

THE DURBAR of DEMOCRACY

Congress of Peoples at the
PHOTOGRAPHS

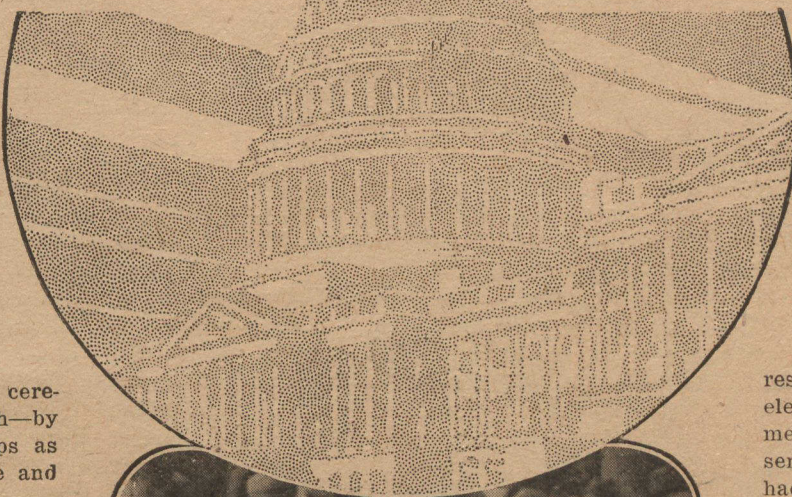
Coronation of the Silk Hat
BY UNDERWOOD

CANADA is more directly interested in the inauguration of a United States President than in any Durbar at Delhi or Calcutta. But we understand these inaugurations by comparing them with Coronations and Durbars. The ceremony that on Monday, March 5, reinstated Woodrow Wilson as monarch of the United States was absolutely democratic in form. It was monarchical in character.

Looking at the picture of the newly sworn-in President making his inaugural speech, you will notice the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who conducted the ceremony. We are told that the passage which—by accident—was touched by the President's lips as he kissed the Bible, was, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

To the left of the Chief Justice sits Mrs. Wilson, queen pro tem. of the United States. Behind him are all manner of political people most informally dressed. In front, a vast mob of 50,000 people from Washington and from all points of the compass outside of D. C. That crowd, as far as possible in the most un-American city in the United States, was America. And there never was an inauguration crowd so animated by strange American impulses as this one, which seemed to be on the verge of war with the greatest absolute-monarchy power in the world.

For another quadrennium Woodrow Wilson is a more potential king of the United States than George V. is King of England. By the combination in one man of the Chief Executive power, the supreme commands of the Army and Navy, and the leadership of a great party, the President has more actual working power than any ruler except an absolute monarch. As leader of the party he is never required to sit in Congress. When he appears in the Speaker's chair, either in the House of



Representatives or in the Senate, it is because of some special situation such as might be created by the Speech from the Throne in a British or Canadian Parliament. None of his Cabinet Ministers are required to sit in Congress. None of them are elected by the people. The entire Cabinet is the President's own choosing. In selecting them from his own party he is guided somewhat by party considerations, but is free to exercise his own personal choice independent of that. The executive acts of these Ministers are under his control. They are not directly responsible to Congress, because they are not elected by the people. All Civil Service appointments are in the hands of the Executive as represented by the President. If the King of England had this power alone he would have to dream himself back into the days of James I. and Divine Right. The President has power of veto over acts of Congress, though once in a while his veto is over-ruled. He is technically Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, as the King of England is, but the King of England has no power to order the arming of merchant ships in a time of war, because he leaves that to the Admiralty.

Yet was there ever a monarch who expressed himself as the servant of the people so explicitly as did Woodrow Wilson when, on Monday March 5, on the steps of the Capitol, he wound up his speech with these words:

I stand here and have taken the high and solemn oath to which you have been audience because the people of the United States have chosen me for this august delegation of power, and have by their gracious judgment named me their leader in affairs. I know now what the task means. I realize to the full the responsibility which it involves. I pray God I may be given the wisdom and the prudence to do my duty in the true spirit of this great people. I am their servant and can succeed only as they sustain and guide me by their confidence and their counsel. The thing I shall count upon, the thing without which neither counsel nor action will avail, is the unity of America—an America united in feeling, in purpose, and in its vision of duty, of opportunity and of service.

