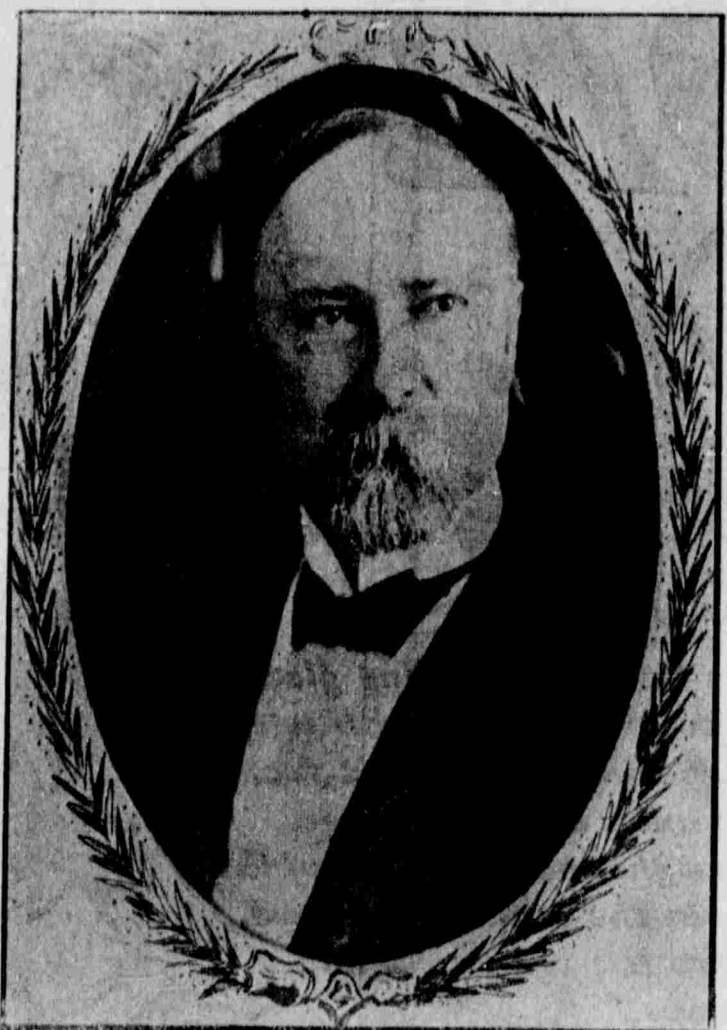


THE VICE PRESIDENT TALKS

A HUMAN INTEREST CHAT WITH CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS ON OUR COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)



VICE PRESIDENT FAIRBANKS,

As He Looks From His Latest Photograph Which Was Furnished Mr. Carpenter for the Christmas News.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—This is a talk about every-day matters with an every-day man. I refer to the vice president of the United States, Charles W. Fairbanks. The vice president is a man of the people and, like his good and great friend, the late President McKinley, he keeps his ear close to the ground. He believes in the people and in the plain every-day things that the people love. He has faith in men and things. He speaks nation with a big N and Christianity with a capital C. He is not pyrotechnic in speech nor action, and his conversation is not filled with the fireworks of rhetoric nor the gaseous bombast of that of some of our so-called statesmen. Still, it is interesting, and the reason it is interesting, it seems to me, is largely because of its blunt plainness and rugged simplicity.

If you want to know what the vice president thinks on public questions you must look at his speeches. He makes many of them and in some strikes out from the shoulder. The talk I give you today is not of that kind. It is a hit-and-miss chat such as two friends might have when out fishing and the bites are few, or like one at a corner grocery at a country crossroads, yourself seated on an empty upturned

tail keg and the vice president on another.

THE VICE PRESIDENT AN EARLY RISER.

To get the real picture of my talk with the vice president you must make the time early morning. It is long before Uncle Sam's great army of government clerks has started to office, and we are sitting together in the study of the Fairbanks home in Washington. The vice president has already breakfasted, and his sparkling eyes show the effect of healthy but not over-sleep. It is rather early for me, but I have come by appointment, and I open the conversation by a remark about the early bird, asking the vice president what he thinks of him. He replies:

"I believe in early rising. The men who are doing the work of the world are those who get up early and work late. That is the way our country was built. We could not have chopped down the forests, and conquered the soil, we could not have built these great cities and made ourselves the richest nation of the world otherwise our forefathers were early risers, and it is largely from the work which they did in the early morning that we are profiting today. It was the same with our fathers. Both you and I can remember our boyhood days in Ohio, and how the custom was to rise with the dawn. I was brought up on a farm, and my father cleared the land and built the cabin in which we started life. I remember we got up at daybreak and had the chores done and were out in the fields hard at work long before the hour

The Young American and His Possibilities—Corruption in Public Life and the Virtues of Charity—Why We Are Strong—A Nation of Inventors—Our Future And How We Grow—The Vice President Speaks of His Boyhood and the Changes Since Then—A Sane, Common Sense View of the Situation.

when the city clerk of today has finished his breakfast."

"But is not that still the case in many parts of the United States?"

"To a certain extent, yes," replied the vice president, "but the custom of getting up early is fast passing away. We have still early risers, but they are chiefly on the farms. Many of them are boys who are fitting themselves to be the rulers of the country for the future."

YOUNG AMERICA IN 1906.

"But, Mr. Vice President, do you not think the young Americans of today less strong than those of a generation ago? Have not our conditions changed that luxury is sapping their strength? Are they not becoming effeminate, flabby and weak?"

"No," was the reply. "The young American is as strong today as ever, and he will continue strong as long as we have a great country to develop and great prizes to win. You must look for the young men by the disinterested youth of the cities. You must go out into the country for the real Americans and real Americanism. You will find there are as many as anywhere in the world. There are also strong young men in the east and there are some even in the cities. You must look for the best, however, outside the clubs and the golf grounds. This country is all right and its people are all right. Indeed, they were never stronger nor better than now."

THE NATION ALL RIGHT.

"How about our business and political morality? Many think we are hopelessly combed with corruption and that our whole body politic is fast on its way to Gehenna?"

"There is nothing in that idea," said the vice president of the United States. "We have some dishonest men, but no more in proportion than we had in the past. If you will go back to the time when our fathers fought the revolutionary war and will use the proper diligence you will find that there were dishonest men then. There were grafters and bootlickers in the days of Washington and Jefferson, and the newspapers of their times made no bones of saying so. Every day has its scandals and those days were no exception. Many men were slandered unjustly and I doubt not some scandals escaped without censure. As to unjust criticisms, George Washington himself was denounced again and again, and one paper charged him with being dishonest and an enemy to his country. At the same time other public men committed crimes which were exposed. That was the case when we had less than 3,000,000 people. Now we have 30 times that many and the telegraph and the newspaper do not let the misdeeds of our public men lie dormant."

THE NATION IMPROVING.

"But are we growing better?"

"I think so," was the reply. "I believe we are growing much better from year to year. We are more patriotic and we take broader views of men and things. I am an optimist and I have little sympathy with the pessimist. The trouble with many is that they are look-

ing at our country through the wrong end of a glass. One can get too close to a big thing to examine it properly. You, yourself, have been long enough away from the United States, and they always rise and wipe them out. As to charity, I believe in that. There is no nobler attribute in man's make-up. You must remember, when he first thought of him, he called upon himself His three angels, Truth, Justice and Mercy, and thus dressed them. 'Shall we make many?' The first to answer was Truth. She said: 'Oh! God, make him not, for he will pollute Thy sanctuary.' 'Shall we make many?' The question was asked again, and Justice replied: 'Oh! God, make him not, for he will trample upon Thy laws.' Again the question, and Mercy, falling upon her knees and crying through her tears, said: 'Oh! God, make him, and I will follow him through the dark paths he may have to tread.' 'That means that you believe in the square deal with the addition of charity,' said I.

THE VIRTUE OF CHARITY.

"But are you not very charitable in that view, Mr. Vice President?" said I. "I am not overly so," was the reply. "I believe what I have said. Our country and our people are a good condition, and such corruption as we have we shall fight against and conquer. The American people are big enough to 'hunch' a thing like that. They are long suffering and so busy that they allow some evils to exist for a period, but when those evils grow large enough to be really dangerous to the nation they always rise and wipe them out. As to charity, I believe in that. There is no nobler attribute in man's make-up. You must remember, when he first thought of him, he called upon himself His three angels, Truth, Justice and Mercy, and thus dressed them. 'Shall we make many?' The first to answer was Truth. She said: 'Oh! God, make him not, for he will pollute Thy sanctuary.' 'Shall we make many?' The question was asked again, and Justice replied: 'Oh! God, make him not, for he will trample upon Thy laws.' Again the question, and Mercy, falling upon her knees and crying through her tears, said: 'Oh! God, make him, and I will follow him through the dark paths he may have to tread.' 'That means that you believe in the square deal with the addition of charity,' said I.

"HAVE WE REACHED THE TOP?"

"But, Mr. Vice President," said I, "our days of development are rapidly nearing their close. Our forests are almost all cleared, our roads are made and our cities built. Are we not now reaching the top—yes, beginning to go down on the other side?"

"No," was the emphatic reply. "We have merely blocked out our work and shall continue to grow for centuries to come. The United States is in its infancy, and this is so from Boston to San Francisco. The east will some day be intensively farmed and each acre will produce many times what it does now. As for the west, it has vast areas which are untouched, which will some day blossom like the rose. We are already reclaiming our deserts by the use of the proper seed alone, without increasing the acreage or cost of

WHY WE ARE STRONG.

"What do you think of our country, Mr. Fairbanks," said I, "as a field for national building?"

"It is one of the best ever created," he replied. "Our nation is strong to-day largely because it has been placed here and because of the elements of which it is made. Our founders were the best citizens of the countries from

which they came. Had they not had strong characters they would have submitted to oppression and stayed at home. They talk of us Americans as being the offspring of the union of Europe. The truth is we come from the cream of Europe, and the seam in this case is the cream. The emigrant is always the cream of any population as far as strength of body and mind is concerned. The feeble will not dare to leave home and the weak-spirited always remain. During all the years of our history we have been skimming the cream of the Europeans and incorporating it into our national body."

BUILDING A NATION.

"With such elements to work with the United States has become strong because of the difficulties its people have had to overcome. Muscles grow with use, and we have had to use our bodies and minds. We have had to carve a country out of a wilderness, and we have built up our national strength while fighting with the wilds. This has given us self-confidence. It has toughened us and strengthened us, and has also developed certain characters in which we are superior to any other people."

"Take, for instance, the matter of inventions. The newest and best of machines are made by us. We have thousands of patents granted every year, and we have done more than any other nation to enable man to do his work more easily and more effectively. One reason for this is that our fathers began their life fight in the woods without machinery or supplies of any kind. They had to make everything for themselves and to invent ways and means to accomplish their ends. Their children were brought up to think, plan and invent, and the result is that we have a nation of thinkers and inventors. Even our statesmen have dabbled in inventions. Thomas Jefferson made many, and you may today find models of patents applied for by Abraham Lincoln in the National Museum at Washington."

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M. LINN BRUCE.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR RESIGNS TO TAKE A FAT JOB.

Lieut.-Gov. M. Linn Bruce, of New York, defeated for re-election on Nov. 6, has resigned his office in order to accept appointment as a justice of the supreme court. Mr. Bruce will serve in his new capacity until Jan. 1, 1907. As a justice he will receive \$17,500 a year, whereas his salary as lieutenant-governor was only \$5,000 a year.

cultivation, it can be doubled, thus adding hundreds of millions of dollars to our national income."

"Nevertheless," said I, "we can hardly claim to be very young as a nation. We are more than 100 years old."

"One hundred years!" said the vice president. "What is 100 years in the life of a nation? I, myself, know men who are 90 years old. I know some who are doing active work at 80, and I have met two who have seen their full century of age. These men had lived almost as long as our nation. It is, in short, only three generations. Take your own years and mine and add them together and they will reach almost back to the beginning of our government. I know that our 100 years have been five years. They have comprised more progress along most lines than any other 100 years since the world began, and we should be glad to have been a part of them, but to say that there is to be no continuance of that progress in the future is absurd. Indeed, our prospects are far greater now than ever."

"And yet," continued the vice president, reflectively, "our progress has been so great that it amazes me. When I go back to my old home in Ohio and think of the conditions of my boyhood in contrast with the present I am astounded. It is 50-odd years since I was born there and my baby eyes looked out upon a wilderness covered with giant trees. My father chopped down the woods and built the log cabin where I spent my boyhood, and the same work was going on for miles in every direction. That country today is a great farm village with fine homes built of stone, brick and boards. During my boyhood the roads were full of stumps and you could not drive a wagon along them without danger of being overturned or spending hours getting out of mud holes. The roads today are equal to the famed Appian Way, the electric

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Blaque Dolls, moving eyes	25c to 95c	Wash Boars	15c
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And many other kinds.		High Chairs	30c
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Locomotives	35c	Hook and Ladders	25c to \$2.25
Walking Toys	45c and 50c	Sulkys	25c to 60c
Stationary Steam Engines	50c to \$2.50	Toy Stoves	35c to \$1.45
Jumping Dogs	25c	Irons	10c to 35c
Loop the Loops	50c	Saws and Barks	10c to 75c
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And many others.		Pistols	10c
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Novelty Games, interesting to all ages	5c to 35c
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