



# The CANADIAN COURIER

*The National Weekly*



Vol. XII.

November 16, 1912

No. 25

## Men of To-Day

Mighty Cause Has Triumphed,  
(So declares Woodrow Wilson).

Roosevelt Sends Wire to Wilson.  
Taft Goes Back to Law.

\*\*\*

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE

THREE laconic sentences taken from one page of a morning newspaper on November 6 sum up with the suddenness of a war bulletin the most remarkable political upheaval ever known in the world's greatest republic. The first college president who ever became President of the United States defeated overwhelmingly the only man of modern times who tried at the same time to get a third term and to be the uncrowned king of a republic. Theodore Roosevelt now becomes the most remarkable unelected person in America, if not in the whole world—barring the Kaiser, who is by birth the kind of personage that Roosevelt desired to be by election. Woodrow Wilson becomes the most unusual President ever elected in the United States. William Howard Taft becomes the most complete specimen of distinguished but amiable oblivion. At the same time William Jennings Bryan remains the most impressive unelected Democrat ever known in that country. He did much to help elect Wilson; being himself the man who never could be elected and, according to his own statement, the father of many of the reform ideas claimed by or credited to Roosevelt.

It was in 1896 that real revolutionary sentiment began in the United States. Grover Cleveland, the last Democratic President, who retired in that year, was as much of a political alien from Bryan as Taft to-day is from Roosevelt. The partial revolution, very largely of a personal character, which Bryan the Nebraskan headed against the old gold-bug and vested-interest forces was in many respects the progenitor of the Progressive Party idea headed by Roosevelt against Taft. The people who cheered the splendid but fatuous epigram of 1896—"You cannot crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," very much resembled the people who at the Bull Moose convention recited the 23rd Psalm and sang "Onward Christian Soldiers." A writer in a popular magazine characterized the Bull-Moose as a remarkable moral force, because with almost the covenanting emphasis of the Pilgrim Fathers they were able to repeat by heart the 23rd Psalm. He intended to point out that the Progressive propaganda had the depth and intensity of a great religious movement—against everything that was in favour of the 10,000 owning two-thirds of the wealth in the United States, and in league with something or other on behalf of the 90,000,000 that own the other third. The Progressives were supposed to sum up all the best forces inherent in 1896 Bryanism, Debsism, Coxey's Army—and themselves. The man at the head of them, though twice President before, came to the Progressives with as much startling novelty as though he had been John the Baptist. He became almost a martyr-like Lin-

coln, Garfield and McKinley by assassination. He got the glamour of a popular hero. In his speeches just before the election he reverted to the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, as though he had himself discovered these documents.

And on the night of November 5, Guy Fawkes' Day, he got a total of 78 votes in the electoral college as against the college president's 441 and Taft's 12. He was elected in six States, leaving Taft three and Wilson all the others.

WOODROW WILSON became President by virtue of a long party opposition, absolutely clean character, splendid ability and a split vote. The split vote was the least important. The idea probably got Wilson many votes before the election. The Republican party was as moribund as the old Canadian Conservative regime in '96. The people were weary of profuse promises to manacle predatory interests and a perpetual boost in the cost of

living. They were not likely to be soothed by oratorical rhapsodies or platform piety. It was no longer a case of appealing to the memory of Lincoln, the Pilgrim Fathers and the Sermon on the Mount—which both Taft and Roosevelt did with great gusto.

Perhaps the cure was in the man who had never been tried and a party somewhat purified by opposition. There was something in the Democratic party plus Wilson that might be expected to create just as much revolution—in a much saner way—as could be expected from Roosevelt, who might become a dangerous "Little Father." Woodrow Wilson stands out as an absolutely new man whose ideas are modern, whose personal ambition is nil, and whose allegiance to a party depends upon the party's efficiency. He is the making of a great man. Roosevelt was the revival of a hero-worship. Woodrow Wilson has nothing to live down. He has the rigid moral outlines of Lincoln or Garfield without the humour of one or the oratory of the other. And his election to the Presidency in spite of a popular upheaval of Bull-Mooseism has all the flavour of a modern romance. Ten years ago Woodrow Wilson became President of Princeton University. He was then no more like a President of the United States than a school-boy resembles a great railroad-builder. In the Rome of 1912 he is something between a lean Cassius and a noble Brutus. And since 1910 he is the biggest surprise package that ever dropped into the lap of the United States. Above the majority of 266 necessary to elect him in the electoral college, he had many more votes than the whole number given to Roosevelt and Taft. He is elected by a huge popular majority. He is also elected by the big minority of the sanest public opinion. With a Democratic Congress and a strongly Democratic Senate he has an instrument of government such as no President ever had; such an instrument as to any personally ambitious Caesar must have resulted in democratic despotism; and such a leverage as would be dangerous to any but a man with a conscience as fixed as the North star.

The election of Woodrow Wilson is of profound interest to Canadians. Part of this interest is personal; part of it political. The defeat of Taft is in line with the defeat of reciprocity last year. The defeat of Roosevelt is very largely a personal affair here as it is over there. One Canadian newspaper has taken a tremendous interest in the Progressive party—largely because it sees in Canada the symptoms of what caused the disruption of the old-line Republican party. But even the most sanguine supporters of Progressivism in Canada cannot fail to be deeply interested in the election of so big a Progressive as Woodrow Wilson. The protest of the United States against the big interests and the machine has its echo here. To have elected Woodrow Wilson on that protest with Roosevelt second and Taft nowhere, is the most emphatic declaration that could have been made. Canadians have not come to the day of big interests and the Big Stick as they have it over there. But the high cost of living so far as it relates to the tariff is with us late and soon.



Governor Wilson Voting for Himself on Tuesday, November 5.

Copyright by Paul Thompson, New York.