

## TAFT GRIDIRON GUEST AT ARMAGEDDON FRAY

President Joins With Dixon,  
McCombs and Hilles in  
Laughter at Sallies.

### BULL MOOSE IN "CARMEN"

Waiters Strike One of the Many  
Stunts at Club's Annual  
Dinner.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—President Taft's good nature never showed more favorably than at the dinner of the Gridiron Club at the Hotel Willard to-night. The President bravely faced the joshing of the club over recent political events, and after laughing heartily at his own expense joined in the merriment that greeted the club's sally at President-elect Wilson, Col. Roosevelt, Champ Clark, Chairman McCombs, Hilles and Dixon, Uncle Joe Cannon, Nick Longworth and others.

Besides the President, an unusually brilliant gathering, including Cabinet officers, diplomats, Senators and Congressmen and men high in the financial, professional and business world, witnessed the fun.

The Gridiron diners never lag. They are not occasions when you eat for two hours and then sleep for two more while the speaking is going on. As usual, the fun began early, but the first stunt carried along to several of the guests.

It came just as the fish course was reached. Manager Hight of the New Willard entered the banquet hall wearing his working clothes and a worried look. He conferred hurriedly with members of the club and there was a lot of commotion. Evidently something had gone wrong. Diners began to notice too that all the waiters had disappeared from the room. Washington has recently had a waiters' strike and many of the guests were half prepared for the announcement made presently by President Garth that the waiters had walked out.

"But the dinner will go on minus the eatables and drinkables," announced President Garth solemnly.

#### Break Waiters' Strike.

Guests who had come to the dinner with good appetites were thinking of running out for a ham sandwich when a member of the club in the rear of the room arose and suggested that the club members themselves serve the dinner.

"They should make good," waiters said this morning, "they have spent half of their lives waiting outside the doors of the public men."

President Garth was a little uncertain. Would Manager Hight object? Certainly not, provided the members would follow his directions. But how about the evening's entertainment? It was plain that with the club members acting as waiters the guests could not have both. The decision of the club, favored food, so up jumps the entire club, gathers up the dirty plates and marches out, only to reappear a few minutes later with the fish. They had hardly cleaned the tables again and trooped back to the kitchen when the regular waiters reappeared.

The strike had been called off; the waiters were afraid, at least so one of the club members told President Garth, that the Gridiron Club would get a permanent crutch on their jobs.

Enter now the "Sons of the Land-slide," well known figures swathed in bandages and hobbling on crutches—Uncle Joe Cannon, Cy Salloway, Nick Longworth, Representative McKinley and others in the noble army of martyrs. President Taft also was there, but how different his appearance! Instead of being battered, patched up and grumpy he was freshly dressed, buoyant, light on his feet and apparently oblivious of any care in the world. Some of these Sons of the Land-slide seemed interested in the fact that Utah and Vermont had given their electoral votes to Taft. This circumstance was commemorated in these verses:

Every man's a standpatter in life,  
And his ten wives are voters to boot.  
They all went daff  
Over William H. Taft;  
He's the biggest man next to Red Smoot.  
In the Green Mountain State, recollect:  
Old Taft won't get by a neck,  
And we'd elected him, gentlemen up here,  
If they had not neglected him  
In forty-six States, by heck!

**Bull Moose in Carmen.**  
The Sons of the Land-slide had hardly retired when "Carmen" tripped lightly into the banquet hall, followed by the tereodore and other characters in the well known opera, all of whom notably resembled statesmen of contemporary history. It was arranged right away there was to be a Bull Moose fight in the arena, with Don Jorge W. Perkins as the tereodore and "Champion Bull Moose" trainer of the world. First, though, Don Perkins asked permission to take America's Bull Moose to Mexico.

"The President of the United States," said President Garth, "assures me you can have him and welcome."  
This announcement was greeted with roars of laughter, in which Mr. Taft himself joined heartily.

Carmen announced that her real name was "Popular Applaud" and she did a song and dance so cleverly that Uncle Joe Cannon was certain she was a "real lady." In this skit appeared also Don Roberto Lafolito and Don Wood Bah-Rah-Rio Wilson, together with Don Hilles. Don Champ was also in the ring. Part of the libretto ran like this:

Don Champ:  
I know the way to get that Bull Moose grime:  
Why don't they turn Bull Bryan loose on him?  
If they did I'd have a good excuse  
For saying, "Go to, Hill, go to, Bull Moose."  
Carmen:  
But where's Don Taft, that's the man I'd  
Kill!  
By far the worthiest matador of all.  
Don Jorge:  
Don Taft's a good fighter, people say,  
Too good for any rough and tumble fray.  
Frank and forbearing and inclined to show  
A little mind to an underdog.  
This little message he has paused to write:  
"I'm playing golf. Let Hilles run the fight!"  
Yet he's the kind of man I hate to see  
Fonder of duty than I am of me.

When the Bull Moose finally fell, "stabbed with a Latin conjunction," medical aid was summoned. Dr. Lyman Abbott appeared.

"Oh, doctor, this Bull Moose can you restore?" sang Carmen.  
The Outlook's promising, but nothing more," chanted the doctor. "The musical travesty came to an end with Miss Popular Applaud advising Don Woodrow, 'I am yours for four long years, perhaps.'"  
And now all doubt that has hung over the politics of a nation as to the battle of Armageddon is lifted. The stage is cleared; the war correspondence is advanced; and himself is standing on Yonge Heights surveying the action—Saul with long white whiskers and a haggard glow.

"Here I am at the scene of my early conflict. My pilgrimage is ended. Below me lies the plain of Armageddon. My old eyes are dim, but I seem to see figures moving about, a courier approaches."  
Said courier gallops up astride a hobby horse and is plainly the Senator from Oregon.

"I'm Jonathan Bourne, Jr., independent, progressive, democratic republican and war correspondent of La Follette's weekly," he exclaimed. Then in galloped Champ Clark, riding a similar horse. He announces he is war correspondent of the "Commoner." Clark is followed by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who is covering the engagement for the Munsey newspapers.

"How goes the battle, brother?" asked Saul of Lodge.  
"Field Marshal Dixon," was the excited reply, "has moved down Field Marshall McCombs with a harvester machine, and McCombs has poured a hot statement into Field Marshall Hilles, and Hilles has hit Dixon with a majority claim."

"I don't understand," said he, scratching his head.  
"Well, nobody has anything on you in that," was the answer.  
Then Gifford Pinchot came up on the gallop, crying that Gen. Perkins must have more ammunition.

"He has sent me for a fountain pen to write a check," shouted Pinchot.  
"How goes the battle now, brother?" asked Saul.  
Pinchot gave him a pair of opera glasses. Saul put them to his eyes and his first.

"Wonderful," he exclaimed. "I see a stout cabinet officer appearing to be pouring Standard Oil on troubled waters."  
"That is Boies Penrose," volunteered Pinchot.  
"How small yet how near he seems," exclaimed Saul.  
"You've got the glasses wrong and foremost; you don't look through them until after November 5," said Pinchot.

Then this dialogue:  
Saul—Who is the man on the big horse?  
Pinchot—That's not a horse; that's a Bull Moose.  
Lodge—Who are the two men hanging on his flank?  
Bourne—They are Adam Bede and John H. Brown, the truth-tellers.  
Champ—Say, mister, you are not king; you're the court jester.

**Saul Views the Fray.**  
After "Henry Watterson" had rushed in with a bulletin to the effect that when he left yonder field the Democrats of the House of Representatives were trying to arrange the tariff schedules and the carnage was frightful there were more sounds of battle and the war correspondents gazed steadily through their glasses. Then the conversation was resumed:

Saul—Look, look! There on the spreading plain the combatants clash and slay.  
To the right the general on the armored animal dashes toward the large General seated on the putting green. Many men with strange weapons follow the Bull Moose.  
Pinchot—They are the tennis cabinet.  
Lodge—There is a man on the side dress who seems to be sitting on a money chest.  
Clark—That's Thomas F. Ryan.  
Bourne—Why does he sit there idle?  
Clark—He's waiting for the battle to end so he can settle all unpaid bills of the campaign.  
Watterson—Is the man who is shouting all waving his arms a demagogue?  
Lodge—That's Senator Joseph M. Dixon practicing for his appearance before the Clapp committee.  
Saul—Who are the men surrounding the large man?  
Bourne—They are the members of the Taft cabinet.  
Saul—Why are they not in the battle?  
Bourne—They will get into the battle just after it is over.  
But just then some one observed that the dawn was breaking.  
"Oh, no," was the reply, "that's not the dawn. That is Col. Jim Ham Lewis."

## EX-OFFICIAL DEMANDS OWN ARREST FOR THEFT

Merrill Says Indictment Is Spite  
Work of His Successor,  
Prosecutor for Queens.

### WOMAN CLIENT GOT MAD

Sued for Separation After Auto  
Ride, and Then Testified  
Against Attorney.

John D. Merrill, ex-District Attorney of Queens county, will appear before Judge Humphrey of Queens on Monday to inquire why he has not been arrested on a bench warrant issued after he was indicted last Friday on a charge of grand larceny in the second degree.

Mr. Merrill says every one in Queens knows of the indictment, and furthermore, he adds, it is a bit of "damnable spite work" on the part of the present District Attorney, Matthew J. Smith.

Early last week charges were filed in Albany against District Attorney Smith, and Mr. Merrill thinks the indictments followed Friday because his name was mentioned at the time as being that of the person behind the charges.

Since the indictment he has been in and out of the District Attorney's office a dozen times and not a word has been said to him about the indictment and the bench warrant for his arrest. He wants to know why.

The trouble all centers about an automobile ride on which Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Clarke of 7 Spencer place, Brooklyn, and a friend started on October 24 and which resulted in a separation suit by Mrs. Clarke, two arrests for the alleged theft of the automobile and the row between Mr. Merrill and District Attorney Smith. Mr. Merrill was counsel for Mrs. Clarke.

Mr. Merrill says Mrs. Clarke told him that she heard her husband say something to his friend about leaving her home and continuing the auto ride. She named forward, the story continues, and hit Mr. Clarke on the head, at which Mr. Clarke got out with his friend and walked back to town.

After Mrs. Clarke had been in the machine for two hours, surrounded by mysterious levers, she telephoned to Fritz's garage in Woodhaven and a chauffeur was sent to her. He took her to the home of her sister, Mrs. Cooper, of 509 Chauncey street, Brooklyn, and then at her own request took the car to Fritz's garage.

Then Mrs. Clarke sought Mr. Merrill and started suit for separation against her husband, alleging many things which Mr. Merrill has in affidavit form.

While this was pending Clarke went looking for his automobile and got a summons for Fritz. Meanwhile Mrs. Clarke moved the car again, taking it to the garage of Dr. George F. Comstock of Woodhaven.

Shortly afterward Mr. and Mrs. Clarke made up and she took a dislike to Mr. Merrill. At least, she said that he had not been a bit nice to her and said several things about her former attorney.

Last Friday Mr. and Mrs. Clarke appeared before the Grand Jury and told a story on which Fritz, the chauffeur and Merrill were indicted. The first two men were arrested yesterday and held for appearance to-morrow. Merrill was not arrested.

"I haven't been notified yet of the indictment against me and I want to know," he said last night. "I have been in and out of the District Attorney's office a dozen times and not a word has been said about the matter to me, nor has any attempt been made to arrest me. I am going to appear in court Monday when these men are arraigned for pleading and something will happen."

Mrs. Clarke wouldn't say much about the case last night except to admit that she and her husband gave the testimony which led to the indictment of the three men and that she did not like Mr. Merrill.

**G. H. TAYLOR TO WED ACTRESS?**  
Vera Maxwell announces engagement to Frank J. Gould's Associate.

Announcement was made from Florenz Ziegfeld's Moulin Rouge Theatre yesterday of the engagement of Vera Maxwell, a member of the "Follies" company, to George H. Taylor, who is associated with Frank J. Gould in his business and railroad interests. Miss Maxwell and her mother verified the announcement. Mr. Taylor was not at the Union League Club, where he makes his home. It was said the marriage would take place early in January.

Miss Maxwell lives with her mother, Mrs. Vera Maxwell, at the Donac apartments, Forty-ninth street and Eighth avenue.

"We met in just a casual way through an introduction by a mutual friend two years ago," Miss Maxwell said. "I was then dancing in Mr. Ziegfeld's 'Follies.' About four months ago we became engaged and are looking forward in great happiness to our wedding in January. It will be quiet. I will retire from the stage after the wedding."

**MEMORIAL TO GEO. D. WIDENER.**  
Widow of Titanic Victim Gives Altar and Chancel.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7.—Bishop Rhinelander to-morrow will dedicate at the Church of St. Paul's in Cheltenham a memorial altar and chancel of the edifice that has been built by Mrs. George D. Widener as a memorial to her husband, who perished in the Titanic disaster.

The church has been almost entirely rebuilt and everywhere about it are evidences of the Widener and Elkins memorials.

A large memorial window has been dedicated to Mrs. P. A. B. Widener by Mr. Widener, and there will also be a chancel window and organ dedicated to Mrs. William L. Elkins, Sr., by her son, George Widener Elkins.

Two new members, Edward B. Clark of the Chicago Evening Post and Charles Keyser of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, were initiated into the club.

Among the well known diners at the tables were nearly all the members of the Cabinet, Ambassador Bryce, Uncle Joe Cannon, War Cabinet, Senator Charles D. Hill, William F. McCombs, William G. McAdoo, William F. McKinley, Lewis Nixon, Warren Court, Justice Pitney, Dr. Albert Shaw, Representative Underwood and Frank A. Vanderlip.

**FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS**  
The Popular Shop Presents These Suggestions

AT \$1 TO \$5 Sofa Pillows in Green, Blue, Red, Yellow, Orange, Purple, Pink, White, and Black. Also a Large Collection of Upholstered Velvet Cushions, Willow Chairs, Muffin Stands, Hungarian Old Pottery.

UP TO \$10 Tea Tables of Mahogany, Maple, Oak, Pine, Birch, and Walnut. Also a Large Collection of Upholstered Velvet Cushions, Willow Chairs, Muffin Stands, Hungarian Old Pottery.

McHugh Quality Previews Throughout Orders Received Now for Special Colors and Cushions will be Ready for Christmas Delivery

Joseph P. McHugh & Son  
Nine West Forty-second Street, Opposite Library, New York

## BLAMES BIG FIRE FOR SUICIDE

Lawyer Says Client Lost Valuable  
Papers in Equitable Building.

That the Equitable Building fire was responsible for the suicide of one man was the statement made to Supreme Court Justice Page yesterday by Harry E. Herman, a lawyer, in telling of the death last March of John I. Valentine, a building engineer.

The fire destroyed evidence which the lawyer said would have enabled Valentine to collect \$17,000 from George Hildebrand, a contractor, who has built many public schools.

Valentine had drawn plans for school-houses which cost about \$5,000,000 and had collected \$27,000 in fees when he had a dispute with the contractor as to the amount due and they went to law about it. Valentine drew up a memorandum of the work done on various buildings and this paper was in his office in the Equitable Building when it was destroyed. Two days later Valentine was found dead in his room.

Attorney Herman appeared before the court to oppose a motion which would have prevented Claude H. Valentine, a son, from bringing a similar suit against Hildebrand. The latter wanted to restrain the suit on the ground that the litigation has already cost him \$14,000. The court reserved decision.

**DR. SUN TO RAISE \$200,000,000.**  
Coming Here to Help Get \$600,000,000 for Chinese Railroads.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—When Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who is on his way to America, gets here he will try to raise one-third of a \$600,000,000 fund for the construction of an elaborate system of railroads.

One-third of this sum will be given over by the Chinese Government. Another third will be subscribed in China. Dr. Sun, in whose hands the foreign negotiations have been placed entirely, will try to raise the other \$200,000,000 in America and Europe.

The amount will be entirely independent of the other \$200,000,000 loan.

When a message was read from Miss Mary Garrett Hay, the recently retired president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, from Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the suffragette, who had been invited to speak but could not be present because of illness, inviting the association to join the "world's army" fighting to secure votes for women," there was loud applause. And there was more applause when Public School Superintendent Edward L. Stevens said:

"I approve of women's clubs because it gives women an opportunity to get together and discover those things of which men have deprived them, and because they make for woman's emancipation. But this is not woman's emancipation, it is man's emancipation, and

when I find 500,000 other men vote for woman's suffrage then our emancipation will be complete."

Vigorous and prolonged applause followed. A few minutes later there was much merriment when the speaker remarked that the tea and toast habit is the most baneful thing in the school system to-day. "Eat a good big breakfast and you'll do your work better," said the superintendent.

Governor-elect Sulzer, who had been invited to be present but could not attend because of other engagements, sent a telegram wishing the association good luck and adding his word of praise for the work Miss Strachan has done. Mrs. Sulzer was present at the luncheon, but did not speak.

**MOST OF PARIS IN DARKNESS.**  
Fire in Electric Power Plant  
Throws Capital Into Confusion.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
PARIS, Dec. 7.—The power station at St. Denis, which furnishes electrical power to various sections of the capital, caught fire at 6 o'clock this evening and resulted in much inconvenience and annoyance in the city. The subway stopped running and electrical tram cars, loaded with passengers, came to a sudden halt. Several quarters of Paris were plunged into darkness.

The people did not know what had happened and the wildest rumors were soon in circulation. At first it was thought that another strike was on, but the rushing of fire engines through the city dispelled this idea. Then wild rumors spread that the station, which supplies 180,000 kilowatts, had been destroyed. This was also inaccurate.

The fire, which was caused by a short circuit, was under control by 10:30 P.M.

The theatres suffered badly through the cutting off of the electrical power. This was notably the case with the Gaite, Lyrique, Antoine, Renaissance, Gymnase, Opera Comique, Opera and Odeon. The boulevard restaurants and cafes were also placed at a great disadvantage. Gas and acetylene and candles were promptly requisitioned.

The regulations approved to-day by President Taft were first drafted by a board of officers of the Navy Department. They were then submitted to a conference of the commanders of all the navy yards and naval stations. Finally having been approved at the Navy Department by Assistant Secretary Winthrop, the men most concerned were given an opportunity to pass upon the rules.

They were submitted to groups of master mechanics at the New York and Boston yards. The employees' committees returned the regulations to the President's order. The men employed as stablemen, cleaners and in such purely manual capacities are not included in the order.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—President Taft this afternoon signed an order and set of regulations placing 20,000 skilled laborers employed at United States navy yards and naval stations under the civil service. The order was drawn up at the Navy Department, which has been working to this end for several years.

The President's order requires that henceforth all promotions and appointments to positions requiring skilled labor shall be made on the merit system alone. Men now holding positions at navy yards will be transferred to the classified service lists upon recommendation of the commandant of the yard.

Action by the commandant is necessary in each individual case. If any present employee be not so recommended by the commandant the employee shall have the right to prove his competency by examination. Before July 30, 1913, all employees will be at work under the new order.

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## TEACHERS GIVE LUNCHEON FOR MISS GRACE STRACHAN

High School Instructors Express  
Gratitude for Work She  
Has Done.

There was a little talk about woman's suffrage, a little about the troubles and blessings of the modern New York public school system itself and a great many glowing eulogies of Miss Grace C. Strachan, president of the Interborough Association of School Teachers, at the luncheon given yesterday afternoon in the Plaza Hotel by the Women's High School Teachers Association in honor of Miss Strachan.

It was Miss Strachan who fought for a great many years for equal pay for women teachers with men, and when an equal pay bill passed the State Legislature and became law it was Miss Strachan to whom all the credit fell.

"This seemed but an inadequate means," said Miss Lina E. Gano, president of the Women's High School Teachers Association, "of expressing our gratitude to Miss Strachan and our appreciation of the great work she has done for us."

When a message was read from Miss Mary Garrett Hay, the recently retired president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, from Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the suffragette, who had been invited to speak but could not be present because of illness, inviting the association to join the "world's army" fighting to secure votes for women," there was loud applause. And there was more applause when Public School Superintendent Edward L. Stevens said:

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## TAFT ADDS 20,000 MEN TO CIVIL SERVICE LIST

Navy Yard Mechanics Will  
Hereafter Have Permanent Positions.

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