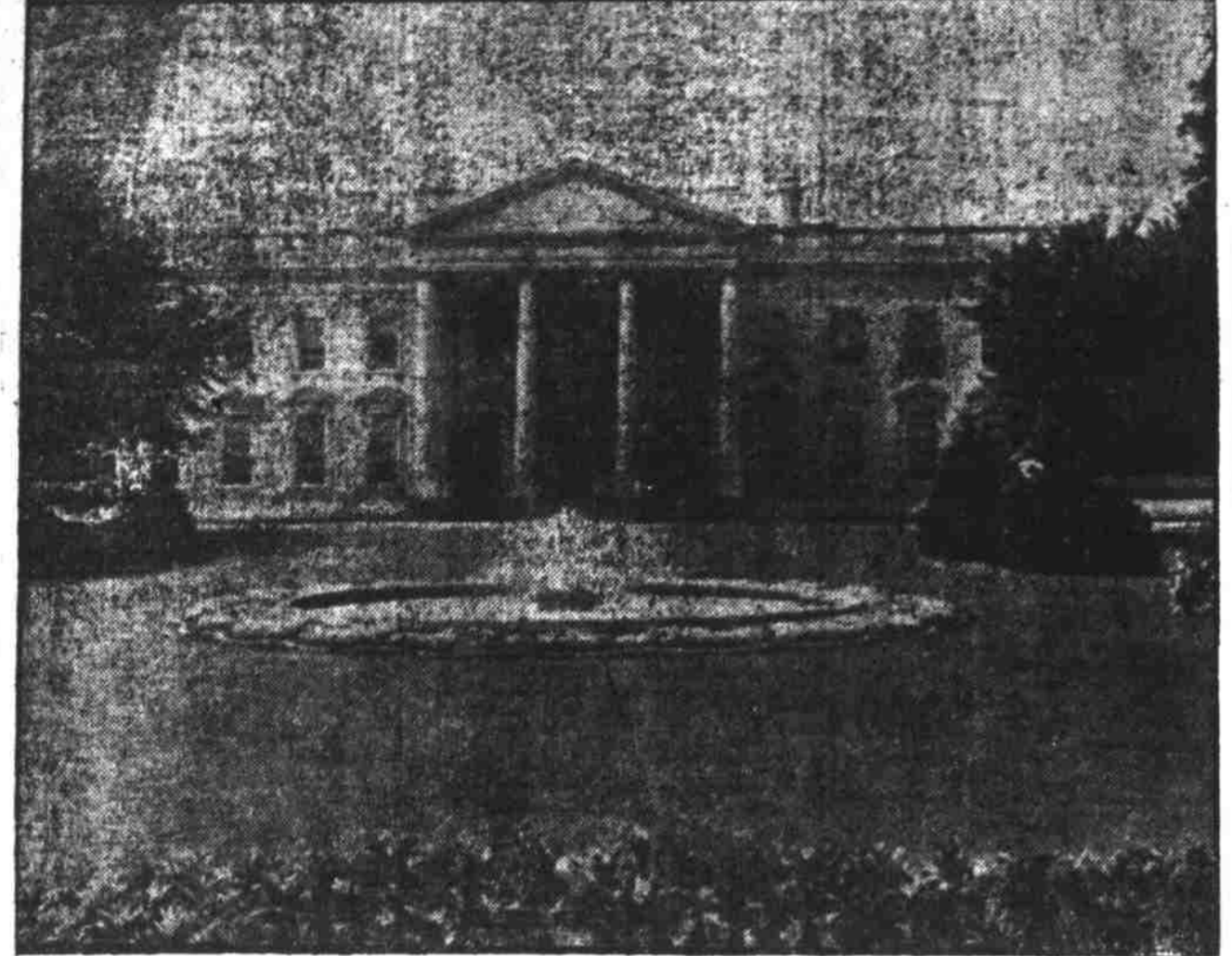
All of the servants at the White House are on the pay-roll of Uncle Sam, even to the man who shaves the President; but Mr. Taft will have to pay his coachman. However, he is more fond of an automobile than a carriage, and the present Congress being aware of that fact has generously appropriated \$12,000 for automobiles for the White House. So during Mr. Taft's regime such a vehicle will be a part of his official equipment.

The new mistress of the White House does not have the worry over housekeeping that former mistresses have had to undergo. A steward is now provided at a good salary to look after these matters. It is his duty to hire all the servants, give orders to the housekeeper and to do all the marketing. Thomas Jefferson did his own marketing. This important functionary is provided with a government taxicab, and is a sworn government official, who, under the terms of a \$20,000 bond, given before he entered office, is held responsible for all government property used at the White House. This includes table linen, plate, glassware, furniture, tapestries and ornaments. Whenever the

first lady of the land and the President by brilliantly uniformed army and naval officers detailed as social aides. All of the petty details of social correspondence will be attended to by a young lady social secretary to Mrs. Taft, and the custom in Washington's social life is that the wife of the President never has to return any calls.



The New State Dining Room.—The massive mahogany table now seats over a hundred guests.



Front View of the White House—Now the President's private entrance.

troops, only the walls being left standing. Indeed, it is related that no provision was made for keeping the mansion sufficiently warm for comfort during the Adams time, and the new stately East room was used by Mrs. Adams for drying the weekly wash.

The Executive Mansion as it was called before the advent of Mr. Roosevelt—he dubbed it officially "the White House"—was the first public building erected at the seat of government. The architect was John Hoban, who drew his plans closely after those of the seat of the Duke of Leinster, near Dublin, Ireland. George Washington himself selected the site, laid the corner-stone on October 13, 1792, and lived to see the building completed. The first President to occupy it, however, was John Adams in 1800.

When President Roosevelt entered the White House he found that Uncle Sam had supplied him with nothing more than an antiquated flat over what might have been termed part of the National Museum, and this flat was crowded around by public offices. State dinners were being held in a draughty up-stairs hallway; reception guests were making their entrance through a fire window by means of portable wooden steps which were erected for such State occasions, and the President himself couldn't take a bath in his own little apartment without being disturbed by some intruder. When Mr. Roosevelt found what was in store for him he immediately went up in arms, and told the leaders in Congress, in his usual way, that a President of a respectable nation should be provided with better quarters, and the money was promptly appropriated for the new White House. An office building was erected for the President and his host of clerks, which is connected with the main building by an esplanade and the White House was promptly restored to its original architectural grandeur. All the broken and much-abused furnishings were sold at auction and new and simple sanitary furniture put in. The whole interior of the building was remodeled and redecorated in classic good taste, and the White House to-day is one of the most stately types of colonial mansion in America.

MANY ALTERATIONS.

Besides those already referred to many other alterations and changes were made. The public entrance was formerly on the north front—or the front of the mansion proper—but now it is through a colonnade on the east, and the front entrance is reserved as the President's private way.

From this corridor broad stairs lead up to the main corridor, from which access is had to the East Room, the Blue Room, and the Red Room, which take their names from the predominant color of the decorations and furnishings. The East Room, or officially state parlor, used for receptions, is a magnificent apartment eighty feet long by forty feet wide, with a ceiling twenty-two feet in height, from which hang three massive crystal chandeliers. The decorations of the walls and ceiling are in white and gold, with moulding and tablet ornamentation in relief. The window draperies are in rich old gold.

The Blue Room, which is oval in shape, is Mr. Taft's private reception room. It is used on such occasions as the diplomatic receptions and receptions of the Supreme Court. Other guests whom the President wishes to receive in this room are extended special invitations. These are known as "Blue Room guests."

The walls of this room are covered with rich corded blue silk, and the window hangings are of blue with golden stars in the upper folds. On the mantel ticking away the time is the clock presented by Napoleon to Lafayette and by him to Washington; on either side stand the bronze vases presented to the first President at that time.

LIFE WELL PROTECTED.

When Congress provided for more comfortable quarters for the President it also made provisions for the better protection of his life by making an attempt to assassinate him punishable by death, while a mere threat to kill him, or even the advising of another to do so, is punishable by ten years' hard labor. In the new depot at Washington there is provided a handsome private waiting room for the Chief Executive so that he will not have to come in contact with the masses of the traveling public as heretofore. This will prevent in the future a repetition of the Garfield tragedy. To lessen the danger

sea trip he has the choice of two private yachts at his command—the Mayflower and the Sylph. The Mayflower is a boat of 2,700 tons, and was built especially for Mrs. Caden Goelet, who originally paid \$100,000 for it. During the Spanish-American war the government purchased it for \$450,000. This craft has been lux-



The President's Private Office showing the "Presidential Chair." The New Cabinet Room adjoining.

first lady of the land wishes any repairs made she simply calls upon the engineer officer of the army, who is detailed in the dual capacity of superintendent of public buildings and master of ceremonies at the White House. He is allowed \$35,000 a year for the care and furnishing of the mansion and an equal amount for repairs, \$6,000 for fuel, \$9,000 for greenhouses, and \$4,000 for taking care of the White House grounds. All food bills, including those which the President must contract for the four state dinners given each year, or for the entertainment of any distinguished foreigners in Washington, must be paid out of his private funds. The four State banquets usually cost about \$1,000 each. The social functions of the White House were doubled under Mr. Roosevelt's administration, he having practically used his entire official salary for the purpose. Yet as much as he entertained he was not able to meet the conditions that the official life at the capital of the nation demands at the present time, for the reason that even the remodeled White House was not large enough to be equal to such requirements. If Mr. Taft attempts to keep up with the pace set by his predecessor he will come out of the White House as he goes—comparatively a poor man. Mr. Taft, however, will not have to pay for the floral decorations for his entertainments as these will be supplied from the government's greenhouses which are kept for the purpose. The music, too, will be furnished by the famous Marine Band at Washington.

In the basement of the new White House the new mistress will find two modern kitchens, a large laundry room and a wonderful pantry which contains an electric dish heater with a capacity of three thousand dishes and plates. At the state dinners, over which Mrs. Taft will preside, the viands, prepared in her two kitchens by one of the best caterers in the country, will be served on a \$30,000 service of Wedgwood china, besides the new glassware bought under the direction of Mrs. Roosevelt, and the historic silver plate which has been collected by White House mistresses since Adams' time. On formal occasions the guests will be presented to

the first lady of the land and the President by brilliantly uniformed army and naval officers detailed as social aides. All of the petty details of social correspondence will be attended to by a young lady social secretary to Mrs. Taft, and the custom in Washington's social life is that the wife of the President never has to return any calls.

GIFTS FOR PRESIDENTS.

The President of the United States these days is showered with gifts. Mr. Roosevelt received presents ranging from a managerie of zebras, lions, baboons and other wild beasts from the King of Abyssinia, and magnificent Persian rugs from the Sultan of Turkey to a pair of cotton suspenders from some admirer at home. A thousand and one other gifts were sent to him, but all valuable presents from royalty he has turned over to the National Museum at Washington where they are kept on exhibition. Mr. Taft, no doubt, by reason of his world-wide acquaintance, will be showered with more gifts than have been sent to any dozen Presidents before him.

The remodeling and refurnishing of the White House was effected at a

cost of \$530,650. This was a good sum when it is considered that when Mrs. Madison spent \$40 for a piano and \$28 for a guitar out of a \$5,000 appropriation her act was commented upon as wanton extravagance.

A DISSENTING VOICE.

It Declares that Representative Morehead as Candidate for Governor is Unacceptable to Many Republicans.

We find the following in The Washington correspondence to The Charlotte Observer: "As I asserted some time ago the indications are that Locke Craig, of Asheville and Mr. Morehead will head the gubernatorial tickets in North Carolina in the next State election. The signs thus point that way multiply every day. The Democrats of the State have come to understand Craig and to love and appreciate him and like his brand of Democracy. The sort of grit that makes a man get up and fight on and on when he has been knocked down time and time again commends itself to the boys in the trenches. Therefore, at this day, it is no wonder that all the talk is for the Democratic champion of the west.

"In Mr. Morehead the Republicans have found a winner, and force of circumstances will make him their next State leader—not as head of the organization, but as standard-bearer for the rank and file, the fellows who do not work just for the pie they are ahead but for the principles of the G. O. P. All the time John Motley is going to kick, but once in harness he will tighten the trace chains and move the load, and if the row which has been deliberately sprung in the Democratic party by ambitious and designing men continues the Spray Congressman will almost, if not entirely, reach the goal, carrying with him a Republican Legislature.

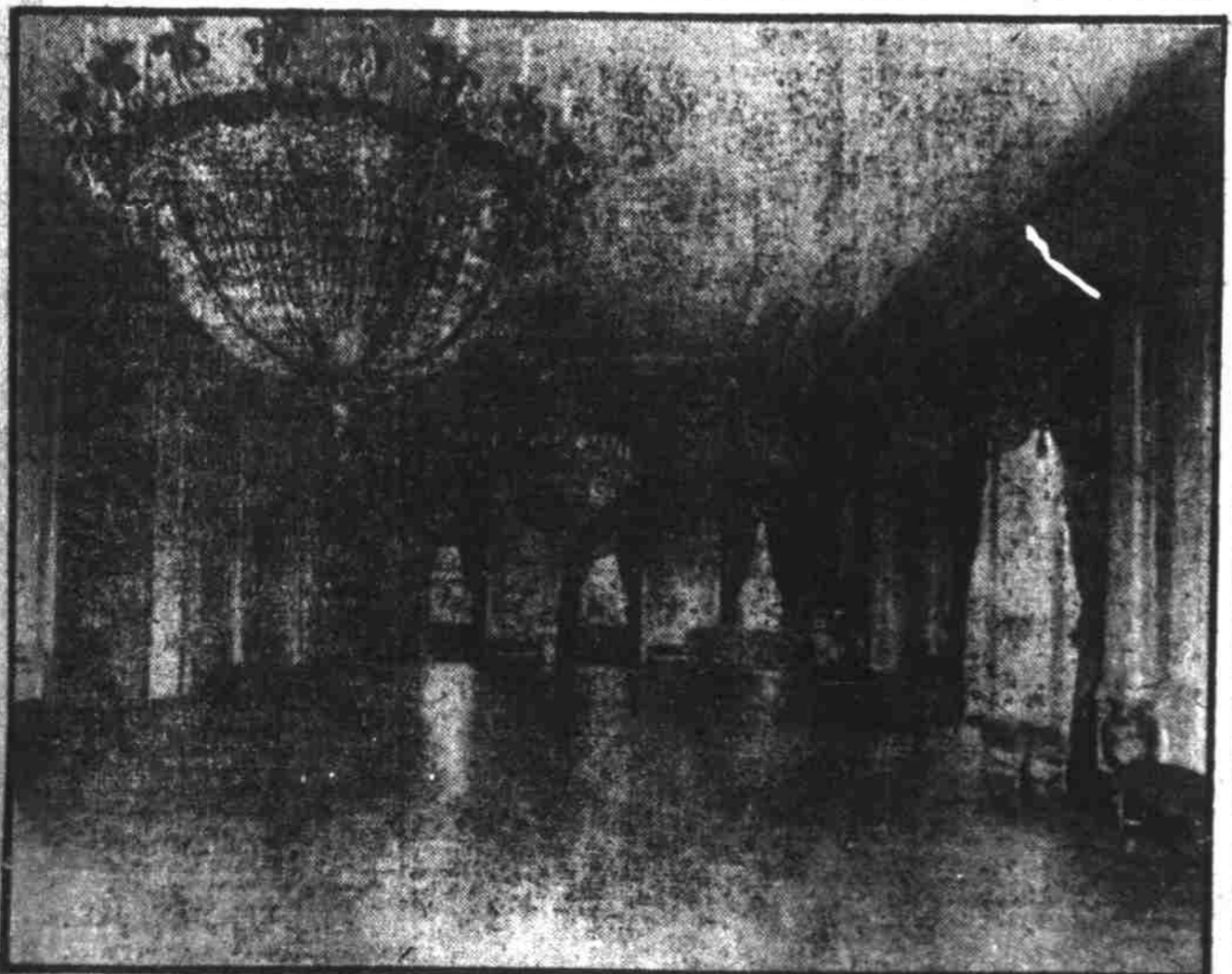
"In any event, with two parties composed of white men, the one gaining all the while and the other steadily losing, North Carolina promises some interesting political developments. Party ties are not as strong there as they used to be."

Would this correspondent mind naming a few names? It is true that he asserted some time ago that his friend, Morehead, would be nominated for Governor by the Republicans the next time, and it would be interesting to know the reasons for the faith that is in him. What Republicans, for example, identified with the party leadership, men who have put their time and money into politics, and who are always on the ground when there is party work to be done, are bent upon the nomination of Mr. Morehead? It is true as this correspondent seems to realize, that the Republican party has been "growing all the while." It has grown under the leadership of the men who contributed very largely to the election of Mr. Morehead, when he himself had little faith in the enterprise, but he seems to have felt impelled, probably out of considerations of "respectability," to repudiate the active friendship and good will of the men who served him—after the bal-

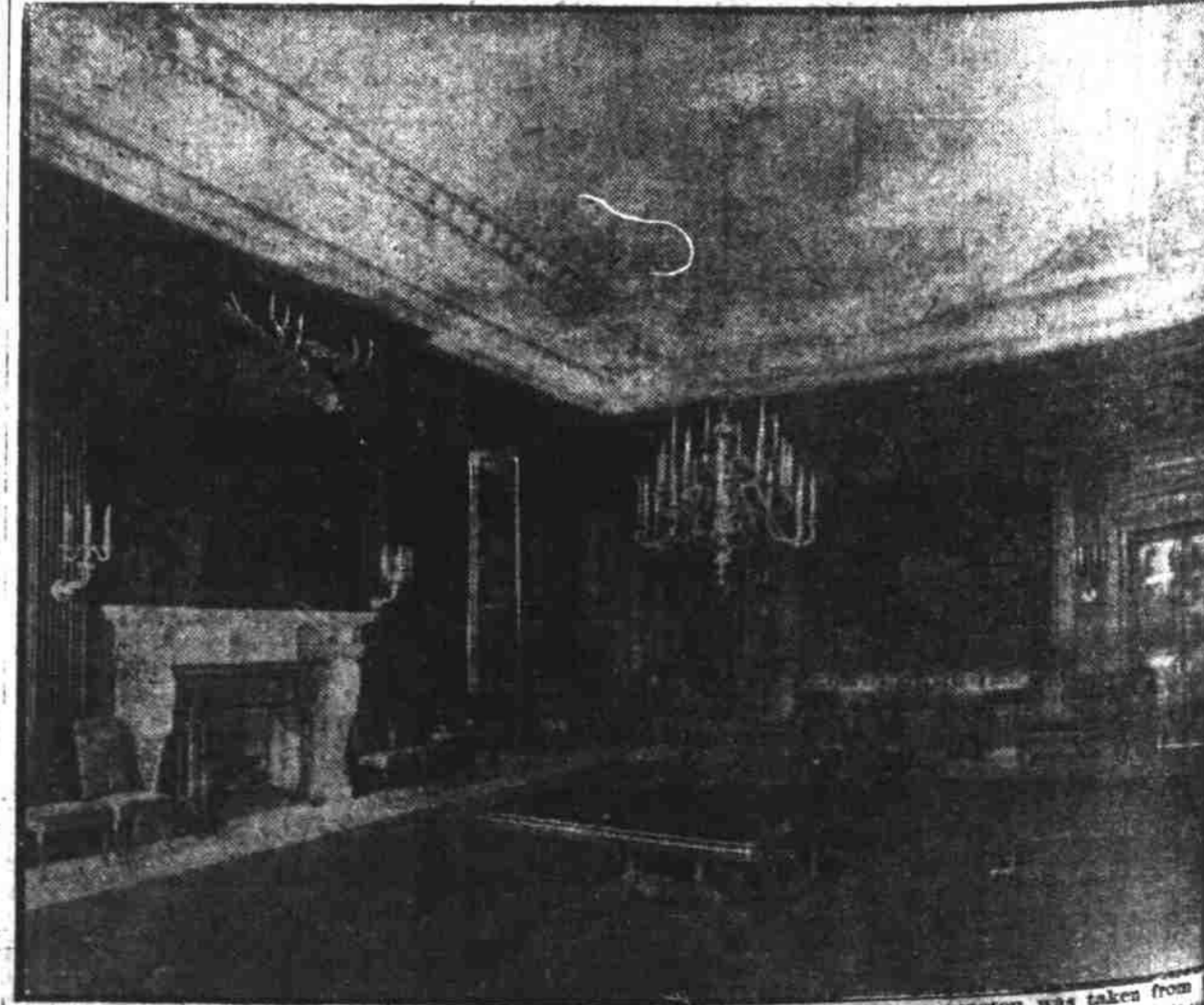
lots had been counted. This incident will know exactly what he means, for he says that the election of his nomination for Governor, Morehead would mean the end of the organization. He would repudiate the organization of the men, other words, who were his only loyal support during his nomination for Governor and the process of his nomination among the people. He would repudiate the movement to get an army of traitorous army, of traitorous and semi-traitorous Democrats.

File upon such occasions a glorious occasion kept from meeting by rain. Very little was done upon effect and a depression. There was a time when the onset of these rainy days did not induce fear to brave the wrath of the elements but of the passion of the English and the South. There were not, in this meeting, his a prey, when both parties and rains delay. And this was in less than a month after the meeting Meeklenburg. I have not seen him since. And he is now we forget. And by the way, always rain on Meeklenburg. How long will it last?

A Lucid Exposition. Troy, N. Y., Budget. There are free traders who are that the South, with its cheap and comparatively low expense manufacturing coarse cotton goods does not need protection. These men should read an address by D. A. Tompkins made recently in Richmond before the cotton manufacturers. Mr. Tompkins pointed out the advantages England and the South in the manufacturing of cotton products. England's textile mills have an inheritance of skill, knowledge and labor which does not exist about. Its merchant marine is goods from the mills to all parts of the world. Capital is abundant, interest rates are low, there is cotton exchange in Manchester and buyers from all over the world aid where prices are based on it. It is the market center of the world, and it is in Fall River or any other Southern manufacturing center. This would seem to be a complete showing.



The Redecorated East Room—Here, whoever may wish can shake the hand of Mr. Taft on Public reception days.



THE GREAT BRITISH BURNING OF THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1814. THE HOUSE WAS TAKEN FROM AND CARRIED TO SAFETY ACROSS THE POTOMAC BY DOLLY MADISON WHEN THE BRITISH PILLAGED THE HOUSE IN 1814.