

TUESDAY'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

It May Be Marked by Unprecedented Results.

Score of Things May Happen That Are Without Precedent, Yet Any One of Which May Result in the Choice of a Chief Executive of the United States—Effect of Having Three Candidates in the Field



There are a Score of Men who Still Have a Chance to Live Here After March 4th

BY WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY.

THE millions of voters who go to the polls next Tuesday and cast ballots for President are not free to feel as they have always felt, that either the man for whom they vote or the man against whom they vote will be their chief executive. For there are three strong candidates in the field and one of them has got to receive a majority of the votes of the Electoral College or there will be confusion without end.

This failure to elect will be new in the history of the Nation and the things that might result from it are many and interesting. Even at best there are some precedents that may be broken for never before has the country known such a tangling of Presidential yarn. Here are a few of the possibilities:

A college president may be chosen President of the United States for the first time in the history of the Nation. The House of Representatives may be called upon to choose a President and may fail.

The Senate may then elect a Vice-President to become chief executive. The Senate may deadlock and the Secretary of State may become President.

The insurgent Senators may so compromise with Mr. Taft as to name a man between them and engineer him into the White House.

Mr. Taft may arrange his own appointment as Secretary of State and succeed as President at the last moment. A President may be chosen by a brand new party and to serve more than the eight years prescribed by precedent.

It may even happen that when the ninety million awake on March 4 next they will still be unaware of the name of the man who will assume the reins of government at noon, and guide the official chariot for four more years. To the very hour of noon on that day a deadlock may continue until dissolved, at that moment, by a constitutional provision.

Dark Horse in Electoral College. For the fat is in the fire and the devil is to pay in the political game as it is working itself out. There are three Presidential tickets in the field and no one of them can be elected unless it secures a majority of the votes of the Electoral College. The Constitution of the United States, in speaking of the action of this same Electoral College says:

"The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed." Each of the three candidates for President is credited with a good deal of strength. It would appear that none of them is so strong as to secure more electors than the other two combined. Yet if this does not happen the electoral college will fail to elect unless it does an absolutely unprecedented thing—a thing that it is hardly recognized as having the power to do.

The electoral college may ignore its instructions and choose a dark horse. That possibility might come through a union of Roosevelt and Taft electors, for instance, between the time of the election and the meeting of the college. Realizing the impossibility of electing either of these candidates, the supporters of each might flock to a compromise candidate. In this connection it is interesting to note that there is nothing in the constitution that would prevent these electors from voting for an entirely new man. They have long followed the dictates of the election that chose them, but they are not specifically bound to do so. They may vote for anybody and "the person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President." With such a crisis as the life or death of a great party at stake, they might feel that they were justified in going behind precedent and disregarding the expressed wish of the people who elected them. They might hold that their constituents wished them to do this. So, the electors of Roosevelt and Taft might combine to make up a majority of the electoral college and defeat a Democratic candidate who had received more votes than either of them individually. So might such a man as Governor Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri, be the next President.

A Tie in the House. This action is very improbable. The thing that is more nearly sure of happening is that the electors will be thrown into the House of Representatives. The public does not wholly realize that the electoral college never actually gets together. Each state is allowed an elector for each Representative and each Senator. These men are chosen at the Presidential election and later meet in each state and vote upon President and Vice-President. The result of this vote of the electors of

each state is forwarded to Washington, where, on the second Wednesday in February following the election, the whole vote is canvassed by Congress in joint session. The vote has been known all along, but this is the official count. If no candidate has a majority of all the votes upon this canvass, the election has failed. The amended Constitution states:

"If no person has such majority, then from the persons having the greatest number, the President shall be chosen by the House of Representatives, each state having one vote."

Now in this election of a President by the House which may be the order of the day of Wednesday, February 17 next, the present membership will get together in caucus to determine whom they will support. Large delegations like that from New York will formally vote along party lines. The delegation from Arizona, consisting of one man, may call itself to order as it rides downtown on a streetcar. The big Democratic majority does not get together in caucus to determine whom they will support. Large delegations like that from New York will formally vote along party lines. The delegation from Arizona, consisting of one man, may call itself to order as it rides downtown on a streetcar. The big Democratic majority does not get together in caucus to determine whom they will support. Large delegations like that from New York will formally vote along party lines. The delegation from Arizona, consisting of one man, may call itself to order as it rides downtown on a streetcar. The big Democratic majority does not get together in caucus to determine whom they will support.

The Constitution gives the House until March 4 to select a President. If it has not succeeded by that time it devolves upon the Senate to elect a Vice-President, who becomes President at noon, because other means of filling that high post have failed. In this connection the Constitution says: "If the House of Representatives shall not choose a President before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall be President." From the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose a Vice-President.

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and be replaced by three men of the opposite political faith to change the election. It cannot be expected that this will happen. The House is sure to deadlock.

The House was called upon to elect a President on one previous occasion, when the Electoral College failed. This was in 1800, while it was still the system to award the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes the Presidency and the candidate receiving the next greatest vote the Vice-Presidency. That year Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr ran against John Adams and C. C. Pinckney. On the Jefferson and Burr ticket each candidate received 73 votes, while Adams received 65 and Pinckney 64. Burr, although he had not been a candidate for the Presidency, took advantage of this equality of vote with his running mate, Jefferson, and allowed the election to be called a tie and his friends to press his claim before the House. He came near being elected. There were then 16 states, with nine necessary to elect. Jefferson had eight and Burr had six states and two were blank because of a tie in their delegations. The deadlock lasted seven days, when the House broke to Jefferson.

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party, and Vice-President James E. Sherman on the Republican ticket. There would, however, be an inevitable deadlock. That balance of power of insurgent Senators would refuse to vote for Jim Sherman. Yet they would never vote for a Democrat and turn over the machinery of the Government to the opposite party. If Governor Johnson, the third party Vice-Presidential candidate, were one of the two receiving the highest electoral vote, there would be just as determined opposition to him on the part of the conservative wing in the Senate. There would seem to be no possibility under which a Vice-President could be chosen and noon of March 4 would arrive while an expectant nation stood on tiptoe.

Chance of Secretary of State. The Cabinet officers of one Administration hold over until the Cabinet of the incoming Administration is made up and ready to assume responsibility for running the departments. Because of this, Philander Chase Knox would be Secretary of State upon the arrival of the moment of the ending of the term of the outgoing President. This possibility gives a long chance for the biggest office in the world to a great number of men, prominent among whom might be mentioned Associate Justice-Hughes or Senator Cummings. There is just one more chance for the Democrats and that party would seem entitled to it for the odds are against its candidates if the choice ever gets into Congress. If the Sec-

etary of State should happen to meet any calamity such as falling dead of overjoy because of a Senate deadlock, the Secretary of the Treasury would be the next man in succession, and that official, Mr. McVasagh, is a Democrat. Mortality is not so great among cabinet officers that it would seem necessary to look further than this. There would be no Vice-President for four years, however, and when the new President appointed his Secretary of State and Treasury, he would be appointing a President of the United States in case of his death during a four-years term.

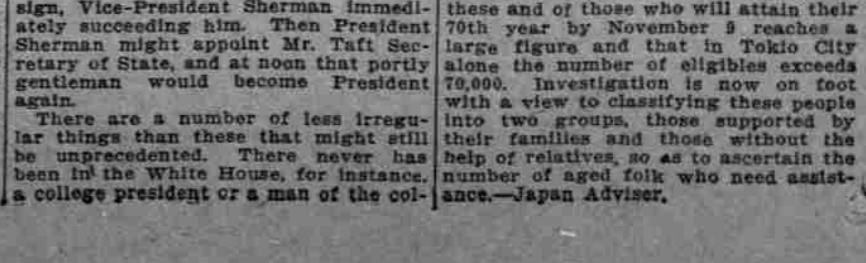
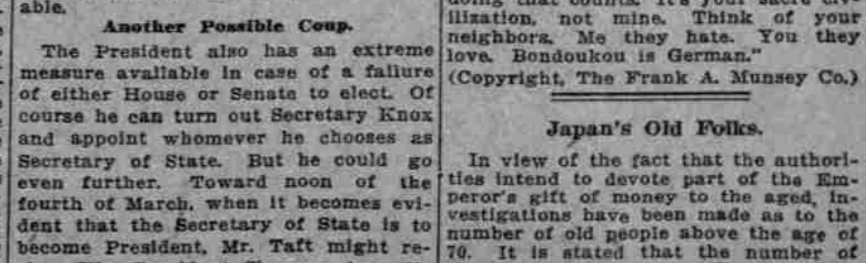
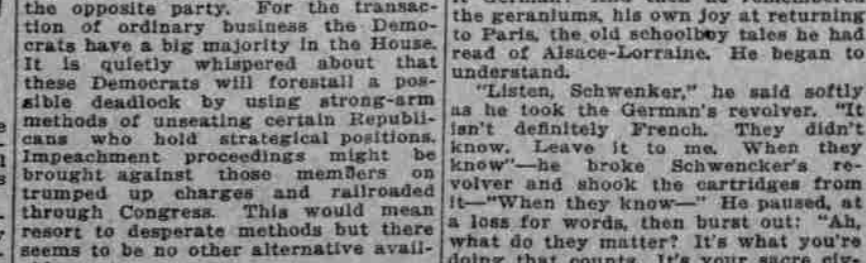
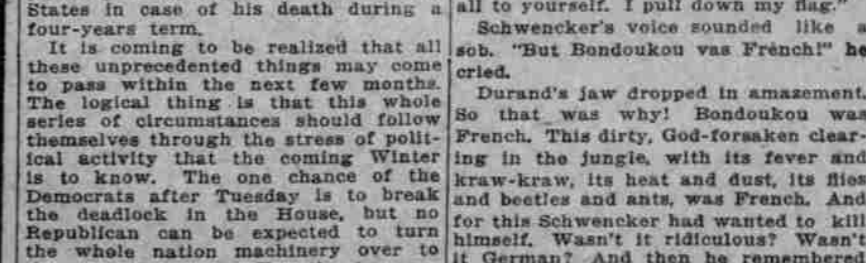
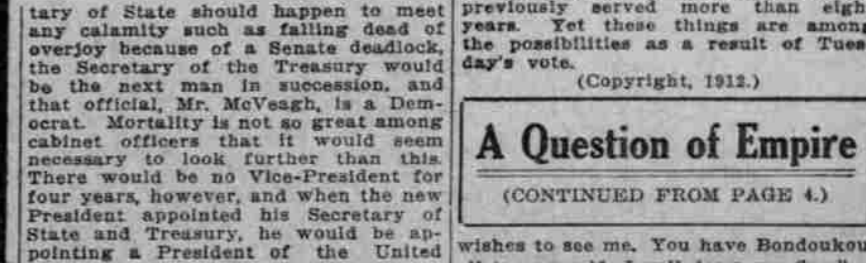
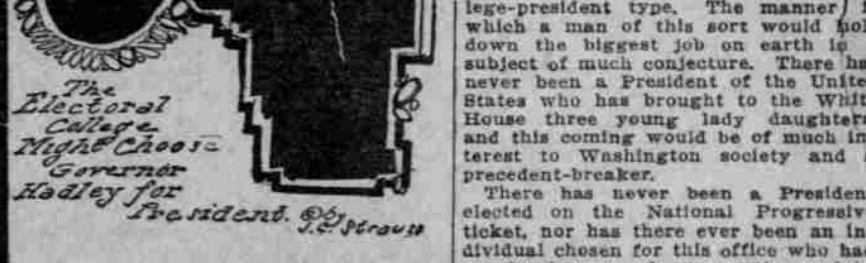
It is coming to be realized that all these unprecedented things may come to pass within the next few months. The logical thing is that this whole series of circumstances should follow themselves through the stress of political activity that the coming winter is to know. The one chance of the Democrats after Tuesday is to break the deadlock in the House, but no Republican can be expected to turn the whole nation machinery over to the opposite party. For the transaction of ordinary business the Democrats have a big majority in the House. It is quietly whispered about that these Democrats will forestall a possible deadlock by using strong-arm methods of unseating certain Republicans who hold strategic positions. Impeachment proceedings might be brought against those members on trumped up charges and railroaded through Congress. This would mean resort to desperate methods but there seems to be no other alternative available.

Another Possible Coup. The President also has an extreme measure available in case of a failure of either House or Senate to elect. Of course he can turn out Secretary Knox and appoint whomever he chooses as Secretary of State. But he could go even further. Toward noon of the fourth of March, when it becomes evident that the Secretary of State is to become President, Mr. Taft might resign, Vice-President Sherman immediately succeeding him. Then President Sherman might appoint Mr. Taft Secretary of State, and at noon that party gentleman would become President again.

There are a number of less irregular things than these that might still be unprecedented. There never has been a President of the United States chosen by the White House, for instance, a college president or a man of the col-



Secretary Knox May Succeed to the Presidency



A Question of Empire

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.)

There has never been a President elected on the National Progressive ticket, nor has there ever been an individual chosen for this office who had previously served more than eight years. Yet these things are among the possibilities as a result of Tuesday's vote. (Copyright, 1912.)

Japan's Old Folks. In view of the fact that the authorities intend to devote part of the Emperor's gift of money to the aged, investigations have been made as to the number of old people above the age of 70. It is stated that the number of these and of those who will attain their 70th year by November 9 reaches a large figure and that in Tokio City alone the number of eligibles exceeds 70,000. Investigation is now on foot with a view to classifying these people into two groups, those supported by their families and those without the help of relatives, so as to ascertain the number of aged folk who need assistance.—Japan Adviser.