

The River Press.

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WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

1857—Born, Cincinnati, O., September 15, son of Alfonso Taft, attorney general of the United States, 1876-7, and Louise M. (Torrey) Taft.

1874—Graduated from Woodward high school, Cincinnati, and entered Yale.

1878—Graduated from Yale, with degree of B. A., second in class of 21, salutatorian and class orator.

1880—Graduated from law school of Cincinnati college, with degree of LL. B., dividing first prize and admitted to the Ohio bar.

1881—Law reporter on Cincinnati Times, and later on Cincinnati Commercial.

1882—Assistant prosecuting attorney of Hamilton county, Ohio.

1883—Collector of internal revenue, first district of Ohio.

1884—Engaged in practice of law in Cincinnati.

1885—Assistant county solicitor of Hamilton county, Ohio.

1886—Married Helen Herron in Cincinnati.

1887—Became judge of superior court of Ohio.

1890—Solicitor general of the United States.

1892—Became United States circuit judge, sixth circuit.

1896—Became dean and professor in law department, University of Cincinnati.

1900—Became president United States Philippine commission.

1901—Appointed first civil governor of Philippine islands.

1902—Sent to Rome to confer with Pope Pius in regard to Philippines.

1904—Became secretary of war in President Roosevelt's cabinet.

1905—Made visit to Philippines and was given big reception in Japan.

1906—Proclaimed United States intervention in Cuba.

1907—Made tour of world, opened Philippine assembly and visited Emperor Nicholas of Russia.

1908—Nominated by republican party, at national convention in Chicago, as its candidate for president of the United States.

STATE TIMBER LANDS.

The announcement that the state board of land commissioners will give a public hearing to those who allege that state timber lands have been sold at a price far below their actual value, is a matter of considerable public interest. For some time past it has been current gossip in Flathead county that sales of state timber land in that part of Montana were being made at a loss to the commonwealth, and the state board has decided to give its critics an opportunity to prove their allegations. That is the proper way to settle the question. If any mistake has been made, or any unlawful or crooked action has been taken, a public hearing may develop that fact and suggest a remedy. If everything is on the square, the accusation of dishonesty or disregard of the public welfare will be disproved.

The nature of these alleged irregularities is indicated by an article in the Libby News, which says in part:

The Western News has been informed by a prominent official of Flathead county, and by a prominent timber cruiser of this county, that recent sales of timber lands in Flathead county have been made at prices which are far below the actual value of these lands. This newspaper has also been informed that in the judgment of this timber cruiser the state of Montana has been robbed of at least \$1,000,000 in three transactions on account of the price at which these lands have been sold.

The three transactions referred to are those by which Julius Neils, the Northwestern Lumber company and the Somers Lumber company have acquired large areas of state timber lands in this county. According to the authority given, the land which was bought by Julius Neils is at least \$400,000 less than its value; that the Somers Lumber company lands were sold on a basis which makes the stumpage not to exceed 75 cents a thousand, adjoining lands from which the United States government gets \$2.10 per thousand, and for the same kind of timber, and that the purchase of the lands by the Northwestern Lumber company is on a par with the other two transactions, and the three easily amounting to a loss to the state of a million dollars.

This newspaper is also informed that the method of transferring this land from the state of Montana to these concerns is an evidence of fraud, in equity if not in law. The records of this county show that these lands have been obtained from the government by individuals in parcels of not to exceed 160 acres. Under the law, it is explained to this office, no one is entitled to purchase more than 160 acres of state lands.

Yet the Somers Lumber company, for instance, has just recently placed on record deeds for about 20,000 acres

of state timber lands. An examination of the records will at once convince you that a condition of affairs exists as to the transfer of these lands which warrants an examination. The records show that something like 130 applications have been made by individuals, that the deeds or patents have come to them or for them, as the case may be, and that immediately upon their being placed upon the record a deed follows conveying these lands to the Somers Lumber company.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The announcement of the death of ex-President Cleveland came as a surprise to the public. News of his recent sickness had appeared in the press dispatches, but there was no intimation that a fatal result was apprehended by his physicians.

As the only living ex-president, Mr. Cleveland was regarded as the most distinguished private citizen of the United States. Since his retirement from the presidency, Mr. Cleveland had not taken an active part in politics, but his advice was sought and followed on various occasions by many of the leaders of his party.

While Mr. Cleveland was not in accord with western sentiment upon various matters of public concern, and was not popular in this part of the country, he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of a large number of his fellow-citizens. His election to the presidency on two occasions demonstrated that a majority of the voters had faith in his patriotic purpose to secure good government for the American people. Mr. Cleveland was awarded the unique distinction of being elected to succeed a president by whom he had been previously defeated, and was the only democratic president in half a century of American history.

The political opponents of the ex-president were compelled to concede and admire his sturdy Americanism, his sincerity of purpose, and stern determination to follow the path of duty as he saw it. In sending federal troops to Chicago to quell serious labor riots he probably exceeded his constitutional powers and incurred the displeasure of powerful interests, but he believed the situation called for a prompt and effective measure of relief and supplied it without regard to the strict letter of the law. When a democratic congress enacted the Wilson-Gorman tariff bill, a measure that was false to the platform promises of his party, Mr. Cleveland denounced the enactment as one of "perfidy and dishonor," and refused to affix his signature to it. His ultimatum to the British government in connection with the Venezuelan trouble, in which he announced that the United States was prepared to uphold the Monroe doctrine by force, if necessary, was another incident of the Cleveland administration that will occupy a place in American history. Mr. Cleveland had the courage of his convictions, and pursued the course he believed to be proper and right, regardless of consequences.

Graceful tribute to the memory of Mr. Cleveland is paid in a proclamation issued by President Roosevelt, which says in part:

In his death the nation has been deprived of one of its greatest citizens. By profession a lawyer, his chief services to his country were rendered during a long and varied and honorable career in public life. As mayor of his city, as governor of his state and twice as president he showed signal power as an administrator, coupled with entire devotion to the country's good and courage that quailed before no hostility when only he was convinced where his duty lay. Since his retirement from the presidency he has continued well and faithfully to serve his countrymen by the simplicity, dignity and uprightness of his public life. In testimony of the respect in which his memory is held by the government and the people of the United States, I do hereby direct that the flags on the white house and the several departmental buildings be displayed at half mast for a period of 30 days; and that suitable military and naval honors, under the order of the secretaries of war and navy, be rendered on the day of the funeral.

Singing and Gargling.

Singers do not give away their secrets of the voice. I know, however, that some of the tenors and prima donnas use an astringent gargle whenever their vocal cords become so relaxed that very high notes are difficult to emit. One famous little tenor used cold tea that had drawn a long time. Such a gargle, though, does not improve the quality of the voice, even if it does raise the pitch temporarily.

The popular gargle among opera artists is the solvent. It loosens crusts which form in the throat and nasal cavities and removes mucous which cannot be got rid of by coughing and hawking. A common wash is twelve grains of chlorate of potash to a wineglassful of warm water. Many singers and orators in order to render their voices clear and mellow use a gargle containing one teaspoonful of common salt and one of baking soda in a tumblerful of water. These gargles are improved by further adding some aromatic substances to stimulate the mucous membrane with which they come in contact.—New York Press.

HE DIDN'T SWEAR.

But a Court Record Quoted Him as Using Strong Language.

One day during a term of court at Macon, Mo., Judge Shelton, who was running through a stenographic record of a trial, detected a sentence which reflected upon the piety of appellant's senior counsel, Major B. R. Dysart, an elder in the Presbyterian church. "Major," he said, "I have just been reading this record. I was inexpressibly pained to note in it some very disrespectful language you used in the presence of the court."

A funeral solemnity would fall short of describing the appearance of Dysart's features.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Of course you may have been excited a bit during the trial, major. I know those other fellows were worrying you like everything, but that is hardly an excuse for using such words. You should have waited until you got outside. It won't do."

"Does your honor mean to intimate that I swore in your presence while trying a case?" demanded the major sternly.

"I don't intimate anything, major, but you just look at that." And he handed the transcript to Dysart. There, nesting in the midst of a long argument over an objection, printed as plain as type could make it, were the words:

"It is a damned obscure injury."

It required nearly five minutes for the major to think out how it happened. Then he grabbed a pen, shoved it into the ink bottle and viciously scratched out the ribald sentence, over which he wrote:

"It is a damnum abque injuria," meaning a damage without an injury.

—Kansas City Star.

SHOPPING IN CAIRO.

Where Bargaining is the Perfume, the Poetry of Trade.

"I entered Sidl Okba's shop in Cairo," said the man with the oriental labels on his luggage, "and a handsome carpet caught my eye. 'What is the price of that?' I asked.

"That carpet is not for sale," Sidl Okba answered. "I bought it at great cost for my own delectation only. How beautiful it is! But will not monsieur partake with me of coffee and cigarettes?"

"I partook. The next morning I was in that neighborhood again, and Sidl came forth and saluted me. He had changed his mind about retaining the carpet. Allah forbade selfishness among the true believers, and since I desired the thing he'd let me have it for \$1,600. 'I'll give you \$10,' said I.

"He fell back, almost fainting; then in a weak, pained voice he offered me coffee again.

"Next day when I turned up he came down to \$900, and I went up to \$15, and we drank more coffee and smoked. Next day he dropped to \$800, and I rose to \$17.50. We were very cheerful over the coffee and tobacco that day. We had the carpet spread before us to admire. It was evident that we would strike a bargain yet, and just before I left Cairo we did strike a bargain. The carpet became mine for \$50. It would have cost \$250 at home. As we shook hands in farewell Sidl Okba said:

"I love a good bargainer like yourself. Bargaining is the bloom, the perfume, the poetry of trade. I adore it!" —Exchange.

Another Kind of Guest.

"Won't you please write in my guest book?" said a woman to the friends she had entertained at dinner. And she brought out the treasured volume, with its record of hospitality. The names were inscribed.

"Why, what's this?" said the modern Eve as the pages were fluttered before the book was returned to its owner. "There are lots and lots of names in the book and all in your handwriting too."

The hostess laughed. "Do you want to know what these names are?" she asked. "Well, I suppose I might make a confession. They are names of guests, all right, but of another kind. It's the list of the servants I have had since my housekeeping experiences began." —New York Press.

Apply It to Your Life.

Have you ever watched the exceedingly delicate and yet firm pressure of the hand of a skillful tuner? He will make the string produce a perfectly true note, vibrating in absolute accord with his own never changing tuning fork. The practiced hand is at one with the accurate ear, and the pressure is brought to bear with most delicate adjustment to the resistance. The tension is never exceeded, he never breaks a string, but he patiently strikes the note again and again till the tone is true and the ear is satisfied, and then the muscles relax and the pressure ceases.

Barnum's Ready Retort.

Barnum once appeared at Oxford to lecture on "Humbug." The rowdy students would not give him a hearing. At length, in a momentary lull, he shouted, "Then you don't want to hear anything about humbug?"

"We don't!" was the answer in a roar.

"Well," retorted Barnum, "I've got your money, and there's no humbug about that!"

The disturbance came to a sudden finish, and Barnum proceeded in peace.

Broke the Law.

"What got me into trouble? Failure to ignore the law."

"That seems odd."

"Not at all. I couldn't resist the temptation to give the law a swift kick." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

STATE BOARD ACCUSED.

Timber Lands Alleged To Have Been Sold At A Loss To the State.

HELENA, June 23.—Official notice has been taken by the state board of land commissioners of the charge of mal-administration which has been bandied about in northwestern Montana for the past three weeks in connection with the sale of thousands of acres of timber lands. A hearing has been ordered for July 22 at Kalspell, when the board will be pleased to meet all persons making complaints or charges against the administration. The records of the land office will be on hand.

Edward Dickey of Kalspell, wrote two letters to Governor Norris, making charges concerning sales which were made at a board meeting last December. At the executive meeting of the board yesterday these letters were transmitted by the governor who suggested that as they set forth grave charges, the board make an investigation at its earliest convenience.

A few weeks back, when the big lumber companies placed deeds on file for thousands of acres of land purchased from the state, the complaints began to arise. Mr. Dickey's letter was a lengthy one. In substance, he charged that 20,000 acres of timber land, which was sold at \$12.75 an acre, was worth double that amount; that the state law provides that no person shall buy from the state more than 160 acres of timber or agricultural land, and that to evade this law "dummies" were secured who did not even know their names had been used, and who signed over to the big concerns—in this instance the Somers Lumber company—the title to the land. He characterized the proceeding of the board in making this sale without the knowledge of the public as savoring of the "star chamber." He also stated that in some instances the board had turned down an offer for a tract of land and then sold at a much less figure. This last charge is explained by members, who state that many times a bidder offers an attractive price for a small strip, but declines to purchase land which is adjacent but of little value. To secure a good price for the poor land it is sometimes sold with the good land, and the price per acre averages much more than could be secured in any other way.

Mr. Dickey charges that three-quarters of a million dollars had been lost to the state through the carelessness, or worse of the board.

Missouri Flood At Omaha.

OMAHA, June 23.—The Missouri river at Omaha shows the highest stage in 28 years. The stage as officially reported by the weather bureau this morning was 18.9 feet, but an unofficial reading at 5 o'clock this afternoon showed a stage of 19.2 feet and still rising slowly.

The first serious damage was done today, when several farms north of the city and the plant of the National White Lead company, at East Omaha, were partially inundated. No relief is anticipated for 36 hours, and with a continued rise for that length of time conditions will become serious.

Vice Presidential Nominee Is Sick.

CHICAGO, June 23.—When apprised of the serious illness of Representative Sherman, the vice presidential nominee, Harry S. New, chairman of the national committee, expressed great regret.

While the friends of Mr. Sherman are taking a hopeful view of his case, the question naturally arises regarding the course of procedure in case of his demise. Mr. New was clearly of the opinion that in such event the national committee would have full power to name a vice presidential candidate. They are, he said, vested with similar power in regard to the presidential candidate, but said that as there was sufficient time before election to do so the committee would reassemble the convention and have a nominee elected in the regular way.

Will Recover Public Lands.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—In a statement issued today in regard to the land fraud conspiracy cases which resulted yesterday in the conviction of Fred A. Hyde and J. O. Schneider and the acquittal of John A. Benson and H. P. Dimond, Assistant Attorney General A. B. Hug declares that, while the trial of these four men has cost the government \$48,380, the beneficial results to the land department in the future administration of public land laws are beyond calculation. The net result, he says, will be the restoration to the government of more than 100,000 acres of public lands, valued at \$1,000,000.

MISSOULA, June 24.—James Hayes was locked up in the county jail today on a statement he made that, while a private in the British army, he had murdered a corporal named Joseph Walsh at the St. Louis barracks, near Quebec, about eight years ago. Hayes' mind is believed to be affected.

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