

MAYBE NEITHER COOLIDGE, DAVIS NOR LA FOLLETTE

Unusual Political Situation Makes Possible a Final Presidential Choice By Senate of Either Bryan or Dawes; An Outline of the Workings of Our Election Machinery When an Electoral Majority is Not Won.

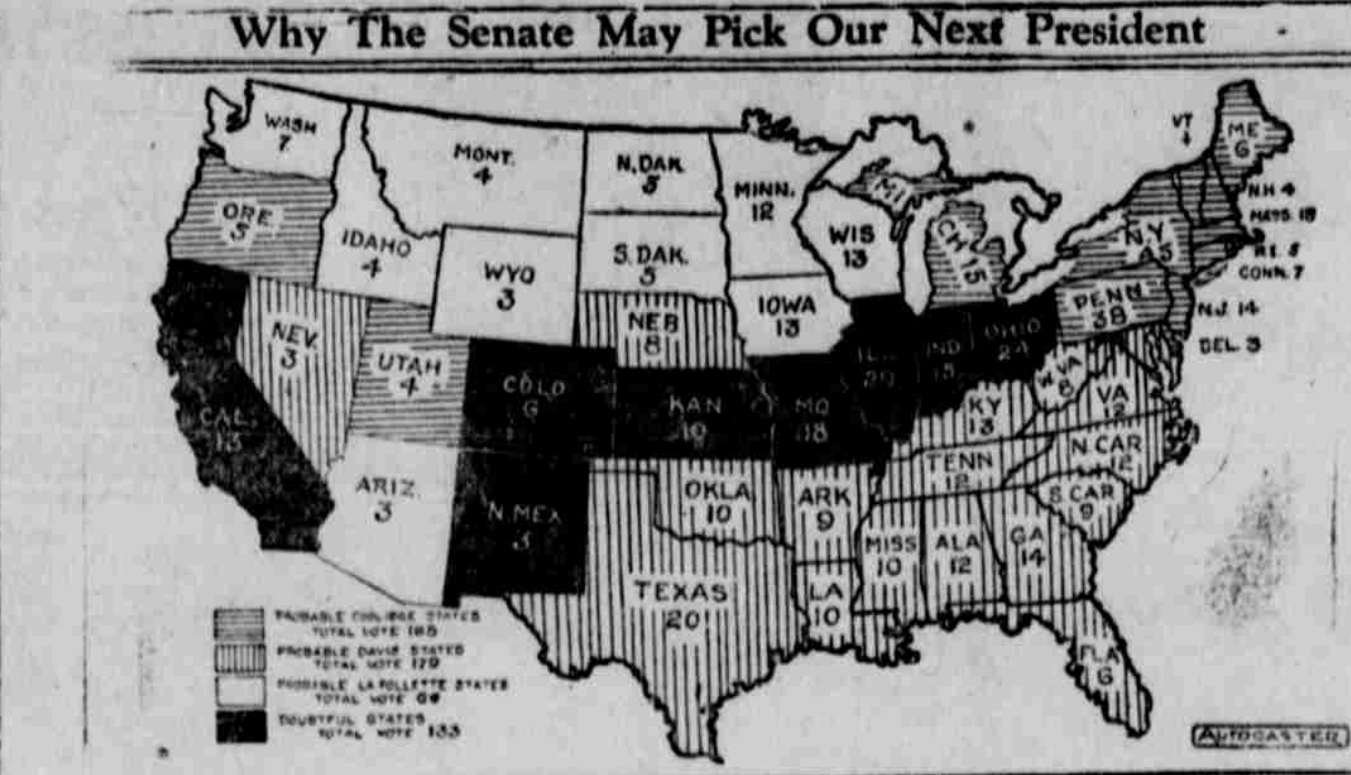
Written specially for Times-Herald by EDWARD PERCY HOWARD Through Autoconster Service

Fancy a conservative newspaper publishing on its first page a story to the effect that neither Coolidge nor Davis nor La Follette will be elected President of the United States in November. At first glance such a statement might seem outside the realm of possibility, but the political situation is complex and the election machinery such that it does not require much imagination to foresee the possibility, if not the probability, of such a situation. Almost anything may happen in November.

There are 531 votes in the Electoral College. The electoral college is composed of electors from each state, equal in number to the number of Senators and Representatives to which the state is entitled. For example, New York state has two Senators and 43 Representatives. Therefore, New York has forty-five votes in the electoral college. The total membership of the electoral college equals the total membership of the Senate and House—531. In voting it will be remembered that the people vote for the electors of their states, these names appearing on the ballot, and not those of Coolidge or Davis or La Follette.

The Constitution provides that a majority of these 531 electoral votes, or 266, is necessary to the choice of a President. The person having the greatest number of votes, or 266, wins when there are only two candidates in the field, but with three the complexities begin.

Here is the constitutional clause: "The person having the greatest number of votes (in the Electoral College) for President shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person



having such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot, the President."

Electing a President

Now let us turn to the situation. If the candidate receiving merely the largest number of electoral votes could be chosen, then the entry of La Follette into the field would be unimportant, according to unbiased and astute political judges but this is not the case, and there are many political observers who regard it as highly unlikely that a

majority of the electoral vote will be won by any of the candidates.

The second Monday of the following January the electors in each state chosen at the November election meet in their respective state capitols and declare for their candidates. The votes will then be sent by messenger to the president of the Senate in Washington. They will be counted on the second Wednesday in February before the joint session of the House and Senate.

Then the result will be announced. If no candidate has a majority—two hundred and sixty-six votes—then the House of Representatives must immediately convene for

the purpose of choosing a President. The choice being limited to the three highest candidates, would mean that the House would have only the option of choosing one, either Davis, Coolidge or La Follette.

How House Votes

Here is where the election machinery takes on a different color. There is no voting by individuals in the House. Moreover, each state has only one vote. Rhode Island's vote equals that of New York. The vote of each state is determined by a majority of the Congressional Representatives in that state. This point grasped let it be remembered that the "blooms" in several delegations hold the balance of power. Thus the La Follette-Wheeler candidacy becomes something to be reckoned with.

Anyone familiar with the line up in the House last year can see how likely it is that neither Davis nor Coolidge would be able to obtain a majority vote in the House in February. A deadlock is quite on the cards—a repetition of the Democratic National Convention, perhaps, until March 4, 1925. At that time the new House comes into being. But THE NEW HOUSE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CHOICE OF A PRESIDENT.

In the event of a deadlock until the disintegration of the present House the duty would pass to the Senate and here it must be remembered that THE SENATE VOTES ONLY FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND NOT FOR THE PRESIDENT. If the country stands without a President, then that office, being vacant, must be filled by the man chosen as Vice-President by the Senate.

At this point we read another elimination. The Senate is limited to vote for the two highest candidates. So the likelihood is the choice would lie between General Dawes and Governor Bryan.

Different in Senate.

Now we come to the Senate vote. The Senate does not vote by states like the House. The Senators vote as individuals, and a majority vote decides. The Senate membership being 96, 49 votes would elect a Vice-President, who would immediately succeed to the Presidency, just as Coolidge succeeded Harding as soon as the vacancy occurred.

In the present Senate there are 43 Democrats, 51 Republicans and 2 Farmer Laborites. These figures would appear to ensure the election of Dawes, providing there is no change in the character of the Senate as a result of the November Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota elections, and providing always that La Follette would not switch a number of Republican Senators from the Coolidge-Dawes ticket and procure votes for Bryan. The margin is narrow, and La Follette might easily be the deciding factor.

One need only go back to 1916 to see how delicate is the present situation. In that year the electoral college stood 277 for Wilson and 254 for Hughes. A third party candidate controlling, for example, the 13 electoral votes of California, would have thrown the election into the House. How many electoral votes La Follette will control as a result of the coming election is something for political writers to figure on. It may be something for the two dominant parties to consider seriously.

La Follette supporters are claiming he will carry between eight and

sixteen states. If he carries only Montana, South Dakota and Montana, such result would likely prevent either Coolidge or Davis from winning the necessary majority of 266 electoral votes necessary to elect the President. Even the electoral vote of any one state might prevent a majority.

ERECTING POLES FOR POWER LINE

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Many patrons have signified their intention to install electric power just as soon as the Power Company will furnish it. Several motors have been ordered and more are on the way and it now looks favorable to a fine patronage for this new enterprise when it is installed and ready for operation.

SUMMONS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF HARNEY.

Cora Purlington, Plaintiff.

vs. A. H. Webber, Rose G. Cole, W. E. Stafford, Bertie Foucar, and F. A. Empey, Defendants.

TO: A. H. Webber, Rose G. Cole, W. E. Stafford, Bertie Foucar, and F. A. Empey, Defendants.

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON, you are hereby required and directed to appear and answer the complaint filed against you, and each of you, in the above entitled suit on or before the last day of the time prescribed in the order for publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before the 13th day of September, 1924, said date being the expiration of six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to appear and answer for the want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in her complaint, to-wit: For judgment against the defendants, A. H. Webber and Rose G. Cole, for the sum of \$2500.00 with 8 per cent interest thereon from December 1st, 1920; for the further sum of \$233.36 with interest thereon from April 13, 1923, and for the further sum of \$56.29, with 8 per cent interest thereon from April 1st, 1924, for \$250.00 attorney fees, and for costs and disbursements herein.

That said mortgage be amended and corrected to read as set forth in plaintiff's complaint;

That a decree of this court be entered foreclosing all of the interest of the said defendants herein, in and to the N¹/₂ of Section 9, the E¹/₂ and the E¹/₂SW¹/₄ of Section 4, the SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄ and the SW¹/₄-NW¹/₄ of Section 3, the N¹/₂NW¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 10, all in Township 26 South, Range 34 E. W. M. forever barring said defendants, or either of them, from any other right or equity of redemption, and that said property be sold, as by law required, and the proceeds thereof be applied, first in the payment of this judgment, costs and accruing costs, and the remainder, if any there be, be distributed to the said defendants as their interests appear. In case the property upon sale shall not pay this judgment, interest, costs and accruing costs, that the plaintiff have and recover of and from the defendants, A. H. Webber and Rose G. Cole, any sums remaining unpaid, and that she have a deficiency judgment therefor, and that execution issue thereon;

That the plaintiff be allowed to bid upon and purchase said property when sold on execution under this judgment and decree, and for such other and further relief as to equity may pertain.

This summons is published by order of the Hon. R. T. Huguet, Judge of the County Court for Harney County, Oregon, made and entered on the 31st day of July, 1924, the date of the first publication of this summons is August 2nd, 1924, and the date of the last publication of this summons is September 13, 1924.

BIGGS & BIGGS, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Post Office and Residence: Burns, Oregon.

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That the plaintiff be allowed to bid upon and purchase said property when sold on execution under this judgment and decree, and for such other and further relief as to equity may pertain.

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BIGGS & BIGGS, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Post Office and Residence: Burns, Oregon.

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