

THIRTY-SECOND

ELECTION

1912

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT	PARTY	ELECTORAL VOTE	POPULAR VOTE
Woodrow Wilson	Democratic	435	6,286,214
Theodore Roosevelt	Progressive	88	4,126,020
William H. Taft	Republican	8	3,483,922
Eugene V. Debs	Socialist	0	897,011
Eugene W. Chafin	Prohibition	0	207,828
Arthur E. Reimer	Social Labor	0	29,259

DURING the early part of Taft's administration, Teddy Roosevelt was abroad making a triumphant tour of Europe. There, he received the Nobel Peace prize and was given many other honors. At home, Taft was finding it difficult to maintain the policies established by Roosevelt. The progressive wing of the Republican party grew increasingly hostile to him. Roosevelt, himself, was drawn into the controversy, and a rift developed between him and his erstwhile protege. He became increasingly bitter over Taft's conservatism. The situation became acute as convention time approached. Roosevelt followers demanded that he seek the nomination. Neither side would give ground.

At the convention a pitched battle took place. Taft gained control of the convention machinery. Roosevelt delegates were voted out. Elihu Root became permanent chairman. Taft was renominated with most of the Roosevelt supporters abstaining. Roosevelt, answering this clear call to arms, formed a third party, the Progressives, and was named Progressive candidate after announcing, "My hat is in the ring." Saying to reporters that he felt "strong as a bull moose," he coined the popular name given the party.

The Democrats entered their convention almost certain of victory, due to the Repub-

lican split. The convention favorite was Champ Clark who, by the tenth ballot, had a majority. However, the two-thirds rule obtained, and on the fourteenth ballot Bryan withdrew support from him. Finally, on the forty-sixth ballot, Woodrow Wilson, Governor of New Jersey, was nominated.

It was a bitter three-cornered fight. Taft supporters argued, "We are prosperous—why change?" The Democrats urged, "Win with Wilson." Speaking in Milwaukee, Teddy Roosevelt was shot by an anti-third-term fanatic. With the bullet still in his body he continued his speech. Fortunately, an eye-glass case deflected the bullet, and his injury was not serious.

As anticipated, the Republican division assured Democratic success. Wilson won with T.R. a not too close second and Taft a distant third. And Woodrow Wilson entered the White House in the troubled year of 1913.

