

# JUDSON HARMON OF OHIO

By SLOANE GORDON

Reprinted From Review of Reviews For September, 1910

"WELL, it's just like this," said Judson Harmon of Ohio, tossing his Panama hat on a convenient lounge and seating himself on the edge of a big table that occupies the center of the long reception room adjoining the governor's office. "I'm not the mayor of this town. I'm governor of the state. If the local authorities can't cope with this situation the state authorities must. These soldiers aren't here to do police duty. But if a riot starts we'll put it down, you bet."

Saying which, Judson Harmon, governor, strode into his private office and slammed the door. Then he sent for the mayor of Columbus—one Marshall—and told him to get busy, which the mayor did, though to little purpose, as it later developed. And it finally did become necessary for the state authorities and the state troops to take a hand. But that's another story.

It was to a news hungry horde of reporters that Governor Harmon made the statement given above. He had just landed in Columbus from his summer home in Michigan. There was a street car strike on in Columbus. The mayor and the sheriff had called out the troops. Four thousand of the state militia were camped about the town. It was costing the state thousands of dollars to maintain them there. And

reporter likes Harmon. And Harmon understands the reporter's position. And he jokes with him and gives him the news and sits on the big table in the center of the governor's reception room and swings his ample feet and hands the reporter an occasional stogy and talks right out in meeting.

A timid young news man, green and uncertain of himself, was sent to interview the governor one day last winter.

"Come in," shouted Governor Harmon from his private office.

The reporter entered haltingly.

"Sit down," directed the governor. The reporter eased himself into a chair.

"Look at that letter," said the executive, thrusting a sheet of paper covered with alleged writing into the hand of the puzzled reporter. "It seems to me that a man who writes like that ought to be sentenced to thirty days in a country school."

Then the reporter got his interview and went away understanding that Governor Harmon was "just folks" and that there were no frills about him whatever.

And Judson Harmon, attorney general of the United States in the cabinet of Grover Cleveland, was just the same as is Judson Harmon, governor of Ohio. There were no frills about

Cleveland thanked him, and every disappointed office seeker in Ohio blamed Jud Harmon for "knocking" him and preventing him from sacrificing his private interests for the public good.

A short while afterward President Cleveland and Mr. Harmon were both guests of James E. Campbell, then governor of Ohio. They became rather chummy on this occasion. After Mr. Harmon left Mr. Cleveland made the remark to Mrs. Campbell that he considered "that fellow Harmon" a mighty fine man.

It wasn't long after that that Judson Harmon, in opening his mail at the law office of Harmon, Colston, Goldsmith & Hoadly, in Cincinnati, found a brief letter, hand written, from President Cleveland, inviting him to become a member of the cabinet, with the attorney generalship as his particular job.

Mr. Harmon read it over carefully. He got up and paced back and forth in the office a few times. Then he called Mr. Colston and explained the situation to him.

"Now," he said, "I'm going out home and put it up to Mrs. Harmon. If she wants the job she can have it. That is, if she wants to go to Washington as the wife of a cabinet officer she may. If she elects to stay in Cincinnati, here we stay."

And so it happens that Mrs. Harmon really settled the question and that it was her verdict that made Judson Harmon attorney general of the United States.

No more vigorous attorney general has ever filled that exalted position. When Mr. Harmon took hold he proceeded carefully, as he always does. There was nothing revolutionary about his methods. But during the period of his incumbency he took stands and carried through prosecutions and rendered decisions that have established worldwide precedents. And he did it all in that easy, natural way that marks every move that he has ever made, before and since his cabinet experiences.

For prior to his service as attorney general Mr. Harmon held other public positions. He was superior court judge in Cincinnati and was succeeded in that position (which he resigned) by William H. Taft, now president. Later he became a district judge, and, strangely enough, Mr. Taft followed him in that position. Then Mr. Taft became solicitor general of the United States. Harmon followed him to Washington as a cabinet member.

"I don't know whether Bill Taft is following me or I'm following him," he laughingly remarked one day, "but we seem to be moving along in the same general direction. I wonder if he won't follow me into the cabinet." Sure enough, Mr. Taft did follow him into the cabinet by becoming secretary of war under Mr. Roosevelt. And those who believe in the Harmon brand of destiny are insistently confident that Jud is to follow Mr. Taft still further. However—

Out in Ohio they still call him "Judge." Nine out of every ten men, referring now to the man who has been attorney general and governor since he sat on the bench, speak of "Judge Harmon." And yet he doesn't look particularly judicial. To look conventionally judicial one must be as solemn as a treeful of owls. Governor Harmon doesn't come up to specifications in this regard. He has big gray eyes that are set wide apart, and little laugh made wrinkles radiate from them in all directions. There is always the suggestion of a smile under the lashes. Over these eyes are great bushy brows that really need trimming. There is plenty of hair left on the outskirts of the massive Harmon head, but up on top it isn't congested to speak of. There are strands of gray—many of them—but there is also much that seems to retain the color of youthful days. His nose is plentiful and arched a bit, and under it there bristles forth a gray mustache that looks like the business side of a wire brush. A mouth that is wide and straight, teeth that are white and even and ears that are neither modest nor retreating complete the facial picture—that is, except the chin. It is built like a stone abutment. The Harmon body is long and lank and loosely knit—a sort of Abe Lincoln body, with long legs and long arms attached at regular places and a way of doubling itself up in a chair that makes you wonder if it will come out without kinking. But it does come out all right, and when the Harmon mentality directs its activities that body can do athletic wonders.

Mr. Harmon is sixty-three years old.

No one not acquainted with this fact would take him to be more than fifty-five at the most. He is just as vigorous as a man of many years under fifty-five and as fond of sports and of the out of doors as a schoolboy.

For many years he was one of the amateur baseball players in Cincinnati.



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nati. He was the pitcher in a nine composed of business men who met every Saturday afternoon out in the suburbs of the Queen City to try diamond conclusions with teams from other localities. Judson Harmon never missed a game while he was in town. He would go to the ball field, shed his coat and collar and with rolled sleeves wade in and pitch nine straight innings with all the vigor of a Cy Young. In fact, he still loves to get out with his old baseball friends and pitch a bit, even though prudes may maintain that this

But ordinarily Mr. Harmon is a successful fisherman. He has studied fish and knows all about the technique of the game. If you give him the chance he will talk fish to you for three consecutive hours, telling you all about the habits and habitats of the fresh water and salt water tribes and when and how and where to catch them.

But there are other sides to Judson Harmon. I've dwelt upon the personal side because that is the most interesting side of any public man. You and I would rather know what sort of socks and hats a man wears than to have his ideas of the fourth dimension thrust upon us. But maybe, in conclusion at least, we would like to know something about the views and ideals of a man so pregnant of potential political possibilities as Judson Harmon, wherefore they may be given.

Judson Harmon is not a radical in the modern acceptance of that term. Neither, it should be noted, is he a reactionary.

But he has his fixed and unalterable views on broad public matters—views that he airs whenever called upon, views that he insists on presenting without regard to platforms, parties or expediency. He is a peppy advocate of tariff reform and has been such for many years. He believes the present protective tariff to be not only unfair, but dishonest. And he has made many notable speeches along this line. On Oct. 10, 1906, at the Texas state fair, held in Dallas, Mr. Harmon delivered an address in which he discussed the Payne-Aldrich tariff law at length, dwelling upon the unhealthy growth of combinations and trusts and stating, among other things, the following:

It is time to close up the public nursery now that the industries it has fed so long are grown, many of them overgrown, and have married and been given in marriage, too.

The people want protection themselves now from these giants which keep them walled in at home at their mercy and go across the ocean to meet foreign competition on its own ground.

They know that we have to keep on raising most of our revenue by taxes on imports. They wish these laid so as fairly to divide the burden among all classes and parts of the country. They believe



Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association. GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARMON WITH TWO OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN.

is not a dignified thing for the governor of a great state to do. Harmon cares about as much for what the prudes think about him as he does about the morals of Mars.

Every summer Mr. Harmon goes to Michigan for his vacation and fishes and fishes and fishes. He can go out in the gray of dawn and sit in a boat all day and come in at night with a new crop of tan and a hard luck story and enjoy it apparently just as much as though he had made a record catch of the season. In his fishing excursions he dresses for the part. He puts on a loose flannel shirt and a soft hat and wears a short stemmed pipe that works much more constantly than the reel. On many of his fishing excursions Mr. Harmon is accompanied by his little granddaughter, who takes almost as keen an interest in the sport as does her distinguished "granddad," as she calls him. One day last summer the youngster landed a three pound bass, while granddad had to be content with two lake perch that wouldn't weigh a pound put together.

That these taxes, with the cost and risk of long carriage which all competitors must bear, will afford the only advantage American manufacturers can now justly have. But they insist that tariff taxes shall be measured by the proper requirements of the government and not by the demands of seekers after private advantage. The amount of public revenue needed can always be readily known, but the wit of man cannot estimate what these private demands ought to be, no matter what basis be assumed for them. "A reasonable profit" would be as hard to determine as a "reasonable restraint of trade," which the president rightly says is impossible. And, if it could be figured out, nobody has ever explained why the government should guarantee a reasonable profit to some citizens, while it leaves all the others to take their chances.

On the subject of state rights Mr. Harmon is equally vehement. In an address at the Jefferson banquet of the National Democratic club in New York in 1909 he set forth his ideas on this matter. Said he:

The people of every state profit constantly by the experience of the others and often adapt their laws and devices to secure better government, but it would not be wholesome to allow the men of other states, near or distant, to have a voice in the affairs of any state but their own. The individuality of the states is what makes them great and strong and the Union great and strong through them. Weak states would soon make the Union feeble, or it would become a government wholly different from its design.

He believes in an income tax. He believes in the strict enforcement of the anti-trust laws.

And yet the man who gives voice to these views is pictured by those who oppose him as a corporation lawyer—representative-pupil.

It is true that he has been a corporation attorney. In the practice of the law, aside from his public career entirely, Judson Harmon has been eminently successful. He has won famous cases. He has been conspicuous for or against this corporation or that. But here is something that should be noted about him:

He has never in his entire career as an attorney for and against corporations been engaged for a corporation against the public. He wouldn't accept such employment. His enemies may scoff at this if they will, but his record proves it. He has always been perfectly, plainly and unmistakably sincere in that regard.

In an address which he delivered at the opening of the law school of the University of Cincinnati on Sept. 20,

1905, Mr. Harmon had this to say to the students:

Listen to no one who suggests that morals concern the clients only, while you have to do with legal rights alone. It is true that one may do a moral wrong by enforcing a legal right, and in such cases the lawyer does not necessarily share the blame. And there is no substance in the charge that lawyers must become lax of conscience because they sometimes uphold the side of a case that proves to be the wrong one. \* \* \* I have no patience with those who affect to despise wealth. Honorably gained it should be a joy to any one. But huge corporations and powerful industrial and commercial combinations in various forms have brought on a conflict with the sentiment of the people who, true to the instincts of the race, see a grave menace to our welfare and perhaps to our institutions and are seeking various remedies by law. \* \* \* I do not mean that lawyers should refuse to represent such (corporation) clients. It is their obligation to render proper service to any who ask it, and a lawyer of high rank rarely falls to number some of these among his clients. But he must be careful to do nothing for them that he would not do for less important clients. He must not forget that they, unlike his ordinary clients, have or may have interests which conflict with those of the public and that his first duty is to the public, not only because he is a citizen, but because from it he has received his commission as an officer of justice.

As governor of Ohio Mr. Harmon has made a most remarkable record. He has upset all precedents by calmly ignoring the machine politicians, as a result of which a number of them in his own party grow apoplectic whenver his name is mentioned. But for every machine vote so alienated Mr. Harmon has gathered unto himself scores of supporters among the business men of all parties—men who believe that he has given Ohio a business administration. Mr. Harmon did not seek the governorship. He was drafted. And when he agreed to run, after being waited upon by numerous anxious committees of politicians, he did so with the understanding that if elected he would run the gubernatorial office on a business and not on a political basis. The politicians had heard this sort of talk before, and they winked knowingly at one another and perfunctorily applauded. But they had reckoned faulty. When Mr. Harmon came in he started after the grafters and the lobbyists; recommended a number of investigations that resulted in putting one former state official in the penitentiary and in recovering vast sums of money illegally taken as interest on public funds by former state treasurers.

Mr. Harmon is a business man of remarkable ability. This is attested by his handling of several great railroad properties. As receiver for the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern bank in the nineties he made his first great record, bringing order out of chaos and restoring to the stockholders a rehabilitated property. A few years ago he was appointed receiver of the Grand Central system, which included the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton and the Pere Marquette railroads. This system was in such a tangle that the properties looked like "a net loss with no insurance" as one of the expert accountants remarked at the time. Receiver Harmon in a little over two years paid every creditor in full and then turned over to the stockholders a property the stock of which was worth par.

Mr. Harmon has been severely criticized by those who carp for having retained this receivership for eight months after he became governor. The fact is that he sent in his resignation before being inaugurated, but Judge Lurton, then on the federal circuit bench, declined to accept it on the ground that there were many matters pending that no other person could so well adjust as Mr. Harmon.

Governor Harmon was born at Newtown, Hamilton county (Cincinnati), O. His father was a schoolteacher

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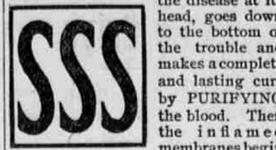
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## CATARRH A SYSTEMIC BLOOD DISEASE

Catarrh is not merely an affection of the mucous membranes; it is a deep-seated blood disease in which the entire circulation and greater part of the system are involved. It is more commonly manifested in the head, nose and throat, because of the sensitive nature of these membranes, and also because they are more easily reached by irritating influences from the outside. The symptoms of Catarrh, such as a tight feeling in the head, nose stopped up, throat clogged and dry, hacking cough, etc., show that the tiny blood vessels of the mucous membranes are badly congested and inflamed from the impurities in the circulation. To cure Catarrh permanently the blood must be purified and the system cleansed of all unhealthy matter. Nothing equals S. S. S. for this purpose. It attacks



the disease at its head, goes down to the bottom of the trouble and makes a complete and lasting cure by PURIFYING the blood. Then the inflamed membranes begin to heal, the head is cleared, breathing becomes natural and easy, the throat is no longer clogged, and every unpleasant symptom of the disease disappears. S. S. S. is the greatest of all blood purifiers, and for this reason is the most certain cure for Catarrh. Book on Catarrh and medical advice free to all who write.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

## SHERIFF'S SALE

Elizabeth A. Berry and Mary E. Carstee vs. Rubeen D. Woolson, et al. Knox Common Pleas

By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Knox County, Ohio, and to me directed, I will offer for sale at the door of the Court House in Mt. Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, Saturday, the 1st day of October, 1910,

between the hours of 1 p. m. and 2 p. m. of said day, the following described lands and tenements, to-wit:

Being the real estate of which Rubeen D. Woolson, Sr. died seized and being part of lot number 29 in the 4th quarter, 7th township, and 12th range of United States military lands deceded by the Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Ohio to said Rubeen D. Woolson, Sr. (now deceased) containing thirty and forty five hundredths acres, also part of lot number 29 as before described, decided by George Simpson and wife to Rubeen D. Woolson, containing ten acres, also six acres deceded by Lemuel Holmes and wife to Rubeen D. Woolson in exchange for six acres deceded by said Rubeen D. Woolson to Lemuel Holmes out of above named tract.

SECOND TRACT

All of the following described premises situated in Knox county, Ohio, and being a part of lot number 37 in the 4th quarter, 7th township and 12th range, United States Military lands, commencing at the center of the Mt. Vernon and Co-shocton Road at a stone in the center of the Gambier and Amity road, thence south 1 3-8 degrees west 47 60-100 poles to a stone, thence north 88 1-2 degrees west 78.20 poles to a stone, thence north 1 5-8 degrees east 48 40-100 poles to a stone, thence north 88 1-2 degrees east 23.70 poles to a stone, witness a white oak 16 inches in diameter, north 75 3-8 degrees west 47 1-2 links; thence south 83 3-4 degrees east 54 poles to a stone to place of beginning containing 34.62 acres more or less. See plat made by J. N. Lewis, Surveyor, for greater certainty of description.

Appraised at: First tract, \$2,400.00. Second tract, \$1,200.00.

Terms of Sale: Cash.

P. J. PARKER, Sheriff Knox County, Ohio. L. R. Houck, Attorney for Plaintiff.

## APPLICATION FOR PARDON

Notice is hereby given that at the next meeting of Ohio State Board of Pardons an application will be made for the pardon of E. L. LaMARRE convicted at the May term, 1910, of the Court of Common Pleas of Knox county, of the crime of horse stealing, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Ohio penitentiary for the period of two years.

(Signed), E. L. LaMARRE

## You Make the Deposit WE FURNISH THE REST

When you open an account with this bank, we give you a neat leather-covered bank book in which all subsequent deposits are entered.

We furnish you with blank checks with a convenient form of stub, on which to make your entry of each check issued.

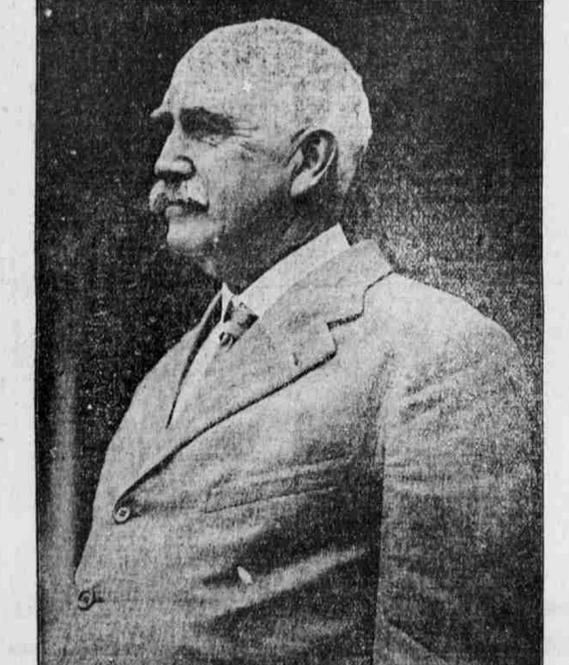
We keep a record of your account on our books which must agree with yours. This double record oftentimes proves valuable in case of a disputed bill.

In fact, we keep books for you.

## Gambier Banking Co. Gambier, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ross of Danville spent Monday in Mt. Vernon the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hess of West High street.

Mrs. G. A. Wilson and Master Carleton Johnson of Centerburg and Mrs. Marvin Lepley of near Howard were guests of Dr. T. B. Cotton and family several days last week.



Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association. THE HON. JUDSON HARMON, GOVERNOR OF OHIO.

The portraits and other illustrations accompanying this article are all reproduced from photographs made during the past summer at Governor Harmon's summer home at Charlevoix, Mich.

Judson Harmon was mad about it. The interference of troops in strike times is a condition usually fraught with delicate danger to those politically ambitious. Politicians had schemed to get Harmon "into a hole." Did it bother him? Not a whit. He just went at the situation with characteristic directness. And that's the Harmon way—direct, forceful, unwavering. If he has work to do he does it. If he starts out to play he plays.

Harmon appeals to the Ohlon whether that Buckeye's political notions dovetail with the Harmon brand of politics or no, because Harmon is, to use the expression of a Holmes county farmer who was analyzing the merits and demerits of the state executive, "jes' so darn common."

Which homely estimate casts an intense and interesting side light on J. Harmon. He may not be feverishly interested in you, but he has a quiet, unobtrusive way of making you believe that he has been sitting up and waiting to greet you since the dawn of history—not an ostentatious palaver, understand, but just a natural, friendly sort of way with him that you're bound to recognize and appreciate and swell up about.

Newspaper men are good judges of human nature. They have to be. No man is a hero to a seasoned reporter. All great men are merely ornamented clay. The reporter is trained to cynicism. He knows how most great men become great and what negligible atoms they would have remained if printer's ink hadn't been smeared over them in sufficient quantities to make them conspicuous. And so the fact that Governor Harmon is the idol of the Ohio press boys is worthy of record. They all like him. It may be that the particular paper which a reporter is employed by maintains a official policy that compels the Columbus representative to hang a criticism of Harmon on every available news book. That makes no difference. The

him them. When he first went to Washington the reporters flocked about him, of course, to ascertain just what sort of person this newly discovered Ohio attorney who had been elevated to the cabinet might be. Mr. Harmon met them smilingly, looked them over with eyes a-twinkle and proceeded to answer their questions with a frankness and candor that were most refreshing.

"What am I going to do?" he remarked in response to interrogatories. "How the devil do I know? What would you do? I don't know any more about this job yet than a pig does of Sanskrit. But I'm going to try to find out about it and then do the best I can. I wish you boys would help me. You know more about the duties right now than I do."

Well, maybe that didn't make a hit with the correspondents! Here was a distinctly new type of public official—not one wrapped about by the mantle of his own importance, but just a natural human person who said exactly what any other official under like circumstances would say if he said what was in his mind. And he's still doing it.

But he carried out his promise to "try to find out" what his duties as attorney general were, and the records testify to his subsequent mastery of the position.

The manner in which he secured that position is worthy of note. Secretary Daniel Lamont sent him word in Cincinnati that President Cleveland would like to have a talk with him. Mr. Harmon went to Washington. He met Cleveland, and the talk followed. It developed that Mr. Cleveland was seeking some unbiased information about a number of Ohio applicants for office. Harmon candidly told him all he knew about each of the men whose names came up for discussion, sparing no name, condemning none and commending none—just stating facts. President



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