

Characteristics of Two Noted Congressmen

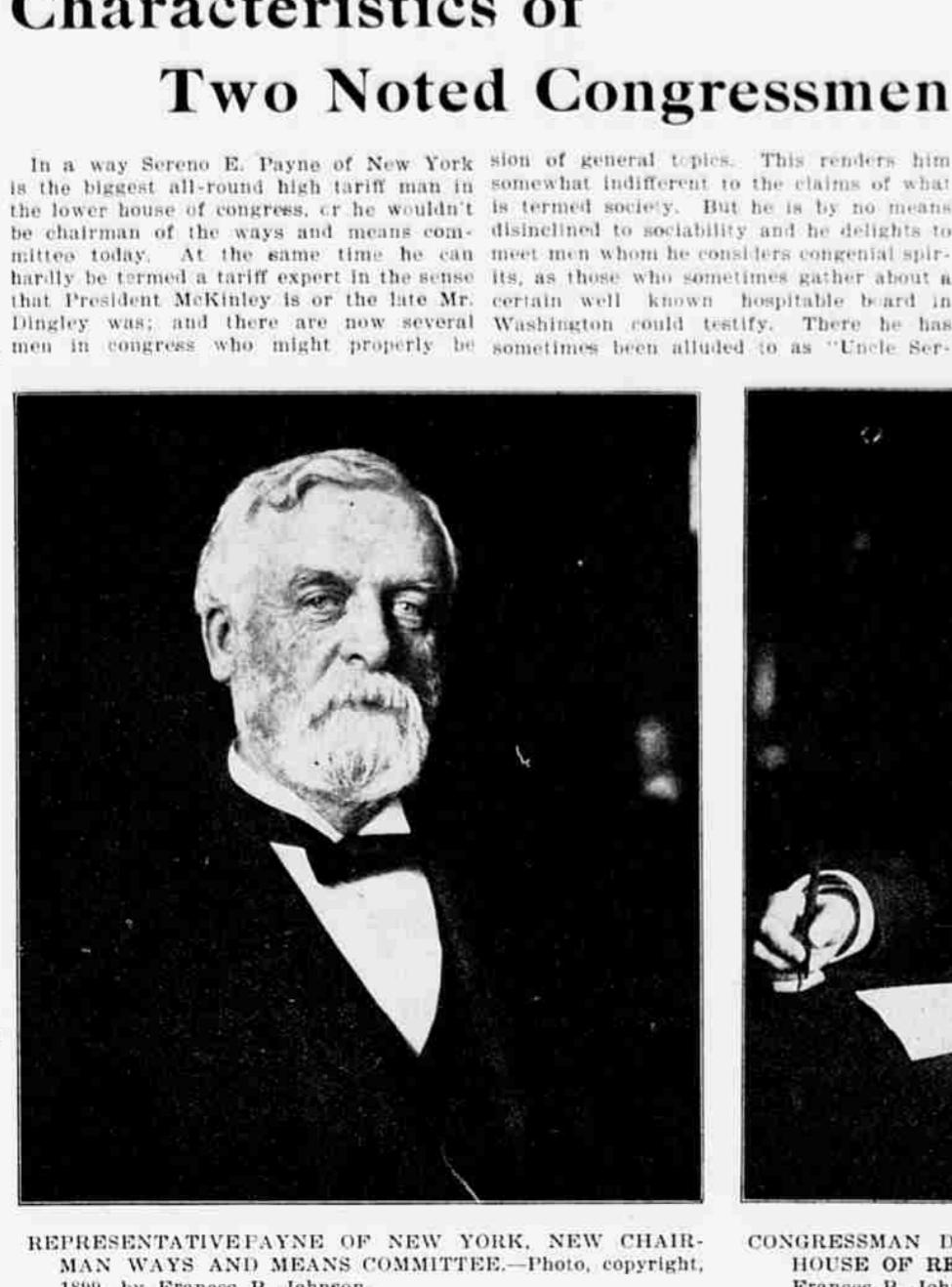
In a way Sereno E. Payne of New York is the biggest all-round high tariff man in the lower house of congress, or he wouldn't be chairman of the ways and means committee today. At the same time he can hardly be termed a tariff expert in the sense that President McKinley is or the late Mr. Dingley was; and there are now several men in congress who might properly be

sion of general topics. This renders him somewhat indifferent to the claims of what is termed society. But he is by no means disinclined to sociability and he delights to meet men whom he considers congenial spirits, as those who sometimes gather about a certain well known hospitable board in Washington could testify. There he has sometimes been alluded to as "Uncle Ser-

ene" but nowhere else has anything approaching a nickname ever been applied to him. He is held in esteem alike by friends and foes, but the peculiar quality that endangers what might be termed the affectionate nickname is missing from his makeup.

Mr. Payne is not blessed with the faculty of phenomenally rapid cerebration and so is not much of a success at short, spur-of-the-moment talks on the floor. Before delivering a speech he makes a long and earnest preparation, drinking deeply at every fountain of available information and making sure of every minutest fact. It is of record that Mr. Payne's statements have been found at fault more seldom than the statements of almost any other man in the house today. He indulges in no rhetorical flourishes or vivid word painting, but he is a post master of the art of plain, direct, persistent hammering. Sometimes, though more rarely than is the general impression, he resorts to invective. When he does his summer, called him "Ragged Oats," because, they said, he "orated" even his breakfast order and a rolling of every "r" was a part of his orating. He is a famous campaigner. He has been known to make 100 speeches in 100 days. Out of doors, in fair weather, is where he likes best to speak. He never takes any care of his throat and is never hoarse. During the last campaign, he says, he ran a circus. He carried about with him a canvas tent capable of seating 3,500 people and he had it set up in every town he visited. In the morning there would be speaking in the tent. Mid-day dinner was a picnic affair. In the afternoon the speech-making was continued. It was like an all-day camp meeting. Many of Mr. Dolliver's speeches lasted three hours and longer. He enjoyed it all, but he thinks the modern campaign methods lay a tremendous burden on a candidate and tax almost beyond endurance his physical and mental energies.

SPEECHES, FRIENDS, TASTES.—He usually prepares his speeches for delivery in the house rather carefully, writing them out or dictating them to a stenog-



REPRESENTATIVE PAYNE OF NEW YORK, NEW CHAIRMAN WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.—Photo, copyright, 1899, by Frances B. Johnson.

CONGRESSMAN DOLLIVER OF IOWA—THE ORATOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Photo, copyright, 1899, by Frances B. Johnson.

considered more accomplished schedule experts than Payne. But he knows tariff law and tariff history intimately, as, indeed, he should. He has been on the ways and means committee several years and his training, begun when McKinley himself was chairman and continued under Dingley, has been thorough and comprehensive.

Mr. Payne's smile is his most distinguishing characteristic. It is aggressive and it never deserts him. This is literally true, no matter what happens or how contrary to his wishes the course of circumstances may be. It has given him the reputation of being uniformly good humored, whereas there are many days when he doesn't view the world through rose-colored spectacles. It has produced the impression that he almost always carries his point, when, in fact, he sometimes makes a bad miss of it. When he really feels jolly it is an admirable exponent of his mental frame; when he is charged with anger or tense with anxiety, it hides his feelings; when he is inclined to be sarcastic, it adds point to his forceful words; when he is listening to the dullest story, even, it lends an expression of the most flattering interest to his face. It is by all odds his choicest possession and he probably knows this as well as anyone.

Payne's Big Body.

Mr. Payne's body is tall and broad and heavy and he knows how to make impressive use of his size. His voice is big and expansive; in fact, it has no superior, so far as carrying power is concerned, among the public men of the present time. When he speaks, every syllable can be heard distinctly in the remotest corners of the house; at the same time his tones, instead of being harsh and discordant, are rather musical and decidedly pleasant to the ear. Next to his smile, his vocal organ is by far the most compelling Payne characteristic.

Mr. Payne's countenance is boldly modeled on rugged lines. Deep creases criss-cross it in every direction. A thick gray full beard covers his jaw and lips. Silver hair crowns his head. Were it not for his everlasting smile he would be set down at first sight as a person of undue severity, of monotonous seriousness. As it is, who so beholds his smile takes note of his amplitude and listens to his orotund voice, expects to learn presently that he is one of the best story-tellers alive. Yet Mr. Payne isn't a good story-teller; in truth, he never affects humorous narration at all and his friends say it would be impossible to worm a story out of him in any circumstances.

He likes good stories, though, and to see him surrounded by a crowd of story-tellers, his massive bulk propped against a pillar, his hands in his pockets, his wonderful smile playing in a thousand forms over his characteristic features, is to behold a picture not likely soon to be forgotten. Mr. Payne can laugh as well as smile, and like his voice, his laugh is strong and full and round and is sure to set a whole party into boisterous cackling by its vigorous heartiness.

In Earnest Despite His Smile.

Mr. Payne doesn't shine particularly as a conversationalist. Despite his smile, he is too serious minded for small talk and is altogether too deeply absorbed in the political questions to which he has devoted a lifetime of study, to care much for the discuss-

state he stands equally well with Mr. Platt and the anti-machine wing of his party.

Dolliver is a Story Teller.

Mr. Dolliver of Iowa is one of the best known orators of the house of representatives—a figure to be pointed out from galleries. He is dark-haired, dark-eyed, ruddy of face and inclined to stoutness. He is magnificently healthy, genial, expansive, a teller of good stories, a man who enjoys life.

By birth Mr. Dolliver is a Virginian and there is a decided Old Dominion twang to the turn of his tongue. His voice is mellow and round and large. He is rhetorical, he is eloquent. The young women at Spirit Lake, where he spent last

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The Year 1900

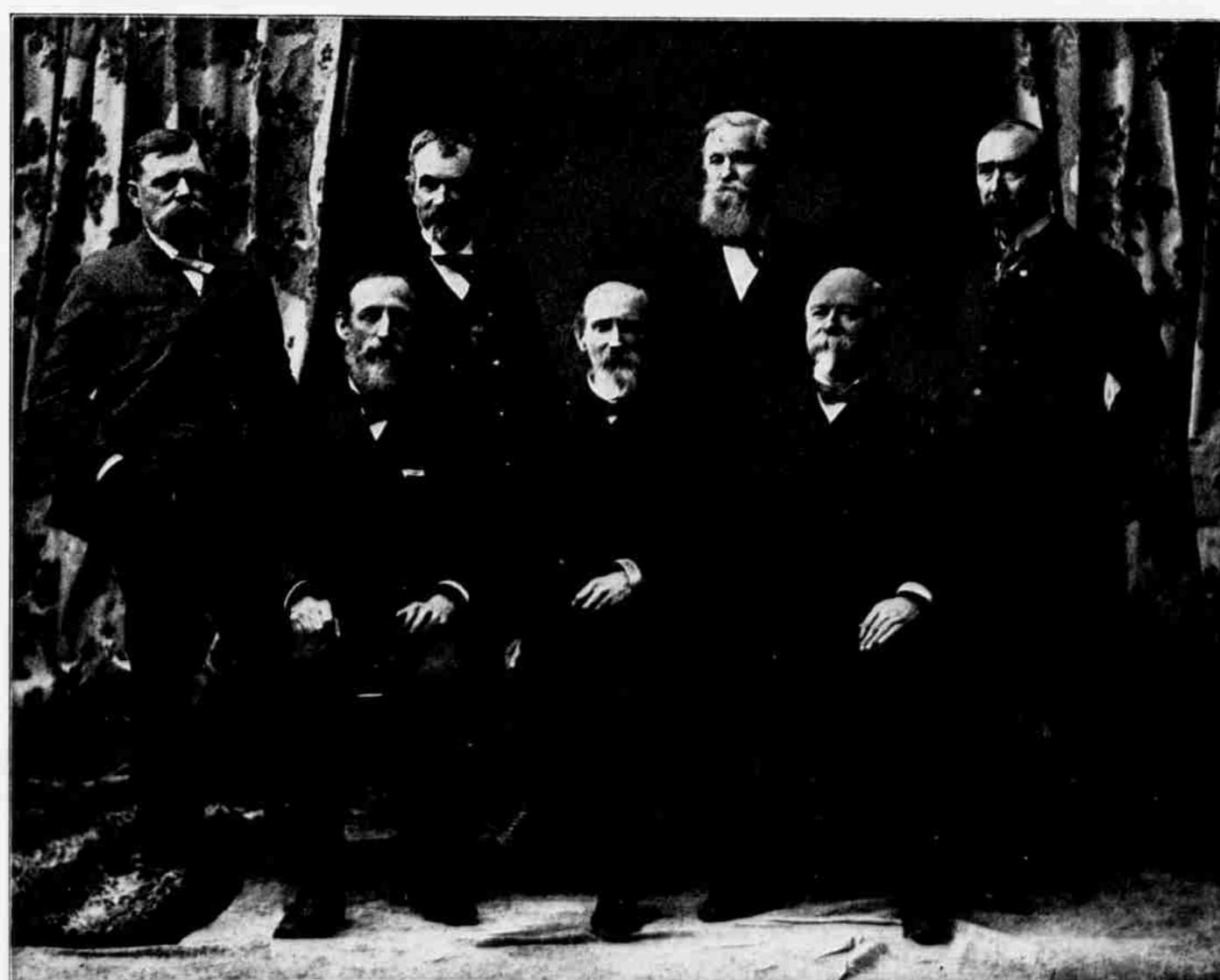
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