

# The Year 1912 at Home



THEODORE ROOSEVELT, WHOSE SHOOTING SHOCKED THE NATION—PRESIDENT ELECT WOODROW WILSON—THE LATE VICE PRESIDENT SHERMAN—TITANIC STRIKING ICEBERG.

## HISTORY OF 1912 IN UNITED STATES

Chief Events in Politics—Disasters, Obituary, Sports.

**H**ERE is another year to be reviewed. They are going by with ever increasing frequency, like stations seen from an express train. Why is it that Father Time seems to sprint faster the older we get? He should be arrested for oversteering.

The chief events of 1912 in the "good old U. S. A." were the presidential campaign, the attempted assassination of Theodore Roosevelt and the Titanic disaster. While in a technical sense the sinking of the Titanic was more of a foreign than a domestic happening, there were so many noted Americans who lost their lives in the wreck that we should have the melancholy privilege of claiming it as our own.

The unusual features of the fight for the presidency were the first trial on an extensive scale of the preferential primary, the Roosevelt candidacy, the three pre-convention campaigns in which for the first time in our history a president of the United States was driven to take the stump in his own defense, the splitting of the Republican party and the organization of the Progressive party, the long and fierce fight in the Democratic convention ending in the nomination of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, the death of Vice President Sherman and the great plurality given Wilson at the polls.

It was some time after the announcement of Colonel Roosevelt that "my hat is in the ring" ere the tide began to show in his favor. He had previously said that he would not again be a candidate, and the renomination of President Taft was taken as a matter of course. States having the old convention system still continued for Taft, but most of the primary states began swinging into line for Roosevelt. Illinois and Pennsylvania, going with a rush that made the politicians gasp.

### Taft Wins and Loses.

Roosevelt was on the stump throughout this struggle, and Mr. Taft now followed him. The two campaigned in Massachusetts, Maryland and Ohio. Massachusetts and Maryland were close, Taft carrying one and Roosevelt the other, but Ohio gave a large plurality to the colonel.

The Republican convention was preceded by an acrimonious struggle in the national committee over contested seats. Roosevelt and his friends charged, fought and threatened, and the

majority went to Chicago in person. In the convention Taft and Sherman were renominated by a slim majority, while the colonel's followers refused to vote. Later they organized the Progressive party and held a national convention in Chicago, which nominated Colonel Roosevelt for president and Governor Hiram W. Johnson of California for vice president. This launching of the long expected new party alone makes 1912 historic.

The fight in the Democratic convention was almost as fierce. Champ Clark led at the start, gaining for ten ballots an actual majority, but lacking the two-thirds necessary to nominate. William J. Bryan, who had fought Judge Alton B. Parker for the temporary chairmanship, had written much of the platform and forced through resolutions attacking the reactionary element, here threw his influence against Clark. Wilson had been steadily forging to the front and was nominated on the forty-seventh ballot.

The actual campaign was milder than had been the fight for the nomination, and the vote was surprisingly light. Wilson carried the election by more than 2,000,000 plurality in the popular vote and by about 340 majority in the electoral college. Both houses of congress went with him, the senate by a narrow margin. Roosevelt led Taft in the balloting. The Socialists materially increased their vote, and woman suffrage captured Arizona, Kansas and Oregon.

### The Titanic Disaster.

The other big domestic event of the year was the collision of the Titanic with an iceberg in mid-ocean, sinking with 1,501 out of 2,208 souls aboard. Many of those who perished were men of worldwide fame, such as W. T. Stead, the British journalist; Charles M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk railroad; Colonel John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus, Major A. W. Butt, the aid to the president; Francis D. Millet, the artist; Jacques Futrell, the novelist, and many more almost as well known. The Titanic was the largest steamship then afloat and was making her maiden voyage. Inquiries into the disaster were held on both sides of the Atlantic.

The shooting of Colonel Roosevelt occurred on Oct. 14 at Milwaukee. The assassin was John Schrank of New York, afterward adjudged insane. The bullet lodged against a rib, which it broke. Despite his wound, the colonel made a speech to which he was going when attacked and before the month was out was back on the stump. The death of Vice President James Schoulercraft Sherman occurred only a few days before election at his home in Utica, N. Y. He was the first Republican vice president ever renominated.

Other important domestic events of the year were as follows: Proclamation of statehood for New Mexico and Arizona; floating of the wreck of the

Maipo in Havana harbor; appointment of Mahlon Pitney of New Jersey associate justice of the United States supreme court; resignation of Dr. H. W. Wiley, the pure food crusader; Chicago meat packers declared not guilty by a jury; passage by congress of the constitutional amendment for popular election of United States senators; the expulsion of William Lorimer of Illinois from the senate; opening of the Pulitzer school of journalism; awarding of the Nobel prize in surgery to Dr. Alexis Carrel of New York; announcement of the resignation of British Ambassador James Bryce; dissolution of the bath tub trust; the investigation of the money trust; the passage of a parcels post law; the report of Explorer Stefansson that he had found a race of white Eskimos on the northern edge of the continent, and the fight over the Panama canal tolls.

### Labor Strikes and Trials.

In the world of labor the chief event was the trial of more than forty union officials at Indianapolis on dynamite charges growing out of the McNamara case. Clarence S. Darrow was acquitted on a charge of jury bribing in connection with the same case. The strike at Lawrence, Mass., resulted in the arrest of three labor leaders on a murder charge. They were acquitted. The anthracite coal strike was ended by a compromise, and a board of arbitration decided in favor of the engineers in their fight with northeastern railroads.

Sporting features were the splendid showing of American athletes in the Olympic games at Stockholm; winning of the American golf championship by Jerome D. Travers over the British champion and others; the fight for the world's baseball championship between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Giants, Boston winning; and Harvard defeating Yale and Princeton in football.

The Russian treaty expired on Dec. 31. America warned Mexico to protect the lives of Americans and sent troops into Cuba and Nicaragua during uprisings in those countries.

Some of the noted Americans who died during the year were, in addition to those already named, Rear Admirals Robley D. Evans and G. W. Melville; General James B. Weaver, popular candidate for president; General H. H. Bingham, "father of the house"; Senators R. L. Taylor, W. B. Heyburn and Isidor Rayner and ex-Senators H. D. Money, W. A. Puffer, James Gordon and John P. Jones; General Frederick Dent Grant; Dr. D. K. Pearsons, the philanthropist; Homer Davenport, the cartoonist; Wilbur Wright, inventor of the aeroplane; Margaret Sangster; General Edward S. Bragg; Miss Harriet Quibby, the first woman to fly across the English channel; General Arthur MacArthur; General Homer Lea, who had assisted in the Chinese revolution; Calbraith P. Rodgers, who had flown across the American continent, and Rev. Robert Collyer.

# The Year 1912 Abroad



Photo by American Press Association.

BULGARIAN TROOPS CAMPAIGNING AGAINST TURKEY—AMUNDSEN, DISCOVERER OF THE SOUTH POLE—MUTSUHITO, JAPAN'S LATE EMPEROR—OLYMPIC GAMES IN SWEDEN.

## HISTORY OF 1912 IN FOREIGN LANDS

Balkan War, Olympic Games and Other Happenings.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

**T**HE chief events of 1912 abroad were the Balkan war, the permanent establishment of the Chinese republic, the announcement of the discovery of the south pole, the death of the mikado of Japan, the smothering out of uprisings in Mexico, Cuba and Nicaragua, the assassination of Premier Canalejas of Spain, the Olympic games at Stockholm and the home rule fight in the British parliament.

It certainly was a disastrous year for Turkey. In closing the war with Italy she was forced to give up Tripoli, the last of her African provinces. She had an earthquake that destroyed 3,000 lives, a cholera epidemic, a near revolution and a war with the Balkan allies that has cost her nearly all of her provinces in Europe. She has had nearly everything the matter with her except mumps and housemaid's knee. Her harems have fled to Asia Minor, and her soldiers have fled wherever the feeling was good. She declared war on Oct. 17 and only regained consciousness in time to talk peace with her conquerors.

### Shortest War on Record.

In Europe it is known as the "thirty days' war," the shortest on record. Every one of the allies won important victories, and won them in such rapid succession that the world looked on amazed. The reputation of the Turkish army crumbled overnight. The first clash occurred on Oct. 4, and four days later little Montenegro declared war, capturing Detitch mountain and investing Scutari. The Bulgarians smashed the Turks in a disastrous defeat at Kirk Kilise, besieged Adrianople and invested the last line of Turkish defense before Constantinople. The Serbian army drove all before it and participated in the capture of Monastir and other strongholds. The Greeks won a succession of victories and took the historic city of Saloniki. It was at about this time that Turkey recovered consciousness and asked for an armistice. The meeting for peace negotiations was held in London.

The insistence of Serbia on an Adriatic port as a result of her victories aroused opposition in Austria, and for a time there was widespread fear of a general European war, which had not entirely disappeared at the end of the year.

The work of the Chinese revolution, which started last year, was largely completed, and the republic is now a fixed fact. Dr. Sun Yat Sen was inaugurated as provisional president on Jan. 1, but unselfishly resigned in favor of Yuan Shih kai two months later. The Manchurian dynasty, which had lasted for 268 years, came to an end on Feb. 12, and three days later the emperor of Yuan occurred, his last day taking place on March 10. The emperor of the soldiers about Peking was put down, and the Chinese republic was temporarily solved by a coalition of foreign loans. Work on a new constitution was advanced, and other advanced measures were introduced in some of the provinces.

The discovery of the south pole was really made on Dec. 17, 1911, but the announcement was deferred until March 7, 1912, when the discoverer, Captain Roald Amundsen, returned to civilization.

The death of Emperor Mutsuhito of Japan, under whom that wonderful nation has been transformed from semi-barbarism to a place in the front rank of nations, occurred on July 30, and his son, Yoshihito, ascended the throne. The funeral of the dead mikado was accompanied by oriental pomp and was attended by representatives from the whole world. A sensational aftermath was the suicide of General Count Nogai and his wife. Nogai was the commander who took Port Arthur.

### Latin American Insurrections.

The Mexican revolution against President Madero made considerable headway early in the year, the rebels capturing the city of Juarez on Feb. 27. Later the federalists gained important victories, driving the insurgents into the mountains. A new difficulty occurred when Vera Cruz arose in insurrection, led by Felix Diaz, nephew of the former president. This uprising was speedily suppressed, however, and Diaz, with his other officers, was captured, two of his lieutenants being put to death.

There was also an insurrection in Nicaragua. American marines were landed to protect property and lives of our citizens. On Sept. 26 General Mena, a leader of the insurrection, surrendered to the federal and American forces.

A rebellion of the negroes in one of the Cuban provinces also caused the landing of American forces, and there was some talk of intervention, but the disturbance was soon quelled. Cuba held her presidential election in the fall without the presence of American troops. The new president, General Mario Menocal, is friendly to the United States.

### End of Turko-Italian War.

The war between Italy and Turkey dragged on through the early part of the year, with no very heavy fighting on either side. The Italian navy took the islands of the Aegean. The use of the aeroplane in war had further demonstration, Italian aviators dropping

bombs in a Turkish camp, killing ten. On Oct. 15 the peace protocol was signed between the two countries. By its terms Italy gained practical control of Tripoli, but gave up the Aegean islands that Greece is now battling to free.

In Great Britain the most notable events of the year, aside from England's part in the general European situation, were the coal strike in February and March, the continued disturbances by the suffragettes and the home rule fight. The coal strike threw out of employment upward of 1,000,000 workers and threatened for a time to become worldwide, there being also a strike in Germany and trouble threatened in France and the United States. The British government interposed, and the contest was finally settled by the passage of a minimum wage law satisfactory to the miners.

### France Subdues Morocco.

There was some friction between France and Spain over the division of Morocco, but it was finally adjusted, France retaining control of all of it, except some towns and a small amount of territory nearest to Spain. Mulai Hadd abdicated as sultan.

Among the sporting events abroad were the quadrennial Olympic races at Stockholm, in which the United States took most of the track and field events, and the annual boat race between Oxford and Cambridge, Oxford winning.

Other events of the year were the honoring of William Marconi, inventor of wireless, by a life seat in the Italian senate; the completion of the Alpine tunnel through the Aar mountain, six and three-quarter miles long; the sinking of the steamer Texas under the Turkish flag, sixty-six passengers being drowned, and the review of seventy-two war aeroplanes and dirigibles at Paris.

Among the noted dead abroad were Alfred Tennyson, Dickens, in New York to celebrate the centenary of his father's birth; Henry Labouchere, the brilliant British editor and statesman; Abbe Charles Layson (Pere Hyacinthe); W. T. Stead, the famous London editor, who went down in the wreck of the Titanic; Count von Aehrenthal, Austrian premier; Edward Terry, the English actor; Bram Stoker, London author and manager; Justin McCarthy, the famous author and statesman; Robert W. B. Browning, only son of the poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Henri Poincare, celebrated French mathematician; Andrew Lang, poet and novelist; Massenet, the composer; Johann M. Schleyer, inventor of Volapuk, the language having died before its author; Rev. William Booth, founder and head of the Salvation Army; Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, German diplomat; Rev. Augustus Orlebar, original of "Tom Brown"; Robert Barr, the Scotch novelist; Laurence Alma-Tadema, the famous artist, and Premier Canalejas of Spain, who was assassinated by an anarchist.