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On Tour With The President



CAPTAIN BUTT, and declaring: "Yes, this is a great country, of course, and I've had the time of my life, but if anybody mentions 'tour' to me within the next twenty-five years there'll be trouble. Home, sweet home, for mine!"

For by that time President Taft, it must be remembered, will have finished the longest trip ever undertaken by a chief executive, beating even Roosevelt's record for a journey of this kind. Starting from Boston on Sept. 14 after a speech in the Hub, he has gone through the west and south, making speeches, attending banquets, taking in the sights, playing golf and doing enough train riding to make him ever afterward scowl when he hears the whistle of a locomotive. The average man thinks he has been going some when he journeys from New York to San Francisco, but Mr. Taft will have covered over 13,000 miles when he finishes his tour. It has been an intensely interesting and in many ways a thoroughly enjoyable trip. Just why he made it he told as follows on the eve of his departure:

"Occasionally I hear a query why I should start off on such a trip and 'What particular good does it do to anybody?' Well, it will certainly give me a very much more accurate impression as to the views of the people in the sections which I visit. It will bring closely to me the needs of particular sections, so far as national legislation and executive action are concerned, and I believe it will make me a wiser man and a better public officer."

After leaving Boston President Taft spoke in Chicago on Sept. 16, struck into Minnesota the following day, where, in Minneapolis, he met the members of the Japanese commercial mission to the United States, and after other stops in other states the 21st of the month found him crossing the continental divide, traveling all that day with the panorama of the white capped peaks of the Rockies in view. One of the great events of this trip to Colorado was the opening of the Gunnison tunnel by the president on Sept. 23. On the following day he was in Utah, where he added a Mormon temple to the long list of religious edifices in which he has made addresses.

A few days later the president was in Montana, where he had some novel and exciting experiences. Montana's great mining camp, Butte, received

Incidents of The Trip

A little girl with a bouquet of roses as big that they dragged on the ground climbed the platform steps and, handing the flowers to him, said:

"The 21,000 public school children of Portland present these roses to you. They were grown out of doors, and Portland is the rose city. We are proud of our roses, proud of our city and proud of our president."

After many novel entertainments in other towns and cities the end of the month found Mr. Taft in Seattle, where he was much impressed with the wonderful Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. In the Alaska building he was invited into a cage where more than a million dollars' worth of gold is exhibited, and here he washed out a pan of the yellow metal worth \$1,200. Mr. Taft remarked that he would go into mining if he could keep up that rate. He was delighted with the many marvelous exhibits and said he wished he could spend several weeks there.

The president reached San Francisco on Oct. 5 and rode through the city with people ten feet deep lining the sidewalks. A pathetic incident marked his stay in Berkeley. He passed in



PRESIDENT TAFT ALIGHTING FROM TRAIN AT SALT LAKE CITY.

review of the pupils of an institution for the deaf, dumb and blind. The tribute of flags waved with unseeing eyes, of silent nods of the dumb and cheers from the blind deeply impressed the president.

With his speechmaking over for a time, Mr. Taft settled down to sight-seeing, and Oct. 7 found him bumping along in a Yosemite valley stage for two days' freedom from formality. He was deeply impressed with the big trees and other scenic wonders, and the beauties of the Yosemite were explained to him by Professor Muir, the noted naturalist.

Arriving in the hospitable flower land of southern California on Oct. 11, Mr. Taft received enthusiastic greetings everywhere. Then came New Mexico, where, after a day in Albuquerque, where he witnessed an Indian war dance, he left on Oct. 15 for El Paso, Tex., to exchange greetings with President Diaz. The ceremonies were attended with much military display, and the meeting was the most formal of all the affairs that President Taft had participated in on his journey. There was a striking contrast between the two presidents and the manner in which they approached the meeting. President Taft reluctantly laid aside the sack coat in which he had been getting close to the people of the southwest in platform speeches and donned for the day a silk tux and frock coat.

After having received President Diaz on American soil President Taft crossed the international border and returned the call at the custom house in the quaint little city of Ciudad Juarez.

After several other stops the nation's chief executive reached his brother's ranch near Gregory, Tex., where he spent several days and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Here he had an opportunity to play golf to his heart's content, hunt and fish, and many novel entertainments were arranged. Then came the trip to St. Louis, where a steamer was taken down the Mississippi to attend the deep waterway meeting in New Orleans.

On this voyage down the river, a trip by water of nearly 1,200 miles, the president was accompanied by the speaker of the house, Joseph G. Cannon, cabinet members, senators and representatives and thirty governors of states. The trip was arranged by the Waterways association to call attention of the government to the commercial necessity and possibilities of deepening the Mississippi. In his speech in St. Louis, just before the voyage began, the president found a quick response from his audience when he began saying:

"We are on the eve of a great journey upon the Mississippi river, and cursed be he who calls it a junket."

After his speech in New Orleans President Taft prepared to bring to a close the longest "swing around the circle" ever made by a president of the United States. He has been accompanied on his long journey by Captain Archibald Butt, his military aid, and Dr. J. J. Richardson, the noted throat specialist.

Comets.
We know positive, that comets attain their immense extension in space on account of the material comprising them being excessively tenuous, thinner than the lightest filmy haze of summer, says Professor Harold Jacoby, for we know the comets are not massive; they are almost entirely without weight. And this we know with certainty, because their arrival produces no perturbations of motion among the planets of the solar system, while the inexorable laws of mechanical science tell us that a massive comet must surely disturb the usual orderly planetary orbits. A comet might, indeed, strike the earth, though such a collision is most improbable. But even if it should ever occur the visible effects would probably be no greater than those produced occasionally by meteorites, or "falling stars."

The other possible danger from the comet, the chance of suffocation from gases in the tail, is also negated by actual observation, for it is almost certain that our earth did once pass through a comet's tail, and no one noticed it at the time. Only the subsequent calculations of astronomers brought out the fact that the cometary orbit and that of the earth really had a common point of intersection and that both bodies occupied that point at the same time.—New York American.

Doubtful Praise.
A fullback in a football team once had the misfortune to put the ball through his own goal. This regrettable error lost him the game, and he suffered agonies of self reproach on the long journey home.

"I'm no more use than a chocolate footballer," he said to his sweetheart, who had traveled many miles to see him play. "A slip of a boy from school would have shaped better than I did."

"Now, George, I won't let you say such horrid things about yourself!" declared his loyal sweetheart. "You've no idea how popular you are. I heard a gentleman praising you up to the skies this afternoon."

"Never!" emphatically exclaimed the incredulous player.

"Oh, but it's quite true!" she said proudly. "He said you'd brought his club the best bit of luck they'd had for ages, and he heartily wished you were playing against them in every match!"—Exchange.

Melodrama to Suit the Locality.
In New York.—Marry me and give me those papers and you will receive \$500,000 in cash. Refuse and I'll toss you from the Brooklyn bridge!

In Wilkesbarre, Pa.—And you will receive seventy acres of richest anthracite coal. Refuse and you go into a coal breaker! Choose!

In Denver.—And you will receive 7,000 shares of Umpste gold mining stock, worth umpste dollars a share. Refuse and you will be c-r-rushed in a stamp mill to p-o-o-wder! Choose!

In Memphis, Tenn.—And you will receive 10,000 bales of finest cotton. Refuse and you go into the cotton gin! Choose!

In North Carolina.—And you will receive 18,000 barrels of turpentine. Refuse and you shall be boiled in resin! Choose!—Puck.

London Cellar Restaurants.
Before coffee stalls were instituted the humblest places of refreshment were cellars, where the hard up, as the slang phrase went, could "dive for a dinner," with a choice of such viands as tripe, cow heel, sausages and shin of beef soup. Some of the cellar restaurants existed as recently as the early seventies of the last century in Bachelier row, Temple Bar and the network of courts and alleys swept away for the site of the royal courts of justice. It was in this neighborhood and probably to a dining place of this description that Dr. Johnson resorted in his struggling days, when he was so poor that as he relates, it was not every day that he could afford a half-penny tip for the waiter.—London Chronicle.

Wells in India.
The question of wells in India is complicated by the coexistence in each community of two castes—the purer Hindus and Gonds on the one hand, the weavers on the other. No weaver may draw from the well of the Hindus lest it be defiled, nor will the Hindus drink from the hands of the well of a weaver. Thus it becomes necessary either to dig two wells or to depute a certain number of the Hindoo element to give water to their less exalted fellow villagers.

Almost Human.
"Oh, George," tearfully exclaimed his wife, meeting him at the door, "that parrot you brought home the other day?"

"What's the matter with him?" asked Mr. Ferguson.

"I don't know. He won't tell me. When I ask him what the trouble is he just swears dreadfully!"—Exchange.

A Bright Day.
"The gentlemen who came to see daddy said I was one of the most intelligent children they ever saw," said little Jack.

"Indeed!" said the proud mother. "Did you really 'Little Drops of Water' for them?"

"No, I refused."—London Mail.

A Suggested Improvement.
Mrs. Freedom to subscribers—Could you suggest any improvement in my menu? Boarder—Well, you might make the experiment of transferring the respective qualities of the coffee and the butter.—Baltimore American.

Death is but the dropping of the flower that the fruit may swell.—Beecher.

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Tickets sold November 15th, 19th, 28th, 29th, Dec. 6th and 7th, final limit December 13th.

TO OMAHA: National Corn Exposition, December 6th to 18th. A new exposition in character and scope. The future benefits of this exposition should mean increased wealth to every farm.

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him with open arms and dropped him underground 1,200 feet into the depths of the richest copper hill in the world. It was the famous Leonard copper mine shaft that the president descended, and he came to the light of day half an hour later with this exclamation on his lips: "I would not have missed it for the world!"

The cage which carried the president and his party down into the mountain consisted of three compartments, one above the other. Each compartment held about six persons. The president and his companions occupied the compartment. Other members of the Taft party, including newspaper correspondents, were in the lower compartments.

At every stop on his journey through the country Mr. Taft received flattering demonstrations from the people, and in every town and city through which he passed he has been royally welcomed and cheered to the echo. The schools have been much interested in the tour of the nation's chief executive, and he has been delighted with their novel plans to entertain him. At Portland, Ore., a gathering of 21,000 school children on the picturesque athletic field of the Multnomah club afforded a spectacle that he will never forget. In a grand stand on the field 4,000 boys and girls dressed in red, white and blue rose tier upon tier and 200 pretty girls dressed in white spelled "Taft" in living letters. As the president was addressing the children



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