

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

1



George Washington Elected First President in 1789.

WASHINGTON.

THE first presidents were chosen by electors who were chosen by the legislatures of the various states. The person having the majority of these electors was declared president. The person having the next greatest number was declared vice president.

The first election took place on Jan. 7, 1789, in the states that had ratified the constitution. The electors chose the president on Feb. 4, 1789. The vote counted on April 6, 1789, was:

George Washington, 69; John Adams, 34; Samuel Huntington, 2; John Jay, 3; John Hancock, 4; R. H. Harrison, 6; George Clinton, 3; John Rutledge, 6; John Milton, 2; James Armstrong, 1; Edward Telfair, 1; Benjamin Lincoln, 1. Ten states voted, but there is no record of the popular vote.

In the election of 1792, Washington received 132 votes and Adams 77.

(Watch for the election of Adams in 1796 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

4



Madison Defeats Pinckney Decisively in 1808.

MADISON.

THE Democratic Republicans nominated James Madison of Virginia in 1808. His running mate was George Clinton of New York. The Republican ticket that year was C. C. Pinckney of South Carolina and Rufus King of New York. The election took place on Nov. 8, and the vote, as counted on Feb. 6, 1809, was: Madison, 122; Pinckney, 47.

In the election of 1812 Madison, renominated by the Republicans, defeated DeWitt Clinton of New York by a vote of 128 to 89. Nominations were made by a caucus, and Clinton refused to be named, and the Federalists declined to support George Clinton.

(Watch for the election of Monroe in 1816 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

7



Jackson Defeats Adams in 1828 Election.

JACKSON.

THE Democrats nominated Andrew Jackson of Tennessee in 1828, and John Quincy Adams again opposed him. The election occurred on Nov. 4, and the vote, counted on Feb. 11, 1829, was: Jackson, 178; Adams, 87. Calhoun was elected vice president. The popular vote that year was: Jackson, 647,231; Adams, 590,907.

Jackson was again elected in 1832. The first national convention was held that year, and the platform was adopted setting forth the policies of the Democratic party.

Jackson was renominated and was opposed by Henry Clay of Kentucky. The vote was: Jackson, 219,043; Clay, 96. Popular vote: Jackson, 687,582; Clay, 530,188. Van Buren was elected vice president.

(Watch for the election of Van Buren in 1836 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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Buchanan Defeated the First Republican Candidate.

BUCHANAN.

THE election of 1856 was the first contest between the two parties as they exist today. Buchanan, Democrat of Pennsylvania, opposed John C. Fremont, Republican, of New York. The Republican party had just been created. Slavery was the principal issue, and signs of the approaching catastrophe were plainly visible. Buchanan was elected, receiving a popular vote of 1,838,020 to 1,241,231 for his opponent. Millard Fillmore of New York, who was the candidate of the American party, received 871,578 votes. J. C. Breckinridge, Democrat, of Kentucky, was chosen vice president.

(Watch for the election of Lincoln in 1860 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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More Votes For Tilden, but Hayes Elected in 1876.

HAYES.

AGAIN in the election of 1876 the candidate who received the smaller number of popular votes was elected president. Samuel J. Tilden of New York, Democrat, received 1,284,884 votes and his Republican opponent, Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, received 1,055,320. The result of this election was in doubt for many days. Discrepancies in Louisiana changed one vote, and the result in the electoral college was: Hayes, 185; Tilden, 181. An electoral commission decided for Hayes. William A. Wheeler of New York was elected vice president.

James A. Garfield, Republican, defeated W. S. Hancock, Democrat, in 1880. Chester A. Arthur was elected vice president and after Garfield's assassination became president.

(Watch for the election of Cleveland in 1884 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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Roosevelt Decisively Defeated Parker in 1904.

ROOSEVELT.

THE Republicans, pleased with the successor of McKinley, nominated Roosevelt in 1904. A split had occurred in the Democratic party over the question of free silver. William Jennings Bryan had a large following, but also had many bitter enemies. Alton B. Parker of New York was agreed on as a compromise candidate. He was supposed to have no decided views on the issue. However, before the convention adjourned he came out in favor of the gold standard.

Roosevelt was overwhelmingly elected, and Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana was chosen vice president, while Parker's running mate that year was Henry G. Davis of West Virginia.

(Watch for the election of Taft in 1908 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

2



John Adams Won Close Race in 1796 Election.

JOHN ADAMS.

THE Democratic Republicans supported Thomas Jefferson of Virginia for president and Aaron Burr of New York for vice president in 1796. The Federalists supported John Adams of Massachusetts for president and Thomas Pinckney of Maryland for vice president.

The election took place on Nov. 8, 1796, and the vote was counted on Feb. 8, 1797. It was: John Adams, 71; Thomas Jefferson, 68; Thomas Pinckney, 59; Aaron Burr, 30; Samuel Adams, 15; Oliver Ellsworth, 11; John Jay, 3; George Clinton, 7; S. Johnston, 2; James Ingham, 3; George Washington, 2; C. C. Pinckney, 1; John Henry, 2. There is no record of the popular vote. Sixteen states voted.

Of course in those early days there were no party platforms or conventions.

(Watch for the election of Jefferson in 1800 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

5



Monroe Triumphed Over Rufus King in 1816.

MONROE.

THE Republicans were again victorious in 1816. They nominated James Monroe of Virginia, with Daniel D. Tompkins of New York as his running mate. The Federalists supported Rufus King of New York, but had no candidate for vice president that year. The election took place on Nov. 5, and the vote counted the following February, was: Monroe, 188; King, 74.

The election of 1820 had but one candidate, Monroe, and Tompkins having no opposition. All of the electors chosen in the presidential election except one voted for Monroe. Twenty-three states voted that year, but there is no record of the popular vote.

(Watch for the election of John Quincy Adams in 1824 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

3



Van Buren, Democrat, the Victor in 1836.

VAN BUREN.

AGAIN the Democratic candidate was chosen by a convention, but no platform was adopted this year. The National Republican or Whig party had three candidates. The election was on Nov. 8, and the vote counted Feb. 8, 1837, was: Martin Van Buren of New York, 150; William H. Harrison of Ohio, 70; Hugh L. White of Tennessee, 23; Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, 14; Willie P. Mangum of North Carolina, 11; Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky was chosen vice president. Popular vote: Van Buren, 761,540; Harrison, 290,950.

In the election of 1840 William H. Harrison, a Whig, defeated Van Buren. John Tyler of Virginia was chosen vice president. In 1848 James K. Polk, Democrat, of Tennessee, defeated Henry Clay, Whig. George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania was chosen vice president.

(Watch for the election of Taylor in 1848 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

11



Nation Rent by Slavery Issue in 1860.

LINCOLN.

THE election of 1860 found the country on the verge of civil war. The abolitionists were members of the Republican party, and in the convention Lincoln defeated William H. Seward of New York. Lincoln was not an abolitionist in the strict sense of the word. He later wanted the government to act on the slavery issue. The "Douglas Democrats" nominated Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, who likewise was in favor of prohibiting the further extension of slavery. J. C. Breckinridge of Kentucky was the candidate of the other branch of the Democratic party, while John Bell of Tennessee was the candidate of the Union party.

Lincoln defeated George B. McClellan of New Jersey in 1862. (Watch for the election of Grant in 1868 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

14



Cleveland Breaks Long Reign of Republicans.

CLEVELAND.

GROVER CLEVELAND of New York was the first Democrat elected since 1856. He defeated James G. Blaine of Maine in 1884 by a vote of 431,107 to 418,584. T. A. Hendricks of Indiana was chosen vice president.

However, in the next election Cleveland was defeated by Benjamin Harrison of Indiana by a vote of 233 to 168. Cleveland received a majority of the popular vote that year, nevertheless, Levi P. Morton of New York was elected vice president.

Cleveland then came back in the election of 1892 and defeated Harrison by a vote of 5,553,018 to 5,176,108. Adlai B. Stevenson of Illinois was elected vice president that year.

(Watch for the election of McKinley in 1896 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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Bryan Ran Again in 1908, but Taft Was Winner.

TAFT.

WILLIAM H. TAFT of Ohio, who was Roosevelt's secretary of war, went to the Chicago convention in 1908 with the colonel's support. He was quickly nominated, with James S. Sherman of New York as his running mate.

The Democrats nominated Bryan again, with John W. Bryan of Indiana as the vice presidential candidate.

For the third time Bryan was defeated for the presidency, this time receiving a popular vote of 7,678,008 to Bryan's 6,930,107. The vote in the electoral college was 221 to 162. The Republican party was united solidly that year, while the friction among the Democrats still existed.

(Watch for the election of Wilson in 1912 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

3



Jefferson Elected by House of Representatives.

JEFFERSON.

THE Democratic Republicans supported Thomas Jefferson for president and Aaron Burr for vice president in 1800. The Federalists supported John Adams and C. C. Pinckney. The votes counted on Feb. 14, 1801, was:

Jefferson, 73; Burr, 73; Adams, 65; Pinckney, 61; Jay, 1.

No one having received a majority of the 1808 vote, the house of representatives presided on the subject of electing a president. The electors voted for Jefferson, 73; Burr, 73; Adams, 65; Pinckney, 61; Jay, 1. A majority of the states and was declared elected. Sixteen states voted.

Jefferson's defeat of Burr, the result of a political maneuver, was the only majority in this election in 1800.

(Watch for the election of Madison in 1808 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

6



Adams Elected by House in Exciting Fight.

J. Q. ADAMS.

As there were no recognized political parties this year, the election became a personal contest, which resulted as follows: Andrew Jackson for John Quincy Adams, 81; William H. Crawford, 41; Henry Clay, 37. No one having received a majority, the house of representatives presided on the subject of electing a president. The electors voted for Adams, 29; Jackson, 7; Crawford, 7; Clay, 7. A majority of the states and was declared elected.

This is the first year when the electors voted in secret. That year it was: Jackson, 155,872; Adams, 105,221; Crawford, 11,132; Clay, 46,587. It is thus noted that, while Jackson received 200,000 more votes than Adams, yet he was defeated.

(Watch for the election of Andrew Jackson in 1828 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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Zachary Taylor, Democrat, Elected in 1848.

TAYLOR.

IN this election Zachary Taylor of Louisiana was opposed by Lewis Cass, Whig, of Michigan. The Democratic convention was held at Baltimore, and the Whigs met at Philadelphia. The vote was 141 to 127. Martin Van Buren ran under the Free Soil ticket. The popular vote was: Taylor, 1,394,191; Cass, 1,129,544; Van Buren, 291,263; Millard Fillmore was chosen vice president that year.

In the election of 1852 Franklin Pierce was the Democratic nominee and Winfield Scott the Whig candidate. The former was elected by a big majority in the electoral college, but by a small popular plurality. William R. King of Alabama was elected vice president that year.

(Watch for the election of Buchanan in 1856 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

12



War Hero Elected President in 1868.

GRANT.

LINCOLN, having been assassinated, was succeeded in office by Andrew Johnson, who was also president. The war had ended, Grant had returned a hero. The Republicans nominated the general, while the Democrats put forward Horatio Seymour of New York. The state having been defeated, Grant participated in this election and supported Seymour.

The election of 1872 was an exciting one. Horace Greeley, formerly a Republican, had run on the Democratic ticket and the Liberal Republican ticket. Grant was again the Republican nominee. There were four other major candidates. Grant received 3,079,070 votes and Greeley 2,247,070.

(Watch for the election of Hayes in 1876 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

15



McKinley Defeats Bryan in Election of 1896.

McKINLEY.

THE silver was the issue in 1896. William Jennings Bryan was renominated by the Democrats, while William McKinley of Ohio was nominated by the Republicans. While the popular vote was close, McKinley received 2,712,714 votes in the electoral college to Bryan's 170. Garret A. Hobart was elected vice president. Other national parties had sprung up by this time, including the Prohibitionists and Socialists.

McKinley was again elected in 1900, defeating Bryan by a comparatively small margin. Theodore Roosevelt of New York was elected vice president. McKinley was assassinated about six months after his second inauguration, and Roosevelt served three and one-half years of his second term.

(Watch for the election of Roosevelt in 1904 in our next issue.)

ELECTING A PRESIDENT

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Party Split Helped Wilson in 1912.

WILSON.

THE Democrats with Woodrow Wilson came to power in the election of 1912. The Republican party, who was now opposed by Bryan by Roosevelt, threw their party's electoral votes to Wilson, and these in authority secured majority of delegates with no preliminaries.

Roosevelt had many warm supporters and was an avowed candidate. When Taft was nominated Roosevelt formed the Progressive party and ran on the third ticket.

The vote in 1912 was: Wilson, 6,290,149; Roosevelt, 4,116,771; Taft, 3,487,359; Wilson received 435 votes in the electoral college. Roosevelt 88 and Taft 8. Theodore R. Marshall of Indiana was elected vice president.