

PRESIDENT ELECT PERFORMED

Big Duties of Governor and Inaugural Affairs Are Combined.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THE presidency of the United States entails heavy burdens and hard work long before the term of office actually begins. The campaigns for the nomination and the election usually occupy nearly a year of organization, press work, stump speaking and conferences. It is after election, however, that the president elect's duties really begin to approximate those he will have to assume after the inauguration. Policies must be formulated, the cabinet and other important officials agreed upon, the inaugural address written, the inaugural ceremony, parade and display organized, many of the details having to be attended to by the president elect personally, and various party questions ironed out in the different states and in the nation at large.

President Elect Woodrow Wilson has not only had all of these heavy duties to bear, but has also been governor of New Jersey, thus giving him a double burden, either half of which would have proved too much for most men. Nor does this include all of his task. New Jersey has become known as the "mother of trusts." To remove from her this stigma and to draft and have passed an entire body of anti-corporation laws for the state is the voluntary additional work assumed by Governor Wilson. To this end he has formulated and caused to be drafted under his personal supervision seven important bills which he hopes to see enacted into law before he relinquishes the governorship. The more writing of these measures is only a small part



EDWIN R. WALKER.

of the work connected with their passage. Keeping the situation in hand, holding conferences with the legislature, crowding the bills through the two houses and seeing that there is no material delay and no injurious amendments are features of the program. The closing of Mr. Wilson's work in the state does not end even here. There are several minor measures in which he is vitally interested, such as reform of the procedure in drawing juries, abolition of railway grade crossings, reform of the taxation laws and the calling of a convention to amend the constitution of New Jersey.

The "Seven Sisters."

Governor Wilson calls his anti-trust bills the "seven sisters." What some of the trust people call them is not printed here for reasons of propriety, although the new head of the harvest trust is reported to have spoken of them as the seven commandments.

The keynote of the proposed legislation is that "guilt is personal." In other words, it is proposed to send somebody to jail. In the past, except in a few minor instances, it has been impossible to get a conviction under the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. American juries will not vote to send trust malefactors to prison. That, of course, is under the federal law. Under these proposed state laws the crimes for which trust directors and officers may be criminally convicted are more closely defined. If the bills are enacted the offending corporation may lose not only its charter, but the directors, dummy or otherwise, may be convicted of a misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment or \$1,000 fine. Holding companies are also prevented in future. The laws are not retroactive, so that holding companies already formed may continue, provided they do none of the things prohibited under the new statutes. The definition of a trust is laid down as follows:

A trust is a combination or agreement between corporations, firms or persons, any two or more of them, for the following purposes, and such trust is hereby declared to be illegal and indictable:

- First.—To create or carry out restrictions in trade or to acquire a monopoly either in intrastate or interstate business or commerce.
- Second.—To limit or reduce the production or increase the price of merchandise or of any commodity.
- Third.—To prevent competition in manufacturing, making, transporting, selling

WILSON HAS ARDUOUS TASKS

He Achieved Much in Preparing Seven Anti-trust Laws For State.

and purchasing of merchandise, produce or any commodity.

Fourth.—To fix at any standard or figure whereby its price to the public or consumer shall in any manner be controlled any article or commodity of merchandise, produce or commerce intended for sale, use or consumption in New Jersey or elsewhere.

Fifth.—To make any agreement by which they directly or indirectly preclude a free and unrestricted competition among themselves or any purchasers or consumers in the sale or transportation of any article or commodity either by pooling, withholding from the market or selling at a fixed price or in any other manner by which the price might be affected.

Sixth.—To make any secret oral agreement or arrive at any understanding without express agreement by which they directly or indirectly preclude to a free and unrestricted competition among themselves or any purchasers or consumers in the sale or transportation of any article or commodity either by pooling, withholding from the market or selling at a fixed price or in any other manner by which the price might be affected.

They Have Teeth.

The heaviest penalties are directed at price fixing. Watering of stocks is also brought under the ban. The meas-



Photo © by American Press Association. SNAPSHOT OF PRESIDENT ELECT WILSON.

ures are not only broad and sweeping, naming every trust practice that has caused public complaint, but are definite and clear in their language. They are an answer to those who have objected that the president elect's speeches have been general and vague. They show that when he comes to official action he can get down to details. In fact, it is his policy to lay down general principles in his speeches, but when administrative details are reached to be as explicit about particular evils as the case requires. There can be no objection that he is vague or ambiguous in these anti-trust bills.

The measures were drawn at Governor Wilson's request by Chancellor Edwin R. Walker, who succeeded Supreme Court Justice Mahlon Pitney as head of New Jersey's highest court. Chancellor Walker was assisted by ex-Judge Bennet Van Syckle, an eminent lawyer of the state. They were introduced by Senator J. Warren Davis, majority leader of the state senate. Four of the bills were referred to the judiciary committee, of which Senator Davis is chairman, but the other three went to the corporations committee, and hereby hangs a tale.

The head of the corporations committee was not particularly friendly to the governor's proposed legislation, and stories were soon floating about Trenton that the bills in his charge would be delayed by extensive hearings. The plan was to "string them along" until after March 3, when Woodrow Wilson would no longer be governor of New Jersey. Thereupon something happened, and the something was quite characteristic of the Wilson methods. The Democrats of the legislature were called together in conference, the three bills were taken out of the hands of the corporation committee and referred with the other four to Senator Davis' judiciary committee, and henceforth the talk of "stringing things along" was heard no more. Hearings are being held, of course, but they are all in Trenton and not all over the state, as the delay advocates proposed; neither is their secret object to block progress until after Governor Wilson is out of the state.

Future With Those Who Serve.

One powerful figure who stood with Wilson in this fight was Senator James F. Fielder, president of the senate and future successor to the governorship

after Mr. Wilson becomes president of the United States. In his last message to the legislature the governor paid a high tribute to Senator Fielder and to the other loyal legislators who have upheld him in his battle for reforms in New Jersey.

Other notable items in this farewell message, aside from those already mentioned, including radical revision of the corporation laws, further taxation reform, eliminating grade crossings and advocating a state constitutional convention, were a recommendation for commission government in all cities and advocacy of a "full crew" bill for railroads. It was in this message that the fine passage occurred declaring that the future belongs to those who serve without a selfish purpose.

Every indication is that the Wilson anti-trust bills will pass the New Jersey legislature and that he will have an opportunity to sign them before relinquishing the governorship. That would be a fitting ending for his work in the state. Taking it all in all and aside from partisanship, is there any finer example in American politics? This is the sort of thing that appeals to the imagination and on which historians love to dwell. It is at once an auspicious ending of Mr. Wilson's work as governor and a prophecy of his work as president. This man who has written so much history is now enacting history.

Trust Question National.

As to the bearing of the proposed legislation on his national work the governor has refused to commit himself. When asked point blank as to whether these bills embodied his ideas of the way the nation should deal with the trusts he answered rather dryly:

"They embody my ideas of the way New Jersey should deal with the question."

On this point we are free to form our own conclusions. Practically all of these New Jersey corporations do a national business. The abuses of which they are guilty are not state, but national. Because of our dual system of government the remedies must be both state and national. It is well known that Governor Wilson himself believes



Photo by American Press Association. JAMES F. FIELDER.

that the federal anti-trust laws should supplement and complete the state anti-trust laws.

The bills, in brief, provide penalties for doing any of the acts included under the definition of a trust, prevent the extension of present holding companies and the formation of new ones, provide that no fictitious or watered stock shall be issued, that no stock shall be issued for profits not yet earned, that no corporation shall purchase another corporation unless its business be the same and then shall not issue stock in an amount greater than the sum actually paid in cash or its equivalent, that the statement of such purchases shall be filed with the secretary of state, that any false statement shall be a misdemeanor, that any purchase for the purpose of restraining trade or creating a monopoly shall likewise be a misdemeanor, that before any merger of corporations is permitted in future the approval of the board of public utilities commissioners must be obtained, and that there shall be no discrimination between different sections or communities of the state.

Rising Above Self Interest.

One effect of this legislation may be to deprive the state of New Jersey of more than \$3,000,000 annual revenue. It is a hopeful fact and a fine commentary on human nature that this phase of the question has had little effect in the state. The people of New Jersey are showing the disposition to rise above all selfish considerations in the matter and to legislate only for what they think right and beneficial to the people of the entire country.

It is also hopeful and not a little surprising that the corporations themselves are making little open fight against the bills. They evidently have concluded to face the inevitable and make the best of it.

There are only a few states left that offer special inducements to corporations to organize under their laws. These measures will take New Jersey out of this class and will place her abreast of the other states having anti-trust legislation. That these laws will go any great way toward solving the trust question is not contended. This is national and must be dealt with by the nation. Governor Wilson by these bills is simply clearing the ground for tackling the bigger question, which he will meet as President Wilson.

Sporting Notes.

About every ball club in the two major leagues seems to have put in a bid for the services of James Thorpe, the dethroned hero of the Swedish Olympic games.

Lieutenant Howard, United States navy, who has coached the academy football team to two successive victories over the Military academy eleven, has been requested to take charge of the squad for another season.

Monte Cross, the veteran infielder, has been offered the position of coach of the ball team of the University of Michigan. Branch Rickey, who coached the team last year, has signed with the St. Louis Browns to act as chief scout.

Train and Track.

The Erie railroad annually carries over 25,000,000 passengers and over 10,500,000 tons of freight.

On the underground railways of London many of the passenger coaches exceed the fifty feet in length.

A new German electrical device to enable a moving train to set a signal makes use of a slight sinking of a rail as a train passes over it.

In 1912 over 3,000 miles of railroad were built in the southern states, of which 348 miles were in Texas. This year some 947 miles are to be built in Texas.

Education Notes.

The course in Spanish at the Naval academy has been extended from two to four years.

State aided industrial schools are now maintained in nineteen Massachusetts communities.

Austria's eight universities had 29,332 students last year, of whom 2,130 were women. The seven technical schools had 9,320 in attendance.

Plans have been started by the Deutscher Verein at Columbia university for the organization of a union of German student societies in American universities.

SHERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—By virtue of process issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne county, and State of Pennsylvania, and to me directed and delivered, I have levied on and will expose to public sale, at the Court House in Honesdale, on

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1913, 2 P. M.

All the defendant's right, title and interest in the following described property—viz:

All that certain lot or tract of land situate in the township of Damascus, County of Wayne and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a beech at the southwest corner of land which Thomas Stewardson by deed dated Oct. 24, 1840, conveyed to Eli B. Keesler; thence by lands of John Torvey north two hundred ninety eight and one-half rods to a beech corner; thence by land in the warranty name of John Van Devine, north forty-four degrees east one hundred and seventy-six rods to a post corner; thence by a track of land in the warranty name John F. Ernst south eighty-eight degrees east sixty-four rods to a stone corner; thence by said warranty and land in the warranty name of Jacob Beedleman and John Born, south four hundred and forty-nine and one half rods to a stone corner; thence by land contracted to Philip P. Bingham and Hiram W. Bingham, north seventy-nine degrees west one hundred eighty-eight and one-half rods to the place of beginning. Containing four hundred and two acres and eleven perches more or less. Saving and excepting thereout two pieces of land containing each fifty acres, one sold to Philip C. Bingham and the other to Baron Bingham and surveyed from the southern part or end of said lot by a line run parallel with the southern end of said lot sufficiently distance, north, thence to embrace said two lots hereby excepted and reserved. Being the same land William L. Wood et ux. granted and conveyed to Elias Mitchell by deed dated January 22, 1867, and recorded in Deed Book No. 34, page 79, and being the same land which Elias Mitchell granted and conveyed to James M. Hawarth by deed dated Nov. 11, 1907, and recorded in Deed Book No. 98, page 74.

Upon said premises, one and one-half story frame house, frame barn and twenty-five acres of improved land.

Seized and taken in execution as the property of James O. Mumford, Adm'r of James M. Hawarth, deceased, at the suit of Elias Mitchell, assigned to Joel G. Hill, No. 48, January Term, 1913. Judgment, \$1855. Attorneys, M. & M.

TAKE NOTICE.—All bids and costs must be paid on day of sale or deeds will not be acknowledged.

FRANK C. KIMBLE, Sheriff.

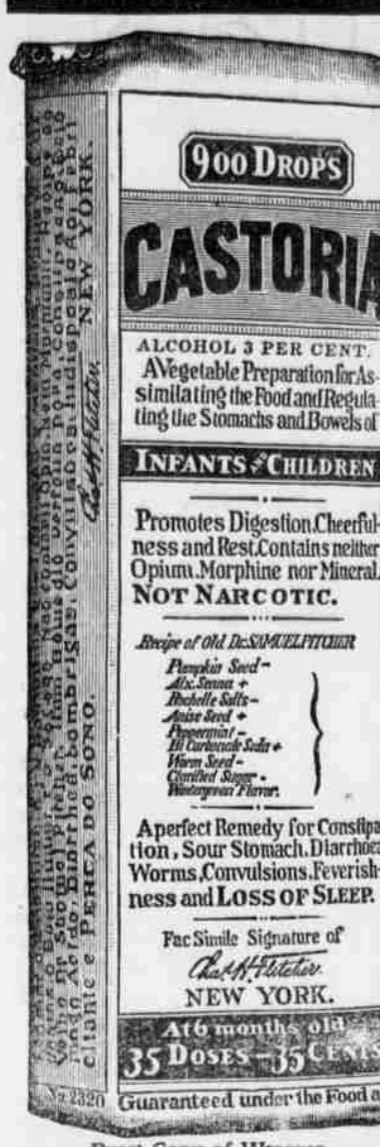
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