

The True Story Of Woodrow Wilson
By DAVID LAWRENCE

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Chapter I
Woodrow Wilson died as he lived—unexplained and unrequited. None—not even his intimates—ever knew the mental processes which crystallized his decisions on policy or converted friendships of a life-time into the coldness of utter detachment. Those who held office under him lived in fear of his disfavor—they repressed their criticisms. Those with whom he broke were involuntarily prejudiced against him—they exaggerated his defects and minimized his virtues.

Stern and impassive yet emotional, calm and patient yet quick tempered and impulsive, forgetful of those who had served him yet devoted to many who had rendered him minor service, unforgiving and fierce in his contempt for some who had dared to disagree with him yet generous with others even to the extent of appointing them to high office, precise and business-like and yet upon occasion illogical without more reason than intuition itself, seclusive yet a crusader for the larger purposes of democracy—thus might his characteristic contradictions be incoherently grouped in a series of paradoxes.

And even these are not all the attributes of the strange personality of Woodrow Wilson. The author knew Woodrow Wilson for eighteen years, stood at close range through the rise and fall of his eventful career, felt the throbs of his efforts for a better humanity, watched the inconsistencies of policy develop, perceived the boldness by which almost alone he embarked on major programs, and often took note of the eccentricities of a personality perplexing to all but those who blindly accepted his leadership.

This chronicle and analysis of the man whose words during the World War were broadcast to the four corners of the earth, as had happened to no other American in history, is not intended to give aid and comfort either to those who saw in Woodrow Wilson an empirical opportunist of boundless ambition, arbitrary and tyrannical in the exercise of his power, or to those who with partisan zeal placed the stamp of unqualified approval on his acts personal and political, his singular concepts of party discipline or international intercourse.

The author essays a task of historical disclosure because in all the years of his acquaintance with Woodrow Wilson no favor was sought and none given. No obligation was incurred, no political allegiance established. Most of the time it fell to the author's lot as a newspaper reporter to see behind the curtains of events. It was a scrutiny based upon a professional labor prompted by never-ending demands of present day journalism, a scrutiny resented at times by Mr. Wilson himself, tolerated upon occasions as a necessary evil but never wholly accepted by him as the corollary of that "pitiless publicity" which in an unguarded moment of impromptu speech he coined as a slogan for his first administration.

Books no doubt will be written revealing various aspects of Woodrow Wilson's life hitherto inadequately outlined. Letters, documents, conversations, passing remarks—these will serve to chart more accurately the turbulent course of his extraordinary career but there can be no departure by those who know the truth from the inescapable facts which made him to some a wrathful chieftain impatient and headstrong and to others the harassed prophet of a new day.

Turning points there were in the career of Woodrow Wilson, separated, indeed, by intervals of besetting circumstances but climaxing nevertheless which marked assuredly his progress from the clustered atmosphere of the college to the forefront of the world stage itself in the greatest crisis of modern times. They were like acts in a drama with a touch of comedy here and there, a triumphant rise over enemies who wished him ill and plotted his defeat, and a tragic collapse at the moment he most needed the physical strength to carry forward his greatest battle.

Seemingly connected as if by predestination were the major occurrences in Woodrow Wilson's life. Defeat at Princeton forced him reluctantly into the realm of national politics. Repudiation of the man who had practically made possible his nomination as governor of New Jersey in 1910 won nation wide attention even as the cry of "Ingrate" was raised. His sensational victory at the national convention in 1912 after an unprecedented series of ballots took on the fervor of a crusade. The college professor who had become in his day the most noted authority on the doctrines of constitutional government had the unexampled opportunity to put his theory into actual practice.

Again and again Woodrow Wilson, sure-footed, confident, self-reliant, so far as the outside world was concerned, seemed on the verge of a great blunder only to be saved therefrom by the insistent counsel of his colleagues and advisers. As fascinating as the tale of what Woodrow Wilson wanted to do but did not is the story of the spectacular things he did do, some of them too in direct opposition to his most faithful friends and counsellors.

Romance, which in the lives of all great men has played a dominating role, runs through the drama of the Wilsonian career, affecting him at times most profoundly. In all history perhaps there is no statesman who was so deeply influenced or as quickly stimulated in intellectual vigor by an atmosphere of feminine brilliance. It raised him to the

loftiest heights. Chivalrous, always wholesome, susceptible to the charms of those he loved, the unpublished writings of Woodrow Wilson apart from the affairs of state constitute a most remarkable collection of literary gems. The world missed a great novelist in Woodrow Wilson. His spontaneity was genius itself.

The death of the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson in 1914 nearly wasted away the moody husband who survived her. The courtship and marriage following a tomlike melancholy of six months in the White House which alarmed his physicians and family, gave Woodrow Wilson the inspiration to carry on in the Great War. It was the largest single factor in prolonging his life four years and a half beyond the ill-omened day when there came an end to his famous speaking trip for the League of Nations.

Consistency he often threw to the winds, obstinacy reared itself implacably at moments when compromise would have won the day. That which happened before his physical collapse must be judged differently than that which occurred thereafter. Had he retained his health, Woodrow Wilson, just as sure as day follows night, would have accepted reservations to the Versailles treaty and secured thereby the acceptance by the United States of membership in the League of Nations. He was almost persuaded to do so on his sick bed, but his illness produced a consciousness of martyrdom which together with the exclusion of outside advice made him irritable and inflexible.

The purpose of this biographical study, however, is not to construct a defense of the temperament of Woodrow Wilson nor to cast X-rays of penetrating criticism on his mode of self-expression. The story is unfolded for no other purpose than to place on record a dispassionate narrative of the man who traveled not

WOMEN GRATEFUL FOR MOTHER'S AID

Has Helped In Friendly Practical Way To Keep The Family Together and Bring Up Their Children

Raleigh, Feb. 25—It is not merely dollars from State and County that the beneficiaries of Mothers' Aid in North Carolina receive, but encouragement and assistance in getting profitable work, in establishing respectable homes, in keeping their children in school and in many other ways leading to the general improvement of the manner of life, according to Miss Emeth Tuttle, Director of Mothers' Aid for the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Mothers' Aid made possible by the General Assembly of 1923 has ministered in North Carolina since the first of July, 1923. Since that time 130 women in 48 counties in the State have received assistance, it was stated.

Miss Tuttle cites several cases showing the human interest side of Mothers' Aid. One of the most typical cases where Mothers' Aid has prevented the breaking up of a family is that of a woman who already had two children in an orphanage and had been forced to

the accustomed path of the politician, practicing the arts that make for personal popularity; but the road that combined personal magnetism with the sheer power of intellect, a road that marks the unparalleled ascent of a college professor to the throne of moral leader in a world torn between intense commercialism and Christian idealism.

(Tomorrow's chapter deals with the relations between Woodrow Wilson and Grover Cleveland—a hitherto untold story.)

make application at institutions for her other three. This was the situation when she applied for aid. Now she is able to keep the three children with her and hopes eventually to get her whole family together. Before receiving the aid she had not had money enough to secure treatment for one of her children who had defective eyes, it was stated, but now the little boy is being treated by a specialist.

Housing has been a problem in practically every case of Mothers' Aid, according to Miss Tuttle. One county superintendent of public welfare found a family living down in the woods in a one room house. The woman had seen better days. Her second husband had deserted her. The first Mother's Aid check was used by this woman to buy furniture for another house which the welfare superintendent had provided for her. The woman keeps the house spotlessly clean and there is a marked contrast with her former abode, Miss Tuttle said. The superintendent has asked for the co-operation of the local home demonstration agent in the teaching of the oldest girl, a cripple, millinery and basketry, so that she may help in supporting the family.

Another woman aided, it was pointed out, was one who for some time needed an operation for appendicitis, but "could not take time for it" as she had to work in a store to support her children. Mothers' Aid made it possible for her to have the operation and thus be in better physical condition to work for her children.

In another case, the superintendent of public welfare administering Mothers' Aid has been a promoter of good reading in the home. She found a cheap magazine, the only piece of reading matter in the house, it was stated, and so interested the people in the case with good reading matter and has now supplied them with good books of real worth.

"The idea behind the Mothers' Aid, says Miss Tuttle, "is not to keep the wolf from the door, but to keep the wolf from coming up the path. We want to help those people before they have come to dire poverty with its resulting loss

of morale. Mothers' Aid is friendly help. The county superintendent of public welfare, and through him, the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, keep in touch with each case which is thoroughly investigated before the aid is granted. It is required that recipients be women of good moral and mental and physical character. Mothers are asked to keep a strict monthly account of expenditures of the funds received from State and County. The ultimate object of Mothers' Aid is to bring the family to a state where it is self supporting and where the aid is no longer necessary." Miss Tuttle herself has visited and investigated Mothers' Aid cases in 31 of the 48 counties where it has been granted.

It is desired that while receiving this aid, the mother contribute as much as possible to the support of her family through her own efforts without neglecting her children, according to Miss Tuttle. To this end several forms of employment which can be followed in the home have been suggested, such as sewing millinery, raising chickens, and laundry work. Several superintendents have arranged for mothers to buy a washing machine on the installment plan.

In the administration of the Mothers' Aid the co-operation of other State agencies, like the Division of Home Demonstration and the State Board of Health is sought by the public welfare forces. The director wishes to get a physical examination of every child of women receiving Mothers' Aid. It is also the effort of the county superintendents of public welfare to put the children in good physical condition by seeing that they get the right sort of food, and to keep them in school. The individual needs of each child in the Mothers' Aid families are studied, it was explained.

"Just as soon as I see my way ahead, I want my name to come off the list, so some other woman can get help," says one grateful woman to whom the Mothers' Aid has been granted. In general, the women are touching in their gratitude, it was explained.

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