

Oscar S. Straus, the Scholar In Statesmanship

Side Lights on the First Jew Offered a Seat in the United States Cabinet

Prodigiously Busy Man, Who Seems Never to Have Played—Belongs to Type of Men Who Always Get There—Highly Cultured and Most Learned, His Hobby Is Hard Work—A Sample of His Diplomacy and Historical Knowledge

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

OSCAR SOLOMON STRAUS, who is to be secretary of commerce and labor, is the first Jew ever honored by a president of the United States with an invitation to sit in the cabinet. Mr. Straus, however, has been highly honored before by Mr. Roosevelt and by three other presidents. When he was only thirty-six years of age, in 1887, President Cleveland appointed him minister to Turkey. Mr. Straus was an active Democrat, but nevertheless President Harrison requested him to remain at Constantinople. Large business interests at home demanded his attention, and he retired. In 1897 President McKinley prevailed upon Mr. Straus to go once more as minister to Turkey. In 1902 President Roosevelt appointed him to the vacancy in the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague, caused by the death of ex-President Harrison.

Mr. Straus never ran for an office in his life. Though always taking a lively interest in politics, he never has been a politician. He is a political scientist rather than a politician. The science of politics and government has deeply interested him from his youth. He is a student and much more—a scholar, a savant. Though as secretary of commerce and labor he will be at the foot of the cabinet list, as the portfolios are reckoned in their order of precedence, Mr. Straus probably will be the most highly cultured and the most learned man in the president's

used as a work of reference in the various continental countries. That book showed the trend of the Straus mind. It was toward history. He went after the foundations of things, so that he could understand.

Value of His Historical Knowledge.

While at Constantinople during his second period of service there Mr. Straus found opportunity to make excellent use of his historical knowledge. Probably not one American in a million is aware that in a certain treaty between President Washington and the bey of Tripoli there is a declaration that the United States government does not recognize any one particular form of religion above another. Minister Straus knew of this paragraph. When affairs in the Philippines became troublesome and it was very desirable to have the large Mohammedan population of the islands on our side Minister Straus went to the sultan of Turkey, whom the adherents to that faith recognize as their high priest, and requested that his imperial majesty use his influence with the Mohammedans in favor of the United States.

"But will not your country take away the religion of these people and compel them to worship according to your laws?" inquired the sultan.

Mr. Straus at once produced the foreign treaty, proving to Abdul Hamid that religious liberty, freedom of worship, is one of the cornerstones of the American republic. The sultan passed word to a powerful representative of

spare time to yachting, automobilism or riding to hounds. They must have hobbies. The Straus hobby is hard work. A brief account of his life may serve to prove this.

Lazarus Straus was the father of three sons, all of whom have become noted. Isidor has been in congress and helped to write the Wilson tariff bill. Nathan for years has furnished sterilized milk to thousands of New York babies, no doubt saving many lives, and he is prominent in the politics of his city. Oscar, as the old fashioned biographer would say, is "the subject of this sketch." All are great merchants in New York and Brooklyn. Lazarus Straus was a farmer in Bavaria, where his sons were born. He espoused the cause of the revolution of 1848 and some time later was compelled to take refuge in America. He settled in a little Georgia town, where Oscar Straus passed most of his boyhood. At the close of the civil war the family removed to New York, where the father established the house of L. Straus & Sons, large importers of pottery and glassware. Oscar, the youngest son, entered Columbia university, partly paying his way by writing for the newspapers, for the elder Straus was not well to do at the time. In 1871 Oscar was graduated near the head of his class. He was class poet, defeating in the contest for that honor Brander Matthews, the well known literary man and educator, who recently took a foremost part in the crusade for simplified spelling. Young Straus studied law and two years later began the practice. He was one of the first lawyers in the United States to prosecute a railroad for making illegal freight rates for the benefit of favored patrons. In this case he worked so hard that his weight was reduced to ninety-nine pounds.

"Then," says Mr. Straus, "I decided that I would go to a doctor. The physician told me that my only chance to live lay in changing my work. My father and brothers had wanted me to go into their firm, and I went."

Sought Recreation in Reading and Writing.

It was only a change of work, not a cessation. Oscar Straus took charge of an important branch of the business, which had grown to enormous proportions. He determined to read all the 15000 volumes and a number of personally the most important. This he did at his desk from about 9:30 to 6 o'clock every day. Every evening in his library at home he sought recreation in reading and writing. He was too busy to go out to the libraries for books needed in his historical researches, so he sent out and bought them, keeping agents constantly on the watch for valuable works. Thus he accumulated what is regarded as one of the finest private libraries in the United States.

But with all his devotion to business and to literary labors Mr. Straus always found time to take an active part in the various movements for civic betterment which were in progress from year to year. Through magazine articles, lectures and addresses his attitude in relation to many important matters was made known. He served as trustee for the Baron de Hirsch relief fund for Russian immigrants. He helped to organize and was president of the National Civic federation. He was one of the founders of the Young Men's Hebrew association.

A list of all the societies—political, charitable, civic and literary—to which Mr. Straus belongs and in which for years he has been prominent would look like a catalogue.

Never a Pyrotechnic Politician.

Nobody can say that President Roosevelt has selected for the commerce and labor portfolio an inactive man, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Straus never has been a pyrotechnic politician and that he has preferred his library and his home life to the applause of listening multitudes. Nor can we say that here is an example of the scholar in politics. Mr. Straus is the scholar in statesmanship. It may be doubted with very good reason that Mr. Straus could be elected constable of a township through his own appeal to the voters. His brand of personal magnetism was not made for practical politics.

New York, which knows Oscar Straus, was not surprised when the president announced his selection as secretary of commerce and labor. It is said that President McKinley once considered John Hay had some thought of retiring. Mr. Straus belongs to the type of man who always gets there. He has had no struggle to succeed. He just kept on at work. Fortune gave him the facilities for working, and nature endowed him with a taste for it. The newspaper work which he did during his college course to help along his expenses also helped along his education as a writer and a student of affairs. From the time he began law practice he has trodden financial beds of roses. His firm had so much business from the start that Mr. Straus broke down from overwork at the age of thirty and had to change his occupation, as we have seen. Then the crockery business made millions for him and the dry goods business other millions.

Having succeeded in law, literature, diplomacy, philanthropy, finance and business, may we not reasonably expect him to do well as a cabinet officer?

One great work of Mr. Straus is reserved for final mention, just as we keep pie till the end of the dinner, because it is the best. This is his work in behalf of universal peace. He has presided at peace conferences, and at one of them he said:

"War is inexplicable to me—as inexplicable as all murderous hatreds and feuds."



OSCAR S. STRAUS.

official family. It was said of him in the London Times when he went to Constantinople for the second time, "Mr. Straus has probably the most extensive knowledge of all American representatives abroad."

Seems Never to Have Played.

From his boyhood Mr. Straus seems to have been a prodigiously busy man. Many Americans who rise to high place find plenty of time to loaf around and tell stories—Abraham Lincoln, for instance. Though by no means an austere ascetic, Oscar Straus seems never to have played. On the other hand, he has not had time to stand on the housetops, point to himself and tell other men how to succeed. He got right down to business very early in his career and stuck there. That he has been called out from time to time to undertake an important service for his country is due to the fact that the official watchers on the towers have discovered his capabilities.

Henry Ward Beecher was one of the first prominent men to see something in Straus. The great preacher wrote to President Cleveland, urging the appointment of Mr. Straus as minister to Turkey, and in that letter he made this declaration:

"It is because he is a Jew that I would urge his appointment as a fit recognition of this remarkable people, who are becoming large contributors to American prosperity, and whose intelligence, morality and large liberality in all public measures for the welfare of society deserve and should receive from the hands of our government some such recognition."

A year or two before the date of that letter a book from the pen of Mr. Straus had attracted attention. It was called "The Origin of the Republican Form of Government in the United States." No doubt Mr. Beecher had read it. When young Straus got across the water he found it translated into French by a distinguished scholar and

Mohammed's followers in the archipelago and made millions of them friendly to the United States. Thus a knowledge of history down to the taproots, plus diplomacy, probably saved the lives of many American soldiers, many Moro fanatics and much ammunition.

Not only President Harrison wanted this American Jew to continue his work at Constantinople, but Christian preachers of various denominations joined in the request. When President Cleveland sent Mr. Straus to Turkey the minister found that more than fifty of the missionary schools established by American Christians in the sultan's domains had been closed by order of provincial officials, and the life of all the 550 missions and schools was threatened. Mr. Straus procured from the grand vizier, who corresponds to our secretary of state, an order for the reopening of these schools and the protection of the others. Thus for the first time American missionaries in Turkey had a legal status, which still obtains. Mr. Straus also obtained for the American Bible society official sanction for the distribution of Bible tracts printed in the Turkish tongue. It followed naturally that the boards of foreign missions of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches and other similar bodies favored the retention of the minister.

But Mr. Straus felt that he was not particularly needed in Turkey after the change of administration at home, so he returned to New York and to his library. More history issued from his pen. "Roger Williams, the Pioneer of Religious Liberty," was one of his books, and another was "The Development of Religious Liberty in the United States." Both of these are standard works.

Those who know Mr. Straus and are aware of his large business interests wonder how he finds time to study and write history. Mr. Straus is a millionaire. Some millionaires spend their

IF YOU TOUCH your tongue to ALUM

and look in the glass—you will see the effect—You can't help puckering—it makes you pucker to think of tasting it.

By the use of so called cheap Baking Powders you take this puckering, injurious Alum right into your system—you injure digestion and ruin your stomach.

AVOID ALUM Say plainly—

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Royal is made from pure, refined Grape Cream of Tartar—Costs more than Alum but you have the profit of quality, the profit of good health.



INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXPOSITION DEC. 1 to 8.

In addition to the practical demonstrations of the breeders' and feeders' art in cattle, horses, swine and sheep on exhibition in single groups and car load displays, we are to have this year meetings of breed associations where the foremost breeders and feeders of our day are to discuss their work. Papers of practical value to the agriculturist and live stock men of America, on subjects of immediate interest that now confront our people, will be read and discussed.

On Monday night, December 3d, the annual meeting of the International Exposition Association is to be held.

On Tuesday night, the following breed associations meet:

- Percheron Society of America.
- American Shire Horse Association.
- American Cotswold Sheep Society.
- American Oxford Down Association.
- American Suffolk Flock Registry.
- American Clydesdale Horse Association.
- American Southdown Breeders' Association.

On Wednesday evening:

- The American Short-Horn Breeders' Association;
- The American Aberdeen-Angus Association;
- The American Galloway Breeders' Association;
- The American Berkshire Association, and
- The Hampshire Down Breeders' Association, will hold their annual meetings.

On Thursday afternoon the American Red Polled Cattle Club meets, and in the evening.

The American Poland-China Breeders' Association, and the Yorkshire Swine Association meet.

The hour, room and other particulars concerning each of these meetings will be posted on the bulletin boards of the show grounds during the week. Every one interested in live stock of any kind should make an effort to attend these meetings.

PUBLIC SALE.

The undersigned will sell at public auction on his farm, one mile east of Denison post office, just east of brick yards, on

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 AT ONE O'CLOCK

The following described property, 23 head of cattle, consisting of 3 milch cows, coming fresh in December, 6 cow coming fresh in February and 2 in March. One two-year old Short-horn bull, 8 Spring calves, 30 head of Duroc Jersey pigs, average weight 200 pounds, 16 sows and fourteen barrows.

Feed Grinder, with power, cider mill, top buggy, household goods, 400 bushel corn in crib.

Terms—\$10 and under cash, sums over \$10, 8 months time on approved notes bearing 8 per cent interest.

FREE LUNCH AT NOON.

MRS. AUGUSTIA R. WOOCK.

J. W. Smith, Auctioneer.

A Good Liniment.

When you need a good reliable liniment try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It has no superior for sprains and swellings. A piece of flannel slightly dampened with Pin Balm is superior to a plaster for lame back or pains in the side or chest. It also relieves rheumatic pains and makes sleep rest possible. For sale by W. E. Koeneman, Broadway Druggist.

REVIEW'S MARKET LETTER.

Furnished by Clay Robinson Co, the Well Known Omaha Firm.

South Omaha, Nov. 6, 1906

The cattle trade during the past week has been practically without feature, buyers taking all desirable grades of killing stock and feeders at fully steady rates, but showing a strong dislike to the common, half-fat stock, and taking off 10 to 15 cents per cwt. on that class. Yesterday's receipts were heavy, between 9,000 and 10,000 head, and influenced by weak reports from all points trading here was lower—low to 10 cents lower on steers, cows declining 10 to 15 cents and feeders 10 cents off on anything but the best. Today's run is light, and all classes of killing cattle are moving readily at fully steady prices, but in the absence of country buyers, who are remaining at home today to cast their vote for the affairs of county and state, our feeder trade is a little slow. The balance of the week does not look at all unfavorable for steady prices; we do not look for any very heavy runs, and we have reason to expect a much better country inquiry. Quotations on the basis of today's trading are as follows: Good to choice corn-fed steers \$5.50 to \$6.15; fair to good \$5.00 to \$5.50; common to fair \$4.00 to \$5.00. Feeders, good to choice \$4.00 to \$4.65; fair to good \$3.55 to \$4.00; common to fair \$2.75 to \$3.25. Good to choice cows \$3.25 to \$3.85; fair to good \$2.75 to \$3.25; common to fair \$1.50 to \$2.75.

The hog market is not materially different from a week ago. Our market here this morning was a shade lower, bulk of the trading being done at \$5.95 to \$6.00, with a top of \$6.05. Chicago reported a little strength at the closing, and we believe everything points towards at least steady market for the balance of the week.

Clay, Robinson & Co.

HOLY TRINITY NOTE.

Sunday next is the 22nd Sunday after Trinity. S. Martin. Holy Communion 8. a. m. Sunday School 9:30 a. m. Morning prayer, Litany and sermon, 10:30 a. m. All are cordially invited. Arthur Pratt, Rector.

A Reliable Remedy for Croup

Mrs. S. Rosenthal, of Turner, Michigan, says: "We have used Chamberlain's Cough Medicine for ourselves and children for several years and like it very much. I think it is the only remedy for croup and can highly recommend it." For sale by W. E. Koeneman, Broadway Druggist.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Oct 25
D J Butler and wife to Percy Dodge lots 7 8 block 4 Wagoner Evans add Arion..... 200 00
J W Boush and Mary Harper 8 5 ft of lot 7 and all of lot 8 Block 4 lot 3 n 45 ft of lot 4 block 10 Dow City..... 1 00
Oct 27
William Flint and wife to George E Flint w 21 a of nw sw 1-5 18 82 34..... 2025 00
John Hugland and wife to John E Hugland L 110 block 6 Kiron..... 1 00
J B Johnson single to John A Gustafson 1 lot 1 subdiv of s w sw 1-4 13 82 35 400 00
Oct 29
Mable Booth O E Booth to George Huntington lots 3 4 15 16 block 24 Park add Dow City..... 50 00
Alfred Vance and wife A D Servoss lots 4 5 block 2 Vail..... 300 00

Schleswig

Jacob Peterson and wife drove to Denison Monday. Mrs. Peterson stayed over until Wednesday afternoon.

Otto Hollander left on Monday for Holstein where he has secured a position as clerk in a store there.

Mrs. Sher Ainsworth returned to Denison on Tuesday after a few days visit with her husband here.

Ira Tripp was a Dow City visitor the first of the week.

The name of our new harness shop here now is the "Hansen and Spahn" shop. Fred Spahn having purchased a half interest. Both men have had experience at such work. We predict for them success in their line of business.

H. Boock and Chriss May were in Ricketts between trains Monday.

Only a few capers were cut by the boys Hollow'een night. For once they were pretty quiet in our city.

Otto Stegeman and wife were visiting in Ricketts the first of the week.

Mrs. Kruger went to Denison on Thursday.

Dr. Jones left Sunday morning for Omaha, taking the train from Denison.

Will Schmidt and John Kruger drove to Denison on Saturday.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss
LUCAS COUNTY.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY,
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906.

A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.

OREER FIXING DATE SHOWING OPPOSITION TO DISCHARGE.

In the United States District Court, Southern District of Iowa, Western Division.

In the matter of Wm. Ballantine Bankrupt.

On this 1st day of November, A. D. 1906, on filing and reading the petition of the above named bankrupt for his discharge herein, it is

ORDERED, that the 15th day of November 1906 be and the same is hereby fixed as the date on or before which all creditors of, and all persons interested in, said estate and in the matter of the discharge in bankruptcy of said bankrupt; shall, if they desire to oppose the same, file in my office at Council Bluffs, in said district their appearance, in writing, in opposition to the granting of said discharge; and also within ten days thereafter, file in my office specifications of the grounds of said opposition.

WITNESS My hand hereto at my office in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the day and date herein first above written.

W. S. Mayne,
45-It Referee in Bankruptcy.

Give children a remedy with a pleasant taste. Don't force unpleasant medicine down their throats. Kennedy's Laxative (containing) Honey and Tar is most pleasant to take. Children like it, and as a relief for colds, coughs, etc., there is nothing better. No opiates. Conforms to National Pure Food and Drug Law. Sold by Lamborn Drug Co.