

# HE GUIDES the NATION'S ARMY

THIS is a sketch of Newton D. Baker, President Wilson's new Secretary of War, formerly Mayor of Cleveland.



Secretary Baker

NEWTON D. BAKER, "I had been told by a man well acquainted with him, 'is the kind of thoroughly good citizen we all approve of highly—and fall to imitate! He has lofty ideals. He has high principles. He is utterly sincere. He is simple and unaffected both in thought and life. He has a clear, well-disciplined mind. He has an extraordinary command of concise and effective speech. Without being in the least effusive, he is a good mixer. You will find him full of charm. Out in Cleveland he lived in a modest frame house with his wife and three children, smoked flake tobacco in a 25-cent pipe, drove his own Ford, and for amusement read Greek and Latin books on the street cars.' Thus runs an article by Rowland Thomas in the New York World.

"It is interesting to notice," my informant added, "that he is the second of Tom Johnson's disciples to be lifted into prominence by President Wilson. Brand Whitlock is the other. It is hardly exaggeration to say that Brand Whitlock, in Belgium, has proved himself a great man. Will Baker be as successful in the war department? Frankly, much as I like him personally, I am wondering whether he will measure up to the job. What he has done he has done well. But—he has never been tested out in really big affairs. Has he the capacity for them? You know a .33-caliber revolver may be a perfect weapon—as a revolver—but fall lamentably if pressed into service as a seacoast gun! Is Newton D. Baker big enough to be secretary of war at a time like this? That's what I'm asking myself. That's what the country is asking itself, I think."

Naturally those remarks ran through my head as I talked with the new secretary of war last week. I saw him twice, once in his modest bedroom at the University club, where he is living for the present as a bachelor "because the children are in school in Cleveland and we don't want to break into their year." The second time he was in his office in the war department, the office to which one penetrates through that dread antechamber where hang the portraits of all the previous incumbents of the office.

On both occasions I got the same impression of the physical man. Nature, in molding his body, did a neat job. He is a markedly small man, but in proportion all the way through. His littleness carries no suggestion of the dwarfish. His head is large, but not enough so to make him look top-heavy. His hands and feet are of moderate size, well formed and muscular. He has a chest big enough to breathe in, a waist which carries no adipose luggage. His skin is swarthy, his hair black and straight. A pair of hazel eyes full of life, but comprehensive rather than keen; the wide mouth of an orator or actor, mobile yet firm of lip; the brow of a scholar; a face in general in the perpendicular lines of strength are accentuated, a manner at once dignified and friendly, a bearing which I should call attentive rather than alert—these are the characteristics of the outward man.

His mentality is not so easily characterized. I shall have to try to bring it out for you in a series of rather detached glimpses, as he himself revealed it to me in the course of our conversation.

Our talk ranged over many topics. We had, for instance, been speaking of the extraordinary amount of reading of standard English authors he had done before he was twenty years old, and I asked him whether the familiarity of his mother tongue thus acquired had not been an important element in his various successes. He said: "I think that is true. Ability to express myself effectively in speech has been of great value to me."

This led to a brief sketch of his personal history. Mr. Baker was born in 1871 in Martinsburg, W. Va., a community of 2,000 persons, wherein his father was the leading physician. He was the second of four sons. At the age of twenty, in 1891, he received his degree of Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins university, having completed the four years course in three years. Followed a year of graduate work in Roman law, comparative jurisprudence and economics, and then his law course, which he took at Washington and Lee university, completing the two years' work in one year. "That compression," he told me, "was done for family reasons. Money was not plentiful in a country doctor's family, and there were other sons to educate." After his graduation in 1893 Mr. Baker hung out his shingle in Martinsburg to indicate that he was "willing to practice law," as he puts it, and remained in that receptive condition until 1896, the last year of the Cleveland administration, when Postmaster General Wilson called him to Washington to be his private secretary. "I divided my two cases between the other members of the local bar," he told me, "and went."

In 1899 Mr. Baker was invited to come to Cleveland, O., as a partner with Foran & McGliffe, one of the city's leading firms of trial lawyers. He went there, met Tom Johnson and was magnetized; by that association was drawn into local politics and had fourteen years of active campaigning there, serving four terms as city solicitor under Mayor Johnson and two terms as mayor after his chief was deposed. He declined to run for a third term, and had just resumed his law practice at the beginning of this year when he was called to Washington.

Returning to our topic, I asked him to what other qualities besides his ability as a speaker he felt indebted for what he had accomplished. He pondered that and said:

"Looking at myself impersonally, I am inclined to think I have a very patient mind. I mean by that a mind which moves slowly, which plods forward instead of dashing or leaping. There is nothing brilliant about it. A brilliant mind, it strikes me, is like a thoroughbred horse, good for a race but afterward needing to be stabled for a day or two. My mind is like a plow horse. It cannot spur, but it can go on turning furrow after furrow. That lets me get through a lot of work."

"By a patient mind," he went on, "I also mean a mind which does not leap to attitudes and decisions, but feels its way. And a mind which does not get its back up easily. Opposition does not make my mind brittle. A difference of opinion is not a personal thing with me."

"And I think," he said, his dark eyes twinkling and his wide lips quivering with fun, "it has been a very decided advantage to me to be so little and to look so young. I really mean that," he hastened to add and cited two instances in illustration. One was his argument before the Supreme court of the United States in the Cleveland traction cases, an argument which attracted the flattering favorable comment of the learned justices. The other was a speech which was one of the outstanding features of the Baltimore convention which nominated President Wilson.

"Neither of those," he commented, "could by any stretching of words be called a great speech. The natural fairness of men was what pulled me through in both cases. I looked so handicapped that my hearers said instinctively, 'Give the boy a chance!'"

Such cool, almost academic self-analysis led me to ask him how life struck him, so to speak—what ambitions it stirred in him. "I'd like to practice law," he said. "That is my one ambition. There is no office or position that I care for. But I'd like to practice and practice and practice law."

Further talk along that line developed the rather interesting fact that the new secretary of war is one of those men who seem to have been moved forward by the urgings and propulsion of their friends instead of fighting forward of their own accord in response to an inner impulse. Postmaster General Wilson all but dragged him from his briefcase in Martinsburg to get his first taste of cabinet ways and duties and responsibilities. Martin Foran dragged him to Cleveland to become a trial lawyer. Tom Johnson dragged him into politics. And Woodrow Wilson has just dragged him to the war department.

The circumstances of the Foran case are unusual enough to partake of the romantic. In 1897, when the young and still younger looking attorney was returning from his first visit to Europe, he was table mate of the late W. T. Stead and a mild-mannered, retiring English barrister. One day Baker came on deck to find the barrister in a peck of trouble. A stalwart, lawyerly, six-foot Irishman, full of Gaelic fire, had waylaid him and was charging him, in his own person, with all the wrongs England had ever perpetrated on the distressed country. "I happened to be rather familiar with the Irish land laws," so Mr. Baker tells it, "and contrived to substitute myself for the barrister in the argument. The upshot of it was that my opponent and I became good friends and spent the rest of the voyage playing chess together. We parted in New York. I went back to Martinsburg, and no word passed between us for two years. Then the man—Martin Foran—wrote me the firm's business had so increased that another partner was required and that he wanted me. I had long felt I should be in a larger community than Martinsburg, and I liked Cleveland, but I knew they wanted a trial lawyer, which I was not. So I went on full of excuses, prepared to thank him and be dismissed in friendliness. Before I could get my first excuse out Mr. Foran had ushered me into an office and said, 'Here's yours,' and before I caught my breath he had sent some clients in for me to talk with. I stayed in Cleveland and learned to be a trial lawyer."

His enlistment as an active fighter in the Johnson camp was equally casual. "Tom" was sick one night, and the young lawyer was pressed into service to fill his place at a rally. "Tom's sick," said the man who introduced him. "This is Newton D. Baker, who's going to speak in his place."

He's a lawyer. That's all I know about him. Go ahead, boy, and tell them what you know." Baker told them, and so began the activities which led to four terms as solicitor and legal leader of the antitraction combine forces and two terms as mayor.

I asked Mr. Baker how the mayor of Cleveland's job compared with that of the secretary of war. "I love personal relationships. One of the pleasantest things about being mayor of a city the size of Cleveland is the great number of people with whom it puts one into touch. At the war department I find a large part of my duties is taken up with seeing people. I am very glad that is so. I like to see people constantly. Of course," he explained, "I don't mean that flocks of casual visitors drop in to see me here. But the business of the department brings many people to me daily."

I had meant to ask him how the two positions compared in size and difficulty. He was non-committal on that point, and I suggested that at least he did not seem appalled by the size of his new task, even though the Mexican situation had given him a baptism of fire for a greeting. He said:

"I am not appalled. No man can hope to escape mistakes. Mistakes are inevitable. I know I shall make some. But the only things one need be really afraid of are insincerities and indirection. Also, it is well to remember that unfamiliar tasks have a way of looking mountainous. Familiarity reduces their proportions. At present I am working here from half past eight in the morning till midnight to become familiar with mine. That slow kind of mine," he said smilingly, "compels me to put in those long hours."

"What is your idea of the functions of the secretary of war?"

"The duties," he said, "are largely legal. Almost all the secretaries have been lawyers. (He cited the names of many, from Stanton down to his predecessor, Garrison.) Strictly military affairs are not my province. Experts must care for those things. Legal questions—touching the conflicting rights of state and federal governments, the navigability of streams, the proceedings of courts martial—such things comprise the problems I have to settle. I am an executive. Congress has made laws governing my department. It is my duty to see that they are carried out conscientiously."

About "preparedness" he felt obliged to decline to say a word, and I reminded him of an interview in which he was recently quoted as saying that he was "for peace at almost any price."

"So I am," he answered stoutly, "because peace seems to me the reasonable thing. I do not say that war is always avoidable. It seems to come sometimes as earthquakes come—a natural cataclysm. The French revolution, I think, was such a war. But war is always regrettable. Peace is what spells progress. We have to advance step by step. I do not think we can hope to force advancement by violence. And I believe that sometimes we shall have a court of nations, and no more wars. Was it Lowell said: 'The telegraph gave the world a nervous system.' As our world gets better co-ordinated by intercommunication, we shall have fewer of the misunderstandings which cause wars."

Constantly, as we talked, alike in his domicile and in his office, the new secretary's unpretentious pipe was in his mouth. Constantly his knees crooked and his feet curled up to comfortable position on radiator top and desk top. Though there was always dignity about him, we might have been two undergraduates chatting together. His attitude was not suggestive of lounging or of affected carelessness. It was, I thought, the bodily ease which is apt to reflect outwardly the mental state of self-unconsciousness and serene self-confidence. As city solicitor of Cleveland, in the traction matters, he fought the mobilized legal big guns of Ohio to a standstill. As mayor he forced the people to retain him until he had done what he set out to do.

To be secretary of war just now, to be lifted at one step from local into national prominence at a critical moment like the present, is a far more searching test of his capacities than any he has yet undergone.

## THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

May 1, 1915.  
Germans gained ground along Ypres canal, but lost near Bagtelle and in Le Pretre forest.  
Germans invaded Russian Baltic provinces.  
Russians defeated in Kovno and at Orava and Opor valleys.  
Two German torpedo boats and one British destroyer sunk in North sea battle.  
Dardanelles and Bosphorus forts bombarded.  
American tanker Guilflight torpedoed.

May 2, 1915.  
British and French vainly attacked Germans northeast of Ypres.  
Great battle developed in Plain of Rawa, Central Poland.  
Austrians took offensive in region of Cieszowice.  
Allies made further advance on Gallipoli peninsula; Australians lost heavily.  
German aeroplanes bombarded Epinal and other places.  
Last of the landsturm called out.

May 3, 1915.  
Germans made violent attacks near Ypres and in Champagne.  
Teutons under Von Mackensen won great victory in West Galicia.  
Continuous bombardment of Dardanelles maintained by allied fleet.  
British steamer Minterne and four Norse steamers sunk by German submarines.

May 4, 1915.  
Germans took three villages near Ypres.  
French gained in region of Steenstraete.  
Fierce battle near Stry between Russians and Teutons.  
Triple alliance treaty denounced by Italy.  
Turks defeated allies near Avil Burnu.  
Lloyd-George introduced second British war budget.

May 5, 1915.  
Germans drove British back but were checked by French.  
Russians retreated along Galician line and on Carpathian slopes.  
Teutons captured Gorlice.  
Turks checked allies at Sedd-ul-Bahr.

May 6, 1915.  
German line around Ypres gave way in places, and French won ground in Alsace.  
Teutons took Tarnow, Jaslo and Dukia and drove Russians from Dunajec and Biala rivers.  
Russians defeated Turks in Caucasus.  
Desperate fighting in Gallipoli.  
Five British vessels sunk by submarines.

May 7, 1915.  
Cunard liner Lusitania sunk by German submarine; 1,154 persons lost, including 102 Americans.  
Germans made more gains near Ypres.  
Turks captured ten British guns at Sedd-ul-Bahr.  
Russian aviators dropped bombs on Constantinople.

## PICKED UP AT RANDOM

About twelve marriages out of every 100 are second marriages.

There is no federal institution in the continental United States for the reception and care of lepers.

The coal mines of Sweden do not produce enough fuel for that country's needs and scientists are trying many experiments with peat, of which there is a vast supply available.

So serious was a recent invasion of Uruguay by locusts that an agricultural and live stock census of that country was postponed for three months.

To enable persons to take breathing exercises systematically and on a progressive scale is the purpose of simple apparatus invented by a French doctor.

Elephants have been put to work in England. Horses are scarce, due to the great demand for war horses, but a Sheffield firm broke the horse famine by hiring a retired elephant from a circus, which pulls as much as five horses.

By photography, with a vibrating lens, an English scientist has timed a lightning flash at one-nineteenth of a second.

Parachutes to bring an aeroplane safely to land after it had met with a mishap in flight are a French invention.

Hawaii will be equipped with a lighthouse giving a double flash of light of 940,000 candle power every ten seconds.

The mineral production of Alaska last year is officially estimated to have been worth \$32,000,000, the greatest amount on record.

Simulated Erudition.  
"Do you always understand the subjects on which you deliver speeches?"  
"No," replied Senator Borghum.  
"Sometimes I have to talk about them in a way that makes people think they're too hard for anybody except myself to understand, even when I am trying to explain them."

That Child!  
Tommy—Oh, mother, look at that man! He's only got one arm.  
Mother—Hush! He'll hear you.  
Tommy—Why, doesn't he know it?

## HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

Carrollton is considering the erection of a community house this year. Architects' plans are being made for it. The building would house a gymnasium, reading rooms and farm bureau, and would have a convention hall seating 2,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Koehner celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Tipton. Mr. Koehner is 78 years old and Mrs. Koehner is 69. They have eight children. Mr. Koehner is a veteran of the Civil war.

Fire recently destroyed A. L. Bennett's drug store, G. A. Baker's grocery and J. L. Polson's mill at Cairo seven miles north of Moberly. The loss is estimated at \$25,000.

Daniel K. Wenrich, former postmaster of Joplin, is dead in Battle Creek, Mich., according to telegrams received at Joplin. He was the father of Percy Wenrich, the composer.

In the recent storm at Hume hallstones measuring six inches in circumference were picked up and a bolt of calico fell in James Harris' chicken lot in the north part of the city. It was quite a lucky hail for Mrs. Harris when the price of calico is considered. It is supposed that the calico was taken up in the clouds in the path of the tornado south of there.

Seven institutions were represented in the annual state peace oratorical contest. The judges, Editor R. K. Maiden, Ben Todd of Kansas City and Prof. I. B. Morgan of Kansas City, Kas., gave first place to G. V. Price of William Jewell college.

As a part of the program of "clean-up week" which was observed in Trenton April 17-22, the students of the high school joined in a "dandelion day." The entire student body was dismissed early and set to work digging the pests from the campus.

Thomas Boatwright, aged 79, is dead at his home in Marshall. He was one of Saline's pioneer citizens. Mr. Boatwright took part in the Civil war as a Confederate soldier and served on General Marmaduke's staff.

Alphonse Chase Stewart, 33d degree Mason, and treasurer of the Missouri grand lodge, who was stricken with acute indigestion on a train coming from Kansas City, died at St. Luke's hospital in St. Louis. He was a son of Lieut. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart of the Confederate army, and as a cadet was attached to his father's staff in the war.

The chamber of commerce has been advised by Walter Williams, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, that he has called a meeting of the committees and persons interested in the movement for a new constitution for Missouri, to be held in Sedalia May 13.

Charles Cook, a fireman of Brookfield, Mo., was killed, and H. W. Anderson, engineer, was severely injured when the locomotive boiler of the train blew up on the Burlington road about twenty miles from St. Joseph. The train was No. 56, bound for Chicago, and the engineer saved the lives of many passengers by staying on the engine until he stopped the train. The fireman also stayed at his post and could not escape.

Monett the other day voted to issue \$60,000 in bonds the proceeds of which will be used in building a link in the Springfield, Joplin, Kansas City road. The bond issue carried by a vote of about 4 to 1.

J. A. Whiteford, superintendent of schools in St. Joseph twelve years, has resigned and Vernon G. Mays, principal of the Lincoln, Neb., high school was elected to succeed him.

Five men were injured, two probably fatally, when a hopper and derrick at the Imperial mine near Joplin collapsed recently. They were working in the mill and were caught by falling debris.

Citizens of Ava, Douglas county, recently carried a bond issue of \$15,000, the proceeds of which will be used in building an addition to the Ava high school building. The vote was 180 for the bonds and 33 against.

The Centralia council has passed an ordinance that practically prohibits carnivals and shows of like character from exhibiting there. The churches at Sunday services voted thanks to the city council for the ordinance.

The location of a plant in Central Missouri to distill cannal coal may be the means of providing transportation facilities for that part of the state, which so long has faced that problem.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Davis, two of the oldest residents of Grundy county, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding at their home in Brimson recently. About 150 neighbors gathered at their home for dinner.

Announcement was made recently that Prof. Charles W. Leaphart of the University of Montana has been appointed acting professor of law in the Missouri University for the session of 1916-17. Professor Leaphart is a graduate of the Missouri university.

Chastain Garland Page, 81 years old, a prominent citizen of Marshall for sixty years, is dead. He was one of the original incorporators of the Wood and Huston bank in 1852, and was elected a director, which position he held until his death.

Soon after Springfield became a city of the second class Mayor J. J. Gideon appointed Fred A. Moon, Democrat, city attorney; Barney Rathbone, Republican, chief of police, and W. R. Price, Democrat, chief of the fire department.

## A LAND PROBLEM AHEAD

(FROM THE PEORIA JOURNAL.)

The Nebraska State Journal calls attention to the fact that Uncle Sam's opening of a 4,000-acre tract in the North Platte irrigation district for settlement practically winds up the "free land distribution" of the nation. It adds:

"Free or cheap land has been the American safety valve. A population straining for self-betterment has had its own remedy—to go west and grow up with the country. With the government reduced to advertising an opening of forty-three farms, the safety valve may be considered forever closed. The expansive energy formerly exerted outward, must hereafter work itself out intensively. Increasing land speculation, with rapidly rising prices of land and proportionately increasing dissatisfaction among the landless would seem inevitable. The tone of our politics and the intensity of our social problems cannot but be vitally changed under the strain of dealing internally with a social pressure which hitherto has had the wilderness to vent itself upon."

"Land hunger" will soon become a reality in this rapidly growing country and the constant pressure of population, increasingly higher than the ratio of production, is bound to bring us face to face with economic problems that we have heretofore considered remote. The far-sighted statesman and publicist must devote his thought earnestly to the consideration of these questions if we are to escape the extremes which curse the older nations of the world."

In the above will be found one of the reasons that the Canadian Government is offering 160 acres of land free to the actual settler. There is no dearth of homesteads of this size, and the land is of the highest quality, being such as produces yields of from 30 to 60 bushels of wheat per acre, while oats run from fifty to over hundred bushels per acre. It is not only a matter of free grants, but in Western Canada are also to be had other lands at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30 per acre, the difference in price being largely a matter of location and distance from railway. If one takes into consideration the scarcity of free grant lands in the United States it is not difficult to understand why there has been most material advances in the price of farm lands.

A few years ago, land that now sells for two hundred dollars an acre in Iowa, could have been bought for seventy-five dollars an acre or less. The increased price is warranted by the increased value of the product raised on these farms. The lands that today can be had in Western Canada at the low prices quoted will in a less time than that taken for the Iowa lands to increase, have a proportionate increase. In Nebraska the lands that sold for sixteen to twenty dollars per acre seven years ago, find a market at one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre, for the same reason given in the increase in Iowa lands. Values in these two States, as well as in others that might be mentioned, show that Western Canada lands are going at a song at their present prices. In many cases in Western Canada today, there are American settlers who realize this, and are placing a value of sixty and seventy dollars an acre on their improved farms, but would sell only because they can purchase unimproved land at such a low price that in another few years they would have equally as good farms as they left or such as their friends have in the United States.

The worth of the crops grown in Western Canada is of higher value than those of the States named, so why should the land not be worth fully as much. Any Canadian Government Agent will be glad to give you information as to homestead lands or where you can buy.—Advertiser.

Family Pride.  
The following story is told of the mayor of a western city:

A small boy, who afterward proved to be a nephew of one of the mayor's stenographers, was wandering about in the city hall when one of the officials there happened upon him.

"Well, sonny," inquired the man, genially, "for whom are you looking?"  
"For my Aunt Kate."  
"Can't you find her?"  
"I can't seem to."  
"And don't you know where she is?"  
"Not exactly. She's in here somewhere, though, and I know that the mayor works in her office."—Harper's Magazine.

## DO YOU NEED A KIDNEY REMEDY?

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is not recommended for everything, but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble, it may be found just the remedy you need. Swamp-Root makes friends quickly because its mild and immediate effect is soon realized in most cases. It is a gentle healing herbal compound—a physician's prescription which has proved its great curative value in thousands of the most distressing cases according to reliable testimony.

All druggists in 50c and \$1.00 sizes. You may have a sample size bottle of this always reliable preparation by Parcel Post, also pamphlet telling about it. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and enclose ten cents, also mention this paper.—Adv.

Busy.  
"Jimson has become very devoted to his family all of a sudden."  
"What makes you think so?"  
"Well, I haven't seen him at his usual haunts for nearly a month."  
"That doesn't prove anything. The fact of the matter is, somebody presented him with a meerschaum pipe and he spends his evenings at home coloring it."

THIS IS THE AGE OF YOUTH.  
You will look ten years younger if you darken your ugly, grizzly, gray hairs by using "La Creole" Hair Dressing.—Adv.  
The uses of whale oil are more numerous at the present time than ever before.

**MAKES WORK FOR LAUNDRIES.**  
It would naturally be expected that the owners of laundries would oppose any device that would tend to make washing of clothes at home easier. On the other hand, it has developed that the laundry owners are in favor of the electric iron and credit a good deal of increased business to this appliance. In numbers of cases the housekeepers are ridding themselves of a weekly bugbear by sending their work to the laundries to be returned "rough dry," finishing it at their leisure. In this way the laundries get considerable work which otherwise would never come to them.

**COATING STRUCTURAL STEEL.**  
A new process of coating structural steel or any other exposed metal with zinc is being introduced to those who are interested in such matters, and it is attracting considerable attention because of the ease and thoroughness with which the operation is performed, even after the metal has been put in place. Powdered zinc, compressed air and heat are the three elements which are used in the process, and the zinc is driven through a gas burner by the air, where it is instantly reduced to a liquid state, and as it strikes any surface capable of sustaining the force it adheres and cools at once.

**HIGH FLYERS.**  
Lots of men go up in the air with the aid of alrships.  
Death has evidently traded his pale horse for an aeroplane.  
The man with a boil on the back of his neck derives no pleasure from scanning the heavens for aircraft.

**IN THE SAME BOAT.**  
The Overbearing Lawyer—Ignorance of the law excuses no one!  
The Culpri—I'll be sorry for you, then, if you ever get in trouble.—Browning's Magazine.