

TWO OF THE NEW SENATORS AND THE WIFE OF ONE OF THEM



Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—When the newly elected United States Senators take their seats next year the two youngest among them, and indeed in the whole upper house of Congress, will be Josiah O. Wolcott, of Delaware, born October 31, 1877, and Peter Golet Gerry, of Rhode Island, born September 28, 1879.

Mr. Gerry was turned from polo and Newport society by his wife, a famous beauty, who was ambitious for him to equal the careers of noted ancestors. He owes his election in rock-ribbed, high-tariff Rhode Island to his great personal popularity and to a most skillful secret house-to-house campaign.

Mr. Wolcott, also a scion of a family famous in American history, enters the Senate largely through the factional fights of the great Du Pont family of powder makers, multimillionaire Republicans, who for many years controlled tiny Delaware.

The election of these young men from the two smallest States of the Union, and from States traditionally Republican, are the source of the greatest gratification to Democratic leaders here.

"Young Peter," as Mr. Gerry is familiarly known to his friends in Rhode Island, has been in the newspapers principally for his exploits as a coaching whip, a polo player and a society man.

In 1910 he married Miss Matilda T. Townsend, of this city, a daughter of Mrs. Richard Townsend, and regarded by artists as one of the most beautiful women in America. She has been painted by Sargent and Flaming and has furnished inspiration for many ideal characterizations of the American girl. Before her marriage the Duke of Alba, a Spanish grandee, had been her persistent but unsuccessful suitor. She said openly she would never marry any one but an American.

And having selected Mr. Gerry as her American, she decided to make something out of him. Mr. Gerry was a good talker, a hard worker, a scientist and a lawyer, who could speak better in public than the average.

His great-grandfather, Elbridge Gerry, was elected Vice-President of the United States in 1812, on the ticket with Mr. Madison. His father was Commodore Gerry, a great lawyer, and several other members of the family had had brilliant careers.

So in 1912 Mr. Gerry became a candidate for the House of Representatives from the Second Rhode Island District, traditionally a Republican stronghold. The old G. O. P. leaders dismissed the chances of the young society man from their minds a trifle scornfully and did little work against him. Mr. Gerry worked hard, caught the attention, at least, of almost every voter and swung enough Republicans into the opposing camp to win.

His career in the House was satisfactory, but not brilliant. Therefore, when he became the Democratic candidate this year in the first Senatorial primaries Rhode Island had held, the political wiseacres smiled again. Against him was the veteran Senator Henry M. Lippitt, a high protection leader. The Republicans thought it would be a walk-over for their candidate.

The Democratic National Committee never put the Senatorship in the remotely doubtful class. Mr. Gerry was mildly reproved by some of his personal friends for taking a losing chance in a bad year.

Mr. Gerry started his campaign with all the newspapers of Rhode Island hostile to him.

Mr. Gerry long before the canvass began had carefully figured out the chances for and against defeat. When he determined to accept the nomination he had also made up his mind to lead a fight that would break all Rhode Island traditions.

He would take the offensive from the start in attacking both the acts of the Republican party and his opponent's political record. There would be no conservative campaign, such as Rhode Island always has found to its liking. He would reach every class and take his cause into every home.

Rhode Island's voting population is sixty-six and two-thirds foreign born, or the sons of foreign born. There are colonies of French, Italians, Poles, Jews and Swedes. The French have a daily newspaper. The Italians and the Swedes have two weekly newspapers. The Germans, who are mainly in Providence and Cranston, but scattered also in small numbers through the State, have a weekly newspaper. A Jewish paper published in Boston circulates in all the cities of the State.

The first essential thing for a successful campaign was to reach the foreign born and foreign speaking voters. Maps were made of all sections in which foreign colonies controlled in population. Next there was a separation of all registered aliens, so that they might be reached with ease by foreign literature, and also seen by their own countrymen. The card index used by the Progressives four years ago was obtained by a carefully planned but lucky strike; and by a clever suggestion the names of all Republican farmers came into possession of the Gerry managers.

All this specialized political work, naturally, was not done at the regular campaign headquarters. Indeed, it was unknown to more than a few persons in Rhode Island. This vital side of the contest was secretly put in charge of General Henry De Witt Hamilton, of New York City, long a member of Tammany Hall General Committee, a sagem of Tammany, Wilson presidential elector four years ago and a delegate to the last National Convention.

His share in the Senatorship fight was to be largely of the still hunt order. It was essential that neither a brass band nor string instruments should be used.

General Hamilton opened no headquarters. He invited a few friends from Boston and New York to take part in what he regarded as a good sporting proposition. These men gradually gathered a dozen more who could be trusted implicitly. A few more were stationed in Woonsocket, a few in Pawtucket and the others made Providence their central point, covering from that city all outlying points in which it was believed effective work could be done.

The making of leaflets in foreign languages was all done in New York City and all the envelopes addressed in Manhattan.

So that no votes might be lost a specially designed sample ballot was made up for the aliens, printed in their own language, showing them just how to vote either straight or split.

How effective this method was proved itself in the Ninth Ward of Providence, the Italian section, where in what is called a State representative district, Hughes defeated Wilson by 109 votes, and Gerry had 116 over Lippitt.

Much missionary work was done quietly by educated Frenchmen from Boston, who day by day enlisted a few converted volunteers. The final result was a hitherto unheard of reduction in the French Republican vote. A selected band of French Canadian voters resident in Rhode Island took care of the Gerry campaign in the last three days among the French speaking.

The leaders directing the men made less noise than a wild duck alighting on the sea. Their work was done before anybody knew they were on the ground, and yet for three weeks they had been daily reporting to General Hamilton the progress of a campaign which they felt would be surely successful unless Mr. Hughes swept the State by an unusual vote.

Two well known Swedes from New York city visited the singing societies in Providence, Cranston and Newport. They repeated these visits after the sample ballot had gone out, and found their reception warm to the point that they were sure one-half of the Swedish vote would go to Gerry.

The proper atmosphere had been created a week before the election, when, under General Hamilton's direction, a broadside of advertising went into every newspaper that would accept it. It was rapid fire wholly

new to conservative Rhode Island campaigning.

Through the newspapers, all of them unfriendly to Mr. Gerry, desperate efforts were made to avert the disaster. Editorial writers blazed away at him every day. The discovery of the foreign language leaflets and sample ballots enraged the Lippitt men. The blow had come too late to be successfully countered. From every point in the last seventy-two hours came to the Lippitt camp stories of strangers working in the foreign colonies with marked effect. Frenchmen in Woonsocket, Arctic, Central Falls and Pawtucket were openly talking to Gerry.

By Saturday night before election the men who had secretly conducted the Gerry campaign, and who even then were unknown to their foes, were in hopes that Mr. Wilson would carry Rhode Island. They were in no doubt about Gerry, and the believed the current for him might sweep in the national ticket. As it was, Hughes had only 5,000 to spare; the 7,000 majority for Gerry had swept many a voter to the straight Democratic ticket.

Throughout it all Mr. Gerry's hand was on the levers. He consulted with General Hamilton at least twice a day, and every move was well thought out. Once a decision was reached on any point it was never reconsidered. From that time on it was a case of military precision in every movement. Two well known members of the New York National Guard, on General Hamilton's political staff for the time being, helped this result, as did a former trusted lieutenant of Grover Cleveland.

During his Congressional term he occupied a house in Massachusetts avenue owned by Dr. and Mrs. Morris Murray. He and his wife spend a part of each spring in Washington, usually living on their yacht, Owers, always one of the show boats to anchor at the capitol.

It is believed that the Senator-elect and Mrs. Gerry will pass much of the coming winter with Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Gerry's mother. Mrs. Townsend has recently done over the interior of her home in Massachusetts avenue, which makes it without exception the handsomest in Washington.

Mrs. Gerry is a friend of Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Mme. Riano, wife of the Spanish Ambassador; Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., and Mrs. William F. Hite, the former Miss Katherine Elkins, who had a royal suitor in the person of the Duke of Abruzzi. President Taft was a guest at her wedding when he toasted her as the "most beautiful bride he had ever seen."

Mr. Wolcott is a farmer's son who "worked his way" during his last two years at the Connecticut Wesleyan University at Middletown.

He is now Attorney-General of Delaware, a \$2,000 a year post. His election to the Senate came after many members of the Du Pont family had thrown their strength against Senator Henry A. Du Pont and so prevented his gaining another term.

Mr. Wolcott is an anti-suffragist. He believes in a great navy and in compulsory military training. He is for "hands off" in Mexico.

Wolcott is a name prominent in American history. Oliver Wolcott, of Connecticut, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His son, Oliver, was secretary of the treasury from 1795 to 1800. Roger was Governor of Massachusetts, Edward Oliver a senator from Colorado. The new Senator is a man to keep an eye on.

* THIS DATE IN HISTORY. *

1816—Beginning of a great fire at Halifax, Nova Scotia, which destroyed many business houses of the town.

Seventy-five Years Ago Today, 1841—Earl of Westmoreland, noted English diplomatist and a former Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, died at Brighton, England.

Fifty Years Ago Today, 1866—The first parliament of united Italy was opened by King Victor Emanuel in person.

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