

THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY

Henry N. Hall, correspondent for the New York World, has written for his newspaper, the following article: The son of an iron-moulder who rose from poverty by his own unaided efforts is now assistant president of the United States. His official title is secretary to the president, but his influence will be second only to that of a member of the cabinet. Indeed, in all matters not disposed of at cabinet meetings his influence will be greater. When the last special pleader has vanished, there enters the man whose duty it is to lay the cold hard facts before the president. He has the last word always. Enjoying the confidence of his chief, his information is accepted in preference to the statements of others. In cases of doubt his advice is asked and often followed. Most of the routine work of the executive offices is thrown upon his shoulders, and in numberless matters his judgment is final.

Government in the Open

Most important of all are the secretary's duties toward the public. This is an age of government of publicity, of government in the open. The one hundred million inhabitants of the United States and its territories are entitled to the facts. They have a right to know what is being done in Washington by the chief executive of their choice. Only very few people ever see the president. Still fewer come into direct contact with him. The masses, the voters, know him only by what they read about him. It is by his secretary that the president comes into contact with the people, because twice

a day the secretary interprets, as it were, the president to the people of the United States through the medium of the press. Twenty million copies is the aggregate circulation represented by newspapers and periodicals having Washington correspondents. An important piece of news coming from the White House is known within a few hours to the entire country. Whether the impression created is favorable or otherwise depends upon the secretary to the president.

Joseph P. Tumulty owes this high office and all its vast power to no popular mandate. It is not his by right of election, nor is his appointment even subject to confirmation by the senate. It is his by the will of one man alone and that man the president of these United States. Mr. Wilson knows how easily the measure of success or failure that attends his administration may be influenced by the work of his secretary. Let us see what manner of man he has chosen and in what spirit Tumulty takes up his task.

He is a man of the common people who walks in the fear of God and loves his fellow-men. More than that, he is a home man with a wife and six little ones, a true husband and devoted father. Good qualities these, but of uncertain avail in politics. Yet they form a solid foundation for the individual charm and personal attainments so indispensable to whomsoever would successfully hold down the job made famous by such men as Dan Lamont, George B. Cortelyou and William Loeb, jr.

Tumulty is entirely different from either of these three men. He is

quite a young man, not yet thirty-four. An Irishman and a sincere Catholic, he has a most wonderful gift of winning men's hearts. He combines infinite patience and tact with quickness of decision, tenacity of purpose and a readiness to fight—and fight hard—for what he believes right. He gets more downright fun out of politics than any other man I have ever met. He has been wonderfully successful because he knows how to fight and to tell the people the truth and nothing but the truth. For ten years a member of the New Jersey bar, he has been in politics ever since he was sixteen, in the ward, in the city, in the county and in the state. Now he is going to play an important part in national politics, and there is no reason why he should not make just as good in Washington as he did in Trenton.

Understanding the President

In the first place, he is going to grind the same man's axe. He understands President Wilson just as well as Loeb understood Roosevelt. He has been tried out and not found wanting. For two years he was the hardest working, most faithful and most efficient secretary to Governor Wilson that any executive ever had. No wonder that Mr. Wilson trusts him and more than once has taken his advice against that of many older politicians and party leaders.

It was on Tumulty's advice that Governor Wilson, for the first time in the history of New Jersey, appointed a Hebrew to the highest court in the state. When Mr. Roosevelt was shot, Tumulty was the first to urge that all of Mr. Wilson's speaking engagements be cancelled, and his advice prevailed against the wishes of the most influential democrats in Pennsylvania, who knew that nothing short of a direct appeal from Woodrow Wilson himself could stem the rising tide of Roosevelt sentiment in the Keystone state. Tumulty does not always wait for his advice to be asked. In a crisis he jumps right in and give it with a force and sincerity born in his deep loyalty to his chief.

His Jersey City Home

Just before he left for Washington I called on Tumulty at the old brownstone house he lived in at No. 343 York street, Jersey City. The house was full of friends and neighbors who had come to bid him good-by and wish him success in his new life. Mrs. Tumulty came to the door and welcomed me with cordial simplicity, and I found Tumulty himself in his study, the empty book-cases of which reached to the ceiling. The fine library, some 4,500 volumes, half law and half American politics, was packed up ready for shipment. He guessed what I came for, and as soon as we had exchanged greetings he said:

"I am going to Washington with my mind open and my mouth shut." But I insisted that he tell the World in what spirit he approached his task. He settled down on a chair, leaning forward with his arms resting on his legs and his hands hanging between his knees. He toyed with his cigar for a minute and then looking up at me said:

Sympathy with the People

"A spirit of sympathy. I am taking with me to my new office sympathy—sympathy with the common people, of whom I am one. I know what the ordinary man is suffering. I have given great thought to what he is suffering, because I came from people who knew what suffering was. I want to aid all who suffer, and there are many ways in which I may be able to help straighten out the road."

"I feel that the thing we need most in this country is the quality of sympathy in our public officials. We

need men at the head of affairs who really feel for those who toil and suffer, men who are in real sympathy with the men and women who work in the factories—and with the little children who labor too."

The last words were added as two of Tumulty's own little girls romped into the room. They were Mary, the eldest, a well grown and pretty child of nine, and Grace, some three years younger. It will go hard with those who thrive on child labor if Tumulty has anything to say about legislation affecting them. At least that is what I read in his eyes. Then he called in the rest of his little family—the eldest boy, Joe, just about a year younger than Mary; then two sweet little girls younger than Grace, with masses of curly hair—one is Catherine, the other Alice. The youngest of the family and the pet of the household is the baby. Baby Philip is only about nine weeks old, but judging from his voice he will grow up just as strong and lusty as all the other little Tumultys.

A Description of the Secretary

But the most striking figure in the group was Tumulty himself. He is a decidedly handsome man, of rather short and stocky build. A decided blond with light brown hair and blue eyes. The hair is beginning to thin out on the top of his head, but such trifles don't bother him and he never uses a hair restorer. His features are very regular and well balanced, the nose, mouth and chin being almost classical. The ears too are well shaped and set just right. It is a strong face without a trace of brutality about it. The jaw is firm but no undershot. The forehead is high and broad; he has what the poets

The Midwest Life

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December 31, 1906.....	\$ 559,000
December 31, 1908.....	1,453,218
December 31, 1910.....	2,641,084
December 31, 1912.....	4,805,502
March 31, 1913.....	5,061,624

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