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GOVERNMENT IN NEW HANDS

President Taft Takes Oath of Office in Senate Chamber Because of Blinding Snow Storm Raging Without.

Washington, Special.—With all the homage that assembled thousands, representative of every State, almost every hamlet, of the nation could pay, the accompaniment of martial music, the rhythmic tramp of soldiers' feet, the echo of saluting guns, the unchecked enthusiasm privileged only to a free people of a great republic, William Howard Taft, of Ohio, Thursday became the twenty-seventh President of the United States.

And not without its influence upon the day and the epoch-making event was the exit of Theodore Roosevelt heralded by countless admirers for seven years past as the most picturesque, the most virile, and one of the greatest figures ever upon the stage of American public life.

Panoramic Decorations. The inspiring melody of national airs, of folk songs, of blood-stirring

lifted, unflinchingly uttered the oath of office, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States," kissed an open Bible in the hands of Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, and stood erect.—President of the greatest nation on earth.

After his inaugural address hundreds pressed about to grasp his hand, until at last he slipped away to the President's room in the Senate, where he rested a few minutes before beginning the return to the White House.

Roosevelt Withdraws. The retiring President loath to divide the honor with his successor, quietly began the journey to the Union Station, where he took a special train for Oyster Bay.

The new President and Mrs. Taft were alone in the first carriage, and the drive from the Capitol to the

WITH N. C. LAWMAKERS

Doings of the State Legislature Condensed—Interesting Items from Day to Day.

The revenue bill was complete Friday in the Senate and passed final reading with some few sections reserved for adjustment through conference committees on differences between the Senate and the House on their provisions. For instance, the sections fixing taxation on express, telegraph and telephone companies were reserved because the Senate will not agree to the increase made against these corporations by the House, which also added a provision that towns be allowed to require local license taxes. The section taxing manufacturers and dealers in cigarettes is also held up because the Senate excepts to the tax of \$1,500 on makers of 500,000,000 and more as compared with the low present law tax against those handling less quantities. It is feared that this discrepancy would have the effect of knocking out the entire section as discriminatory.

A bill passed final reading in the Senate to make April 12th legal holiday on account of Halifax resolutions.

The bill to appropriate \$2,500 toward a statue to Henry L. Wyatt came up as a special order. The bill provides that this appropriation shall be available when a like amount shall have been raised from other sources, the monument to be in Capitol Square. It developed that \$2,000 is already in hand from popular contributions through the Selma Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy. There were only three votes against it on second reading and the passage on final reading was unanimous.

The adoption of Ashe's History for North Carolina schools was attended with protest. Speaker Graham spoke for Mr. Dowd's motion, saying that the act would necessitate the changing of the State flag and he would say to the patriots of Mecklenburg that they declared their independence on May 20th, 1775. He spoke with feeling against disturbing the best historical traditions. The motion to reconsider the vote was carried.

Mr. Doughton's bill heretofore passed in the Senate to make the pensions appropriation \$450,000 and the school appropriation \$125,000 passed without a dissenting vote.

Among the bills passed, on final reading were:

S. B., amend Revisal as to uttering forged papers; S. B., requiring clerks of courts to make reports to Attorney General; S. B., amend Revisal as to advertising property for public sale; S. B., amend the Revisal as to docketing judgments, requiring description of land, if given in pleadings to be written in the judgment; S. B., amend Revisal relating to marriage ceremony; S. B., amend the Revisal as to holding inquests; S. B., provide suitable sanitary surroundings for State institutions; S. B., extend the time for settling the State debt; S. B., relative to the settlement of certain outstanding western North Carolina railroad construction bonds of the South Dakota suit class; substitute Senate bill amend the Revisal relative to the State laboratory of hygiene graduates' tax for license fee for analysis of water sold for drinking purposes now \$50, bill provides graduated tax \$15 to \$50; S. B., allow registers of deeds to appoint deputies; S. B., provide fire escapes and protect human life; S. B., authorize the purchase of Ashe's History of North Carolina in rural schools; S. B., make the giving of worthless checks or drafts prima facie evidence of intent to defraud; S. B., authorize county commissioners to offer rewards in certain cases; S. B., forbid the sale of narcotic drugs to certain habitues; authorize furnishing of Confederate uniforms to the inmates of the Soldiers' Home; provide dormitory for Colored Orphan Asylum, Oxford.

Fast and furious is the pace of the North Carolina General Assembly in the rush to clear the calendars so that there can be final adjournment at the earliest possible moment—morning, afternoon and evening sessions being the order Saturday.

The evening session was continued to nearly midnight in order that adjournment for the session may be possible Monday. Ever and anon bills of State interest, or in which local fights developed, have clogged the wheels of legislation in the rapid gait of bills passed.

The bill that got through the Senate with the "plumage badly ruffled," in that it had provided that county boards of education be authorized and directed to purchase sets of the "History of North Carolina" by Capt. S. A. Ashe for the rural schools, and was passed merely to authorize the purchase, came up in the House and afforded the biggest fight of the day, meeting its Waterloo in the end by a vote of 39 to 56,

the fight against it being led by Representative Dowd, of Mecklenburg, and Speaker Graham. They argued that history is not orthodox in its position as to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, in that it favors May 31st as the correct date instead of May 20th, 1775.

The House passed the Senate bill assuming a \$5,000 statue of Wyatt, of Edgecomb, first to fall in the civil war, this statue to be in the Capitol Square, Raleigh.

The Senate passed the following: Allow J. Bis Rya to use the index of the 1905 Revisal in his digest of decisions of the Supreme Court.

Regulate the packing and sale of fish.

Increase the salary of the assistant librarian of the Supreme Court to \$30 per month.

Provide registration of deaths in towns of 1,000 and more inhabitants.

Provide additional dormitory at the colored Orphan Asylum, Oxford.

Establish a colored reformatory for youthful criminals at Greensboro, carrying no appropriation but merely giving the institution State sanction. The vote was 19 to 6.

The Senate declined to concur in the amendment to the bill enlarging the powers of the State laboratory of hygiene, and Senators Pharr and Manning were named as a conference committee.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to the appropriations bill. The bill to increase the appropriation to the State board of health, putting a secretary in the field for all his time, was taken up as a special order, the appropriation being changed in committee from \$10,000 to \$6,000, the present appropriation being \$2,000. The bill passed and was sent to the Senate.

Some of the bills passed were: To provide for building the Statesville Air Line Railroad; Senate bill provide for examination and checking of books and accounts of State departments and State institutions by persons appointed by the Governor whenever deemed advisable; S. B., amend Revisal as to dissolution of corporations.

Expressions of appreciation of Speaker Graham as a presiding officer, and like tributes to others were passed and fittingly responded to.

Murphy, of Guilford, was recognized and proceeded in fitting words to present to Speaker Graham a handsome silver service as a token of affection from the members and clerks for the services of Mr. Graham as Speaker and for his sterling personal worth.

Mr. Henderson, after a glowing tribute to the Confederate soldier and the women of the Confederacy, secured the passage of his bill admitting to pensions those widows married to veterans between 1865 and 1868.

SPECIAL SESSION CALLED.

President Taft Issues Call For Special Session of Congress For March 15th.

Washington, Special. — President Taft Saturday issued a call for a special session of the Sixty-first Congress to convene March 15th.

The following is the text of the call: By the President of the United States of America—A Proclamation.

Whereas, public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon the 15th day of March, 1909, to receive such communication as may be made by the Executive.

Now, therefore, I, William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the City of Washington on the 15th day of March, 1909, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America the 6th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

By the President: P. C. Knox, Secretary of State.

General Items.

Servia has withdrawn her demand for territory from Austria-Hungary and will be good in the future.

The man who tried to get \$10,000 in jewels in London and cut his throat when caught has not been identified.

Some 75,000 visitors were in Washington to attend the inauguration of William H. Taft as President.

The Maryland and Virginia capital loan claims were stricken out of the General Deficiency bill, which was passed Thursday.

CLOSING OF LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers Making Gifts and Happy Speeches Along With Calendar Clearing.

Contrary to expectations the Legislature did not adjourn sine die at noon Monday the House having too much business, important and otherwise, to permit it to quit when the Senate was ready, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was a strenuous day altogether, the rush of grinding local bills through the hopper keeping up with the same force and persistency that characterized the proceedings the concluding days of the past week. The features of the day were the brilliant and successful effort of Senator Whitehead Klutz to get in his highway commission scheme, and the fight between Governor Kitchen's forces and the Representatives from New Hanover over a purely local matter, which ended in the route of the latter.

Owing to the fact that so many bills passed by the House Monday required concurrence by the Senate and then enrollment for ratification it was found impossible for the General Assembly to adjourn sine die Monday night. So this took place Tuesday. The House continued in session until nearly 2 o'clock Tuesday morning and took recess to 10 o'clock with a clear calendar.

The Senate still had some House bills to concur in.

Senator Dockery, for the members of the Senate presented, with an eloquent speech, a handsome silver tea service to Lieutenant Governor Newland, as president of the Senate. Lieutenant Governor Newland responded in an earnest and forcible speech of acceptance, thanking the Senators for sympathetic co-operation in promoting the dispatch of business. He regarded the Legislature not as made up of Democrats and Republicans but as a body of patriotic North Carolinians co-operating for the common good. Had he the power to select the Senators he would not send a single member home.

Senator Mills presented a resolution of thanks to Senator Klutz, the able young member from Rowan, for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of president pro tem. Also to Chief Clerk Maxwell and his assistants. These were adopted by a rising vote. A gold-headed cane was presented to Mr. Maxwell through Senator Klutz.

There was a further resolution of the Senate for the dignity, impartiality and ability with which President Pro Tem Klutz has performed the duties of presiding officer in the absence of Lieutenant Governor Newland.

The presentation of gifts and consequent speech-making continued for some time.

There were a number of other tokens of commendation.

In the House Monday night Mr. Underwood got the floor and proceeded in a happy speech to present to Representative Morton, of New Hanover, a handsome gold-headed cane as a token of appreciation from the members of the House for the able manner in which Mr. Morton had served as Speaker pro tem and for his sterling personal worth.

The House was convulsed with merriment at the happy speech and response.

The House passed a number of bills on final reading, viz:

County having no newspaper to adopt one for legal advertisements; protect rainbow and mountain trout; establish State conservation commission of natural resources; for State aid in the erection of a memorial to the women of the Confederacy; allow foreign executors to convey land without giving bond; amend Revisal as to the trial of civil cases; regulate distribution of samples of medicines from house to house; amend Cameron

road law; amend Revisal as to building and loan associations, preventing them from taking loans for more than six months; require foreign fire insurance companies to file securities with the Insurance Commissioner to protect policy holders in the State; amend Revisal relative to escapes; compel express companies to make prompt settlements of C. O. D. shipments; amend Revisal as to banks so they shall not commence business until \$5,000 capital is paid in and the directors have collected all notes given for stock; authorize board of internal improvement to require sufficient bonds for completion of State buildings, also bill to make the burning of an unoccupied house or boat the crime of arson.

The House passed the Senate bill to provide an Assistant Insurance Commissioner at a salary of \$1,800; provide contingent fund for the State Hospital at Raleigh to care for the epileptics; prevent boards of directors from electing from their number to positions in the institution.

TAFT A RIDER TOO

His First Sunday in the White House Spent With Simplicity

FOLLOWS ROOSEVELT EXAMPLE

Refuses to See Any Callers Who Have Business in Hand—The First Lady of the Land Takes Up Her Duties Without Ostentation or Ceremony—Already Making the Changes She Desires in "Household Cabinet."

Washington, Special.—Democratic simplicity characterized the first Sunday in the White House of the Taft family. President Taft, accompanied by his brother, Charles P. Taft, walked to the Unitarian church for morning services. The capacity of the edifice was taxed to its utmost with worshippers and strangers whose curiosity impelled their presence.

He returned to the White House on foot and after luncheon bestrode "Sterrett," his newly-acquired horse, purchased at Hot Springs, Va., and with Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, his military aide, Capt. Archibald Butt, and President Roosevelt's orderly, McDermott, went for a 12-mile ride over the newly constructed Potomac speedway.

Sees No Callers.

President Taft saw no callers who had business to transact during the day, this beginning his administration with his heretofore enforced maxim that Sunday should be a day of rest.

Mrs. Taft Fits In.

Mrs. William Howard Taft, "first lady of the land," has assumed her duties without public ceremony or oath of office, which, in weight of responsibility, magnitude of importance, delicacy of execution and absolute lack of compensation, except in love for her husband, the President, and loyalty to the nation, as its first woman, have no comparison.

Mrs. Taft is charged with administering the social and domestic affairs of the White House in a manner consistent with allowing that revered and historic pile to be the public property of the nation, and at the same time the official place of entertainment of the representatives of foreign nations and domestic dignitaries. As the wife of Mr. Taft, she was "first lady of the land" in the Philippine Islands; she was his wife as a Federal judge and as a Cabinet minister. In the latter position Mrs. Taft learned the requirements of Washington society.

Removed From Officialdom.

That the main entrance of the White House may present as nearly as possible the appearance of a private residence, the uniformed police officers and frock-coated doorkeepers have been eliminated and in their place are negro footmen in livery.

Mrs. Taft has abolished the position of steward and will conduct her domestic arrangements through a woman housekeeper.

Plans Social Functions.

While the season of prescribed official dinners is over it may be predicted that the new tenant of the White House will conduct a series of informal social functions during the special session of Congress, which will bring renewed animation and social life to the sedate and sombre structure during the first few months of the Taft regime.

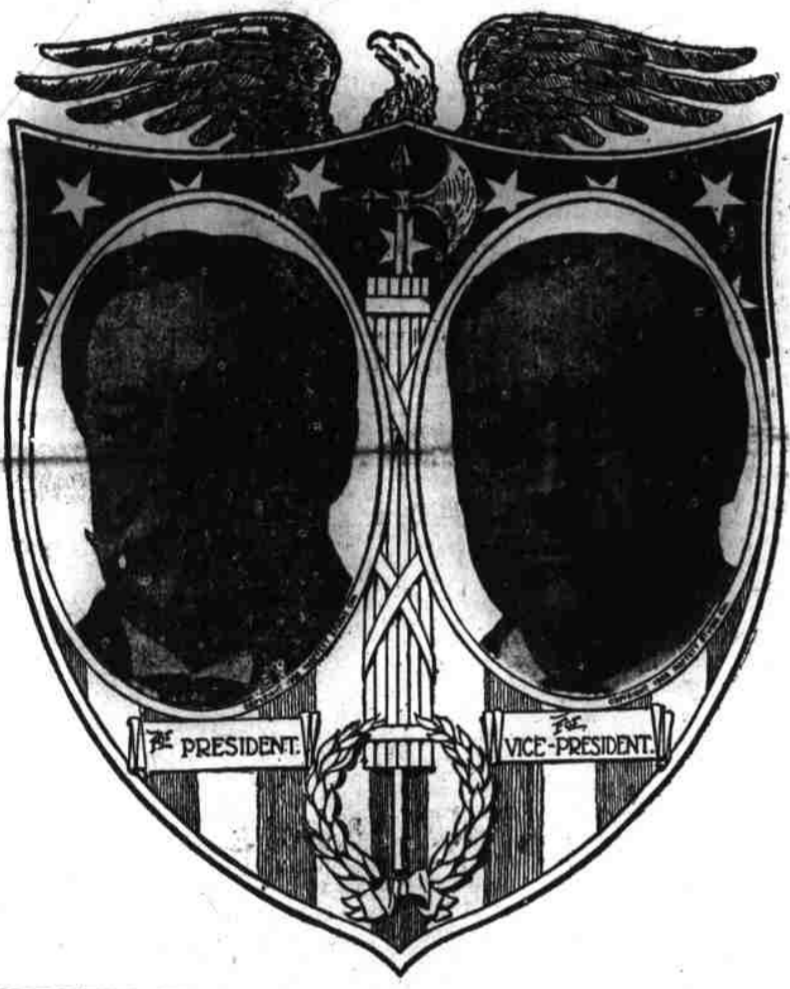
Mrs. Taft is 46 years of age, although her appearance and natural animation would not indicate that fact. To relieve the President from domestic cares and social adjustments seems to be the platform of her administration, and her first few days of duty indicate that she is as competent for the rank as is her husband for the duties to which he has been called by the nation.

Negro Burned at Stake.

Rockwell, Tex., Special.—After having been identified by Mrs. Arthur McKinney as the negro who attempted a criminal assault upon her Friday morning, Anderson Ellis was taken from the Rockwell county jail Sunday night and secured to an iron stake driven into the earth and was burned to death in the presence of about a thousand persons.

Baltimore Emerges.

Baltimore, Special.—The isolation from the outside world of which this city has been a complete victim practically since early Thursday morning was broken Sunday and the city began to see the end of the difficulty. The Associated Press office here managed to secure direct wire communication with the New York headquarters by the cordial co-operation of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company at this end and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company at the other.



marches, floats over a kaleidoscopic panorama of red, white and blue; fluttering flags, wind-flapping bunting, every form and manner of decoration that could be devised in honor of the nation's chief pays its silent tribute to the day.

By dusk the pageant passing in constant review before the Court of Honor had its end; the light of day yielded the scepter to the most gorgeous and brilliant illumination of the Capitol ever attempted; the hiss of skyrocket, the jubilant crack and boom of every form of pyrotechnic device was heard; the rumble of carriages, the shouted command of officers, the beginning of the inaugural ball, came in for their own.

The escort from the White House to the Capitol consisted of members of the G. A. R., United Spanish War Veterans, and the Army and Navy Union.

The Vice President entered the Senate chamber just before noon, and in a speech filled with emotion expressed his regret at parting with that body. The scene was an affecting one.

Vice President Sherman. Vice President Fairbanks, in his most impressive manner, administered the oath to his successor. This impressive feature over, Mr. Fairbanks handed the gavel to Vice President Sherman, the retiring Vice President taking a seat near Speaker Cannon. Mr. Sherman then began his short inaugural address.

At its conclusion he administered the oath of the new Senators, some of them re-elected, and then formally adjourned the Senate. Gradually the procession began to move to the Senate Chamber where President-elect Taft was inducted into office.

Takes the Oath. In all the day replete with history-making events the one great supreme moment was that when the shouting thousands ceased their acclaim, a solemn hush fell over the multitude, and the President-elect with hand (p.

White House down Pennsylvania avenue consumed only about fifteen minutes.

Immediately after a hasty luncheon the Presidential party proceeded down the curved walk at the western side of the White House grounds and took their position in the reviewing stand in the Court of Honor.

The parade was several miles in length, and was more than three hours in passing the reviewing point. It formed in streets surrounding the Capitol.

Who Made Up the Parade.

The greatest event in the life of William Howard Taft, now President of the United States, was now practically over. More than 22,000 soldiers and sailors, regular and volunteer, and more than 9,000 members of civic organizations were in the great parade, a total of nearly 32,000 persons.

Pyrotechnics.

The fireworks programme, which began at 8:30 o'clock contained fifty numbers, and embraced 1,000 rocket bombs, 500 batteries, 600 colored lights, 2 tons of colored fire, 50 balloons, 10,000 Roman candles, and 750 sky rockets. One of the unique features was a pillar of light 100 feet high, which was seen for miles around. The Star Spangled Banner was unfurled 1,000 feet in the air and the word, "Taft" appeared in letters of fire in the sky. This feature was accompanied by an aerial salute of twenty-one guns. The most spectacular piece was a "battle in the skies."

President Taft Leads the Dance.

President Taft and Vice President Sherman arrived at the ball at 9:30 p. m., when the grand march began which was led by Mr. Taft, who also danced in the first waltz. The brilliant uniforms of the army and navy the gorgeous dress of the diplomatic corps, and the expensive costumes of the women, all went to make a scene that will long linger in the memories of the beholders.