

# THE TRAVELS OF TAFT

Secretary of War Seldom in His Office.

## SWINGING ROUND THE CIRCLE

**Cobwebs Accumulate on Official Door While Private Business Receives First Aid—The Prospective Presidential Candidates—Tariff on Wood Pulp and the Price of Print Paper.**

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.

Secretary Taft, who has been seen very little about the war department, is once again making a long journey. Ostensibly the trip is simply a visit to Panama. Why the secretary is needed there is not known. We have five commissioners paid \$12,000 a year each to attend to the work there being done. Of course, if it is absolutely necessary to add to this galaxy of talent the secretary of war of the United States, nobody must question the fact. Yet it would seem that if the commissioners, who have been described as the most brilliant, able, hardworking officials in public service, are not able to handle the work on the isthmus without monthly visits from Taft there must be something wrong with their methods or their energy. Mr. Taft went to the isthmus on the cruiser Prairie. When he comes back he will be landed either at Pensacola or at Charleston. It is apparent the place of landing depends upon the political needs of the moment. From his landing place he will make another stumping tour through the south. In the meantime the cobwebs grow over the office of the secretary of war.

### Mr. Taft's Travels.

In the last year Secretary Taft has seldom been in his office three days in succession. There is hardly any spot on the civilized or even the uncivilized world that he has not visited. Other candidates for the presidency, like Speaker Cannon, Senator Knox and Senator La Follette and Vice President Fairbanks, have refused to accept any invitations to speak outside of Washington while congress is in session. But Secretary Taft, holding an office which should demand all his time, is never seen in that office and finds excuses to travel all over the world.

A humorous representative in congress on reading the statement that Taft would neither attend to his duties nor resign suggested a cartoon showing Mr. Taft looking contemptuously upon the cobwebbed door of the secretary of war's office and under it these lines from Goldsmith:

Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,  
My heart untraveled fondly turns to thee.

In six months Mr. Taft has hardly been in his office one week at a time. Here is a summary gathered by a Washington newspaper which is worth printing:

1907.	
March 10.	New York
March 18.	New Haven
March 30 to April 30.	West Indies
May 2.	Dayton, O.
May 7.	Jamestown exposition
May 25 to June 1.	St. Louis
June 8 to 21.	South Dakota and Kansas
July 4 to Aug. 10.	Murray Bay, Canada
Aug. 18 to Dec. 2.	Around the world
Dec. 24.	Cincinnati, O.
Dec. 30.	Boston
1908.	
Jan. 10.	New York
Jan. 14.	Philadelphia
Feb. 7 to 19.	Michigan and Missouri
Feb. 21.	Buffalo
Feb. 25.	New England
March 14.	New England and New Jersey
March 31.	Nebraska and Ohio
April 15.	New York

That is the record. It is official, and it is fair that it should be set forth in order that the American people, who pay the salary of Mr. Taft and the expenses of his department, who are daily impressed with the idea that the ability of the secretary of war is so great that the department could not proceed without his direction, should be given just a notion of how much time William H. Taft, secretary of war, has been giving to the department of which he is the nominal head and how much to the globe trotting and the political stump speaking of which he seems to be so fond.

### The Political Antagonisms.

It might as well be understood that the candidates for the presidency before the American people this year are going to be on the Republican side Mr. William H. Taft, secretary of war, and on the Democratic side Mr. William J. Bryan, a man who has no public office whatsoever. Of course there is much outcry about antagonism to Taft. There are men opposed to him; there are contesting delegations going to Chicago to destroy; there are attacks made upon him in the United States senate and house of representatives. But, after all, politicians in Washington recognize the fact that he will be nominated. In his own party other men are mentioned. Speaker Cannon has his state, with fifty-four votes; Senator La Follette has his state; Vice President Fairbanks has his state. But not one of them all has one single vote outside of his own political bailiwick—that is to say, outside of his own state. Secretary Taft has picked up all the delegates in the south and in the middle west and stands today as the leading candidate. So it seems fair to say that Taft is certain to be the Republican nominee. Now, on the other side, in the Demo-

cratic party Mr. William J. Bryan has instructed for him 268 delegates. Moreover, there are eight delegates from Rhode Island who, though not instructed, are for him—are Bryan men. The only other instructed delegates come from Delaware. They number six and are instructed for Judge Gray. So far Bryan, with 268, and Gray, with six, are the only candidates that have been mentioned in Democratic conventions.

In the Pennsylvania contest fifty-one out of sixty-four delegates were carried for Bryan. As not all newspaper readers understand methods, it may be stated here that a delegation to a national convention is elected by congressional district conventions. Of these there are thirty in Pennsylvania. The thirty district conventions elect sixty delegates to Denver. They have elected fifty-one delegates for Bryan. The state convention is yet to be held, and it has the power of electing four delegates at large, but it is yet to be determined whether they will not be out and out Bryan delegates. If the voters of the state of Pennsylvania have been able to elect so enormous a majority of the district committeemen to Denver, it will be curious if the state convention shall not be responsive to the will of the voters.

### The Two Conventions.

The time of the two conventions, Republican and Democratic, is drawing near. Both will be interesting; both will be worth while seeing. There can be no better education for a young man in American politics than to attend either one. There is always a feeling that the stranger cannot get a ticket to the convention. I have had some experience regarding this matter, and it is unquestionably true that the stranger without a "pull" has hard chances of getting a ticket to the first day's session. After that tickets are easily obtained, and there are no meetings of any sort that give so clear an illustration of the American system of government as these national conventions, whether it be the Republican or the Democratic convention. The man who is fortunate enough to go to one of these conventions need not think of the house of representatives or the senate. He finds in the convention the enthusiasm, the devotion and the purpose which control, at the last, American government. He does not find a man with a gavel controlling the delegates, but he sees in both the Democratic and the Republican conventions true democracy, fair debate and thorough discussion of every point raised.

### Illinois in the Bryan Column.

The latest state to declare itself for Bryan in convention was Illinois. It has instructed for the Nebraskan and directed its delegates to us all honorable means to secure his nomination. While it is entirely true that there have been some factional antagonisms in the state, the action of this convention has quieted them all. The Illinois delegation is and will be a Bryan delegation at Denver. It will cast fifty-four votes in the national convention and will be a very considerable factor in determining the action of that convention.

The Democratic state conventions are coming slowly, but North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana have already instructed for Mr. Bryan. And if you look at the east the state of Massachusetts has been carried absolutely by the Bryan element. Massachusetts will send an instructed delegation. Democrats throughout the United States might as well figure now that the convention is going to be controlled by the friends of Mr. Bryan and that the nomination will be made within the first three ballots.

### Publishers and Politicians.

The committee of newspaper publishers recently in Washington found themselves treated with scant courtesy by the committee appointed to consider their demand for the repeal of the duty on wood pulp and on print paper. I have talked at some length with a member of this committee. What puzzles him is that when the publishers and owners of newspapers, of whom he is one, reached Washington they found that six congressmen, no one of whom was a newspaper owner, had more knowledge of the paper business than anybody, except the purchasers of print paper for a newspaper, could possibly have. This might be indicative of extraordinary intelligence on the part of the congressmen on the committee, headed by Mr. Mann of Illinois. But there seems to be a general feeling that it is more indicative of the fact that there was some quiet influence at work to put the committee in a position of antagonism to the members of the Newspaper Publishers' association who addressed it.

Of course the committee, being Republican, did not wish the question of the tariff reopened through the demand of the newspaper publishers for free paper and free pulp. That is a matter of notoriety.

But here is another suggestion which has been made in Washington and which is not without its plausibility. The papers that are suffering from this wood pulp tariff are the one cent papers of large circulation, usually Democratic. The suggestion is made that such papers as John R. McLean's Cincinnati Enquirer, 5 cents a copy, and his Washington Post at 3 cents a copy, the New York Herald at 3 cents a copy, the New York Sun at 2 cents, and its annex, the Chicago Inter Ocean, whose editor is very close to Congressman Mann, may possibly be furnishing to the committee considering the paper trust situation their information. This, at any rate, is the story that comes to me, and it may be worth consideration by the people. Either there must be a reduction in the price of print paper or the readers of newspapers will have to pay 2 cents where they now pay 1. Washington, D. C.

# Football Not Good Training For Success In Life.



By CHARLES W. ELIOT, President of Harvard University.

THE American modifications of Rugby football have now been played long enough to make possible a judgment as to the success of eminent football players in after life, and the verdict is what might have been expected.

IT CLEARLY APPEARS THAT NEITHER THE BODILY NOR THE MENTAL QUALITIES WHICH CHARACTERIZE FOOTBALL PLAYERS ARE PARTICULARLY SERVICEABLE TO YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE THEIR WAY TO MAKE IN THE INTELLECTUAL CALLINGS. FOOTBALL TOUGHNESS IS NOT THE KIND OF TOUGHNESS WHICH IS MOST PROFITABLE IN AFTER LIFE.

The weight and insensitiveness needed in the football line are not the bodily qualities which best serve the man who must make his living by quick, accurate and inventive thinking.

To get accustomed to make one's greatest exertions in the presence of shouting thousands and of the newspaper extra is BAD PREPARATION for the struggles of professional men, who must generally do their best work quite alone or in the presence of a few critical observers.

Even for modern warfare the violent competitive sports afford NO APPROPRIATE PREPARATION, inasmuch as in real warfare the combatants seldom see each other.

## The Art of the Theater As a Beneficent Influence.

By OTIS SKINNER, Actor.

THE drama stands recognized as one of the methods in which the human mind has in all ages striven to utter itself. There is a dramatic element in our common nature which literature and art and more especially the representations of the stage meet, minister to and satisfy. A normal demand is supplied.

First of all, there can be only one reply to any inquiry as to the moral worth of the drama and its relation to the life of the community. If the manner of the theater is to be regarded as an art at all it must be of beneficent influence, for ALL ART IS UPLIFTING. Without art we should go down the byways of existence and know little except the sordid. Think of LIFE WITHOUT A SONG, a picture, a poem, a beautiful building or a statue!

ALL ART IS THE EXPRESSION OF AN EMOTION, AND THAT OF THE THEATER IS THE MOST EMOTIONAL OF ARTS.

A charge brought against the theater is that it represents vice. Of course it does. It represents virtue. Why not vice? All people are not paragons of virtue. But for morals, as such, it is rank absurdity that we should use them in theater or any other art. Nature, pitiless, beautiful, barbarous, soothing, murderous, exalting nature, is indifferent to them. Why should art, the handmaiden of nature, who takes only hints and primal truths from her mistress, observe them?

YET OUR ART MUST BE MORAL FOR ALL THIS. AN IMMORAL ART WOULD BE A HORROR.

It were vain in the present day, after Shakespeare has transformed the stage into A HIGH SCHOOL OF HUMANITY and Schiller and Goethe have crystallized it into a handmaiden of ethics and Christianity, to enter on any defense of its recognized authority as a moral agent. The stage in its highest conception is a POWERFUL CO-ADJUTOR OF THE CHURCH in making men better, wiser and happier, and even in its less lofty attitudes it lights up with genial mirth the hard lot of the toiling masses.

## China's Relation With Us Will Be Always Friendly.

By WU TING FANG, Chinese Minister.

CHINA'S relations with America will always remain friendly. It is natural that they should be so when you consider on your side that your policy is JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY and on our side HONESTY AND STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS.

You may be sure acts of kindness and fairness, such as return or waiver of over ten millions of dollars to China, will certainly create a most favorable impression in China and strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries, and the existence of an important and influential association like this I consider a SAFETY VALVE of the two nations.

No more misunderstanding, I feel sure, can occur in the future, and the relationship between the two countries will yet become CLOSER DAY BY DAY.

## Our Patriotic Duty To Control Monopolies.

By United States Senator ROBERT L. OWEN of Oklahoma.

THE time has come in the United States when THE GREAT DOCTRINE OF EQUALITY should be recognized in our statecraft. It seems to me it would be unwise to destroy the great corporations which have been constructed in this country by our so called captains of industry.

WE HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT, HOWEVER, TO CONTROL THESE MONOPOLIES LEGALLY AND MORALLY, AND IT IS A PATRIOTIC DUTY TO DO SO. AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAX THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN EXCESS OF A FAIR INTEREST ON THE CAPITAL ACTUALLY INVESTED.

If they were so controlled it would give a stability to wages. We would hear no more of overproduction nor of underconsumption, but these enterprises would PROCEED UPON RATIONAL LINES and work for the welfare of all of the people of our common country.

## RANDOM NOTES

BY UNCLE GEORGE.

¶ Alliance had a wet snow Monday, but indications today point toward a long "dry" spell.

¶ It's a short alley in Alliance that has but one ash-pile.

¶ That was a hundred-thousand-dollar snow Monday.

¶ Corn is king. At the present high price, some people find it too costly to eat. We asked our boarding boss for a second helping of corn-bread at breakfast the other day and she almost broke a fit.

¶ Some people seem to be worried about what will become of the poor saloon men who have been put out of business here. For the relief of these sympathetic souls we will state that the saloon keepers will not go to the poor-house right away. Mr. King has secured a footing in Grand Island, Mr. Cook has found an opening in Crawford, and it is reported that Mr. Soder will "stay where he is at" and feed the thirsty on Excelsior water and other suds. Mr. Corneal has bought a saloon in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Bud Betzold will sell mineral waters and cigars.

¶ "Nobody knows how dry I am!" is being hummed by a good many residents of Alliance just now.

¶ A bar-tender at one of the saloons informed our reporter that he had sold nine thousand dollars worth of booze since the election. So the town will not be teetotally dry for a while.

¶ Some men never believe in hell until they get married.

¶ The Burlington Railroad company recently struck a vein of water at Edgemont, at a depth of several thousand feet, that is hotter than blue blazes. Hades must be located near Edgemont.

¶ Scotts Bluff county is all torn up over a proposition to build or rebuild a bridge across the North Platte river between Gering and Scottsbluff. A vote was recently taken upon a proposition to build a new bridge directly across from the depot at Scottsbluff, but if failed of the necessary two-thirds majority by half a dozen votes. Our esteemed contemporary, the Scottsbluff Republican, which is credited with defeating the new location project, now demands the erection of a bridge on the site of the old one, but the advocates of the proposed new site declare they will have a bridge where they want it or none at all. So it looks like the people of Scottsbluff will have to swim the river when they get to Gering to pay their taxes—or annex the county-seat. The latter course will most likely be the ultimate result of the present agitation. Gering has become a dilapidated cemetery of dead hopes, and the county seat should be removed to a live town.

¶ The Scottsbluff baseball team was advertised to play at Alliance Saturday, but failed to show up. Guess the freight didn't run on the "jerk-water" that day.

¶ The Morrill Mail and the Mitchell Index issued special editions of twenty pages last week. They were twins of the stereotyped order, but showed enterprise on the part of the publishers of those papers.

¶ W. A. Stewart, of Lexington, Dawson county, has announced himself as a candidate for state senator for the 30th district. The Gering Courier intimates that it will support him, although Scotts Bluff county has a candidate in the person of Louis L. Raymond. But Raymond lives in Scottsbluff and is being boosted by Westervelt of the Scottsbluff Republican—and that settles his hash with Wood. The latter would deny his Maker if Westervelt should claim him as his. It's not our funeral, but we feel like saying, "Seek him, Tige, go to him, Major!"

¶ Ex-Gov. S. A. Holcomb has returned to Broken Bow from Seattle and will resume the practice of law. His health was not improved by his temporary residence in the Washington metropolis.

¶ A Bridgeport man named Smith was hauled out of \$40 by a "con" man in Omaha the other day. The Bridgeport jays ought to stick close to their own firesides.

¶ The Alliance water-wagon is carrying a very heavy load just now, but it will be lightened as the days go by. The express trains will not be taken off.

¶ We have long entertained the opinion that appendicitis was more of a fad than a fact, but have kept this opinion in the innermost recesses of our think tank because the so-called disease was such a fashionable fad that we dared not denounce it. But now that reputable physicians are attacking the quackery connected with it, we are encouraged to make our opinion public. Just the other day a distinguished doctor of South Dakota, at a society meeting, pronounced appendicitis the biggest humbug of the age. He said if a person had an ulcerated tooth or an ingrowing toe-nail, the average physician was tempted to diagnose it as appendicitis—if the patient had coin enough to pay for an operation. He also said that a traveler fainted in a depot, and a doctor pronounced his trouble appendicitis—after examining his pulse, which was well filled. The unconscious man was hurried to a hospital and the surgeons proceeded to address him, when, to their sur-

prise and chagrin, they discovered a card pinned to his shirt on which was written—"Please don't open me, for I have been opened three times already. This is fit." Another man, this doctor said, was found dead upon the street, and pinned to his coat was a card reading, "Opened by mistake—send for the coroner." Continuing, this South Dakota physician said that most young doctors were actually looney on the subject of appendicitis. They would, he said, if they could, have a compulsory appendix extraction law, somewhat similar to the compulsory vaccination law; and compel everybody to have their appendix removed. And the victims would be given an appendix button to wear, or some such evidence that they had surrendered their vermiform appendix. And all who could not produce this evidence or refused to part with their appendix would be run down, as the dog-catcher runs down untagged canines, and forcibly separated from their useless and dangerous organ.

## Death of Mrs. F. W. Irish

The messenger of death has again visited us and the happy home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Irish, so full of joy and contentment, is buried in grief as solemn and desolate as the moaning of the night wind through the leafless branches of the autumnal forest. In that peaceful home, as twilight descended last Saturday evening, the eyes of Mrs. Irish were closed in eternal sleep. The circumstances surrounding her taking away were such as to touch the hearts of all who knew her. A baby was born to the loving couple a short time ago and happiness reigned supreme in anticipation of their blessing. But death with cold fingers stood invisibly by to turn the father and mother's happiness into sorrow. Physical complications arose in the condition of the mother that baffled medical skill, and the soul of the noble woman went back to its Creator in response for the faithful duties fulfilled by her in mortality. Surely, thrice blessed are they who are called forth from this life under the conditions that confronted Mrs. Irish. The infant survives its mother as an angel remembrance to the bereaved husband in the days of sorrow he is called upon to undergo.

Mrs. Irish's maiden name was Ida B. Wills. She was born in Nemaha City, this state, October 1, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Irish were united in marriage at Kearney, Neb., Sept. 12, 1889. Besides her husband, there are left to mourn this amiable lady her mother, Mrs. W. A. Wills, three sisters, Mrs. Eva Messex of Denver, Mrs. Cora Lewis of this city, Mrs. Charles E. Hamilton of Los Angeles, and brother, C. E. Wills of this city.

The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon at 2:30, at the family residence, Rev. G. C. Jeffers of the Baptist church officiating. The attendance was large for Mrs. Irish had many true friends who desired to show their affection for their departed friend even to the tomb. The Eastern Star members were among those present at the last rites of their beloved sister, and there were several persons from abroad at the funeral, among them being a sister A. D. Edgenbrood of Lincoln, David Miller of Deadwood, Thos. E. Miller of Pueblo, and Rev. G. W. Mitchell of Chadron.

Interment took place in Greenwood cemetery under auspices of the O. E. S., and the ceremonies were most solemn and impressive.

The husband, mother, sisters and brothers of the late Mrs. F. W. Irish, desire to express their appreciation of the many acts of kindness rendered them during the illness and death of their beloved one. They wish to thank the kind neighbors, friends and local societies who took such interest in their welfare during their hours of affliction and death.

## Resolutions of Respect.

Resolutions of condolence and respect drawn up by Latky Lodge No. 162, Degree of Honor, Alliance, Neb. Whereas, It has pleased our heavenly Father in his infinite wisdom and love, to call our beloved sister, Mrs. Ida Irish, from her services on earth to a higher one in heaven,

Resolved, That we humbly bow to the divine will, knowing God doeth all things well,

Resolved, that we desire to bear testimony to her faithfulness as a loving, cheerful worker, her beautiful christian character and loving disposition, submitting always to His will; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Degree of Honor wishes to extend to the bereaved mother and husband and their families our heartfelt sympathy and pray that the presence of the Comforter abide with them always.

Resolved, that a copy be sent to the bereaved husband and to the local papers and be spread on the records of Latky lodge No. 162, D. of H.

M. ELLA BECK,  
NELLIE RICHARDS,  
ELISE L. GRIES.  
Alliance, Neb., May 5, 1908.