

The True Story Of Woodrow Wilson

By DAVID L. LAWRENCE

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Wilson and Congress

Woodrow Wilson was probably the only President of the United States who spent twenty years or more studying the power and duties of the Chief Executive long before he entered public life. The theory of government was his hobby. As a professor in Princeton University on constitutional government, his lectures were voted by the students year in and year out the most popular in the curriculum. Little did I dream, as I took notes with my classmates in the spring of 1909, that exactly four years later the professor before us would be actually applying his doctrines of government in the White House and that I would be reporting them for the Associated Press.

What was said in the lecture room in those days was by common consent a private affair. Reporters were never present. And for that reason Dr. Wilson was as free with his comments on current news as if he were in the seclusion of his own home.

It was April 1909 and President Taft had just been inaugurated after a record-breaking vote. The new President was beginning to struggle with the tariff. Aldrich was in command of the United States Senate and Cannon was enthroned in the House of Representatives. Dr. Wilson would read to us a paragraph or two from the daily newspapers giving the gist of Washington dispatches on the legislative situation and would make his comments thereon.

"Nobody in Congress," he used to say again and again, "represents the national will. Every member of the House or Senate represents his district or his state—his section. The sum total of their desire is not the national will. Only one man, the Chief Executive, is responsible to all the people. He must assume leadership and determine what is best for all and not for one section or group or class. If President Taft appreciates that he will make headway. If he does not, he will fail."

Presently the dispatches from Washington announced that President Taft had summoned Messrs. Aldrich and Cannon and other Republican leaders in Congress to the White House urging them to frame a tariff law that would be in the national interest. This particular development elicited from Dr. Wilson warm expressions of approval and prompted a comment on the Rooseveltian attitude toward Congress.

"Whatever else we may think or say of Theodore Roosevelt," remarked Dr. Wilson, "we must admit that he was an aggressive leader. He led Congress—he was not driven by Congress. We may not approve of his methods but we must concede that he made Congress follow him."

Two years later when Woodrow Wilson had been inaugurated Governor of New Jersey after a campaign that was full of cynicism about the "schoolmaster in politics", the professor tried out his theory on the members of the state legislature. The Democrats had called a caucus to adopt a legislative program. No one ever had thought of having the Governor present at such a meeting. But Mr. Wilson attended. It precipitated a debate as to the propriety of his presence there. One of the speakers insisted that the Executive of the state had no business in a conference of members of the legislature. Some one proposed that the Governor be formally invited by resolution. Mr. Wilson did not share the opinion that a conference of his party colleagues was such a formal affair that the leader of the party could not drop in if he cared to do so. Finally he rose to speak.

"Gentlemen" he said, "I have been elected Governor of New Jersey by the people of New Jersey, selected by the convention of the Democratic party and I thereby have become the responsible leader of the Democratic party in the state. I will be held responsible by the people at the polls. I will be held responsible for the administration of the affairs of the state of New Jersey. Each of you gentlemen will be held responsible in the districts where you were elected. I am held responsible as well as you by the same people. I am the only person in the whole state, however, to express approval or disapproval on behalf of all the people and I will express that approval or disapproval for the people by determining what we should do."

The Governor took from his inside pocket a comprehensive program he had personally typewritten.

It was a very far reaching program providing among other things for the passage of a Corrupt Practices Act governing elections, a law to authorize cities to adopt the commission form of government, and a series of proposals to reform the corporation laws of New Jersey. The Governor was on his feet arguing or answering questions for nearly three hours with the result that the conference unanimously adopted his program and within a few months thereafter the suggestions were enacted into law.

In those days the state legislature elected United States Senators. The primary system had been introduced as a means of expressing party desires but was not yet binding upon the party organization. James E. Martine had entered the primaries for the senatorial nomination but the leaders were inclined to regard the primary as purely advisory and not mandatory. Woodrow Wilson could not have been nominated by the state convention for governor in 1919 but for the support of former United States Senator James Smith and his henchmen. Indeed, while Woodrow Wilson as candidate had made no promises—the politicians accused him of base ingratitude when he later turned on Smith, the very man who had made his entry into public life possible. But Governor Wilson stood by the primary and persuaded the State legislature to do likewise. He felt that the wishes of the people expressed in a specific way at an election could not be disregarded. It cost him a friendship and won him in later years not even the uninterrupted support of the man whom he had helped into the United States Senate for Mr. Martine frequently departed from the leadership of President

Wilson. The Martine affair however was but an incident. It emphasized merely that Woodrow Wilson felt the weight of his responsibility as party leader. On becoming a state executive, he practiced in office what he had preached in college. It caught the imagination of Democrats throughout the United States and helped immeasurably in bringing him to the front as a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

(Tomorrow's chapter tells how Wilson's theory of leadership led him to contemplate resigning the Presidency of United States when his policies were threatened with defeat.)

PARAFFINE MILK BOTTLES FOR QUARANTINED CONSUMERS

Reading, Pa., Feb. 28 — City authorities have asked the aid of milk companies in seeing that milk is delivered to families under quarantine by health authorities only in paraffined paper bottles which may be burned when emptied.

SEEK PREVENT MIGRATION

Richmond, Va., Feb. 28 (By The Consolidated Press) — Labor agents are lined up solidly against the bill now pending in the General Assembly that calls for a \$5,000 license for labor agents who secure labor in this state for work outside. Conviction for violating this law would carry a fine of from \$100 to \$5,000 and a jail term. The bill is designed in part to prevent further migrating of negroes from Virginia farms to Northern factories.

SHEEP MEN BELIEVE WOOL TO GO HIGHER

Seattle, Feb. 28 — Sheep men in Washington, Oregon and Idaho are confident wool prices will be higher owing to spread of co-operative marketing and figure so strongly on getting more money for their clips that they are declining to contract for the wool on the sheep's back.

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Celery, Extra Fancy	Carrots and Coconuts

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Wesson OIL, pint can 28c; Quart can 51c
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WELCH'S Peachade or Plumade, large jar 30c
Grapelade, large jar 27c

Ballard's Pancake Flour, 14c
pkgs. 14c
Ballard's Buckwheat Flour, 14c
pkgs. 14c
Princine Baking Powder, 17c
1/2 lb can 17c
Pound can 30c
Rumford's Baking Powder, 17c
1/2 lb can 17c
Pound can 32c
Bicarbonate Soda, 5c
10 oz. pkg. 5c
Borax, 20 Mule Team, 14c
lb. pkg. 14c
Herring Roe, can 14c & 25c
Heinz Baked Beans, 9c & 14c

Curtico Bros. Blue Label CATSUP, bottle 18c
French's Mustard, bot. 12 1/2c
Olive Oil, bot. 10c
Jelly, Gibb's, glass 10c
Hamilton's Pure Jelly, glass 14c
Sweet Red Peppers, can 15c
Shrimp (Dry Pack) can 20c
Dried Beef Wafer, Sliced, glass 14c
Peanut Butter, glass 15c and 23c
Baker's Coconut, can 15c
Ammonia, cloudy and extra strong, bot. 10c

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3 oz. 8 oz. Pt. jar
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