

# Frank Carpenter Tells of His Chat with Secretary of the Navy

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 6.—I want to make you acquainted with your secretary of the navy. I do not mean President Wilson's secretary, nor the democratic party's secretary, but the man who represents you and me at the head of our Navy department. It is your servant and my servant, the servant of all the people, and we ought to know what kind of man we have in our employ.

You have all read that his name is Josephus Daniels, that he comes from North Carolina, that he has been bred and born a newspaper man, and that his career has been that of a Jeffersonian democrat. All that was published when he came into office. I want to take you behind the appointment papers and give you a glimpse or so at Josephus Daniels, the man. How does he look? Ho does he talk? What kind of soul is that which animates his six feet of human clay?

**Some Secretary in Size.**

I say six feet. I have not measured the secretary of the navy with a tape measure, but as he stood before me today in his office in the department building he seemed a big man. He has broad shoulders and a well set head. He stands straight on his pins, and unlike the typical tar he does not roll or wobble as he walks. Your secretary is a good-looking man, I do not mean handsome. He is rather the reverse of that. Indeed, he might be called plain. But he is good looking just as Abraham Lincoln was good looking. He looks clean and his closest friends tell me he is clean, body and soul. His blue eyes are bright, his dark complexion clear and his language is pure and free from slang. He is a man of simple tastes and healthy tastes. He is a family man, and a picture of his wife and four boys stands before him on his desk as he sits away at his government job. He is devoted to his mother. His father died when he was 2 years old, and his mother, who is now fast approaching 80, has been both father and mother to him all these years. The relations between the two are the closest. He writes to her almost daily, and the letters she gets are the only ones he pens with his own hand. He is a lover of his wife and I feel safe in saying she is the better half of his soul. He is a man of many friends. When his newspaper plant burned down at Raleigh a month or so ago men came in by the hundreds and paid subscriptions in advance for ten years to come to help him out. He is not a rich man and has never been a lover of money. But at that time he said he felt like the richest man of all the world for he was "a millionaire in friends."

**Rough on Red Tape.**

It is the human side of your secretary of the navy that makes him the despair of his clerks. When he comes into the department he slashes the red tape at one fell blow, and now newspaper men, congressmen or plain ordinary every-day citizens can get at the secretary and have all the time needed for their business. All that Mr. Daniels asks is that he be closeted with his bureau chiefs from 1 to 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The most of his time before then is spent in receiving callers, and it is only after that time that he gives his personal mail any attention.

Nevertheless, he does an enormous amount of business. It is said that Napoleon could dictate to four stenographers on four different subjects at the same time and keep them all busy. The secretary seems able to carry on two trains of thought in the same way. He is often talking while signing his mail. He is a swift reader, and his eye grabs a page at a glance. Nevertheless, he knows just what he is signing, and he will often stop and order corrections or have the letter changed or laid away for some future time. He is an even minded man. He does not worry and he sleeps well at night.

**About the Tribe of Daniels.**

My talk with Secretary Daniels covered a wide range. He told me much about the navy and his plans for elevating the men and bringing the service closer to the people. In response to my questions he talked also of himself, and I will write of that first.

I asked him to tell something about the Daniels family and where it came from. He replied:

"The name Daniels is Welsh and the most of my family come from Wales. They emigrated to this country at an early date and settled in North Carolina, where my father was a farmer. My father began his life on a farm. Then he took a notion he would like to be a ship-builder, and he went into a shipyard and learned the trade. It is rather strange that I, also, should be connected with ships after these many years."

"I have been told that your father died when you were young."

"Yes, I was only 1 year old at the time. That was in 1810, and the south was almost bankrupt on account of the war. My father left comparatively nothing, and my mother had to support the family, consisting of herself and three little boys. My mother is a very extraordinary woman," continued the secretary. "In those hard times she succeeded not only in making our own living, but she gave a fairly good education to her three children. At first she kept a millinery store. Then she made dresses, and after a time she became postmistress of the town where we lived. Of course, I helped her to work hard, and I think I was fortunate. It is better for a boy to be born poor than to be born rich."

**Tribute to His State.**

"Had your mother any ambition to make you a statesman?"

"No, I think not. She is a pious woman, and her only ambition was that I should be a good man. She once hoped that I might become a preacher, but my bent seemed to be the newspaper and I strove toward that profession. I think I have done better as a newspaper man than I could have done as a preacher."

"Did you believe in religion, do you now?"

"Most assuredly I do. I believe in the Bible and everything in it from cover to cover. I think more people believe that than is usually supposed, and I venture quite as many would go to the stake today as they did when they burned the first Christians. It is hard to realize the influence of the Christian religion. It has touched all of the nations and has made them better. It has affected all of the people. Many men who do not believe in religion give to hospitals and other charities. They have been touched by Christianity without knowing it."

"Do you believe the whole world will be Christian some day?"

"Yes, although I doubt whether I shall live to see it. I believe that in time all of the nations will come to see the light."



But God's ways are not our ways. It may be slow, but it will come to pass. "I understand that you are greatly interested in the Y. M. C. A.?"

"Yes, that organization has been doing much good. It has a great missionary influence, not only in the United States, but in other countries. I want to see it introduced on shipboard and more fully at all naval training stations. I have been talking with the officers of the Y. M. C. A. about that."

**Work of Pious Mother.**

"Take your native state, Secretary Daniels. What kind of a place is North Carolina to be born in? Suppose you had to be born again, where would you choose?"

"I would take the same place. I like North Carolina. It is the most democratic state in America. It lies, as you know, between Virginia and South Carolina, and they used to say that it was a valley of humility between two mountains of conceit. Another story relates to the North Carolinian who went to New York and was there asked where he came from. He replied: 'North Carolina.' 'But,' said the New Yorker, 'I've never heard of that state. Where is it?' The North Carolinian replied: 'I will bound it. Virginia lies at the north of it and South Carolina lies at the south of it, and to tell the truth, stranger, between so much lying on both sides of it the rest of the world hears but little of our truth-loving state.'"



Your Secretary of the Navy

**Boost for the South.**

"You are an editor, an adviser of the people, Mr. Daniels. Horace Greely, another great editor, advised the young man of his day to go west. What would you say?"

"Go south! The south is the west of today. Lands are cheaper there than they are in the west, and that is the coming part of the United States. If you have any doubt as to the part of the south, I would say go to North Carolina. Our people there are kindly and humble. They still live, to some extent, the simple life. Besides, as Bancroft said of them, they are free and independent and will not support any government but one of their own creation."

"But, Mr. Secretary, can one live the simple life today?"

"Yes, I believe the nation is to extravagant and that prices are too high. Nevertheless, one can live on a dollar a day if he has to. I know I could. Almost anyone can earn the necessities of today. We all want to live too high, and prices have gone up accordingly."

"Is it so in the south?"

"Yes. The cost of the necessities has risen and our people also demand luxuries which no one thought of having in the days of my boyhood."

**His Newspaper Career.**

"Tell me something about your career as an editor."

"There is not much to say," replied the secretary. "I can't remember when I did not desire to be a newspaper man. I used to hang around the office of our village paper when I was quite a small boy, and at the age of 13 I started an amateur journal called the Cornucopia. Two years later my mother mortgaged her house for \$500 to buy for me a third interest in the little weekly of the town where we lived, and shortly after that I was able to buy out the other two-thirds and own the whole paper. From then on I had many ups and downs, but I finally bought the Raleigh News and Observer. It was sold at auction for \$10,000 and I got it with the aid of a friend. It was hard sledding at first, but after that we made it pay well."

"Do you find that your career as a newspaper man has fitted you for your present position?"

"It seems to me that the newspaper is a good training for almost any position. A newspaper man comes into contact with all kinds of people. He learns human nature and how to handle it, and people are much alike the world over. They have not changed greatly since Adam. This Navy department is a big thing, but after all, it is something like a newspaper establishment. Just before I left Raleigh one of my friends said to me at a dinner: 'How can you be secretary of the Navy? You cannot sail a ship, nor shoot a gun.' I replied that I was the editor of a newspaper, although I could not run a printing press or a linotype. It is the same in this department. One does not have to know every detail in order to direct it. When I came in I did not know a living soul. I did not know my aids, nor the heads of the bureaus, but I found that they were men just like those whom I had known in North Carolina. The most of them were patriots, nearly all were fine spirited, and all seemed to love the service like the love of God. The machine is a good one, and I have not seen reason to make many changes in it."

**Just a Big Job.**

"But the job is big, is it not, Mr. Secretary?"

"Yes, it is a pretty big job for the editor of a country newspaper. We have

about 50,000 men in the navy, and we are now spending something like \$100,000,000 a year. Yesterday we gave out a contract for the building of a battleship which will cost \$7,000,000, and we have others which have cost that much or more. Seven million dollars would buy all the newspapers of North Carolina, and then some, but we are spending that much on one battleship."

"But you do not have to handle the money yourself?"

"No. The most of the appropriations are fixed by congress. The officers and sailors are paid by congress, and that is so of our clerical force. The regular streams through which the money flows have their source in the house and senate, and are directed by them. Of course, the money for repairing the ships goes through our hands. That is a large sum, and we have to decide how it shall be spent."

"Have you enough money to run the navy?"

"We have plenty for the various departments. We have not as much as we would like for building new ships and we could use more in the navy yards. That navy yard problem is a vital one, and I hope we can make a better solution of it than we have now."

**Cost of Battleships.**

"Do we pay more for our battleships than other nations?"

"I hardly think so, but we pay more than we ought to pay and I hope we can cut down the prices. Take the matter of guns. We used to pay immense sums for such armament, but since we have established our own gun factory here at Washington we have saved on that account alone many millions of dollars."

"We are now making our own powder

and we are saving millions on that. I don't mean that we save alone on the making of the powder, but the outsiders of whom we buy have to fix their prices at somewhere near our cost of manufacture. I think we could do the same with armor plate, and I shall ask congress to give me enough money to put up an armor plate factory and thus bring down outside competition. As it is now we are held up by the steel trust. Its managers know that we cannot make our own armor plate, and they have us at their mercy. When the different competitors find that I am going to give a contract to the lowest bidder they all bid exactly the same thing down to a cent. The competitors work in collusion and we are helpless. As it is we need some cranes and other machinery to equip our navy yards for building such things and we will save there as much as we are saving on powder and guns."

**Schools in the Navy.**

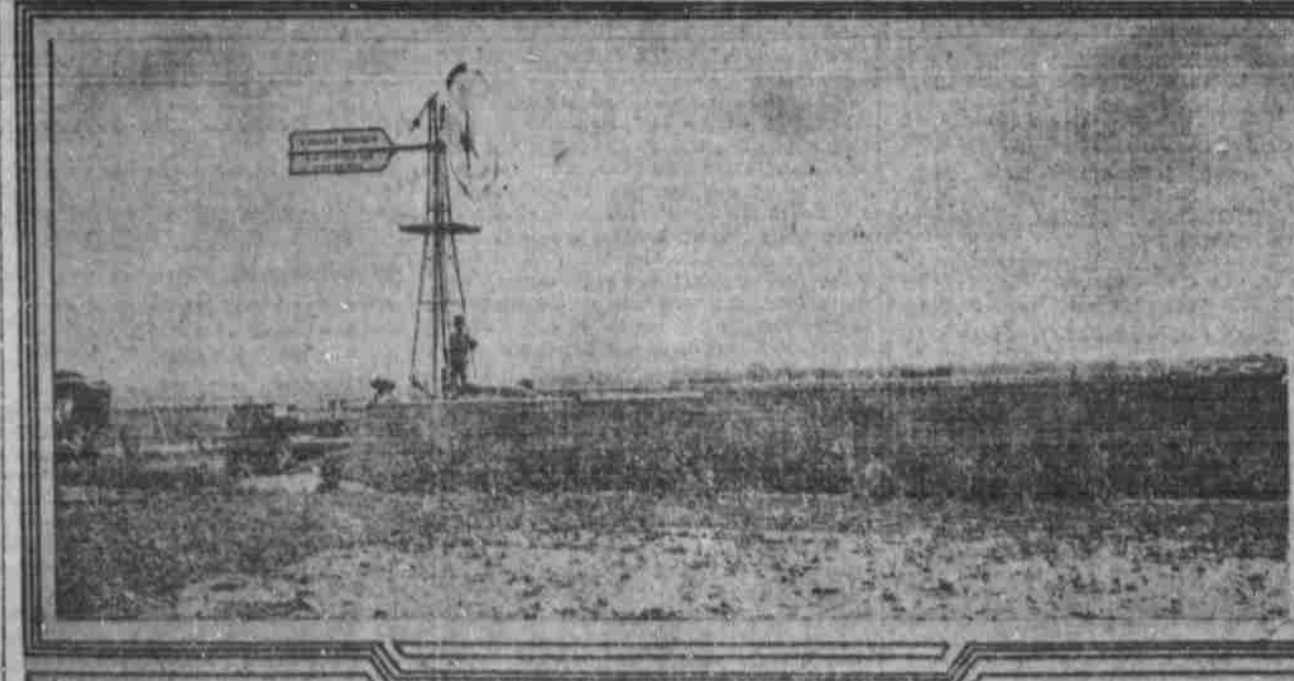
"I am much interested in your plan of turning out battleships into schools for the men," said I. "Is it practical?"

"Perfectly so. I see no reason why every sailor and every marine should not receive a good education aboard ship. I hope to make it so that every man who enlists in the navy will have a chance to learn a trade or profession. There is no reason why he should not be an electrician, an engineer, or have almost any other practical trade. While I was at Newport the other day I looked over the records of the training station there. I found that only one of the students had been to college before they were admitted and that ninety had gone to the high schools, while 106 had had little education to speak of. Now we have on every vessel a corps of young officers who are graduates of the Naval academy, and we can establish a school on every ship and have these officers do the teaching. The men will be taught reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as grammar and the other fundamentals, and those who wish it can go higher and learn a trade."

"Will that be a good thing for the service?"

"In almost every way, yes," was the

## Pumping Plant and Reservoir for Irrigation Purposes.



PRIVATE INSTALLATION ON THE FARM OF F. W. CORLIS AT WATERLOO, NEB.

The editorial in The Bee of last Wednesday, regarding the possibilities of irrigation in Nebraska by pumping, is emphatically endorsed by F. W. Corliss, who owns a 115-acre farm at Waterloo, Neb. Mr. Corliss, profiting by his experience, commenced the installation of an irrigation system completely equipped with a 1,500-barrel cement tank, a 2-foot well pipe, and irrigating troughs. Mr. Corliss found water under his farm at twenty feet, but to be on the safe side he had his three-inch pipe driven thirty-five feet. At the lower extremity of the pipe he inserted a twelve-foot screen point, which is sufficiently large to draw water which will rise to within eight feet of the top of the pipe. A rotary pump driven by a gasoline engine, supplements the windmill, and throws forty-five gallons a minute into the cement tank. The system installed is to irrigate twenty-five acres of garden tract. The farm is rented for the next year to three Danes by the name of Hise from Cosad, who are said to know every fine point of irrigation. They are enthusiastic over Mr. Corliss' system. The irrigation plant was installed at an expenditure of \$1,900, which is cheap considering the amount of benefit derived.

Mr. Corliss is satisfied that the system he has installed would be successful over many parts of Nebraska. "If the land does not slope more than three or four feet to the mile, then irrigation can be successfully adopted," said Mr. Corliss, "and there are some 20,000 acres west of the Elkhorn river in Douglas county alone which can be irrigated in a manner similar to my system. And along the Platte river there are thousands upon thousands of acres that can be irrigated and should be irrigated."

"There can be little doubt but what the Nebraska farmer will come to irrigation. They have got to survive. Other states are irrigating and when a drought arrives Nebraska has no resources and is inferior to any other state in the way of products and Nebraska has the best possibilities for irrigation because of the sheet water that is underlaid all over the state. The farmers will come to it in the very near future and when they do, rainfall or drought will have no effect, the farmer will care little."

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One of the most important matters about which women concern themselves is their future status as a grandmother. And she is wisdom itself who knows of or hears that famous remedy, Mother's Friend. This is an external application for the abdominal muscles and breasts. It certainly has a wonderful influence, allays all fear, banishes all pain, is a most grateful encouragement to the young, expectant mother, and permits her to go through the period happy in mind, free in body and thus destined to anticipate woman's greatest happiness as nature intended she should.

The action of Mother's Friend makes the muscles free, pliant and responsive to expansion. Thus all strain and tension upon the nerves and ligaments is avoided, and in place of a period of discomfort and consequent dread, it is a season of calm repose and joyful expectation.

There is no nausea, no morning sickness, no nervous twitching, none of that constant strain known to so many women, hence Mother's Friend is really one of the greatest blessings that could be devised. This splendid and certain remedy can be had of any druggist at \$1.00 a bottle, and is sure to prove of inestimable value, not only upon the mother, but upon the health and future of the child. Write to Bradford Regulator Co., 132 Lamar Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., for their book to expectant mothers.

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THE same thing is true in every industry. Take the automobile industry, for instance. When the people demanded better cars for less money they turned the job over to specialists. They said: "The best car can be made only from the best units and the best units can be made only by the best parts builders—the standard parts builders." Whereupon the Cole Motor Car Company of Indianapolis caught the cue first and built a car entirely of standard parts—and they called the new type of car THE STANDARDIZED CAR.

THIS car accomplishes what other cars attempt—it is actually the better car for less money which you said some day some one would build. This is the proof—a Cole Touring Car with a wheel base of 120 inches, four cylinders, sturdy, quiet, with appealing lines, completely equipped, Delco electric self-cranking and all—\$1925.

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