

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT OF OHIO

**From a Strictly Nonpartisan Viewpoint
the Career of the Secretary of War Is
Something of Which the American People
Should Be Proud.**

RIGHT now and here, before the heat and partisan acrimony of the presidential campaign proper are on, it is a good time to admit that the public career of William Howard Taft has been singularly free from vulnerable spots. Not indeed, that his ways of thinking and more especially his ways of doing have always commanded universal approval or even deserved it. Some of his public acts do not even satisfy him in the retrospect, and he is frank enough to say so. It is quite as likely that certain of his official decisions have invited the criticism which they have received.

Still, it is a fact that it would not be easy for a political enemy to put his finger on anything in the secretary's official conduct which could be made to work a political revolution. Of course the usual effort to belittle him and his ability will be made. All that is a feature in the presidential campaign which is never omitted. Often it is a powerful influence in determining the result. It seems to be an essential part of the business of electing a president. A campaign with this feature eliminated would be but a tame affair. Even with two such men as Taft and Bryan in the competition there will be no lack of it. Mr. Bryan has already had a twofold experience, but if nominated at Denver he will find that everything has not been said. He may console himself that his clean personal record has served him admirably and well. The personal side of William H. Taft will be found to be equally unassailable, and such, as a rule, are the men whom the American people choose for their chief executives.

It is well to remember also that no presidential candidate is ever the man of the campaign spellbinders and political writers. Those of his own way of thinking proceed to idealize him beyond recognition, and those who oppose him lose no opportunity to mark him with an appearance which is quite as unreal. Between the extremes of saint and sinner there seems to be no political medium.

Taft the Individual.

So this is an account of Taft the man and in no sense that of Taft the nominee of the Republican national convention. It begins when he was a boy in the old family homestead in Ohio. His was no history of early struggle and self-lifting from the depths of poverty. At the time of his birth, in 1857, his father had already made his mark as a lawyer of ability, and the Tafts were among the most prominent families in southern Ohio. Young Taft went to Yale in the fall of 1874 with the handicap of inheritance, but he outlived it. The fact that he was registered as the son of Alphonso Taft, former member of the cabinet and minister to Russia and Austria, was speedily overshadowed by the young man's own performances.

In less than three hours after he reached New Haven Taft managed to distinguish himself—that, too, in a

manner appreciated in a college town. He entered the annual freshman-sophomore rush with a zeal that made him conspicuous even on that field of activity. He was seventeen years of age and already a giant in physical development. The leader of the sophomores was also a youthful Hercules, and as a preliminary he advanced from the ranks of his fellow classmen and challenged any freshman to wrestle with him. Without a moment's hesitation Taft stepped forward and began to strip for the encounter. Arthur Twining Hadley, the present head of Yale university, was the upper class man who had been chosen to be judge of wrestling that night, and when he noted the apparent ease with which Taft felled the big soph he turned to a friend and remarked:

"The freshmen have got the best man in the town. Mark my words, that big fellow has a career in athletics. I don't believe he'll win many academic honors."

The future president of Old Eli was wrong in his guess. Although Taft was the leader of his class in all sorts of activity, he never neglected his studies and soon established the reputation of being one of the brightest men in the university. He became so interested in his studies that he practically abandoned athletics and devoted himself to his books. After demonstrating his ability to lead in almost every species of athletic sport he gave it up and never afterward appeared in a Yale uniform at the public contests.

A Noteworthy Feat.

Perhaps the most noteworthy feat Taft ever accomplished at Yale was to excel as a student, remain popular among all classes of his fellows in spite of the prevailing suspicion that he was a "grind," never once get into a scrape of any kind and be highly popular with the faculty, all at the same time. The secret of his popularity with the faculty was his open advocacy of law and order under all circumstances. Always the most influential among his fellows, the faculty came to rely on his control of the student body, and he never failed to exert himself on the side of decency and common sense. This was a service which the Yale corporation never forgot. In recognition of his helpfulness he was honored with the doctorate in laws when he was thirty-six years of age, the youngest man ever awarded that degree by Yale.

It speaks well for Taft that his friendship for Yale has never wavered; that his connection with the university has been maintained to the present time. He is now a member of the corporation, the governing body of the institution, and Yale is a loyal supporter of his claim to the presidency. When he left college, a few days after he was twenty-one, Taft was already a big man mentally, socially, morally and physically. He went home to Cincinnati and studied law in the local school. Admitted to the bar, his success was phenomenal from the first. Of course his opportunity was exceptional, but he succeeded in realizing

all his immediate expectations and those of his friends. He was only thirty when he became a judge of the superior court and only thirty-five when he was appointed a judge of the United States circuit court. In those days he made no secret of his ambition to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious father.

the Philippines and preferred to remain there until the work he had made up his mind to accomplish to his satisfaction was done. That he realized what he was refusing is apparent from his cablegram to the president declining the offer: "Look forward to time when I can accept such an offer, but

vested of all evidences of brutality, for he is a man who will go to great lengths to avoid giving pain. Always dignified on the bench, his manner was tempered by a suggestion of kindness and charity which he could not conceal. As a judge Taft earned the reputation of being scrupulously just and

record made by him on the bench is the secret of his popularity in that state.

Toward the end of his career as a federal judge a young man was convicted in Taft's court of violating the postal laws. From the first the big judge was convinced that the offense

before Judge Taft with the laconic explanation, "Here I am!" The judge recognized him and asked, "What are you doing now?" "I've been waiting to see you," the man answered rather feebly. "How would you like to go into the army?" "I wanted to enlist," the young man confessed, "but I couldn't until I'd seen you." "Well, my boy," said the judge, "I'll tell you how well you did. You come here in Uncle Sam's uniform and say goodbye before you sail and you needn't come any more after that." The young man enlisted, and his sentence was remitted.

The Great Pacificator.

But it is in the role of pacificator that Mr. Taft has shone with unique luster. Never before in the history of the republic has any citizen manifested such a remarkable facility for the adjusting of delicate matters of diplomacy by mere word of mouth, and never before has a secretary of war been welcomed on foreign soil as a messenger of peace. His success with the hostilities in the Philippines was so instant and so remarkable that he became by common consent the great American pacificator. His ability and good fortune in this direction have never failed him. As Uncle Sam's advocate at the Vatican in the matter of the Dominican claims, as the quietor of the revolution which threatened to break out after the collapse of the Palma administration in Cuba, as the bearer of peace and good will to the disturbed republics in the region of the canal zone—in all these delicate enterprises the big secretary of war "made good" with a definiteness that did him great credit.

A United States senator was once heard to observe regretfully: "Pity that Bryan isn't a Republican! I'd like mightily well to vote for him." William Howard Taft is precisely the sort of man to inspire a similar longing in the heart of some admiring Democrat.

C. B. SANDERSON.

AN ABRUZZI STORY.

King Humbert, it appears, was anxious that his nephew should marry and settle down and just before the projected trip to the polar regions submitted a list of available princesses, pointing out one, an English maiden, as his own preference. Prince Luigi refused point blank to consider the matter and thought no more of the distasteful subject until one day his uncle said to him suddenly, "Luigi, I find that the princess would have no objection to becoming a Catholic and that she is rather taken with the title of Duchess of the Abruzzi."

Now thoroughly alarmed, the prince asked for time to consider it. His royal uncle granted him a single day. The following morning the young man sent this message to the palace:

"I am very sorry, your majesty, but all thought of marriage for me must be put aside indefinitely. I am going immediately to the north pole, and when I return we will discuss it."

When he returned, the king was dead.

THE MERCURIAL LIGHT.

Surgeons on duty at the English Naval academy have recommended the adoption of the Cooper-Hewitt mercurial light, as it will relieve the midshipmen from the glaring light which is now thrown on their study tables from swinging electric lamps.



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, SECRETARY OF WAR.

trious father. When any of his associates reminded him that there were higher prizes to be won he was wont to declare that he asked no higher honor than to become a member of the supreme legal tribunal of the land. When the opportunity came—all the world knows how and when—he was in

even if it is certain that it can never be repeated I must now decline." Mr. Taft has been accused of being endowed with what is known as the "New England conscience," which, in special business to rectify it. There is no question as to the success of his judicial career in Ohio. The flawless

was due to ignorance rather than to criminal intent, and he suspended sentence. "I'll think it over," he said to the defendant. "Come back to me in six months and I'll decide your case." At the expiration of the six months the Philippine war was on. The young man who had been convicted appeared

absolutely fearless. He was always prepared to accept full responsibility for his judicial decisions and orders, and when he was convinced that he had made a mistake he made it his special business to rectify it. There is no question as to the success of his judicial career in Ohio. The flawless

The Fourteenth Republican National Convention

ON next Tuesday the fourteenth national convention of the Republican party will convene at Chicago. Previous conventions of a like character, covering a period of fifty-two years, and their nominees have been as follows:

Philadelphia, June 17, 1856—John C. Fremont of California and William L. Dayton of New Jersey. Ticket defeated.

Chicago, May 16, 1860—Abraham Lincoln of Illinois and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine. Ticket won.

Baltimore, June 7, 1864—Abraham Lincoln of Illinois and Andrew Johnson of Tennessee. Ticket won.

Chicago, May 20, 1868—Ulysses S. Grant of Illinois and Schuyler Colfax of Indiana. Ticket won.

Philadelphia, June 5, 1872—Ulysses S. Grant of Illinois and Henry Wilson of Massachusetts. Ticket won.

Cincinnati, June 14, 1876—Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio and William A. Wheeler of New York. Ticket won by nomination.

Chicago, June 2, 1880—James A. Garfield of Ohio and Chester A. Arthur of New York. Ticket won.

Chicago, June 3, 1884—James G. Blaine of Maine and John A. Logan of Illinois. Ticket defeated.

Chicago, June 19, 1888—Benjamin Harrison of Indiana and Levi P. Morton of New York. Ticket won.

Minneapolis, June 7, 1892—Benjamin Harrison of Indiana and Whitelaw Reid of New York. Ticket defeated.

St. Louis, June 15, 1896—William McKinley of Ohio and Garret A. Hobart of New Jersey. Ticket won.

Philadelphia, June 19, 1900—William McKinley of Ohio and Theodore Roosevelt of New York. Ticket won.

Chicago, June 21, 1904—Theodore Roosevelt of New York and Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana. Ticket won.

Seven Out of Fourteen.

From which it may be seen that, including the coming one, Chicago has been given seven out of the fourteen Republican conventions which have chosen candidates for president. When the five Democratic national conventions which have been held at Chicago are added, together with the Prohibition national convention of 1890 and the Socialist national conventions of 1904 and 1908, it will be seen that the Illinois metropolis is entitled to lay claim to the appellation of Convention City. The favorite presidential nominating city of the Democratic party has been Baltimore. The first regular national convention called by any great political organization in the United States was held in the Maryland metropolis in 1832, and Andrew Jackson was nominated by the Democratic-Republican party, as it was styled at that time. His opponent was the brilliant and politically powerful Henry Clay, who was nominated at Washington by

the caucus scheme which had prevailed since the early days.

The Democrats continued to nominate their presidential candidates at Baltimore, and the time of James Buchanan, who was chosen at Cincinnati in 1856. Four years later the Independent Democratic convention which nominated Stephen A. Douglas met at Baltimore. The last national convention to be held at Baltimore was the one which nominated Horace Greeley in 1872. Grover Cleveland is the only Democratic president ever nominated at Chicago. He was the standard bearer chosen by three successive conventions held in the Windy City and was twice successful.

It is now almost a forgotten fact that an early Whig candidate, William Henry Harrison, was twice nominated at Harrisburg, Pa. The Republicans have gone to Baltimore but once, in 1864, when Lincoln was nominated for the second time. No Republican national convention has ever been held in New York, and but one Democratic candidate for the presidency has been named there. That was Horatio Seymour in 1868. St. Louis has had three national conventions—one, in 1876, nominating Samuel J. Tilden; another, in 1896, naming William McKinley; and a third, in 1904, nominating Alton B. Parker.

The first Democratic national convention in Chicago was held in 1864, and George B. McClellan was the nominee. The Democrats waited twenty years before Chicago was chosen again as a national convention city. Grover Cleveland was the nominee, and Chicago was continued as the Democratic convention city until 1900, when Kansas City was selected. Of the Republicans chosen at Chicago Lincoln and Garfield were assassinated.

An Early Convention.

At the first Republican convention at Chicago, the one which nominated John C. Fremont, "the Pathfinder," for its leading candidate, there was little excitement. Four years later, however, matters had assumed a new aspect. There was no lack of candidates. Almost every northern state presented one, and sentiment was divided about equally between several of them. Seward led every one a long way on the first ballot as the favorite of the advanced wing of his party. There were candidates who are now forgotten. Vermont had one named Collamer, New Jersey one named Dayton and Missouri one named Bates. McLean divided the Ohio vote with Salmon P. Chase. Simon Cameron was Pennsylvania's favorite, and the delegation from the

Keystone State was pledged to do its best for him.

The announcement of the result of the first ballot was a revelation to many of the delegates who had not kept in touch with the determination in certain quarters to nominate the Illinois candidate. Although Seward received 173 votes, Abraham Lincoln got 102, and Seward's friends began to realize for the first time that their favorite was in danger. The balloting was re-

erected to accommodate a larger number than had ever before attended a convention, such a crowd had assembled from the beginning, but the new party came to the conclusion that its only chance of victory was to carry the state. The greatest effort had been made to effect a change in the political situation. One of its sons was a prominent aspirant for the nomination. Even with the prevalence of Republican ideas at that time the state was re-

city in 1860. Now second in population among American cities, it was ninth in 1860. Illinois had been Democratic from the beginning, but the new party came to the conclusion that its only chance of victory was to carry the state. The greatest effort had been made to effect a change in the political situation. One of its sons was a prominent aspirant for the nomination. Even with the prevalence of Republican ideas at that time the state was re-

In 1884 both of the great parties held national conventions at Chicago. At that time the Republicans made their first nomination of a New Englander for the presidency, James G. Blaine. Since 1860, when the Democrats held their convention at Charleston, S. C., with adjourned meetings at Baltimore when the party split, every national gathering of the sort, except that of 1868 in New York and 1872 in Baltimore, has been convened in the middle west. The year 1872, when the Republicans assembled in Philadelphia and the Democrats in Baltimore, was the only year after 1852 in which one or the other of the major parties failed to go to the middle west to make up a national ticket, but the element known as the Liberal Democrats met at Baltimore that year and settled on the ticket of Greeley and Brown, which was accepted afterward by the regular party.

The convention which will open on next Tuesday will be housed in the great Coliseum, which was constructed with reference to providing an ample meeting place for these national political gatherings which are becoming so much a matter of course for Chicago. This huge structure is at the corner of Wabash avenue and Fifteenth street and occupies the site of the famous Libby prison building during the World's fair. The Coliseum, which will seat 10,000 persons without overcrowding, was finished in 1900 and is a permanent building of steel, stone and glass. It is 300 feet in length, 150 in width and decidedly attractive in architectural appearance.

ELLISON STAPLES

SOME CUEER PIPES.

Men who are accustomed to smoking a favorite tobacco in their familiar briar or meerschaum would be considerably disconcerted if obliged to substitute some of the strange pipes used by less civilized smokers. Natives of the arctic region, for example, enjoy their smoke through a walrus tooth. In Assam and Burma pipes of bamboo are used. The tribes of New Guinea contrive seashells as bowls for their pipes. The aborigine of New Zealand has an elaborately carved wooden pipe embellished with the typical grotesque figures so familiar in the native art of that country. On the Yarkand river, in central Asia, pipes are made of jade. The Hindoos mold their pipes of rough red clay, and the tribes of South Africa use wood, clay, bone and soapstone.

The white man adopted the idea of pipes from the aboriginal races of America, and he soon found that cheap-

er and better pipes could be made of clay. The typical "English" clay pipe appears to have been made within a year or two after the introduction of tobacco smoking by Raleigh. Paul Hetzner, a German lawyer, who visited England in 1588, notes with surprise the use of clay pipes.

It is said that the earliest pipes adopted by the rich were made of silver. Some of the wealthy "buffets of tobacco" may have used such pipes, but the poorer classes "drank" their tobacco through a straw attached to a walnut shell. The majority of early smokers in England soon became enamored of the white clay pipe, a "little tube of mighty power," which was almost universally adopted.

NAPOLEONIC RELICS.

No relics of the world's great men are more prized than those which possess the purely personal distinction, and any connected with Napoleon are among the most cherished. These souvenirs of the great "Little Corporal" are numerous and are scattered in many countries. Of the half dozen hats which have survived him one is preserved in the Conde museum at Chantilly. Prince Victor Napoleon owns another, and his brother, Prince Louis, a third. A fourth belongs to the artist Armand Dumaresque, a fifth is in the Museum of the Army, and a sixth may be seen at Mire. Tussaud's in London, where, too, is preserved the carriage in which Napoleon rode to Waterloo. The cradle in which he slumbered as an infant is in an American drawing room. The boots he wore at his coronation were sold in Alsace a few years ago for 25 marks. The chair he used during his captivity at St. Helena was sold recently at Sotheby's auction rooms, London. One of his teeth attracted considerable notice at a recent exhibition of the English Royal Amateur Art society, and a lock of his hair, shorn in St. Helena, was disposed of for \$25 not long ago in a London sales room.

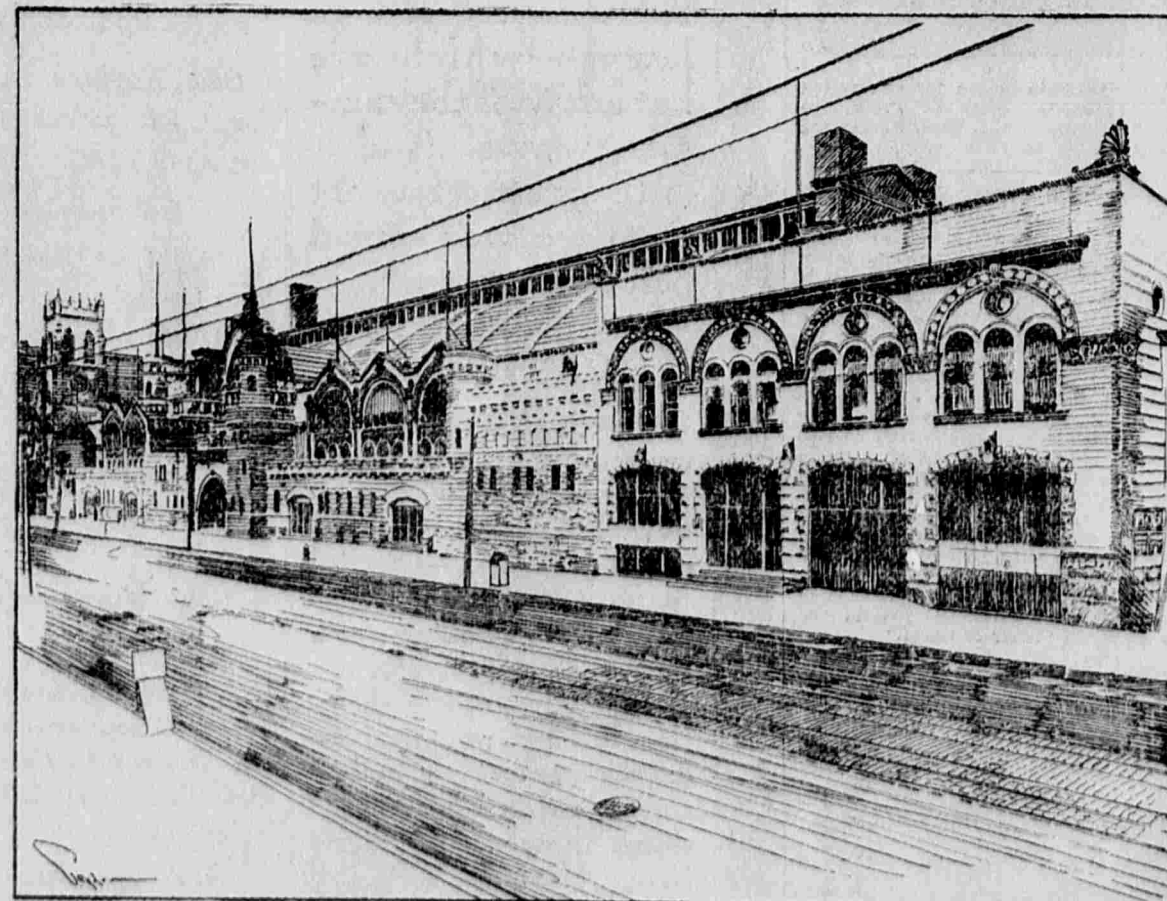
DISCOVERY OF AN EXPLOSIVE.

Lyddite is merely a form of picric acid melted down and allowed to solidify. It was discovered in 1771 and for a century and a half served a peaceful but very useful purpose as a dye for silk and woolen materials without its explosive powers being dreamed of. In some years ago a warehouse fire occurred in Manchester, England, and the flames spread to a shed in which picric acid was stored. There was a terrible explosion, and an investigation took place, with the result that lyddite was born.

who are lame are affected on the left side.

Cotunnite, a mineral found in the products of all Vesuvian eruptions, contains lead, but no appreciable quantity of uranium. It has a radio activity equal to about 1.1 times that of pure crystallized uranium nitrate. The bacillus typhosus will live from five to seven days upon a gold coin, but dies in less than eighteen hours upon other metals.

A metallurgist states that plain carbon manganese steel with an addition of .25 per cent of vanadium has the



COLISEUM, HOME OF THE FOURTEENTH REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

summed on the third day of the convention, and up to the time of convening the New York delegation had spent most of the forenoon parading the streets behind a brass band. When the procession reached the Wigwam, the great new structure which had been

Wigwam knew that the tall, ungainly Springfield lawyer had won. "Lincoln" shouted a cheer finally, and at that end it was deemed expedient to hold the convention in Chicago. As it was, Lincoln carried his state by only 12,900.

ing on vessels registered in the United Kingdom declined by 2,558, and in the ensuing five years the reduction in numbers was as much as 4,597. The present quinquennial census brings the reassuring statement that there has been an increase of 7,665 and that the number of British seamen has in fifteen years grown by 521.

Buddhism numbers 500,000,000 adherents—one-third of the entire human family. To Buddha a rural devotee made an offering of 6,480,320 flowers at the temple and at another place in the five years from 1891 to 1896

many trustworthy records of the depth of the rainfall during such occurrences exist. The following instance therefore possesses much interest. On Aug. 6, 1904, during a thunderstorm in the Fiji Islands, the measured depth of the rainfall in a gauge elevated twenty-five feet above the ground was three feet and one inch. The rain continued thirteen hours, and, owing to unmeasured overflow, the total amount remains unknown, but it is estimated to have been not less than forty-one inches.

In the five years from 1891 to 1896

old, about fifty feet high and has 40,000 blossoms each season.

The wise look of the owl is caused by a physiological oddity. His eyes being fixed immovably in their sockets.

By the fact that Germany's iron and coal industry alone uses about 400 large gas engines, with a combined capacity of 420,000 horsepower, the importance of gas as a source of energy is strikingly evidenced.

In Sweden and Norway it is a crime to make any profit on the sale of liquor. It must be dispensed at cost price.

The effects sometimes produced by

FITS AND MISFITS.

E. L. Rinnman of the University of Upsala, Sweden, claims to have discovered a new process for the electrical extraction of aluminum from blue clay by which the cost of production is reduced to about one-quarter of the present rate.

Lead and tin can be obtained very pure. Good brands of commercial lead contain 99.95 per cent lead and are often even purer. Lead is the purest metal which is made commercially.

The lace output of Nottingham, England, covers 1,000,000 yards a week.