

The Year 1912 at Home



THEODORE ROOSEVELT, WHOSE SHOOTING SHOCKED THE NATION—PRESIDENT ELECT WOODROW WILSON—THE LATE VICE PRESIDENT SHERMAN—TITANIC STRIKING ICEBERG.

History of 1912 in the United States

BY JAMES A. EDGERTON.

HERE is another year to be reviewed. They are going by with ever increasing frequency, like stations seen from an express train. Why is it that Father Time seems to sprint faster the older we get? He should be arrested for overstepping.

The chief events of 1912 in the "good old U. S. A." were the presidential campaign, the attempted assassination of Theodore Roosevelt and the Titanic disaster. While in a technical sense the sinking of the Titanic was more of a foreign than a domestic happening, there were so many noted Americans who lost their lives in the wreck that we should have the melancholy privilege of claiming it as our own.

The unusual features of the fight for the presidency were the first trial on an extensive scale of the preferential primary, the Roosevelt candidacy, the fierce pre-convention campaign in which for the first time in our history a president of the United States was driven to take the stump in his own defense, the splitting of the Republican party and the organization of the Progressive party, the long and fierce fight in the nomination of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, the death of Vice President Sherman and the great plurality given Wilson at the polls.

It was some time after the announcement of Colonel Roosevelt that "my hat is in the ring" ere the tide began to show in his favor. He had previously said that he would not again be a candidate, and the renomination of President Taft was taken as a matter of course. States having the old convention system still continued for Taft, but most of the primary states began swinging into line for Roosevelt, Illinois and Pennsylvania going with a rush that made the politicians gasp.

TAFT WINS AND LOSSES.

Roosevelt was on the stump throughout this struggle, and Mr. Taft now followed him. The two campaigned in Massachusetts, Maryland and Ohio. Massachusetts and Maryland were close. Taft carrying one and Roosevelt the other, but Ohio gave a large plurality to the colonel.

The Republican convention was preceded by an acrimonious struggle in the national committee over contested seats. Roosevelt and his friends charged fraud and theft, and the former president went to Chicago in person. In the convention Taft and Sherman were renominated by a slim majority, while the colonel's followers were refused to vote. Later they organized the Progressive party and held a national convention in Chicago, which nominated Colonel Roosevelt for president and Governor Hiram W. Johnson of California for vice president. This launching of the long expected new party alone makes 1912 historic.

The fight in the Democratic convention was almost as fierce. Champ Clark led at the start, gaining for ten ballots an actual majority, but lacking the two-thirds necessary to nominate. William J. Bryan, who had fought Judge

Alton B. Parker for the temporary chairmanship, had written much of the platform and forced through resolutions attacking the reactionary element, here threw his influence against Clark. Wilson had been steadily forging to the front and was nominated on the forty-seventh ballot.

The actual campaign was milder than had been the fight for the nomination, and the vote was surprisingly tight. Wilson carried the election by more than 2,000,000 plurality in the popular vote and by about 340 majority in the electoral college. Both houses of congress went with him, the senate by a narrow margin. Roosevelt led Taft in the balloting. The Socialists materially increased their vote, and woman suffrage captured Arizona, Kansas and Oregon.

THE TITANIC DISASTER.

The other big domestic event of the year was the collision of the Titanic with an iceberg in mid-ocean, sinking with 1,501 out of 2,208 souls aboard. Many of those who perished were men of worldwide fame, such as W. T. Stead, the British journalist; Charles M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk railroad; Colonel John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus, Major A. W. Butt, the aid to the president; Francis D. Millet, the artist; Jacques Futrelle, the novelist, and many more almost as well known. The Titanic was the largest steamship then afloat and was making her maiden voyage. Inquiries into the disaster were held on both sides of the Atlantic.

The shooting of Colonel Roosevelt occurred on Oct. 14 at Milwaukee. The assassin was John Schrank of New York, afterward adjudged insane. The bullet lodged against a rib, which it broke. Despite his wound, the colonel made a speech to which he was going when attacked and before the month was out was back on the stump.

The death of Vice President James Sherman occurred only a few days before election at his home, in Utica, N. Y. He was the first Republican vice president ever renominated.

Other important domestic events of the year were as follows: Proclamation of statehood for New Mexico and Arizona; floating of the wreck of the Maine in Havana harbor; appointment of Mahlon Pitney of New Jersey associate justice of the United States supreme court; resignation of Dr. H. W. Wiley, the pure food crusader; Chicago meat packers declared not guilty by a jury; passage by congress of the constitutional amendment for popular election of United States senators; the expulsion of William Lorimer of Illinois from the senate; opening of the Pulitzer school of journalism; awarding of the Nobel prize in surgery to Dr. Alexis Carrel of New York; announcement of the resignation of British Ambassador James Bryce; dissolution of the bath tub trust; the investigation of the money trust; the passage of a parcels post law; the report of Explorer Stefansson that he had found a race of white Eskimos on the northern edge of the continent, and the fight over the Panama canal toll.

LABOR STRIKES AND TRIALS.

In the world of labor the chief event was the trial of more than forty union officials at Indianapolis on dynamite charges growing out of the McNamara case. Clarence S. Darrow was acquitted on a charge of jury bribing in connection with the same case. The strike at Lawrence, Mass., resulted in the arrest of three labor leaders on a murder charge. They were acquitted. The anthracite coal strike was ended by a compromise, and a board of arbitration decided in favor of the engineers in their fight with northeastern railroads.

Sporting features were the splendid showing of American athletes in the Olympic games at Stockholm; winning of the American golf championship by Jerome D. Travers over the British champion and others; the fight for the world's baseball championship between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Giants; Boston winning; and Harvard defeating Yale and Princeton in football.

The Russian treaty expired on Dec. 31. America warned Mexico to protect the lives of Americans and sent troops into Cuba and Nicaragua during uprisings in those countries. Some of the noted Americans who died during the year were, in addition to those already named, Rear Admirals Robley D. Evans and G. W. Melville; General James B. Weaver, Populist candidate for president; General H. H. Bingham, "father of the house"; Senators R. L. Taylor, W. B. Heyburn and Isidor Royner and ex-Senators H. D. Morgan, W. A. Pepper, James Gordon and John P. Jones; General Frederick Dent Grant; Dr. D. K. Parsons, the philanthropist; Homer Davenport, the cartoonist; Wilbur Wright, inventor of the aeroplane; Margaret Schlegel; General Edward S. Bragg; Miss Harriet Quimby, the first woman to fly across the English channel; General Arthur MacArthur; General Homer Lea, who had assisted in the Chinese revolution; Calbraith P. Rodgers, who had flown across the American continent, and Rev. Robert Collier.

Sir Humphry Davy.

Sir Humphry Davy married a widow as peculiar as himself. His pet affection was a lack of time. He was always in a hurry. He pretended that he had no leisure to dress himself, and when a change of linen became necessary he simply put one shirt over another until he was known to have on five or six shirts at a time. Of course he could not wear this amount of apparel without appreciably increasing his size, and his friends not in the secret were sometimes surprised to see him fall off in apparent weight twenty pounds in a day. His wife's great anxiety was to keep him "fit for company," but as he did not care a fig for company she had no easy task, and domestic discord was a common thing.

Modern Hospitals.

"The modern hospital is a sanitary workshop. Until a few years ago it was a place where sick people could be kept until they recovered. Nowadays it is a workshop where they are made well," says Dr. W. B. Russ in the Journal.

ment of the American Medical Association. "Today our cills are the same, but our construction is steel and concrete. We have no carpets and dust catchers. Our furniture is of white enamel. We have forsaken the old time heat registers, with their dust and soot. We have steam radiators that give nothing into the sickroom. We have screens on our windows to deny admission to the fly and the mosquito and other insects that may carry the organisms of disease. We know that sunlight is one of God's ways of curing disease and that fresh air is one of the greatest physicians in the world, so that we build our modern hospitals with windows facing to the sun, with air space measured in terms of cubic feet for the sick."

A VERY ANCIENT TUNE.

It is Also Probably the Most Popular One in the World.

Perhaps the most firmly established popular song in the world is the air familiar to Americans as "We Won't Go Home Till Morning." The origin of the tune is obscure, but Louis Elson believes that the music was composed as a love song in the tenth century or earlier by one of the troubadours, the wandering minstrels of southern France. Chateaubriand, the French writer, heard it sung by the Arabs, and he suggested that it might have been carried to the orient by the French crusaders.

It was certainly sung by the French soldiers during the war in which the Duke of Marlborough won his fame. It was the lullaby of the baby son of Marie Antoinette. It became one of the most popular songs of the French revolution. Napoleon whistled and sang it throughout his life. Beethoven used it as one of the themes of his "Battle Symphony."

It has been for more than a century one of the most popular street songs in Europe. And there is probably not a ten-year-old boy or girl in America who does not know the tune.

The French words, beginning "Maitre, brook s'en va-t'en guerre," were invented by some forgotten French soldier during the war of the Spanish succession. They describe the supposed death and funeral of the Duke of Marlborough, which death, in the words of Father Prout, "did not then take place, by some mistake," since "the subject of the pathetic elegy was at the time of its composition, both alive and kicking all before him."

The song had nearly died out in France when Marie Antoinette caught it up from the peasant nurse she had employed for her baby; thereupon it spread rapidly, as songs do in France. Beaumarchais introduced it into "The Marriage of Figaro," and it was used by the red republicans for incendiary purposes of their own.

Several sets of words have been sung to the tune in the course of its history, and it has itself undergone some modifications. But its identity is clear throughout all the changes. Probably it is familiar to a greater number of people at the present time than any other tune in the world.—Youth's Companion.

WON THE JURY.

A Couple of Shrewd Quizzes and the Railroad Lost Its Case.

A number of years ago Benjamin F. Butler was a guest of friends in Brooklyn. During his visit he noted the rule of the street railway companies compelling conductors to register fares as soon as passengers entered the cars and before the fares were actually collected. Two or three years afterward he represented the plaintiff in a damage suit for \$15,000 in which a Brooklyn street railway company was the defendant. The principal witness for the company was the conductor of the car on which the accident occurred, and his testimony was so strong as to make things look bad for Butler's client. But Butler recalled the unusual rule he had remarked years before, and on cross examination he said:

"Your company requires you to ring up fares as soon as passengers enter the car, doesn't it?"

"Yes."

"Suppose a passenger boards your car and then finds he is on the wrong line. Do you state that fact to your superiors, and do they make allowance on your returns for that fare?"

"No. I lose the nickel."

"Do you mean to say the company won't take your word for 5 cents?"

"No, they won't."

"Yet," said the shrewd veteran, turning to the jury, "the company asks you to take this conductor's word for \$15,000."

Butler's client received a verdict.—Brooklyn Eagle.

"Spanish Mutton."

Dog meat, we learn from the Frankfurter Zeitung, is largely sold in Germany, and more especially in Saxony, but rarely under its own name. Traders describe it as Spanish mutton, and their customers are less chary of asking for it.

Catfish in England is treated in the same euphemistic way. There was a time when this fish was never seen in the shops. Then some fishmongering genius invented the name of "rock salmon," and bestowed it upon the despised catfish, which now has an established place in the market.—London Chronicle.

The Man Fish.

Mathew Buchinger, mentioned in old English wonder books as the "man fish," was the most remarkable monstrosity of his time. He had neither hands, arms, feet nor legs. From his shoulders grew two fluke-like excrescences, and along his back there were several rows of scales. He had the lidless eyes characteristic of the fish species and a queer-puckered mouth and no ears.

Those Horrid Creditors.

Irate Father to son:—It's astonishing, George, how much money you need! Son:—I don't need any, father. It's the other people who need it. Exchange.

The Year 1912 Abroad

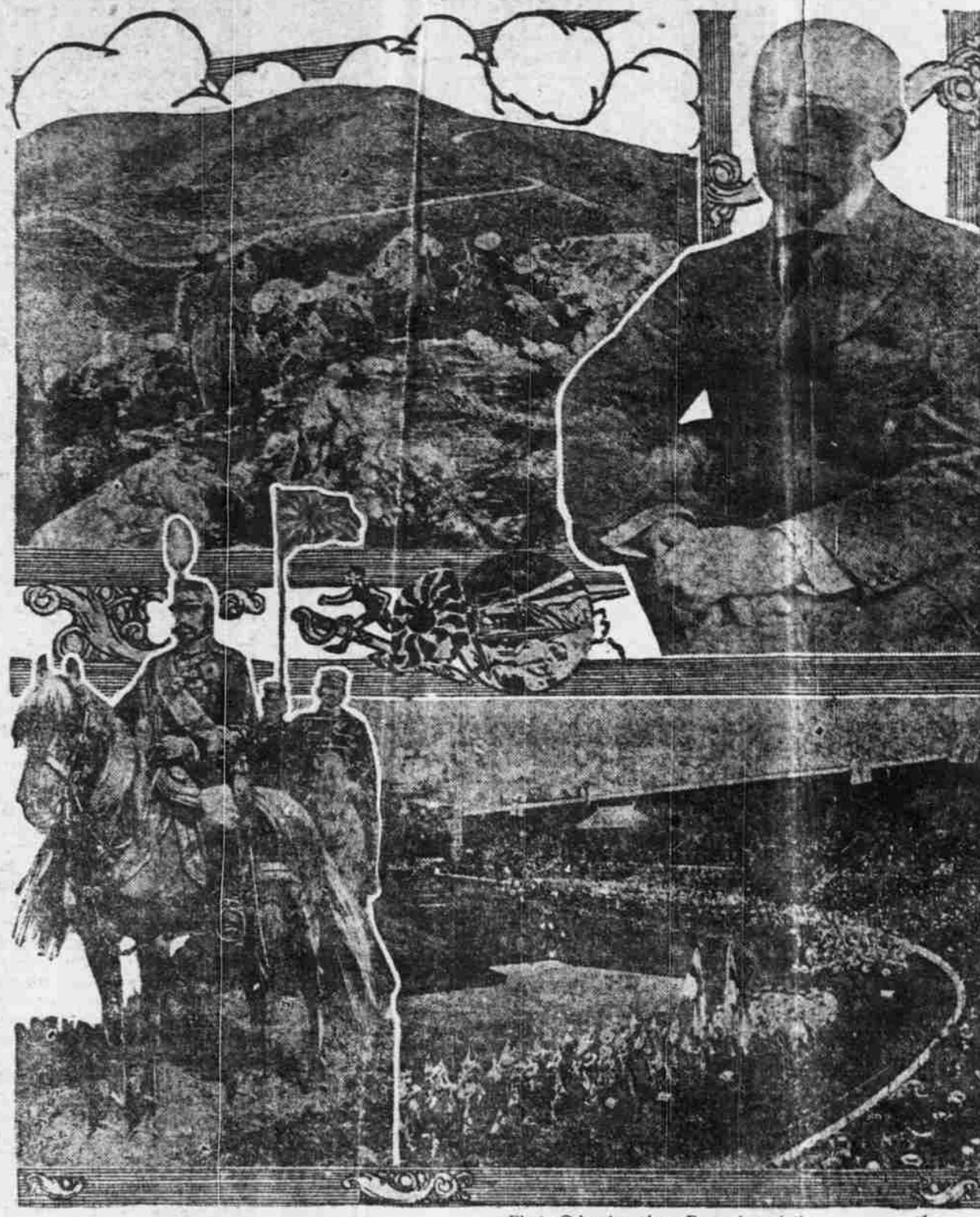


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BULGARIAN TROOPS CAMPAIGNING AGAINST TURKEY—AMUNDSEN, DISCOVERER OF THE SOUTH POLE—MUTSUHITO, JAPAN'S LATE EMPEROR—OLYMPIC GAMES IN SWEDEN.

History of 1912 in Foreign Lands

BY JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THE chief events of 1912 abroad were the Balkan war, the permanent establishment of the Chinese republic, the announcement of the discovery of the south pole, the death of the mikado of Japan, the snuffing out of uprisings in Mexico, Cuba and Nicaragua, the assassination of Premier Canalejas of Spain, the Olympic games at Stockholm and the home rule fight in the British parliament.

It certainly was a disastrous year for Turkey. In closing the war with Italy she was forced to give up Tripoli, the last of her African provinces. She had an earthquake that destroyed 3,000 lives, a cholera epidemic, a near revolution and a war with the Balkan allies that has cost her nearly all of her provinces in Europe. She has had nearly everything the matter with her except mumps and housewifery's knee. Her harems have fled to Asia Minor, and her soldiers have fled wherever the feeling was good. She declared war on Oct. 17 and only regained consciousness in time to talk peace with her conquerors.

SHORTEST WAR ON RECORD.

In Europe it is known as the "thirty days' war," the shortest on record. Every one of the allies won important victories, and won them in such rapid succession that the world looked on amazed. The reputation of the Turkish army crumbled overnight. The first clash occurred on Oct. 4, and four days later little Montenegro declared war, capturing Detrich mont and investing Scutari. The Bulgarians smashed the Turks in a disastrous defeat at Kiri, killed, besieged Adrianople and invested the last line of Turkish defense before Constantinople. The Serbian army drove all before it and participated in the capture of Monastir and other strongholds. The Greeks won a succession of victories and took the historic city of Saloniki. It was at about this time that Turkey recovered consciousness and asked for an armistice. The meeting for peace negotiations was held in London.

The insistence of Serbia on an Adriatic port as a result of her victories aroused opposition in Austria, and for a time there was widespread fear of a general European war, which had not entirely disappeared at the end of the year.

The work of the Chinese revolution which started last year was largely completed, and the republic is today a fixed fact. Dr. Sun Yat Sen was inaugurated as provisional president on Jan. 1, but unselfishly resigned in favor of Yuan Shih Kai two months later. The Manchukuo dynasty abdicated on Feb. 12, and three days later the election of Yuan occurred, his inauguration taking place on March 10. A majority of the soldiers about Peking was later put down, and the financial problem was temporarily solved by independent foreign loans. Woman suffrage and other advanced measures were adopted in some of the provinces.

The discovery of the south pole was

really made on Dec. 17, 1911, but the announcement was deferred until March 7, 1912, when the discoverer, Captain Roald Amundsen, returned to civilization.

The death of Emperor Mutsuhiro of Japan, under whom that wonderful nation has been transformed from semi-barbarism to a place in the front rank of nations, occurred on July 30, and his son, Yoshihito, ascended the throne. The funeral of the dead mikado was accompanied by oriental pomp and was attended by representatives from the whole world. A sensational aftermath was the suicide of General Count Nogai and his wife. Nogai was the commander who took Port Arthur.

LATIN-AMERICAN INSURRECTIONS.

The Mexican revolution against President Madero made considerable headway early in the year, the rebels capturing the city of Juarez on Feb. 27. Later the federalists gained important victories, driving the insurgents into the mountains. A new difficulty occurred when Vera Cruz arose in insurrection, led by Felix Diaz, nephew of the former president. This uprising was speedily suppressed, however, and Diaz, with his other officers, was captured, two of his lieutenants being put to death.

There was also an insurrection in Nicaragua. American marines were landed to protect property and lives of our citizens. On Sept. 26 General Mena, a leader of the insurrection, surrendered to the federal and American forces.

A rebellion of the negroes in one of the Cuban provinces also caused the landing of American forces, and there was some talk of intervention, but the disturbance was soon quelled. Cuba held her presidential election in the fall without the presence of American troops. The new president, General Mario Menocal, is friendly to the United States.

END OF TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

The war between Italy and Turkey dragged on through the early part of the year, with no very heavy fighting on either side. The Italian navy took the islands of the Aegean. The use of the aeroplane in war had further demonstration, Italian aviators dropping bombs in a Turkish camp, killing ten. On Oct. 15 the peace protocol was signed between the two countries. By its terms Italy gained practical control of Tripoli, but gave up the Aegean islands that Greece is now battling to free.

In Great Britain the most notable events of the year, aside from England's part in the general European situation, were the coal strike in February and March, the continued disturbances by the suffragettes and the home rule fight. The coal strike threw out of employment upward of 1,000,000 workers and threatened for a time to become worldwide, there being also a strike in Germany and trouble threatened in France and the United States. The British government interposed, and the contest was finally settled by the passage of a minimum wage law satisfactory to the miners.

FRANCE SUBDUES MOROCCO.

There was some friction between France and Spain over the division of Morocco, but it was finally adjusted. France retaining control of all of it, except some towns and a small amount of territory nearest to Spain. Mulai Haid abdicated as sultan.

Among the sporting events abroad were the quadrennial Olympic races at Stockholm, in which the United States took most of the track and field events, and the annual long race between Oxford and Cambridge, Oxford winning.

Other events of the year were the honoring of William Marconi, inventor of wireless, by a life seat in the Italian senate; the completion of the Alpine tunnel through the Aar mountain, six and three-quarter miles long; the sinking of the steamer Texas under the Turkish flag, sixty-six passengers being drowned, and the review of seventy-two war aeroplanes and dirigibles at Paris.

Among the noted dead abroad were Alfred Tennyson, Dickens, in New York to celebrate the centenary of his father's birth; Henry Labouchere, the brilliant British editor and statesman; Abbe Charles Layson (Pere Hyacinthe); W. T. Stead, the famous London editor, who went down in the wreck of the Titanic; Count von Aehrenthal, Austrian premier; Edward Terry, the English actor; Bram Stoker, London author and manager; Justin McCarthy, the famous author and statesman; Robert W. B. Browning, only son of the poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Henri Poincare, celebrated French mathematician; Andrew Lang, poet and novelist; Massenet, the composer; Johann M. Schleyer, inventor of Volapuk, the language having died before its author; Rev. William Booth, founder and head of the Salvation Army; Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, German diplomat; Rev. Augustus Grlebar, original of "Tom Brown"; Robert Barr, the Scotch novelist; Laurence Alma-Tadema, the famous artist, and Premier Canalejas of Spain, who was assassinated by an anarchist.

Answered.

Schoolteacher:—What farm papers does your father take? Son of the Village Tightwad:—First mortgage—Puck.

Hope shall brighten days to come and memory add the past. Moore

IT'S DIFFERENT

BLACK SILK
STOVE POLISH

NO DUST
SHINE
STAYS

GET A MAN TODAY