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Taft

By George Fitch—Cartoons by John T. McCutcheon—From the American Magazine.

One cannot cord up too much information about the president of the United States. The common citizens who have hired a president "sight unseen" and have turned the welfare of the country over to him for a period of four years may be pardoned for an omnivorous hunger for details concerning the history, character, habits, dimensions, disposition, beliefs and relatives of their new employe.

Mr. Taft manages to store away all his knowledge, but rather thinks with awe of the amount of labor required to fill such a cranial storehouse. Without any particular preliminaries in the way of neck it rises straight from the collar to the temples and then sweeps away in a beautiful oriental dome to the summit buttressed by a forehead as substantial as the turret of a battleship. In all the vast expanse of face there are but three landmarks aside from eyes, nose and mustache. Two of these are deep furrows on the side of the nose which when curved upward and outward help make the Taft smile. The other is a dimple which shows where his chin used to be.

Specifications: One steam heated glad hand; one large, wide, mealy laugh; one reinforced-concrete backbone; one self-firing temper with check valve and automatic thermostat; one extra capacity non-capable digestive system; one poorly fastened head of hair, rather light, slightly grayed; one light brown extra width mustache, undomesticated; two blonde eyes

Ten years later for a short time he became a law professor in the Cincinnati Law school. Then he took a job as nation builder in the Philippines, after which he came home and became a traveling man, from which position he has stepped into a good job as custodian of the national veto.

Mr. Taft is the first traveling man to be elected president. For the past ten years



HE HAS TRAVELED MORE THAN 50,000 MILES.

He has been traveling out of Washington for the government, and so large has been his territory that he has frequently failed to spend Sunday at home for as much as six months at a time. He has been official trouble shooter for the Roosevelt administration. Let a stiff joint develop in the entente cordiale between Madagascar and the United States, Bill is sent over on the next boat to talk it into good working order again. Let there be a strong smoke suggestive of a hot box in the Philippines; there never was such a man for cooling hot boxes as Bill. In his official capacity as salve slinger and wheel greaser for the administration he has visited Japan, China, the Philippines, Russia, Rome, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Panama canal. He has traveled over 50,000 miles and in this spite of the fact that a Pullman berth fits him as snugly as a shoe box would fit a bull calf and that only one steamer berth in nine is built to take all of him in at one time. Yet he has cheerfully wedged himself into cramped quarters for his country's sake and has endured the torments of traveling in countries built for men nine sizes smaller without a complaint. For this alone he deserves the presidency.

Mr. Taft will be the twenty-seventh president of the United States. He will be the sixth president to be elected from Ohio and the sixth president produced in that state. Mr. Taft is the fifth president to wear a mustache and is the seventh president who has found time to use a middle name in his busy career. He wears a larger chair than any other executive and his collar has been excellent in durability. He is the son of the late Grover Cleveland. His majority when elected was next to the largest ever received by a president. He is the third member of the Bill club to land the job.

By being elected Mr. Taft also becomes one of the few men who according to the Yale belief—have impressed Yale into being honored by it. His election last fall dispelled the Stygian gloom resulting from two defeats in one year by Harvard. In displacing a Harvard man in the White House Yale is not recompensed for the late foot ball defeat, but is reasonably comfortable. Moreover, Mr. Taft is the first man to get there Eli; practically speaking, while Harvard has had three—that is counting Roosevelt as only one man.

It is always a pleasure to chronicle the success of the town fat boy, who deserves all that can come to him later in life because of the nickname of the freshman in his youth. Taft was one of these. His pictorial record discloses him at the age of 11 as a slim young thing in long trousers. Six years later, he weighed 235 pounds. What happened in the interim staggers the imagination. The fact remains that at the age of 17 he landed at Yale as the biggest freshman who had ever entered college. The students gazed at him with awe and admiration, for he was large all over, not glubular. They paced off his width, ran lines around his calves, estimated his height by triangulation and immediately made him leader of the freshman squad in the class rush. All the next day, the saddened sophomores were busy digging their unfortunate brethren out of Taft's foot tracks. Thus the Taft steam roller had its humble beginnings.

When Taft left Yale four years later, he was still the largest student who had been enrolled in college. In a quiet steady way he has been merging and annexing the outlying provinces of space ever since. He now weighs about 250 pounds and wears trousers whose legs might do as temporary funnels for the Louisiana. He is of the consolidated mogul type and is built to fit a canal boat. Still he is not fat. He is merely expansive. He is like Chicago—he covers a lot of ground but he is not unduly swelled in any one part. He is built to fit his body in temperament, sympathies and understanding. In every thing in Taft but voice. He has a thirty-

four-inch voice which sounds a trifle peculiar in a man wearing a forty-eight coat. In discussing a newly made president, it is always interesting to learn how he got there. Nothing illustrates Mr. Taft's sagacity and unfathomable understanding so vividly as his method of landing the presidency. The general plan of becoming a president has been to wish for the office when a boy and to grow up with both eyes firmly fixed on the place. This is not infallible, having failed in perhaps 100,000,000 instances, but it is an almost universal plan among American boys.

Taft alone was too wise to wish for the presidency. He reasoned that he would have a better chance if he wished for something else accordingly, he wished to become supreme justice of the United States. He set his heart upon it when a boy and thought of nothing else. He prepared himself to be a supreme justice and went after the job in dead earnest.

Just as Taft had figured, Fate was too contrary to let him have it. Every time he had a chance to become chief justice it interfered. Once it sent him to Manila. He had another chance. It made him take a cabinet position. Taft stood pat and waited sure enough when the third chance for the bench came in sight there was nothing big enough to keep it away but the presidency. The expected happened. He smiled and accepted. Any man who is wise enough to make a monkey out of Fate in this manner is big enough to run this country with his feet on the desk.

A comparison of the incoming with the outgoing president is interesting. They are seen in Yale. He had annexed the Latin scholarship prize, the English scholarship prize, the prize for complicated mathematical problems, the class oratorship and the class salutatory besides a host of smaller spools. The result of the merger was beneficial in the extreme. The young men of Yale, released from the necessity of competing for prizes, went forth and attained such prowess in the athletic field that they out-tread Harvard, trampled on Princeton and ran away from Pennsylvania. At the end of his college course, Taft had all of the scholarship prizes in his trunk while the Yale gymnasium had been enlarged three times and was once more overflowing with athletic trophies. To this day, Taft is hailed as the athletic genius of Yale. He was one of the first men to prove the greater benefits arising from the elimination of competition.

In one way the glory of being elected president is dimmed for Mr. Taft. In becoming president he is simply "making good" with the friends of his youth and with his family. Being born practically at the top it has become necessary for him to erect a few extra rungs to the ladder. He belongs to the Taft family which has always had things pretty much its own way. His father, Judge Alphonso Taft, was a rich man and was secretary of war himself in 1876. He had been a Yale man and had been a famous student. Young Bill Taft began life with the task of anchoring those shaking heads whose owners are always ready to say "He's a good boy, but an awful come down from his dad." Paced by his brother, Charles, who has acquired a newspaper, several millions and a senatorial hanker he had succeeded in doing so. It is not, of course, that he would have been regarded as a total failure if he finished his life as a mere cabinet officer, but there would have been a great deal of disappointment at Yale and elsewhere. It must be a satisfaction for a man of this kind to get so high that his aspiring friends cannot chalk out new marks to be attained.

Mr. Taft comes to the White House a tried and proven athlete and a man whose nerve and staying qualities cannot longer be doubted. They were established in the recent campaign. A presidential election is no longer a mere discussion of issue. It has become an endurance contest. When Mr. Bryan, the tried veteran of two presidential campaigns and seventeen lecture tours, read of the nomination of Taft last June he smiled with satisfaction. Taft was a good man, but unknown personally to the people and could not with his build be expected to make one-night stands over the country. With quiet glee Bryan planned a campaign which called for an average of seventeen speeches with a traveling schedule that would lay a private car up for repairs after a week. It was an awful challenge, but Taft was game. Laying out a schedule that went the peerless leader one speech better per day he went plunk forth. Inexperienced in the task of making a cyclone swath of oratory over half a continent he suffered untold miseries. His throat which is as unreliable as a cheap automobile, developed hoarseness, air bubbles, heated bearings, short circuits, season cracks and water blisters. His voice forged up and died away, it kept three physicians busy for days at a time cooing it to come out between stations. But Taft hung on. He followed the pace and improved on it. The further he went the better he got. By September on a standing start of a 500 mile dash through thirty-five towns, catch as catch can dinners and sleep, and

controversied. We diverge a minute to muck rake. He saw at once on entering Yale that the business of winning prizes could be greatly systematized to the great benefit of all. If one man were to win all the prizes the economic results would be most praiseworthy. Vicious and wasteful competition could thus be regulated—perhaps even eliminated to a healthy extent. Disappointments and heart burnings could be avoided. A beautiful and beneficial combination would be effected and several hundred students who had hitherto wasted health, kerosene and eyes upon their books would be free to carry Yale to greater glory upon the athletic field.

Young Taft lost no time in carrying out his ideas. In four years he had effected the most gigantic merger of prizes ever



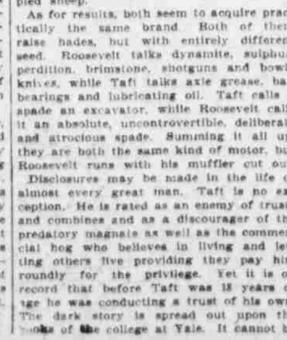
PACIFYING THE UNRULY FILIPINOS.

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has strong suspicions to the contrary, and dares Providence to make him fat. In temperament Taft is a steam heater and Roosevelt is a prairie fire; in conversation, a college professor beside a D. D. B. convention in energy, a locomotive beside a volcano; in good nature May compared with April. Both make enemies in plenty, but Taft refuses to walk on a man while he is down, while Roosevelt refuses to get off of him until he is sure he can't get up. Both are fond of work as a large family well brought up, is better to leave a nation than great riches. Both are a afraid of criticism as a Bengal tiger is of a crippled sheep. As for results, both seem to acquire practically the same brand. Both are men of ideas, but while Roosevelt is different, Roosevelt talks dynamite, sulphur, perdition, brimstone, shotguns and bowie knives, while Taft talks axle grease, ball bearings and lubricating oil. Taft calls a spade an excavator, while Roosevelt calls it an absolute, unconquerable, deliberate and atrocious spade. Summing it all up, they are both the same kind of motor, but Roosevelt runs with his muffler cut out. Disclosures may be made in the life of almost every great man. Taft is no exception. He is rated as an enemy of trusts and combines and as a discourager of the predatory magnate as well as the commercial hog who believes in living and letting others live providing they pay him roundly for the privilege. Yet it is on record that before Taft was 18 years of age he was conducting a trust of his own. The deck story is spread out upon the books of the college at Yale. It cannot be



MR. TAFT AT HOME—THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

Edwin Haney Dies Very Suddenly at Hot Springs, S. D.

Station Master at Union Station for Thirty-Three Years—Body to Be Brought to Omaha.

HOT SPRINGS, S. D., March 2.—(Special Telegram)—Edwin Haney of Omaha very suddenly died here this morning. The body will be sent over the Northwestern road to Omaha tonight. The Knight Templars here have taken charge of the body.

Mr. Haney was one of the best known men in Omaha, as his position as station master at the Union station for years made him a most familiar figure. He was born in Dane county, Wis., July 27, 1847 and moved with his parents to Kansas when eleven years of age, the trip being made by boat. His parents died when he was 12 and then he worked his way back to Madison, Wis. He lived over the Northwestern road to Omaha tonight. The Knight Templars here have taken charge of the body.

In 1866 Mr. Haney went to Missouri and entered the employ of the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad. In January, 1869, he was sent to Omaha by that road to take charge of the through checking temple, and his place of business was an iron portable shed on the corner of Ninth and Farnam streets. In 1871 Mr. Haney took the position of baggage master for the Union Pacific, a post he filled for a great many years.

Three years after he settled in Omaha married Miss Inez Porter, daughter of Judge John Porter. They have one son, Dr. W. P. Haney of Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. Mr. Haney built a home on the corner of Eighteenth and Farnam streets, where he and his family resided for twenty-eight years. He sold the lot to a syndicate about three years ago. Until three years ago, when sickness compelled him to resign, Mr. Haney occupied the position of station master of the Union station, and here he met scores of noted people, who passed through and stopped at Omaha. He could tell many interesting anecdotes of the great men he had met. He never sought any political office, although he was somewhat active in politics. He was a veteran Mason, a member of Covert lodge, No. 11, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Omaha chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Mount Calvary commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, and Divan of Tangier Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine. He was commander of the Knights Templar at the time the corner stone of the Trans-Mississippi exposition was laid.

A Bloody Ailment is lung hemorrhage. Stop it and cure weak lungs, coughs and colds with Dr. King's New Discovery. 50c and \$1.00. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

Tart Answer to John Power

County Replies to His Demand for Money with Charge Against Former Sheriff.

A reply to former Sheriff John Power's suit against the county was made by Assistant County Attorney Elicke Wednesday and a counter claim of \$2,750 set up. Power is said to have fraudulently and willfully represented that he had earned certain fees and allowances and had incurred certain expenses, which in truth and in fact plaintiff well knew that he had not earned or incurred and thereby unlawfully and fraudulently procured and induced the county commissioners to approve said claims and order warrants drawn in the sum of \$2,750. A judgment for this sum is accordingly prayed for.

E. Lee McShane to Wed Iowa Girl

Parents of Miss Nathalie Meyers of Dubuque Announce the Engagement.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Myers of Dubuque, Ia., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nathalie Meyers to E. Lee McShane of Omaha. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. McShane. Miss Meyers is a sister of Mr. George W. Myers, who married Miss Adelaide Nash of Omaha. Miss Myers recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Nash of this city.

INTERSTATE COMMISSION MEETS HERE TWICE MONDAY

Will Be Represented by Special Examiner Brown to Look After Rate Cases. Two Interstate Commerce commission meetings are scheduled for Omaha next Monday, when Special Examiner Brown will be here to take testimony. The first case is that of the Paxton-Vierling iron company in which that company complains of the excessive rate on structural iron to the Black Hills district and the other case is the complaint of the H. Gund Brewing company against the allowance of elevation charges on grain from interior points in Nebraska.

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Is Pure Pine-Tar and Pure Honey, combined by a scientific process with various other ingredients. The contents printed on every bottle.
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