

# SOMETHING ABOUT TAFT

## BY JAMES GREELMAN

"The Mystery of Mr. Taft" serves as a caption for an interesting sketch of the Secretary of War by James Greelman in the May issue of Pearson's Magazine. After recounting the details of his early life and descending on the physical and mental training and equipment of Secretary Taft, the author devotes much attention to his career as a public servant. In part the article follows:

"When Joseph B. Foraker was elected Governor of Ohio he appointed Mr. Taft a judge of the Superior Court of Cincinnati to fill an unexpired term, and the young reformer, then 29 years old, took his seat on the bench where his father sat 22 years before. At the end of the term, in 1888, he was elected to a full term of the judgeship by a majority of more than 5,000.

"Although Mr. Taft had held public office for about a quarter of a century, he has only been elected to office once. It is said that Mr. Taft is inclined to think that his bold, indelicate dealings with the lawless acts of labor union men have to some extent made him unavailable as a presidential candidate. The first of these decisions was in the case of Moore & Co., against the bricklayers' union.

"It was a secondary boycott, which the lower court declared to be a conspiracy, giving a verdict of \$2,250 damages against the union. Judge Taft supported this verdict. He thus defined the lawful methods of warfare permitted to workmen in coercing their employers. They may unite in withdrawing from the employ of any person whose terms of employment may not be satisfactory to them, or whose actions with regard to apprentices are not to their liking. Beyond this they can not go to compel their employers to come to their terms. If, in addition to withdrawing from his employment, they combine together to coerce their employer to come to their terms, and the employer acquiesces, i. e., by boycotting him, they become engaged in an unlawful conspiracy, and are liable to the employers for any injury arising therefrom."

"It was President Harrison who made the poorly young Cincinnati Judge Solicitor General of the United States in 1890. Then began his intimacy with Theodore Roosevelt, who was a National Civil Service Commissioner, which continues to this day.

"Mr. Taft made a brilliant and solid record, appearing for the Government in the Supreme Court in support of the validity of the McKinley tariff law, the action of Speaker Reed in counting a quorum in the House of Representatives, and in the hearing of the case of the 'Master of the Vesta'.

"His easy social graces and tact made him popular among 'culture' men and a woman's man. He was appointed a judge of the United States Circuit Court, becoming a member of the Circuit Court of Appeals, which covered four important and typical states, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. President Harrison, who appointed Judge Taft, afterward pleaded before him as a lawyer.

"Here we see Judge Taft on a really national stage, for four of his decisions made his name known in every part of the country.

"He enforced an injunction compelling Chief Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, to abandon a sympathetic strike against the Toledo Ann Arbor and North Michigan Railway Company in violation of the interstate commerce law. "He arrested F. W. Phelan for contempt of court in the great Pullman Railway strike in 1894. As the lieutenant of President Debs, of the American Railway Union, Phelan had organized a strike against the Cincinnati Southern Railway, which was in the hands of the court, being operated by a receiver. The prisoner had plainly counseled violence. When Phelan was sentenced to six months imprisonment the members of his union, wearing their white badges, crowded the court room, a distinct and well understood political threat. But Judge Taft looked with calm and untroubled eyes upon the frowning audience as he sent Phelan to prison and expressed his opinion of the strike in these words:

"The gigantic character of the conspiracy of the American Railway Union staggers the imagination. The object is to deprive the employees of the life and health and comfort of the people of this country as are the arteries of the human body, and yet Debs and Phelan and their associates proposed, by inclining the employees of the railways in this country, to suddenly quit their service, without any dissatisfaction with the terms of their own employment, to paralyze utterly all the traffic by which the people live, and in this way to compel Pullman, for whose acts neither the public nor the railway companies are in the slightest degree responsible, and over whose acts they can lawfully exercise no control, to pay money wages to his employees. "The purpose, shortly stated, was to starve the railway companies and the public into compliance with the demands of the union. It had no lawful right to compel him to do so. Certainly, the starvation of a nation can not be a lawful purpose of combination, and it is utterly immaterial whether the purpose is effected by means usually lawful, or otherwise."

"Judge Taft also granted an injunction against a conspiracy of the Cincinnati Typographical Union to boycott a newspaper in Covington, Ky. "But, if he dealt sternly with the lawless features of the labor movement, he was equally lenient in restraining the abuses of organized capital, and in the case of the Pullman strike he granted an injunction against the Pullman Iron-plate trust as a conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce. He carried these pregnant words: "If this extends Federal jurisdiction into fields not before occupied by the general government, it is not because such jurisdiction is not within the limits allowed by the Constitution of the United States."

"It may be an injustice to say that American workmen today have any ardent admirer of William Howard Taft for his courageous action on the bench, but there are those who believe that no citizen can sit for eight years on a great national court, fearlessly enforcing the laws, and have any hope of ever becoming President of the United States."

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# IN THE PUBLIC EYE



JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN AND HIS AMERICAN WIFE.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the "Strong Man of England," is said to be a hopeless and helpless paralytic, with death not far off. Mr. Chamberlain last July celebrated his seventieth birthday, apparently in fair health. At the beginning of this year his health gave way, and a statement concerning him was given out late in February. Recently, when Mr. Chamberlain left England for the continent, he was unable to walk unassisted. He has been married three times, the third time to an American, the daughter of the late W. C. Endicott, Secretary of War in President Cleveland's Cabinet. Mrs. Chamberlain's position in Birmingham is as marked a one as is her husband's, and her salon is the center of the social, rather than the political, world of the famous Midland manufacturing city. She is not only a bright American woman, but possesses rare political acumen, and has been her husband's able aid in many a hard fought political battle.

# ATTEMPT MADE TO CONSERVE WATERS

Inland Waterways Commission Organizes in Washington and Will Take Up Most Important Matter Within a Very Short Time—Roosevelt Greatly Interested.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29.—The inland waterways commission will organize in this city within the next few days. The second members of the commission get together the better President Roosevelt will be pleased. He considers this to be one of the most important works started under his administration.

The commission is composed of General MacKenzie, chief engineer, U. S. A.; Representative Bankhead of Alabama; Senator Newlands of Nevada; Senator Warner of Missouri; President McGehe of the National Geographic society; Gifford Pinchot, national forester; Director Newell of the national reclamation service; Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations, and Representative Burton of Ohio, who for years has been chairman of the rivers and harbors committee of the house, and will be chairman of this commission.

These men are expected to make plans for the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars of the public funds. No government enterprise is so much interested to so many people. This commission will deal with useful functions of the billions and billions of tons of water which are raised by the sun every day in the form of steam and fall in drops on the United States part of the North American continent. It is the duty of the government to conserve this water.

It is the duty of the government to conserve this water. The waste of the falling water, the waste and destruction, is what forces the governmental attention to remedial measures. The annual food of the Ohio river breaks all records this year. From Pittsburgh to the Mississippi river great and small towns were inundated and the damage was great. The losses ran into millions. Water was the highest it has been in a century. The damage to property and to business, great as it was, is small in comparison to the cost of the waste. Along the Ohio great lakes were formed, many of them literally as large as inland seas. The freshets actually extended for many days before and after high water. This excess water wastes. It does no good—only damage. It shall be the duty of the commission to get rid of this waste by improving the transportation on inland waterways, by re-establishing vast tracts of forests, by establishing large water power storage reservoirs, and by the building of irrigation plants with their reserve water supplies.

Perhaps there are many sections of the United States to illustrate the purposes of the commission, but not any form any better lessons than along the rivers which converge at Pittsburgh to form the Ohio. They show every phase of the usefulness of the work, excepting that of irrigation. There are no public irrigating schemes east of the Mississippi river. The Allegheny, the Monongahela and its branch, the Youghioghy, begin as navigable streams, soon become braving brooks, which end in the rivulets, their sources.

Forestry Phase of Problem of the Ohio. First as to the forestry phase of the problem. The daylight traveler up the eastern side of the Alleghenies follows one of these streams. For be fulfilled. When the major resigned from the army to accept the city's position he was given this guarantee by the men named, and the sum of \$75,000 is said to have been placed in trust by them at the time to cover the pledge. Major Gillette was first proposed from Secretary Taft, of the Weaver administration, to ferret out the filtration frauds here. Later he was appointed chief of the filtration bureau. Since that time the reform forces have lost control of the city government.

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## STAR WITNESS IS ACCUSED OF CRIME

SOLOMONVILLE, Ariz., April 29.—Silvestre Hernandez, a Mexican was tried for murder committed at Morenci some months ago and acquitted. A sensational feature of this trial was that the testimony pointed very strongly to the principal witness against Hernandez as being the guilty man. This man was ordered placed in jail until the grand jury could look into the matter and all the other witnesses are being held in anticipation of another trial.

Little of importance is transpiring in district court, the principal endeavor of still being to indict Climax Jim. Six separate indictments have been returned by the grand jury. Five have been thrown out on demurrer and the court has the sixth under consideration with a good prospect for its rejection also. The district attorney and his assistants are having the experience of their lives over this case and it may transpire that the accused man cannot be brought to trial.

Attorneys Stratton, McFarland and Rawlins are representing the territory, while the defendant has in his employ Attorney Jones and Dial, he having been induced to apply his available credit to his defense.

The grand jury is still on duty, adjourning from day to day, awaiting the termination of the Climax affair and the arrival of certain necessary witnesses in other cases.

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