

Something About the New Secretary of the Navy

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WASHINGTON, April 24.—"This is a government of congress and the civil departments are subordinate to it."

Thus William Henry Moody, who is to become secretary of the navy on May 1, defines his new position and tacitly expresses his policy. His experience as a member of congress has inspired this respect for the legislative branch of the government and his selection to be a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet has not turned his head or lowered his estimation of the body from which he retires.

Sitting in his modest parlor the other morning, with his feet thrust into a pair of very rusty house slippers, with a short sack coat closely buttoned about him and the appearance of one who had just left his breakfast table and morning mail, Mr. Moody chatted most agreeably and pleasantly about his selection as the head of the Navy department and of the interesting events that have attended an unusually active life.

Almost his first observation touched on a question that is always uppermost in the Washington mind. "I am not going to be a social leader or attempt any extravagant entertaining," he said. This was in answer to the usual inquiry as to what sort of a social swath the new secretary of the navy proposed to cut in the capital city. "Unless you newspaper men lean me the money I will be too poor to live any other than the quiet and modest life to which I have been accustomed since coming to Washington."

There are people in Washington who think the president ought to be governed by social considerations in the selection of his official family. There are officers and friends of the navy who believe that the secretary should be a man of wealth and make his department popular with socially inclined statesmen at Washington. When this idea was suggested to President Roosevelt at the time he was seeking a successor to Secretary Long he became indignant and in as forceful language as he can command declared that he was not hunting a society leader, but a man who could conduct the Navy department successfully, who could steer a safe course through all the shoals and treacherous channels of bickerings and jealousies that unfortunately have attached themselves to that service. "And I think I have found the man," he exclaimed, "in Congressman Moody of Massachusetts."

When the office of secretary of the navy was created in 1798 President Adams turned to Massachusetts for a man to place at its head. He selected George Cabot, a statesman and a man of wide experience in naval affairs. George Cabot came from Salem, a town in the district which has been represented several years in congress by Mr. Moody, who now, 104 years later, accepts the portfolio which was offered to the great grandfather of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. It seems natural for the president to turn to Massachusetts, and especially to this section of the Bay state, for cabinet advisers, as that commonwealth has furnished more cabinet ministers than almost any other state in the union. The old Essex district, as it is known, has been the home of many distinguished men, and Mr. Moody, the latest cabinet officer to come from that section, is not overshadowed by any of his predecessors.

Who the New Secretary Is.

Born within the sound of the surf on the north coast of Massachusetts, Mr. Moody has a natural love for the sea and matters connected with it. In his native town of Newbury he was but a few miles from the Gloucester coast, and, as a boy, spent many happy hours fishing, bathing and boating in the salt water. He comes of a long line of New England farmers and seafaring men. According to the custom of New England families the sons of the household are put in various avocations and professions, so that each generation furnishes worthy members of the standard occupations of that region. One son might remain at home on the farm, another be sent to sea, another enter business and perhaps the fourth take his heritage in the best education afforded in New England colleges and universities. The Moody family was no exception to the rule and from the time the first of the name, William Moody, came from Ipswich, England, to Newbury, Mass., in 1634, members of the family have cultivated the land and plowed the sea. Mr. Moody, the new secretary of the navy, is the ninth in descent from the English Puritan who came to Massachusetts shores 268 years ago. His father, Henry Moody, now long past the four-score-year mark and lovingly cared for by the son in the latter's home in Haverhill, inherited a farm from his father, and, amid the ordinary surroundings of a New England farmstead, the new head of the navy began life. Following the New England custom, Mr. Moody's parents decided to give him his portion of the estate in a liberal, sound education. "I was not extremely fond of farm work, although outdoor exercise has been to me always life's elixir," said Mr. Moody, "and I willingly accepted the parental distribution of favors in the way of an education."

Mr. Moody came of the same class of people as President McKinley, and of him can be said, as Secretary Hay, the orator of the McKinley memorial exercises in congress, said of the dead president: "He never looked down on any one, nor could he



RESIDENCE OF SECRETARY MOODY, SALTONSTALL ROAD, HAVERHILL, MASS.

imagine any one looking down on him." In the Moody establishment there was neither poverty nor riches and the education which young William received at the Phillips Andover academy and Harvard university was the fortune with which he started to win success in the world.

Studied Law with Richard H. Dana.

Mr. Moody always speaks with great affection of his law tutor, the late Richard H. Dana, whose "Two Years Before the Mast" may have had something to do with the young lawyer's interest in naval affairs. "I always believed in coming in contact with genius," says Mr. Moody in his reminiscences of the effect his associations with men like Mr. Dana have had in shaping his own course. It was with a good deal of satisfaction that Mr. Moody passed an examination for admission to the bar of Boston under Mr. Dana's tutelage without having studied the prescribed length of time. "Much as we desire to exclude you," said the chairman of the examining board, in a humorous way complimenting the young man on his ability, "we are compelled to admit you."

Mr. Moody had the same experience as most young lawyers, and for the first few months, as he expresses it, scarcely earned his salt. "I remember distinctly that my first year's compensation amounted to the magnificent sum of \$185," he said, in recounting the uphill work that faced him in the opening of his legal career. Two or three years put him on his feet, however, and the earnings of his profession have been increasing ever since.

That Mr. Moody is a man to attract attention by his manner and ability was early attested. As far back as 1879, after he had been practicing only two or three years, he made his first argument in the supreme court of the state of Massachusetts. Associate Justice Gray of the supreme court of the United States was then chief justice of the Massachusetts supreme court. He was never noted for suavity of manners in the court room, and most young attorneys appeared before him with fear and trembling. Young Moody went in with the assurance of having the best of the argument on his side, and his first effort before that high court was in the elucidation of a very fine point of law. Chief Justice Gray listened attentively, and when the young man had concluded, startled his colleagues and the whole court room by leaving his seat and passing

down to the bar, where he shook hands with Mr. Moody and congratulated him on his argument.

In the first session of the Fifty-fourth congress two stockily built young men happened to draw seats next to each other. As they sat down at their desks arranging papers, etc., one of them, a smooth-faced man with stiff, light hair, brushed back from his forehead, turned to the other and said:

"Haven't I seen you somewhere?"

"Really, I don't know," replied his neighbor. "It is possible we have met somewhere."

"Oh, I know you. You were counsel for the commonwealth in the Lizzie Borden trial at Fall River, and your name is Moody. My name is Quigg, and I reported that trial for the New York Tribune." The two men shook hands, and Lemuel E. Quigg of New York and William Henry Moody of Massachusetts started on their congressional careers together. Mr. Quigg's congressional experience was limited to two terms, while Mr. Moody kept on until now he is transferred to another branch of the government service.

The Borden trial marked one of the distinct triumphs in Mr. Moody's career. At the time he was district attorney for the eastern district of Massachusetts and was brought into the case at the solicitation of Attorney General Knowlton, who desired his assistance. Mr. Moody's conduct in the prosecution was so able as to command national attention. Few trials of recent years have attracted so much attention and seldom have the details of examination been published so minutely.

Entered the House in 1895.

"There is a man who will make a name for himself in congress," was the remark of Senator David B. Hill of New York when Mr. Moody entered the house in 1895. "I read every line of the Borden trial," said Mr. Hill, "and I was impressed with the high grade ability shown in Mr. Moody's conduct of that case. He is an extraordinary man and the country will hear from him." This tribute to a staunch republican from an equally determined and staunch democrat was praise of the highest character.

Lodge, that young man of yours from Massachusetts, Moody, is all right." This was Speaker Thomas B. Reed's comment on the young congressman who succeeded the well known and distinguished Generalhouse, and from the day he dared to cross

Cogswell. "Those are the kind of people we grow up in Massachusetts," was Mr. Lodge's retort.

General Cogswell had been re-elected to the Fifty-fourth congress, but died several months before it met. There was a universal demand in the district for the nomination of Mr. Moody. Every newspaper, representing both parties, in his district, suggested him as the man most likely to do credit to that constituency and to the state. He was nominated without opposition, and in discussing his political experience Mr. Moody declared with some satisfaction that he was nominated and elected four times without the expenditure of one dollar on his part. He made his modest contributions each year to the campaign funds, but never spent a penny in his own personal campaign.

"My election to congress from the old Essex district was a high honor and I regard it as such. It is a great satisfaction to have the endorsement of your home people and to know that those with whom you have associated from youth and who have known you from birth repose so much confidence in you." Mr. Moody might have added that he never goes back to his home town of Newbury without receiving a royal welcome and listening to expressions of pride from his old neighbors at his success. The district which he has represented in congress is a notable one and its praises have been sung by many statesmen. Senator Hoar, whose pride in Massachusetts and love of its people and history prompt him on all occasions to sound its praises, thus referred to this district in pronouncing a eulogy on the life and character of General Cogswell: "Essex, where Winthrop landed, where Endicott dwelt, where Putnam was born, where Whittier sang, where Dane and Cutler planned the great ordinance of 1787, which stands with the Declaration and the Constitution, as one of three great title deeds of American liberty, and where sailors put to sea for the great sea fights of the war of 1812."

Moody is Red-Headed.

"You ought to go over and hear that red-headed chap from Massachusetts," was the word brought to the senate press gallery one day in the first session of the Fifty-fourth congress. The suggestion was acted upon, and the interested correspondents were soon listening to a new orator, a new debater, a new statesman. It was Mr. Moody of Massachusetts, who had caught the ear of the house and was holding the attention of republicans and democrats, on one of the driest subjects of legislation—a report on a contested election case. As is usual with a new member, Mr. Moody had not received any very prominent committee assignments, but was put down at the bottom of the list of republican members on elections committee No. 1. His first work was to oppose the policy of unseating members for purely partisan reasons, and he reported against his republican colleague in a celebrated Illinois case, where he contended the evidence before the committee showed the democrat to be entitled to his seat. It was on this question that he was arousing the house when someone discovered in the "red-headed man from Massachusetts" a new legislative force. He advocated a recount of the votes in the case and carried his proposition through the house. His position that the republican contestant was not entitled to the seat on the evidence then produced was fully justified by an examination of the ballots, but fortunately for the contestant a mistake was discovered in a precinct which had not been before questioned and he was declared elected by a majority of 3 votes.

This was Moody's introduction in the well known and distinguished Generalhouse, and from the day he dared to cross swords with some of the old party leaders and declare his independence and love of justice his position was assured. The next congress he was appointed on the appropriations committee, and "Uncle Joe" Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, looks upon him as a son. Together these two gritty, sandy-haired statesmen have put through reforms and fought abuses until their power in the house is assured.

Before Mr. Moody decided to enter the profession of law he had a great fancy for journalism. While yet a student at Harvard university he debated in his own mind whether or not to take up the pen as his weapon of conquest and implement of livelihood. He finally decided in favor of the law, but his keenness of observation and faculty for seeing news and the features of "a good story" in every event with which he is connected causes great regret that he has not given the public the benefit of these rare journalistic qualities. He has a mighty respect for the press, and last congress, while fighting valiantly for the Land bill, regulating second-class mail matter, someone asked him if the proposed law would affect the legitimate circulation of newspapers. He declared that it would not, as the gentlemen of the press would not permit it, and then paid this tribute to newspaper men:

Moody and the Newspaper Men.

"Those gentlemen sitting above the speaker's chair, and those whom they represent, wield more power than we who sit below it. They carry along parties to victory or defeat. They make and unmake statesmen. They mold and create public opinion."

"Mr. Moody and the President."

If President Roosevelt had been seeking a double for himself in personal appearance, tastes and temperament he could not have come more closely to the mark than in the selection of Mr. Moody. The new secretary of the navy is perhaps two inches shorter in stature than the president, but he is built on the same stocky plan, with well knit form, clear, florid complexion, good eye and energetic gait, evidencing a healthy physique and body, under perfect control and training. "I am as fond of outdoor exercise as the president," Mr. Moody says, "and I propose to continue my present habits. I am intensely fond of any form of outdoor exercise, but prefer that of walking. I walk to the capitol every day, and at least once a week enjoy a twelve or fifteen-mile tramp in the country. No, I have never accompanied President Roosevelt on one of his walks, and I do not boast of my horsemanship, although I do ride horseback and enjoy the exercise. I am fond of bicycle riding and am an enthusiast on base ball, love foot ball, but have not yet had time to play golf. There you have my accomplishments in the line of athletics. I can not express too highly my belief in and enjoyment of outdoor sports and exercise."

Mr. Moody's acquaintance with the president is of many years' standing, but the two men never "got real close" until Mr. Roosevelt came to Washington as assistant secretary of the navy. At a dinner given in Washington by the Harvard alumni in January, 1898, Mr. Moody was seated between Mr. Roosevelt and Dr. Leonard Wood, the latter at that time being stationed in Washington and acting as President McKinley's medical adviser. The three men became chummy and their talk was principally on the war cloud then gathering. After the dinner Mr. Roosevelt went home with Mr. Moody and the late Representative Simpkins of Massachusetts.

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YOUNGER MEMBERS OF HASTINGS' SOCIAL SET AS THEY WERE COSTUMED FOR A RECENT FANCY DRESS PARTY.