

Lincoln in 1860 - A Picture Widely Circulated Just Before his Inauguration

Lincoln as a Lawyer and Diplomat



The Chair Used by Lincoln in his Law Office in Springfield, Ill.



The Wigwam, Chicago where Lincoln was Nominated in 1860



Statue of Lincoln at the Panama Pacific Exposition



The Painting of President Lincoln which Hangs in the White House at Washington



Lincoln and his Cabinet - From a Painting which Hangs in the Capitol

How Lincoln Won His Way As a Lawyer and How His Remarkable Diplomacy Saved Our Country From Foreign Entanglements During the Dark Days of the Civil War.

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PERHAPS no man in our public life was a better judge of human nature than Abraham Lincoln. To his clear insight into motives actuating human action was due his success both as a lawyer and diplomat. In the days when he was at the bar and on the frontier law books were few and the lawyers were thrown upon their own reasoning powers for the underlying principles of justice and for the rules which should guide men in their relations toward each other. It was the hard school of necessity but it created men of thought, of deep feeling and self-reliance.

Early Struggles. Lincoln's early life had been one long struggle. With practically no education except what he obtained by his fondness for reading—a unusual trait among the pioneers of the Middle West, he fought his way up the ladder to the highest office in our land. Up to the time his father moved to Illinois Lincoln had made little progress toward his goal in life—that of becoming a lawyer. After helping his parent to clear the land the ambitious young frontiersman decided that

he would start out for himself. One of his first jobs was the splitting of several thousand rails—a labor which has become famous in American history. After a while he secured employment as a clerk in a grocery store, but as he had already decided to become a lawyer he spent more of his time in reading and in debates with the other young men of the village than he did in the store. Springfield was not far away and he attended many of the trials there. These legal battles only served to whet his appetite for law, and he pored over his books far into the night.

When the Black Hawk war came on Lincoln was one of the first to volunteer. He was always popular with his neighbors and was at once elected captain of his company. The war did not last long and he had no chance to distinguish himself as a soldier, but it was during this war that Major John T. Stuart, of the Springfield Volunteers, became interested in the young captain and gave him the use of his law library and encouraged him to continue his legal studies.

store with a man named Berry—a disolute fellow who drank up the profits while Lincoln, the junior partner, studied law.

Naturally, the store was a failure, although Lincoln still retained his interest in the business after he accepted the office of Postmaster of New Salem, but as the salary attached to it was small he also became the assistant surveyor—all the while studying law in his spare moments.

Partnership With Major Stuart. In 1834 he became a member of the Legislature, and after serving two terms he moved to Springfield. This was in March, 1837, when he was in his twenty-ninth year. He had little money and little baggage to speak of, but he found himself among friends, and a few days after his arrival he became the law partner of his former benefactor, Major Stuart.

In 1841 Lincoln became associated with Judge Stephen T. Logan, one of the most eminent lawyers of his day, and from him the young man learned the great art of properly presenting a case.

A Man of Plain Type. Lincoln's witty sayings and humorous stories are now famous the world over. As an orator and debater he had few equals, as his speech at Cooper Institute, his dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg and his historic political combat with Stephen A. Douglas show. Yet with all these talents he was a man of the plainest type, always ready to do an act of kindness. In the role of a politician he had no peer, and when his time came to play the role of diplomat it was soon discovered that he was a past master in the art of statecraft. He always avoided collisions,

if possible, not because he lacked courage, but because, like the story he used to tell of the farmer who was unable to remove a big log from his field and "ploughed around it," he "ploughed around" many delicate situations of state which required the finest art of diplomacy.

Critical Period. Lincoln came to the Presidential chair at perhaps the most critical period of our country's existence, and diplomacy in its rarest form was necessary to save the Ship of State from destruction. President Buchanan had practically conceded the claim of the Confederacy to be recognized as a nation by the powers of Europe, thereby admitting that "the Federal Government had no authority to keep a State in the Union if it desired to secede," and later had sent a message to Congress throwing the burden of the affair upon their shoulders. England and France heard nothing from the United States on the subject until late in February, when Secretary of

State Black issued a circular to the United States Representatives telling them that our Government had not released its constitutional jurisdiction anywhere within its territory and did not intend to do so; also stating "that the recognition of the Confederacy by the foreign powers must not be allowed." Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated a few days after this message was sent. The new Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, hastily confirmed Mr. Black's instructions. The replies from both England and France were wordy and unsatisfactory and before Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the newly appointed Minister to England, could reach that country an unfriendly British ministry had issued a proclamation recognizing the seceding States as a separate Government. France at once followed England and the relations between the United States and these two countries became strained. Lincoln knew that both countries had "an ax to grind" and he set about to balk their purpose. England was anxious that her manufacturers should obtain free trade and cheap cotton, while France was actuated by a belief that the division of the American States would aid them in a plan to erect a long-dreamed of empire in Mexico.

Secretary Seward, whose temper was not of the mildest type, then wrote a dispatch which in the opinion of many would have undoubtedly caused a war with England and very likely resulted in the success of the Confederacy. Happily for our country Lincoln had given orders that no dispatches be sent without his first

reading them, and when this one came to his hand he revised it, changing here and there a word or the phrasing, yet without the message losing any of its dignity or firmness, until in the end the burden of proof was thrown upon the British Government. A copy of the document, which is regarded as the very perfection of statesmanship, is preserved in the State Department at Washington.

Mason and Silldell Incident. A short time after this our Government was again involved in a complication with Great Britain. This was brought about by the zealous offices of Captain Charles Wilkes, of the gunboat "San Jacinto," who overhauled the British mail steamer "Trent" and took from the passenger cabin ex-Senator J. M. Mason and John Silldell, who had been accredited by the Confederate Government as envoys to the European courts. These men had eluded the blockade and sailed from Havana. This act was regarded by the British Government as an insult to their flag and a violation of international law, and the British Minister was instructed to close the legation and return to England unless the prisoners were released and a satisfactory apology offered inside a week. The delicacy of the situation was added to by the fact that the Secretary of the Navy had approved of the action of Captain Wilkes and Congress had passed a resolution commending him for his patriotic conduct. Again the President took the matter in his own hands and a long and courteous dispatch was prepared suggesting that the matter be submitted to arbitration, but before it could be sent Lincoln saw that the position of our Government was untenable, and with his keen perception he thought of a way in which the United States could honorably withdraw and at the same time use the incident to our advantage and in the end get the better of the controversy. Eight thousand English troops were preparing to start for Canada, the British fleet had been ordered to American waters and the export of ammunition from England had been forbidden when Lincoln sent the following message:

"We must stick to American principles concerning the rights of neutrals. We fought Great Britain for insisting by theory and practice on the right to do precisely what Captain Wilkes had done. If Great Britain shall now protest against the act and demand their release, we must give them up and apologize for the act as a violation of our own doctrines, and thus forever bind her over to keep the peace in relation to neutrals, and so acknowledge that she has been wrong for sixty years."

And so it came to pass that Lincoln's sound judgment not only averted a serious foreign entanglement but forced Great Britain to accept the American doctrine of the rights of neutrals.

Defends Monroe Doctrine. Several times during his administration, President Lincoln was called upon to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, and there again he handled the incident with a diplomatic penetration and skill which surprised the older statesmen. Once more he "ploughed around" the situation and accomplished his purpose without a collision. When the Emperor of France was about to set up an empire in Mexico Lincoln expressed his disapproval of this to the powers of Europe as well as to the Emperor of France himself, and to strengthen his position on the subject he suggested to the Chairman of the Convention of 1823 that he give a strong endorsement to the Monroe Doctrine in his opening speech and then have the Convention adopt a resolution such as would leave no doubt as to opposition of the United States to the attempt to establish a monarchy in the land to the South of us. This ended the matter.

Lincoln's fidelity to his trust, his original way of doing things, his unerring perception of right and wrong, and, above all, his honesty toward his fellow man, have won for him the everlasting gratitude of the American people.

HOLLAND'S WAR BURDENS

How the Gigantic Task of Caring for the Belgian Refugees Was Carried Out By the Dutch Despite Their Loss of Commerce - Their Present Activity In Preparedness.

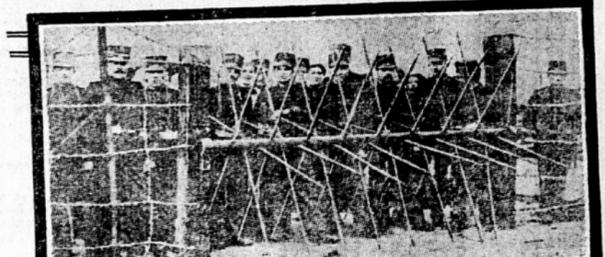
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THE neutral countries of Europe are few and small and with the exception of Switzerland and Holland, all of the others have been solicited to join one side or the other. Holland is close to the early scenes of action and not far from her border the fighting has been fierce since the beginning of the war. This has made her position both delicate and dangerous.

Population Increased By Refugees. When it is learned that her population was about six million on August first, 1914, and that by October 15th it had increased at least a million, the majority of whom were refugees without money, it can be readily understood that the war burdens of this little country taxed her people to the utmost. The Hollander is slow mentally, but when once aroused he acts and acts quickly. So, when the refugees came pouring over the border by the thousands, first by way of Maestricht and later by the way of Weert, Tilburg and Antwerp, the natives of Holland arose as one man to give aid to these unfortunate people.

Aside from the refugees, they also have a number of soldiers interned, and in order to care for these men and to guard the border as well it has been necessary for Holland to keep an army of at least two hundred and fifty thousand mobilized.

Refugee Camps. After a time refugee camps were set up in Holland and several hundred thousand persons were quartered there. As things in Belgium quieted down many of the refugees returned to their homes, but three months ago there were still one hundred thousand persons in the camps. When winter came on there was much suffering and the Dutch committees were unable to meet the demand. After the Belgian Relief Fund came from America the condition of the refugees was ameliorated somewhat as to outside clothing, but they still lacked the warm undergarments so necessary in the cold, wet winters of



Dutch Soldiers Guarding the Border Between Holland and Belgium

Holland. There was nothing to do, and as "an idle brain is the devil's workshop" some of them became quarrelsome and the Hollanders had no little difficulty in keeping order in the camp. Finally there came the inspection by the Rockefeller Foundation War Relief Commission, and they decided that the refugees must be given some work as the long idleness was undermining their energy. It was then determined to establish a working camp at Rotterdam where the women might make clothing. Accordingly, sewing machines, cloth, muslin, etc., were provided and the women of the camp set to work with a will making underwear. Those who could not use the machines were given yarn and they have knitted hundreds of warm garments.

Holland Prepared. That Holland is uncertain as to the attitude of Germany toward her is shown in her preparedness. Although a small country her resources are surprising and everywhere one finds storerooms being filled for use in case of emergency. Indeed, all Western Holland is a vast storehouse loaded with everything necessary to support the Dutch people and with a surplus sufficient to meet the needs of an army during a year's campaign. All Eastern and Southern Holland is an armed camp where soldiers drill and have target practice all day long. A number of regiments are stationed near the German frontier and the whole border between Belgium and Holland is well guarded. The Groot Market in Rotterdam is filled with food products. Holland has imported thousands of pounds of raw material over her regulation imports and has carefully stored them away. Copper, wheat, cotton and medical supplies are safely placed away. Cheese, cereals, canned meats

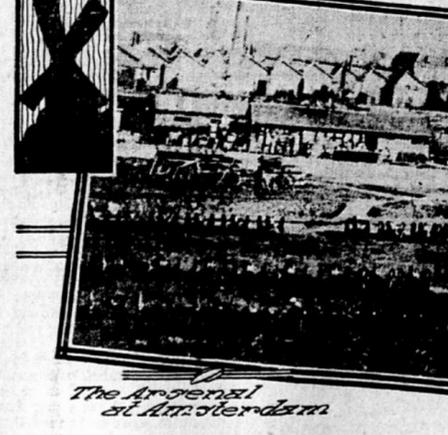
and great quantities of dried fish fill her warehouses at Hartingen, Stavoren and Campen—in fact, all along the Zuider Zee foodstuffs are being accumulated by the ton. Nickel, copper and gasoline imported from America and Canada, socks, shoes and woolen shirts by the thousands have come to the Dutch from the United States while Liverpool has been sending them woolen cloth.

Trench fortifications and earthworks have been constructed at vital points and there is plenty of ammunition in the country to defend these trenches should such a thing become necessary. While a great part of this was purchased from Norway, Sweden, America and even from England, the Dutch are busy making ammunition for themselves, as none is exported. At present they are at work on shells loaded with a certain new high explosive. The arsenal at Amsterdam where much of the ammunition is stored is closely guarded and prying strangers are not allowed anywhere near the place. No photographing is allowed about the ammunition factories and the greatest secrecy is maintained as to the character of the explosives and the kind of shell which is being turned out. A sort of wave of preparedness seems to have swept over the country ever since the invasion of Belgium by the Germans.

The scheme of defense adopted in 1874 contemplated the concentration of defensive forces in a restricted district known as "Holland Fortress." This comprises the provinces of North and South Holland with parts of Zeeland and Utrecht. Two-thirds of the area is surrounded by the sea. The land side can be rendered difficult of attack by inundations. The entrances to the Rotterdam and Amsterdam ship canals are defended by powerful forts, while the citadel of the whole, at Amsterdam, is well fortified. Work



The Palace of Queen Wilhelmina in Amsterdam



The Arsenal at Amsterdam



Queen Wilhelmina and the Prince Consort returning from church in Amsterdam



Queen Wilhelmina of Holland

is now progressing on the land side defenses and little is known to outsiders of their character.

The Army. According to the Act of 1912, service in the army is partly voluntary and partly compulsory. Every Dutch citizen is liable to personal service in the army or navy from the age of nineteen. Actual service in the ranks is determined by lot, but substitution is not permitted. These engagements of voluntarily enlisted men is for ten years, of which only two or three years (according to the arm of the service) are with the colors but many

re-engage to become non-commissioned officers. The conscripted militiamen belong to the active army for six years for the unmounted corps and eight years for the mounted corps. The sea enlistment is for five years. After having fulfilled their active service the militiamen pass to the "landwehr" for seven years; they can be called out twice in their seven years, but for six days only on each occasion. Men of the mounted corps and of the navy are excused from landwehr service. As in the majority of the European countries, the Mannlicher rifle is used.

Just before war was declared in 1914, reorganization of the army was pending, and it is now going on along certain lines. A great deal of target practice is in progress where solid shot and shrapnel is being used—the former at condemned armor plate and the latter at dummies in the trenches. The gunners are said to be excellent and reveal a wonderful alertness and execution in handling their pieces. An interesting addition to the Dutch field army are the companies of machine guns and light howitzers drawn by mastsiffs. The dogs display extraordinary intelligence in their work

and understand and obey orders even better than horses. The cavalry, too has come up to a high standard although proper mounts are still lacking. The manœuvring grounds for all the arms of the service are the broad, flat plains generally over reclaimed land near the seashore.

Queen Opposed To War. The Queen has always been opposed to war, and while she believes in preparedness only the direct necessity would cause her to give her consent to plunging her people into war. She has taken the deepest interest in the refugees, and her womanly influence has been felt in the relief work. A woman of rare good sense and tact, her people fairly worship her, and what the Queen thinks and what the Queen wants done goes far toward shaping Holland's policies.