

# SPEECH IN WHICH PRESIDENT WILSON BARED INNERMOST SELF

## Candid Statement of His Conflicting Emotions and Impulses Shows That He's "Human." Chafes at Restraints of His Office.

HOW does it feel to be president of the United States? That question has just been answered by Woodrow Wilson. Laying aside formality he recounted before an audience of newspaper men at the National Press Club in Washington his sensations, experiences and methods of forgetting the heavy responsibilities of his office.

The speech showed his human side better than anything he has said or done since he entered the White House and will go down in history as one of the most remarkable utterances ever delivered by a chief executive and distinctly unique.

It was an impromptu speech and not intended for publication. But afterward the president yielded to importunities and consented to release it for newspapers.

President Wilson put his heart into his remarks. He showed that he chafes under the restrictions that surround his position. His constant embarrassment, he said, was to restrain his emotions.

He said that he never thought of himself as president of the United States, because he never had any sense of being identified with that office. He felt now, he declared, just as much outside of the presidency as he had before he was elected to it. In a humorous way he contradicted an impression that might exist that he was a cold, austere person.

### Doesn't Recognize Himself.

Here is the speech: "I was just thinking of my sense of confusion of identity sometimes when I read articles about myself. I have never read an article about myself in which I recognized myself, and I have come to have the impression that I must be some kind of a fraud, because I think a great many of those articles are written in absolute good faith.

"I trouble to think of the variety and fatness of the impressions I make—and it is being borne in on me so that it may change my very disposition—that I am a cold and removed person who has a thinking machine inside which he adjusts to the circumstances, which he does not allow to be moved by any winds or affections or emotions of any kind, but turns like a cold searchlight on anything that is presented to his attention and makes it work.

"I am not aware of having any detectable apparatus inside of me. On the contrary, if I were to inspect myself I would say that my constant embarrassment is to restrain the emotions that are inside of me.

"You may not believe it, but I sometimes feel like a fire from a furnace distinct volcano, and if the lava does not seem to spill over it is because you are not high enough to see into the lava and see the children roll.

"Because, truly, gentlemen, in the position which I now occupy there is a sort of—I do not know how else to express it than to say passionate sense of being connected with my fellow men in a peculiar relationship of responsibility. Not merely the responsibility of office, but, God knows, there are enough things in this world that need to be corrected.

"I have mixed, first and last, with all sorts and conditions of men—there are mighty few kinds of men that have to be described to me, and there are mighty few kinds of experiences that have to be described to me—and when I think of the number of men who are looking to me as the representative of a party of hope, with the hope of all varieties of salvation from the things they are struggling in the midst of, it makes me tremble.

### Trying to Avoid Blunders.

"It makes me tremble not only with a sense of my own inadequacy and weakness, but as if I were shaken by the very things that are shaking them, and it seems circumstantial it is because I am so diligently trying not to make any colossal blunders.

"If you just calculated the number of blunders a fellow can make in twenty-four hours if he is not careful and if he does not listen more than he talks you would see something of the feeling that I have.

"I was amused the other day at a remark that Senator Newlands made. I had read him the trust message that I was to deliver to Congress some ten days before I delivered it—and I never stop delecting things of that kind until the day I have to deliver them.

"When he heard it read to Congress he said, 'I think it was better than it was when you read it to me.'

"I said: 'Senator, there is one thing which I do not think you understand. I not only use what brains I have, but all I can borrow, and I have borrowed a lot since I read it to you first.'

"That, I dare say, is what gives the impression of circumstantiality and of the 'silver slipper.'

"I am listening, I am diligently trying to collect all the brains that are borrowable in order that I may not make more blunders than I have to. But that a man should make who has great limitations of knowledge and so

capacity. And the emotion of the thing is so great that I suppose I must be some kind of a mask to conceal it.

### Fighting the Moral Man.

"I really feel sometimes as if I were masquerading when I catch a picture of myself in some printed description. When you fellows stand around me on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons and ask me questions I know what is in the back of your heads and I could tell you sometimes more than I do tell you, but I do not tell you any more than I am sure of. I try to keep a grip on myself.

"The other day, the last time we were together, the natural man got to the front of the stage and I had to talk to you as an individual and not as the president of the United States.

"I wish there were more occasions when I could do that, because I have this feeling, gentlemen: In between things that I have to do as a public officer I never think of myself as the president of the United States because I never have had any sense of being identified with that office.

"I feel like a person appointed for a certain length of time to administer that office, and I feel just as much outside of it at this moment as I did before I was elected to it. I feel just as much outside of it as I still feel outside of the government of the United States.

"No man could imagine himself the government of the United States, but he could understand that some part of his fellow citizens had told him to go and run a certain part of it the best he knew how. That would not make him the government itself or the thing itself. It would just make him responsible for running it the best he knew how.

"The machine is so much greater than himself, the office is so much greater than himself, the office is so much greater than he can ever be, and the most he can do is to look grave enough and self possessed enough to seem to fill it.

### A National Exhibit.

"I can hardly refrain every now and again from tipping the public the wink as much as to say: 'It is only "me" that is inside this thing. I know perfectly well that I will have to get out presently. I know that then I will look just my own proper size and that, for the time being the proportions are somewhat refracted and misrepresented to the eye by the large thing I am inside of, from which I am tipping you this "wink".'

"For example, take matters of this sort. I will not say whether it is wise or unwise, simple or grave, but certain precedents have been established that in certain companies the president must leave the room first and people must give way to him. They must not sit down if he is standing up.

"It is a very uncomfortable thing to have to think of all the other people every time I get up and sit down and all that sort of thing.

"So that when I get guests in my own house and the public is shut out I adjourn being president and take leave to be a gentleman. If they draw back and insist upon my doing something first I firmly decline.

"There are blessed intervals when I forget by one means or another that I am president of the United States. One means by which I forget is to get a rattling good detective story, get after some imaginary offender and chase him all over—preferably any continent but this, because the various parts of this continent are becoming painfully suggestive to me.

"The postoffice and many other things which stir reminiscence have 'skilled them over' with a pale cast of thought. There are postoffices to which I would not think of mailing a letter, which I cannot think of without trembling with the knowledge of all the heartburnings of the struggle there was in connection with getting somebody installed as postmaster.

### Wants to See Washington.

"Now, if I were free I would come not infrequently up to these rooms. You know I never was in Washington but a very few times and for a very few hours until I came last year, and I never expect to see the inside of the public buildings in Washington until my term is over.

"The minute I turn up anywhere I am personally conducted to beat the band. The curator and the assistant curators and even other blooming official turn up, and they show me so much attention that I don't see the building. I would have to say, 'Stand aside and let me see what you are showing me.'

"For example, I took a short cut through the treasury department the other day, going in this door just opposite here and cutting through, and there was a great scampering of custodians and what not up to the secretary of the treasury's office, crying, 'The president is in the building!'

"The secretary of the treasury a few

days after said, 'I understand you visited the treasury.'

"Not at all," I said. 'I took a short cut through it and escaped as soon as I could.'

"Everywhere I go I have that. Some day after I am through with this office I am going to come back to Washington and see it.

"In the meantime I am in the same category as the National museum, the monument, the Smithsonian institution or the Congressional library, and every one that comes down here has to be shown the president.

"If I only knew an exhibition appearance to assume—apparently I can assume other appearances that do not show what is going on inside—I would like to have it pointed out so that I could practice it before the looking glass and see if I could not look like the monument. Being regarded as a national exhibit, it would be much simpler than being shaken hands with by the whole United States.

"And yet even that is interesting to me simply because I like human beings. It is a pretty poor crowd that does not interest you. I think that they would have to be all members of that class that devotes itself to 'expressions of pleasure' in order to be entirely uninteresting.

### Longs to Be Jostled About.

"These look so much alike, spend their time trying to look so much alike and so relieve themselves of all responsibility of thought that they are very monotonous indeed to look at; whereas a crowd picked up off the street is just a jolly lot—a job lot of real human beings, pulsating with life, with all kinds of passions and desires.

"It would be a great pleasure if unobserved and unattended I could be knocked around as I have been accustomed to being knocked around all my life; if I could resort to any delightful quarter to any place in Washington that I choose.

"I have sometimes thought of going to some costumers—some theatrical costumers—and buying an assortment of beads, rouge and coloring and all the known means of disguising myself if it were not against the law.

"You see, I have a scruple as president against breaking the law, and disguising oneself is against the law, but if I could disguise myself and not get caught I would go out, be a free American citizen once more and have a jolly time.

"I might then meet some of you gentlemen and actually tell you what I really thought."

## SIDE LIGHTS ON AMERICAN CONSULS IN MEXICO.

### Men Whose Names Are Figuring in News Dispatches.

The American consuls in Mexico are constantly figuring in the newspapers in connection with the exploits and movements of Villa, Carranza and the other rebel chieftains.

George C. Carothers, consul agent at Torreón, has been described by Senator Sells as the diplomatic representative of the United States attached to the flying court of Pancho Villa. Here is his biographical statement:

"Born in 1875; grocer for several years; in commission business, appointed consular agent at Torreón Jan. 3, 1902."

Thomas D. Edwards, consul at Juarez, who has figured conspicuously in the dispatches since the killing of Benton, is an older man. He was born at Floyd, N. Y., in April, 1849. His present home in the United States is at Lead, S. D. Edwards was educated at Rome, N. Y.; editor of a daily newspaper for twenty years; postmaster at Lead, S. D., 1888-89, and held various municipal offices; appointed after examination consul at Juarez, June 30, 1905.

Marion Letcher is United States consul at Chihuahua. Here is Letcher's biographical statement as recorded at the state department:

"Born in Shorter, Ala., Sept. 4, 1872; educated at the University of Alabama and the University of Chicago; was school assistant at Montgomery, Ala., 1895-8; principal of Seale (Ala.) high school; first lieutenant in United States volunteer infantry and company commander in Cuba during Spanish-American war; president of Douglasville college, Douglasville, Ga., 1900-1903; employed in the bureau of education, 1903-1909; resident of Washington; appointed after examination (Nov. 10, 1908) consul at Acapulco June 2, 1909; consul at Chihuahua Jan. 28, 1911."

Alonso B. Garrett, United States consul at Nuevo Laredo, who brought Clemente Vergara's body across the Rio Grande to El Paso at Juarez, is an old man. He was born in 1847 and was a drummer boy in the civil war. He has been consul at Nuevo Laredo for thirteen years. He has taught school, practiced medicine and was a West Virginia state senator.

## BERLIN QUITTING THE TANGO.

### Ex-Governor Foss' Daughters Say Old Style Waltz Is Popular There.

The Misses Esther and Helen Foss, daughters of former Governor and Mrs. Foss of Massachusetts, who have returned from Europe, bring the latest news about dancing in Germany.

"Really, I think the German men are the best dancers in the world," said Miss Helen. "They pay more attention to the music than American men do, and, after all, that has something to do with dancing."

Trots and tangos, she declared, are fading away in Berlin and the old fashioned waltz returning from exile.

## TO TALK ACROSS OCEAN THIS YEAR

### Marconi Predicts Wireless Telegraphy in Six Months.

## ON EVE OF BIG EXPERIMENTS

### With Bigger Machines He Hopes Soon to Be Able to Make It Possible to Carry on a Conversation Between London and Ireland—Working on Wonderful New Instrument.

William Marconi expects to telephone across the Atlantic in the near future, possibly within six months. This statement he made to the New York Times' London correspondent, at the same time denying the report which has frequently cropped up in the last few months that he had succeeded in talking across the Atlantic.

"Some newspaper accounts of my recent experiments in Italy," he said, "were very funny. Here is one that says I succeeded in talking over a distance of more than 4,000 miles. As a matter of fact, we talked by wireless over a distance of slightly more than forty-five miles, which was all we expected and knew we could do with the apparatus we were using.

"The first and severest test was twelve hours' continuous talking—not all by one man, of course. The twelve hours' talk was provided by several men and a phonograph working in relays.

"The new apparatus is more practical, simpler and less likely to get out of order than anything we have had heretofore.

"I think transatlantic telephony will be done soon. I think there is no impossibility about it.

### To Talk Across Irish Sea.

"We are building some larger and more powerful machines, and now expect soon to be able to carry on experiments in long distance wireless telephony over 200 or 300 miles. The station at Clifden will, I hope, be doing it soon. We hope soon to talk between Ireland and London if everything doesn't get smashed up over Ulster and prevent the experiment. The station at Carnarvon, Wales, will also soon be experimenting with long distance wireless telephony over a minimum of 300 miles.

"I am also working on a still bigger machine, the object of which is to send transatlantic wireless telegraph and telephone messages both on the same machine.

"The commercial possibilities of transatlantic telephony, I think, will not be nearly so great as those of transatlantic wireless telegraph—at least, not at present. You see, at most we cannot talk more than 100 words a minute over the telephone, whereas we can send 200 words a minute by wireless telegraph."

## FARM WAGES STILL HIGHER.

### Rise 25 Per Cent in Last Year and 11 Per Cent Since Four Years Ago.

The wages of farm labor increased about 25 per cent last year and about 11 per cent in the last four years. Since 1902 the increase has been about 36 per cent. The estimates are based upon reports of correspondents of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture.

The current average rate of farm wages in the United States, when board is included, is, by the month, \$21.28; by the day, other than harvest, \$1.18; at harvest, \$1.57. When board is not included the rate is, by the month, \$20.31; by the day, other than harvest, \$1.50; by the day, at harvest, \$1.94.

Wages of farm labor have been increasing rapidly, not only in the United States, but in most, if not all, other countries of the world.

Although farm wages in the United States increased about 37 per cent from 1900 to 1910, land values nearly doubled in the same time, indicating that in the distribution of the proceeds from farming operations a larger proportion now goes to capital account and less to labor account than formerly.

## MAN BEST AT 60, SAYS TAFT.

### Knows So Much Than He Wants to Guide the Young Aright.

In a recent address to students at the law school of the University of Minnesota former President Taft declared that a man at sixty was at the very zenith of his ability.

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