

The True Story Of Woodrow Wilson

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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Wilson's Break With House

There was never a break between Colonel House and President Wilson. Strictly speaking it was a coolness and a separation — in contrast with the warm friendship and intimacy of nearly eight years. After leaving the White House Woodrow Wilson never saw Colonel House again.

Like all great men, Mr. Wilson had certain weaknesses and one was a peculiar susceptibility to what traditionally is known as "court gossip" and what in the parlance of an American democracy is sometimes defined as "tattle." Prejudices were conveyed to him by those who tried to sway his judgment and Mr. Wilson unconsciously absorbed those prejudices and dropped many of his friends without even giving them an opportunity to present their side of a controversy.

The experience of President Wilson with Colonel House is probably unprecedented in all history. It has about it an air of mystery as well as tragedy. No man served another with the same zeal and with the same indifference to reward as did Colonel E. M. House. His discharge from the President's confidence occurred in Paris. It was as such a shock to Colonel House himself as it was to all who had followed the Damon and Pythias relationship which had sprung up between the two men.

conducted all his conferences with the President at the Hotel Crillon. Gossip had it that he never explained the newspaper article to Mrs. Wilson. Nor was there anything to explain. He was not responsible for the speculative comments of the newspaper. The Colonel was cut to the quick by the coolness which Mrs. Wilson had shown and which the President himself developed immediately afterward.

There is another phase of the episode which played an important part. Colonel House was naturally of a conciliatory disposition. He was always trying to keep the allied statesmen in good humor and while he had no power to commit the American Peace Mission to concessions he was trying constantly to bring about an early peace and a series of agreements which would make all the powers feel more kind toward the treaty itself as well as the League of Nations.

Mr. Wilson was warned shortly after he arrived in Paris that Colonel House had made arrangements with the various allied statesmen which would make it difficult for the President to make peace. The criticism came in the form of a letter from a prominent New York editor who had been in Paris, an editor whom Mr. Wilson held in high esteem.

Wilson's Break With Lansing

No incident in American history parallels the few days in which the Government of the United States had no President; for immediately following Woodrow Wilson's physical breakdown he was unable to function as the Chief Executive.

Opinions may differ as to whether any important piece of public business was neglected—the Cabinet took care of every decision and executed every policy. But there can be no doubt that for a few days at least immediately after his return from the western trip the President was disabled and for a long time thereafter was unable to discharge the duties of his office to the extent that he did in the preceding years of his term.

Serious moments there were when it was thought Mr. Wilson would not live. As the crisis was passed and it became apparent that the President would be an invalid the rest of his life and would be unable to see many callers or write communications on matters of state, his supporters developed the fear that some one in the Senate or elsewhere would raise the question under the Constitution which provides that the Vice President shall succeed the President in case of death or inability.

The Constitution itself is not very clear on the question of what shall be done when a President is disabled. It says: "In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice President.

declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected."

Is the Vice President to become President or merely assume the duties and discharge the powers of the presidential office until the President's disability is removed? No Vice President has ever assumed office on the disability of a President and Mr. Thomas R. Marshall, who was vice president during President Wilson's incapacity, made no effort to succeed him. Congress has never passed a law specifically giving the procedure that should be followed in case of Presidential inability.

After the President suffered a stroke, his condition was so alarming that he was unable for several days to sign documents or attend to public business. The Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, called at the executive offices to learn the true condition of the President because the King and Queen of the Belgians who were in New York had expressed a desire to come to Washington if they could be received. Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, the President's physician, told Mr. Lansing that Mr. Wilson was in no condition to receive the King and Queen much as he would like to do so and that perhaps if their itinerary were rearranged the visit might be accomplished later on.

Mr. Lansing suggested that for appearances, at least, a Cabinet meeting should be called and that this would instill confidence in the country that the Government was functioning. The first meeting of the Cabinet was called with the knowledge of both the President's private secretary and his physician. Dr. Grayson attended the Cabinet meeting and reported on the improvement in Mr. Wilson's condition. There was no discussion at this or any other meeting about the Vice President succeeding Mr. Wilson.

In all 25 cabinet meetings were held and many important matters discussed and decided. Serious injury might have been done the public interest if Cabinet sessions had not been convened and there is every reason to believe that a demand would then have been made in the Senate for succession by Vice President Marshall.

When Mr. Wilson gradually recovered to the point of being able to listen to affairs of state he was apprised of the fact that Cabinet meetings had been held. He was told of the incident which led to the summoning of the Cabinet. He was unaware of the situation which had existed and of the practically unanimous belief of all his advisers that the holding of Cabinet meetings would preserve public confidence in the Government while he was unable to function. He demanded the resignation of the Secretary of State Lansing as a punishment and example.

There were, of course, contributory reasons such as the dissent expressed at Paris by Mr. Lansing with respect to the Shantung settlement in the Versailles Treaty of Peace. Mr. Wilson showed displeasure, for instance, on his Western trip when

he received a telegram from Mr. Lansing stating that one of the attaches of the American Peace Mission testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had revealed Mr. Lansing's disagreement with the President on the Shantung question, a circumstance which had up to that time been rumored but not confirmed and which, of course, was ammunition for Mr. Wilson's opponents in the treaty fight.

What Mr. Lansing did as Secretary of State—the responsible officer of the Government who must certify to all proclamations and whose duty under the law it is to notify the Vice President of the death or disability of the President, undoubtedly was just the thing that would irritate an individual who felt he was by no means incapacitated. An impartial judgment of the affair cannot but lead to the conclusion that the unprecedented functioning of the Cabinet as an entity without executive direction, guidance or authority except as derived by implication from the statutes was a tactful move which prevented the unpleasant question of technical disability from being raised by the many who were opposed to Mr. Wilson in those bitter days of the treaty fight.

The President's abaky signature to public documents and the gradual improvement thereafter in his handwriting tell a story of how difficult it was for the President to carry on in his hours of physical distress. He was incapable of sustained effort. At first he could give an hour or so to official duties and later two hours and then more as his health improved. Only the most important matters were placed before him in the limited time that his physicians said he could afford to give to public business.

Unfavorable news was withheld from Mr. Wilson and nothing was done that was in the least calculated to excite or disturb him. Mr. Wilson was given to emotional outbursts, wept very often, and grew melancholy over his breakdown.

Throughout this period, Mrs. Wilson was constantly at his bedside as was also his eldest daughter, Miss Margaret. The devotion of the wife and daughter was no small factor in nursing the President back to more and more participation in public affairs. Mrs. Wilson stood between her husband and the Government, indeed between him and the outside world. It was she who acted as personal secretary, taking notes and writing memoranda and messages to the various Cabinet officers and officials of the Government generally. Even the private secretary, Mr. Tumulty, refrained from entering the bed-chamber except when sent for. He placed his memoranda on vital questions before Mrs. Wilson leaving it to her to discover the proper moment to ask the President for his opinion or decision. She was, so to speak, the reigning monarch.

An annual address had to be sent to Congress in December, 1919, and also in December, 1920. On both occasions, Mr. Wilson was spared the necessity of composition. His Cabinet officers wrote memoranda on the topics that had to be covered in these messages and, with the help of Secretary Tumulty who wove them together, the documents were put into finished form and read to Mr. Wilson who with a few changes gave his approval and so was able to fulfill his constitutional function of reporting to Congress on the state of the Union. Thus did his intimates struggle to keep up appearances in the days when America really had no President.

(Tomorrow's chapter tells of Woodrow Wilson's relations with the press.)

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE Under and by virtue of a deed of trust executed to the undersigned trustee, by W. E. Green and wife, Sarah Green, and which instrument bears date of January 13, 1920, and recorded in Book 50, Page 55, Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, default having been made in the payment of the note secured by said instrument of conveyance, the undersigned, J. B. Leigh, Trustee, will on Saturday, April 13, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, offer for sale, for cash, and to the highest bidder, at the Court House door of said county, the following described real estate, to-wit: Situated in Pasquotank County, in the town of Elizabeth City, and bounded as follows: On the North by P. W. Moore and T. A. Smith, (formerly the lands of Mrs. Thomas Palmer); on the East by the lands of Mrs. Robert; on the West by Jerry Davis, and being the land this day purchased of said W. L. Cohoon, and conveyed to him by W. E. Dunstan and wife, Emma Dunstan, and which deed is referred to for a more complete description. The said deed is recorded in Book 50, Page 55, Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, default having been made in the payment of the note secured by said instrument of conveyance, the undersigned, T. J. Markham, Trustee, will on Saturday, April 13, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, offer for sale, for cash, and to the highest bidder, at the Court House door of said County, the following described real estate, to-wit: Situated on the North side of York Street, in what is known as "Sawyer Town," within the corporate limits of Elizabeth City, and being known and designated as Lot Number 172, in the plat of M. N. Sawyer, as the same appears of record in Book 16, Page 247, of the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, 1924. Dated and posted this 19th day of March, 1924. T. J. MARKHAM, Trustee. mar.25.31.apr.7.14

NOTICE OF SALE Under and by virtue of a deed of trust executed to the undersigned trustee, by George J. Spencer and wife, Mrs. J. Spencer, and which instrument bears date of January 24, 1922, and recorded in Book 27, Page 99, Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, default having been made in the payment of the note secured by said instrument of conveyance, the undersigned, T. J. Markham, Trustee, will on Saturday, April 13, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, offer for sale, for cash, and to the highest bidder, at the Court House door of said County, the following described real estate, to-wit: Situated on the North side of York Street, in what is known as "Sawyer Town," within the corporate limits of Elizabeth City, and being known and designated as Lot Number 172, in the plat of M. N. Sawyer, as the same appears of record in Book 16, Page 247, of the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, 1924. Dated and posted this 19th day of March, 1924. T. J. MARKHAM, Trustee. mar.25.31.apr.7.14

NOTICE OF SUMMONS The defendant above named will hereby take notice that an action has been commenced in the Superior Court of Pasquotank County, North Carolina, for the purpose of obtaining a divorce a vinculo from said defendant, and that the said action is returnable to the Clerk of said court on the 21st day of April, 1924, at which time and place you are required to appear and answer or demur to the complaint now filed in said court, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. This the 20th day of March, 1924. ERNEST L. SAWYER, Clerk Superior Court. mar.25.31.apr.7.14

NOTICE OF SALE By virtue of a deed of trust executed on the 1st day of November, 1923, by W. H. Jenkinson, Trustee, to W. A. Worth, Trustee, which deed of trust is recorded in Book 21, page 255, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Hyde County, N. C., default having been made in the payment thereof, the said Trustee will, on the 25th day of March, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the Court House door of said County, N. C., all the land and improvements of land located in Lake Landing Township, Hyde County, N. C., and described as follows: Bounded on the North by the original boundary or shore of Lake Matamoras; on the West by the J. W. Roper land; on the South by the J. W. Roper land; and on the East by the M. M. Fisher home land, containing 310 acres, more or less, and being a part of the land known as the Mason Gibson tract and the said lands which the said W. H. Jenkinson purchased by deed from George Fisher, by deed dated January 27th, 1913, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Hyde County, N. C., in Book 36, page 415, and which he took under the last Will and Testament of John W. Fisher, by deed dated February 25th, 1887, and recorded in Will Book 11, page 272, and reference is hereby made to said deed and will for further description of said land and the lands therein conveyed. This notice dated and posted this 27th day of February, 1924. W. A. WORTH, Trustee. feb.27.mar.3.10.17

NOTICE OF SALE By virtue of the powers contained in a certain deed of trust executed on the 11th day of May, 1922, by H. M. Sealey and wife, to W. A. Worth, Trustee, which deed is recorded in Book 27, page 306, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, the Trustee will, on the 11th day of March, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the Court House door of Pasquotank County, N. C., sell at public auction the highest bidder for cash, that certain tract of land situated in and being in the town of Elizabeth City, N. C., and described as follows: Those certain lands situated in Elizabeth City, N. C., being that certain lot lying on the North side of Parsons street, beginning at a point on the Northwest side of Parsons street, and extending westerly from Poplar street; and being known and designated as Lot No. 2 on the Plat of C. W. and Jeter of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., in Book 21, page 6, said lot being bounded on the East by Lot No. 1, on the South by Parsons street, and on the West by Lot No. 3, and on the North by the West lot No. 2, and being the same lot conveyed to the H. M. Sealey by deed, and being the same lot conveyed by deed dated March 13th, 1922, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., in Book 21, page 6. Dated this 20th day of February, 1924. W. A. WORTH, Trustee. feb.20.mar.3.10.17.24

NOTICE OF SUMMONS The defendant above named will hereby take notice that an action has been commenced in the Superior Court of Camden County, North Carolina, for the purpose of obtaining a divorce a vinculo from said defendant, and that the said action is returnable to the Clerk of said court on the 21st day of April, 1924, at which time and place you are required to appear and answer or demur to the complaint now filed in said court, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. This the 19th day of March, 1924. W. J. BURGESS, Clerk Superior Court. mar.25.31.apr.7.14

NOTICE OF SALE By virtue of the powers contained in a certain deed of trust executed on the 11th day of May, 1922, by H. M. Sealey and wife, to W. A. Worth, Trustee, which deed is recorded in Book 27, page 306, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, the Trustee will, on the 11th day of March, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the Court House door of Pasquotank County, N. C., sell at public auction the highest bidder for cash, that certain tract of land situated in and being in the town of Elizabeth City, N. C., and described as follows: Those certain lands situated in Elizabeth City, N. C., being that certain lot lying on the North side of Parsons street, beginning at a point on the Northwest side of Parsons street, and extending westerly from Poplar street; and being known and designated as Lot No. 2 on the Plat of C. W. and Jeter of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., in Book 21, page 6, said lot being bounded on the East by Lot No. 1, on the South by Parsons street, and on the West by Lot No. 3, and on the North by the West lot No. 2, and being the same lot conveyed to the H. M. Sealey by deed, and being the same lot conveyed by deed dated March 13th, 1922, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., in Book 21, page 6. Dated this 20th day of February, 1924. W. A. WORTH, Trustee. feb.20.mar.3.10.17.24

NOTICE OF SALE By virtue of a Deed of Trust executed to me by E. V. Newbold for certain purposes therein mentioned, which said Deed of Trust bears date July 24th, 1920, and is recorded in the Register's Office of Pasquotank County in Book No. 21, page 203, and which said Deed of Trust is subject to a public auction for the purpose of satisfying the public auction for the property as conveyed to me as Trustee; Being one acre and more or less situated on the North side of Queen street and known as Lot No. 76 in the plat of John G. Edgeridge, recorded in the Register's Office in Book No. 21, page 203, containing Forty feet fronting on Queen street and running back to the back line about one hundred feet. March 10th, 1924. F. G. SAWYER, Trustee. mar.11.17.24.31

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Having qualified as Administratrix of the late David Horton I hereby give notice to all persons indebted to his estate to come forward and make immediate settlement, and to those claiming against the same to present their claims within twelve months from the date of this notice, or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Administratrix of estate of David Horton, deceased. February 28th, 1924. feb.29.mar.3.10.17.24.31

NOTICE OF SALE By virtue of the powers contained in a certain deed of trust executed on the 3th day of March, 1923, by H. M. Sealey and wife, Bessie Sealey, to W. A. Worth, Trustee, which deed is recorded in Book 27, page 306, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C., default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, the Trustee will, on the 11th day of March, 1924, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the Court House door of Pasquotank County, N. C., sell at public auction the highest bidder for cash, that certain tract of land situated in and being in the town of Elizabeth City, N. C., and described as follows: FIRST TRACT: Situated on the corner of Sixth and Broad streets, and being the same lands conveyed to the said H. M. Sealey by C. D. Gallip and wife, by deed in Book 54, page 371, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C. SECOND TRACT: Situated on the North side of Broad street, and being the same lands conveyed to the said H. M. Sealey by W. A. Worth, mortgagor, by deed in Book 52, page 426, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C. THIRD TRACT: Situated on the North side of Broad street and known as Lot 211 on the Plat of Conrow, Bush & Lippincott, and being the same property conveyed to H. M. Sealey by R. W. Hartman and wife, by deed recorded in Book 2, page 434, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C. Also the following farm lands, with improvements thereon, to-wit: Containing 80 acres, more or less, and being the same lands conveyed to the said H. M. Sealey by J. K. Wilson and wife, by deed recorded in Book 2, page 180, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Pasquotank County, N. C. Dated this 20th day of February, 1924. W. A. WORTH, Trustee. feb.20.mar.3.10.17.24

Sweater Suits and Sweaters. We have received some new things in Knitted Wear, which we know are the season's favorite styles. SWEATER SUITS, \$7.95 to \$13.50. SWEATERS, \$3.98 to \$9.50. Switchel's THE STYLE CENTER. O. F. GILBERT, Prop.

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