

HALF A CENTURY OF TAFT

AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

A PROPOS of the forty-sixth annual convention of the National Education association to be held at Cleveland June 29 to July 3, it is predicted that it will be the largest meeting yet held by this great association, not excepting that at Boston in 1903 with its estimated attendance of 35,000. The Forest City is preparing to receive this host of convention guests and to demonstrate that, although it may not be either the largest or the richest, it is certainly one of the most hospitable cities in the United States. It has long been known as a "city of homes," built up as it is with mile after mile of residential streets and avenues lined with handsome detached dwellings, each in its own setting of green lawn, shade trees and shrubbery.

To the homes of Cleveland has the appeal for accommodations been made, and not in vain has the local committee asked hospitality for these guests. In many cases where it could be afforded, although it may not be either the largest or the richest, it is certainly one of the most hospitable cities in the United States. It has long been known as a "city of homes," built up as it is with mile after mile of residential streets and avenues lined with handsome detached dwellings, each in its own setting of green lawn, shade trees and shrubbery.

For the masculine members the Schoolmasters' club will maintain a rest room in the handsome quarters of the Cleveland Athletic club, generously proffered for the purpose. For this same fortunate minority of visitors to the city the Young Men's Christian association will issue cards of hospitality admitting them temporarily to all the advantages of the well equipped headquarters building.

Cleveland hasn't spent all its energies upon arranging for the lodging and physical comfort of its guests, however. There are plans afoot for interesting things to do or to see or to hear every hour of every day of the whole convention week. "Open house" at factory, shop, mill and blast furnace will be the rule rather than the exception in honor of the guests of the National Education association. The shipbuilding yards, the great machine shops, with their colossal unloading machinery; the drills at Uncle Sam's life saving station—all these may be visited, day and hour being bulletined for visitors along with other interesting facts about each day's offering of pleasant things to do and places to see.

Three features of unique interest have been specially planned for the National Education association convention visitors in Cleveland this year—the great outdoor evening reception,

the National spelling contest and the play festival. The reception will be held on Wednesday evening, July 1, at University circle, in Wade park, and in an indirectly due to the college university and Case School of Applied Science, when all members of the National Education association will be

guests of the occasion. Beautiful illuminations and fireworks and several bands of music will make the evening very entertaining.

The National spelling contest, which is to be held in the immense Hippodrome on the forenoon of June 29, will open the regular programme of the convention. This unusual feature has created widespread and favorable comment. Eighth grade children will be chosen for this contest and will be entered in groups of fifteen from a number of the large cities. Interest in spelling has so awakened the zeal of the children all over the country that

not only in cities which have entered the contest, but almost universally, spelling averages have taken a leap upward. The old fashioned spelling bee is once more in vogue.

The public spirit of New Orleans has voted \$1,500 to send its little team of picked spellers all the way from the



NUMERICAL KEY TO THE TAFT GROUP.

1—aged three; 2—aged eight; 3—aged eleven; 4—aged fifteen; 5—aged twenty, junior at Yale; 6—judge of Ohio circuit court; 7—governor of the Philippines; 8—governor of Cuba; 9—in doctor's cap and gown at Yale; 10—most recent picture. The other pictures are from photographs taken at various times and in various places—aboard ship on voyage to far east, at the White House, in Cincinnati, at Manila, in Japan, Cuba, San Francisco and elsewhere.

Is There a Dreyfus In the American Army? The Strange Case of Colonel William F. Stewart

RECENTLY there has been transferred from Fort Francis barracks, in Florida, to an abandoned post in Arizona an army officer whose strange case has given rise to much speculation. In spite of all the publicity which has been given the story—the newspapers have made much of it, and it has even been discussed in the halls of congress—the mystery in which it seems to be shrouded has not been penetrated.

The hero of the story—he prefers to call himself a victim—is Colonel William F. Stewart of the artillery corps. Some of his friends maintain that Colonel Stewart is an American Dreyfus, a pitiable scapegoat for the misdeeds of those clothed with an authority which permits them to indulge in the luxury of such a substitute.

That there is no politics connected with the business seems to be indicated by the fact that men of all parties are asking for a solution of the matter.

It has even been proposed by certain leading members of the American senate of both parties to make Colonel Stewart's case the subject of a congressional investigation.

States to appoint a court of inquiry to investigate the case of Colonel Stewart.

Of course there was active, almost violent, opposition to the proposition. Senator Warren, chairman of the committee on military affairs, to which the resolution ordinarily would be sent, seemed inclined to resent the manner in which Senator Rayner had proceeded in which Senator Rayner had proceeded. He declared that the resolution as it stood was not only a reproach to the president, but was also an attack on the discipline of the army and navy.

"This case has been passed upon by many general officers of the army," he said. "It has received proper attention from the chief of staff down." He objected to establishing a precedent by which army orders to officers might be held up by appealing to a senator.

At this the discussion became general, and many clever and satirical remarks were made. Mr. Rayner confessed that he had no special interest in the matter beyond a desire to see it righted. He admitted that the Stewart in whose behalf he was engaged was a member of an influential Maryland family, but he insisted that he would have been equally zealous in the defense of the least of his constituents.

Finally the resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs, and there it is likely to abide in perfect safety.

Meanwhile the general public, whose curiosity has been stimulated by the discussion in the senate, is asking for information.

At first thought the war department would seem to be the proper source

from which the solution of this puzzle might be expected to proceed.

Those who have reasoned thus and have acted accordingly have failed to make themselves the wiser. The officials of the war department decline to discuss the matter, with the excuse that it would be a breach of etiquette to speak publicly of anything which is under consideration by the president. Not much attempt has been made to conceal the fact that the war lords have tried to compel Colonel Stewart to retire to private life. It is not even denied that his assignment to a command which, if offered to a new graduate of West Point, would be regarded as an indignity is due to the colonel's determination to remain on the active list until forced to retire by the operation of the law.

No one in close touch with the war department is ready to admit that Colonel Stewart is being persecuted. On the contrary, it is current opinion in army circles that he is only getting what he has a right to expect under the circumstances. For a long time it has been no secret in military circles that the war department regards the colonel as "temperamentally impossible," whatever that may mean. It is claimed that both officers and enlisted men find it difficult to "assimilate" with the colonel. Still, no one has accused him publicly of an offense which would warrant the not to be doubted "punishment" which he is receiving.

Putting two and two together, the logical public has made up its mind that the war lords have resorted to the exile policy as a means—perhaps the only means—within their power—of

getting rid of an officer regarded as "undesirable."

It has leaked out also that for some time an attempt has been making to force the colonel off the active list. Certain persons have seen a letter from the military authorities requesting Stewart to apply for retirement.

It is even known that the "undesirable" colonel replied to the intimation to the effect that he would be quite willing so to do provided he were made a brigadier general as a preliminary. This, it may be observed, is the usual procedure—it is the custom to retire an officer at a rank higher than the grade held at the time of his application for retirement.

In this case it was the evident intention of the war department to make an exception to the general rule. For reasons which are not made public it was proposed to retire the colonel as a colonel only.

As might have been foreseen, there was a "kick" from the colonel. He did not deny that he was about ready to go off the active list, but he objected that he was not inclined to accept the sacrifice proposed. He even insisted that he should go on to the end unless he were given a "square deal."

That end, he it noted, will come in 1911 if the awful solitariness of the Arizona exile does not step in and spoil everything.

This is about all that has come to the light in the case of Colonel William F. Stewart.

Is it, after all, especially mysterious? Isn't it rather a matter of comparatively easy solution?

Given an old army officer with a fairly creditable record of forty years' service, a personality far from magnetic, a disposition dominated by acerbity. Some time before reaching the legal retiring age he has become so decidedly persona non grata among his fellow warriors that they petition the military authorities to anticipate his retirement. A more acceptable man is waiting impatiently to step in to his shoes, and every day he is making his own unfitness more apparent.

Finally the war lords respond to the general demand for his retirement and make certain preliminary overtures. Right here is where the mistake is made. Instead of offering the "undesirable" one the customary douceur of promotion to the rank of brigadier general an exception is made in this case and the toothsome morsel is withheld.

Indignation high and justifiable on the part of the one about to be robbed of his military brightness. Retusal prompt and decisive. Angry protest from the colonel and indignant expostulation from his influential relatives. Increasing cholera of the war lords and eventual determination to apply the thumb screws. Finally total rupture of amicable relations and war to the knife.

It is not thus or similarly that the colonel has been driven into the martyrdom which still enables him to be a veritable thorn in the flesh of his discomfited tormentors.

One thing which goes far to confirm this view of the whole distasteful business is the fact that such things have happened before. The case of Colonel

Stewart is by no means an isolated one. On the contrary, the practice of "exiling" military incorrigibles seems to be recognized distinctly at the war department, especially as the proper discipline for an army officer who declines to retire when he is asked to do so.

Although army officers do not admit it publicly, civilians long connected with the department do not deny that this form of having is well established and not infrequently resorted to. The first step is always to send the victim a letter suggesting that he retire at his own initiative.

Quite recently two officers took the hint and asked to be put on the retired list. One of them, a colonel, was made brigadier general as a reward for his compliance. In this instance there was a little more to the incident than appeared on the surface. The war department officials wanted to make a certain officer head of a bureau. This officer happened to be lieutenant colonel of the regiment of which the man who was retired was colonel. Now, it would have made command and perhaps done violence to discipline if the appointment had been made over the head of the superior officer. It would not have done to give the promotion to any one under the rank of colonel. So the man who stood in the way received a letter from the secretary's office, and, being wise in such matters, he asked to be retired.

In still another case a colonel who was actually entitled to be retired as a brigadier general lost nearly a year's pay because he wouldn't quit when he was notified. As he was past sixty-

two the president retired him as a colonel. This was done during a recess of congress, and when that body came together again the nomination of this man to be brigadier general was sent in after the regulation method and eventually the officer got that rank.

G. P. HENRY.

THE ENVELOPE.

It is somewhat curious that such a simple contrivance as the envelope should be a comparatively modern invention. As a matter of fact, it is just a hundred years since a paper manufacturer of Brighton named Brewes invented envelopes for letters in their present form. Even then it was some considerable time before their use became at all general, not in fact, until somewhere about the year 1850. Before this date (as many who are living now will remember) a letter, written only on one side, was folded in two, then in three, sealed with a water or sealing wax and addressed on one of the blank sides.

A SAFE EXPLOSIVE.

A new explosive, safer, cheaper and more powerful than dynamite, is to be made. These explosives based upon nitrogen produce a gas that necessitates abandoning closed works, such as a mine or tunnel, during the explosion, and the laborers cannot return to work for a long time thereafter, depending upon the facility for carrying off the gas. Potassium is said to produce no noxious gas, the only precaution necessary in its use being that the workmen get out of the way of the flying particles of blasted rock.

stable in England, has resigned. Mr. Keep, who is eighty-three years of age, has seen sixty years' police service.

The English house of lords consists of 3 princes, 24 dukes, 23 marquises, 42 earls, 40 viscounts, 24 bishops, 334 barons and 16 Scottish and 28 Irish representative peers—a total of 618.

Sleepers made of earthenware are used on some of the railways in Japan.

FROM EVERYWHERE.

A girl is nearly as big as a boy at seven, and smaller at four, nearly as big at eleven, and during the period from the eleventh to the fourteenth year, when the girl is growing more rapidly than a boy, she is generally bigger than he is.

Among the natural curiosities of Japan are its singing insects. The most prized of these tiny musicians is a

black beetle named sushumushi, which means insect bell. The sound that it emits resembles that of a little silver bell of the sweetest and most delicate tone.

The lovers' alarm clock is a device to refresh the memories of happy couples who are too absorbed in each other to notice the passage of time. As the clock strikes 10 p. m. two little

doors open and a small man in dressing gown and cap glides out, holding in his hand a card with the device, "Good night!"

Fifty thousand packets of flower seeds have been distributed by the Canadian Pacific railway to trainmen and section men all over the lines of the company.

Bees are said to see an enormous distance. When absent from their hive they go up in the air till they see their home and then fly toward it in a straight line.

The bank of England destroys about 250,000 of its notes every week.

There is a woman's prison in Roumania that has only women officials. The Salvation Army holds the monopoly of the street shoe blacking business in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Australia's largest cattle herd is that at Victoria river station, 320 miles south of Port Darwin, which numbers 60,000 head. The owner, Mr. Sydney Kidman, controls more than 200,000 acres of land.

A single leaf of an apple tree has 100,000 pores, and through every one of these water is constantly passing off into the surrounding atmosphere.

A curious recent war that made an elderly Welsh couple in Kentucky. John Williams and his wife celebrated their golden wedding, and among the presents received was a tombstone with their names beautifully engraved on it.

In the Kamyslin district of Russia a suitor has to buy his sweetheart from her father. A pretty young girl of good family costs the bridegroom \$100 or thereabouts.

Mr. William Keep, the chief constable of Rutland, England, who has held that office for thirty-seven years and is reported to be the oldest chief con-