WILSON, ILL, BESET BY FOES, FIGHTS ON

Chief Near Exhaustion When He Started West.

REST, RECREATION BARRED

Inner Facts of Trip That Ended in Breakdown Disclosed—Lansing's Position Made Plain.

BY JOSEPH P. TUMULTY.

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CHAPTER XLI (Continued.)

When it became evident that the tide of public opinion was setting against the league, the president finally decided upon the western trip as the only means of bringing home to the people the unparalleled world situation.

At the executive offices we at once set in motion preparations for the western trip. One itinerary after another was prepared, but upon examining them the president would find that they were not extensive enough and would suspect that they were made by those of us—like Grayson and myself—who were solicitous for his health, and he would cast them aside. All the itineraries provided for a week of rest in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, but when a brief vacation was intimated to him he was obdurate in his refusal to include even a day of relaxation, saying to me that "the people would never forgive me if I took a rest on a trip such as the one I contemplate taking. This is a business trip, pure and simple, and the itinerary must not include rest of any kind." He insisted that there be no suggestion of a pleasure trip attaching to a journey which he regarded as a mission.

As I now look back upon this journey and its disastrous effects upon the president's health, I believe that if he had only consented to include a rest period in our arrangement, he might not have broken down at Pueblo.

Wilson Ill at Outset.

Never had I seen the president look so weary as on the night we left Washington for our swing into the west. When we were about to board our special train the president turned to me and said: "I am in a nice fix. I am scheduled between now and the 28th of September to make in the neighborhood of 100 speeches to various bodies, stretching all the way from Ohio to the coast, and yet the pressure of other affairs upon me at the White House has been so great that I have not had a single minute to prepare my speeches. I do not know how I shall get the time, for during the past few weeks I have been suffering from daily headaches; but perhaps tonight's rest will make me fit for the work of tomorrow."

No weariness or brain-fag, however, was apparent in the speech at Columbus, Ohio. To those of us who sat on the platform, including the newspaper group who accompanied the president, this speech, with its beautiful phrasing and its effective delivery, seemed to have been carefully prepared.

Day after day, for nearly a month, there were speeches of a similar kind, growing more intense in their emotion with each day. Shortly after we left Tacoma, Wash., the fatigue of the trip began to write itself in the president's face. He suffered from violent headaches each day, but his speeches never betrayed his illness. As one reads the western speeches of the president he must be convinced that a great conviction and nothing else could have enabled a man as ill as was the president to rise to such heights of argument and utterance.

No Recreation Permitted.

In those troublous days and until the very end of our western trip the president would not permit the slightest variation from our daily programme. Nor did he ever permit the constant headaches, which would have put an ordinary man out of sorts, to work unkindly upon the members of his immediate party, which included Mrs. Wilson, Dr. Grayson and myself. He would appear regularly at each meal, partaking of it only slightly, always gracious, always good-natured and smiling, responding to every call from the outside for speeches—calls that came from early morning until late at night—from the plain people grouped about every station and watering place through which we passed. Even under the most adverse physical conditions he was always kind, gentle and considerate of those about him.

I have often wished, as the criticisms of the Pullman smoking car, the cloakroom and the counting house were carried to me, picturing the president's coldness, his aloofness and exclusiveness, that the critics could for a moment have seen the heart and great good-nature of the man giving expression to themselves on this critical journey. If they could have peeped through the curtain of our dining room, at one of the evening meals, for instance, they would have been ashamed of their misrepresentations of this kind, patient, considerate, human-hearted man.

When he was "half-fit," an expression he often used, he was the best fellow in the little group on our train—good-natured, smiling, full of anecdotes and repartee and always thinking of the comforts and pleasure of the men gathered about him. The illness of a newspaper man, or of one of the messengers or conductors, or attaches of the train was a call to service to him, and one could find the president in one of the little compartments of the train, seated at the bed of a newspaper man or some attache who had been taken ill on the trip. There is in the president a sincere human sympathy, which is better than the cheap good-fellowship which many public men carefully cultivate.

Sniper's Work Disclosed

It was on the western trip, about September 12, while the president, with every ounce of his energy, was attempting to put across the league of nations, that William C. Bullitt was disclosing to the committee on foreign relations, at a public hearing, the facts of a conference between Secretary Lansing and himself, in which Mr. Bullitt declared that Mr. Lansing had severely criticised the league of nations.

The press representatives aboard the train called Mr. Bullitt's testimony to the president's attention. He made no comment, but it was plain from his attitude that he was incensed and distressed beyond measure. Here he was in the heart of the west, advancing the cause so dear to his heart, steadily making gains against what appeared to be insurmountable odds, and now his intimate associate, Mr. Lansing, was engaged in sniping and attacking him from behind.

On September 16 Mr. Lansing telegraphed the following message to the president:

"On May 17, Bullitt resigned by letter, giving his reasons, with which you are familiar. I replied by letter on the 18th without any comment on his reasons. Bullitt on the 19th asked to see me to say good-bye, and I saw him. He elaborated on the reasons for his resignation and said that he could not conscientiously give countenance to a treaty which was based on injustice. I told him that I would say nothing against his resigning, since he put it on conscientious grounds, and that I recognized that certain features of the treaty were bad, as I presumed most every one did, but that was probably unavoidable in view of conflicting claims, and that nothing ought to be done to prevent the speedy restoration of peace by signing the treaty. Bullitt then discussed the numerous European commissions provided for by the treaty on which the United States was to be represented. I told him that I was disturbed by this fact, because I was afraid the senate and possibly the people, if they understood this, would refuse ratification, and that anything which was an obstacle to ratification was unfortunate because we ought to have peace as soon as possible."

Suspicions Are Verified.

When the president received this explanation from Mr. Lansing, he sent for me to visit with him in his compartment. At the time I arrived he was seated in his little study, engaged in preparing his speech for the night's meeting. Turning to me, with a deep show of feeling he said: "Read that, and tell me what you think of a man who was my associate on the other side and who confidentially expressed himself to an outsider in such a fashion? Were I in Washington I would at once demand his resignation! That kind of disloyalty must not be permitted to go unchallenged for a single minute. The testimony of Bullitt is a confirmation of the suspicions I have had with reference to this individual. I found the same attitude of mind on the part of Lansing on the other side. I could find his trail everywhere I went, but they were only suspicions and it would not be fair for me to act upon them. But here in his own statement is a verification at last of everything I have suspected. Think of it! This from a man whom I raised from the level of a subordinate to the great office of secretary of state of the United States, My God!

"I did not think it was possible for Lansing to act in this way. When we were in Paris I found that Lansing and others were constantly giving out statements that did not agree with my viewpoint. When I had arranged a settlement, there would appear from some source I could not locate, unofficial statements telling the correspondents not to take things too seriously; that a compromise would be made, and this news, or, rather, news of this kind, was harmful to settlement. I had already obtained and quite naturally gave the conference the impression that Lansing and his kind were speaking for me, and then the French would say that I was bluffing."

I am convinced that only the president's illness a few days later prevented an immediate demand on his part for the resignation of Mr. Lansing.

Lansing Plea Answered.

That there was no real devotion on the part of Mr. Lansing for the president is shown by the following incident:

A few days after the president returned from the west and lay seriously ill at the White House, with physicians and nurses gathered about his bed, Mr. Lansing sought a private audience with me in the cabinet room. He informed me that he had called diplomatically to suggest that in view of the incapacity of the president we should arrange to call in the vice-president to act in his stead as soon as possible, reading to me from a book which he had brought from the state department, which I afterward learned was "Jefferson's Manual," the following clause of the United States constitution:

In case of the removal of the president from office, or his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve upon the vice-president.

Upon reading this, I coldly turned to Mr. Lansing and said: "Mr. Lansing, the constitution is not a dead letter with the White House. I have read the constitution and do not find myself in need of any tutoring at your hands of the provision you have just read." When I asked Mr. Lansing the question as to who should certify to the disability of the president, he intimated that that would be a job for either Dr. Grayson or myself. I immediately grasped the full significance of what he intimated and said: "You may rest assured that while Woodrow Wilson is lying in the White House on the broad of his back, I will not be a party to ousting him. He had been too kind, too loyal and too wonderful to me to receive such treatment at my hands."

No Ouster Attempted.

Just as I uttered this statement, Dr. Grayson appeared in the cabinet room and I turned to him and said: "And I am sure that Dr. Grayson will never certify to his disability. Will you, Grayson?" Dr. Grayson left no doubt in Mr. Lansing's mind that he would not do as Mr. Lansing suggested. I then notified Mr. Lansing that if anybody outside of the White House circle attempted to certify to the president's disability that Grayson and I would stand together and repudiate it. I added that if the president were in a condition to know of this episode he would, in my opinion, take decisive measures. That ended the interview.

It is unnecessary to say that no future attempt was made by Mr. Lansing to institute ouster proceedings against his chief.

(To be continued tomorrow.)

THINNING AIDS FRUIT CROP

Increase in Yield Is Estimated 164 Per Cent by Process.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—A $10,140 increase in yield of a 20-acre 12-year-old apple orchard owned by J. F. Slover of Freewater, through a process of thinning the fruit, is the estimated result of demonstration put on by Fred Bennion, county agent of Umatilla county. The demonstration, conducted by Clayton L. Long, extension horticulturist of Oregon Agricultural college, was part of a three-year programme, including plans for showing the commercial value of pruning, spraying and thinning trees and soil management.

A difference of $506.50 an acre—164 per cent—to the producer's credit was realized as a direct result of the thinning process in this instance. The apples were thinned to six or seven inches apart. The readiness with which orchardists throughout the fruit-growing counties have co-operated with the extension service indicates a progressive attitude with an appreciation of the horticultural work being done by the college extension service.

Portland Bus Planned.

SHERWOOD, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Sherwood may soon have an auto bus line from Portland. It is planned to extend the Jacobson bus line, which now ends at West Portland.

Orpheum matinee today, 15-25-50-Ad.

TUNNEL OPENS ORE VEIN

CORNUCOPIA BORE REVEALS VEIN OF HIGH GRADE.

Future of Baker Mining Company Made Secure by Development of Big Undertaking.

BAKER, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—After months of continuous driving ahead in the long crosscut tunnel at the Last Chance mine at Cornucopia, by the Baker Mines company, the work has resulted in bearing out the good judgment of Robert M. Betts, general manager, in that last Saturday, according to the news received in Baker, three feet of high grade ore had been encountered, with 1235 feet of backs.

This latest development, upon which hinged the future of the company in gerat part, assures permanent operations.

General Manager Betts is being congratulated, for upon the result of the running of the 4700 feet of tunnel his faith in the undertaking was staked. It means a return of great things in a mining way to Cornucopia and Baker county, it is said. It also proves the accuracy of the Lindgreen geological report on that district made more than 20 years ago, that the ore veins at Cornucopia went to a great depth. The present depth is about 1235 feet below the old workings, or more than 1700 feet from the surface.

Eastern Star Elects.

SHERWOOD, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—At its regular meeting Saturday night Holly chapter of the Eastern Star elected the following officers: Mrs. Lela Yates, worthy matron; R. W. Rasmusson, worthy patron; Mrs. Inze Wood, associate matron; Mrs. Sarah Rasmussen, secretary; Mrs. Romilda Edwards, treasurer; Mrs. Belle Woodland, conductress, Miss Helen Angus, associate conductress. Joint installation with the Sherwood lodge, No. 164, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, will be held December 31.

Orpheum matinee today, 15-25-50-Ad.

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