

has from that time to this been either in the Senate or the cabinet, making his continuous record at Washington, from the time he came here as a member of Congress until today, the longest of any of our great men in the public service. I found Senator Sherman in his library at his home on K street last night. He said:

"President Lincoln had to select his cabinet with great care. The situation was so critical and the people were so divided by factions and by the great questions before the country that it was necessary to have a cabinet which could work together and in which there should be no unharmonious or antagonistic elements. Among the first members chosen were Seward as secretary of state, Montgomery Blair as postmaster general and Salmon P. Chase as secretary of the treasury. The choice of Mr. Chase hung fire for some time; it was thought from the opposition of Blair and Seward, and it was at this time that President Lincoln, I have been told, thought of making me Secretary of the Treasury. In looking back upon the situation today I am surprised to see how little I cared for the office. My ambition was then to be speaker of the House. I had been a candidate and had come within a vote or so of being elected, and it was generally conceded that I was to be next speaker. This at that time seemed to me a much more desirable office than that of senator of the United States, and when the legislature met in Ohio to elect a Senator I did not feel at all anxious to be a candidate. My name was presented, however, and there were a number of ballots, during most of which I had a larger vote than any other candidate, but not enough to secure my election. I was here at Washington at this time and I telegraphed them to withdraw my name. It was withdrawn and the balloting went on for the other candidates, my votes being scattered among them. After some time, during which the balloting continued without any sign of an election, I was telegraphed to come out to Ohio. I did so and my name was again brought before the legislature and I was elected to the United States Senate. In the meantime Salmon P. Chase had been appointed as secretary of the treasury and the Senate confirmed his nomination."

SENATOR SHERMAN AND PRESIDENT HAYES.

"How about your acceptance of the treasury portfolio under President Hayes, Senator Sherman?" I asked.

"There is no special story connected with it," replied Mr. Sherman. "I was notified by President Hayes that he would like to have me for his secretary of the treasury some time before his inauguration, and while the question of his election was still pending. I accepted this position largely because I wanted to carry out the resumption policy that I had proposed in the Senate. I think myself and Mr. Evarts were the two first appointments that President Hayes decided upon. I am sure that he made no promises before his nomination and none until after his election."

HOW LINCOLN'S CABINET OFFICES WERE SOLD.

Speaking of President Lincoln's cabinet, this statement of Senator Sherman as to offices being promised before hand could not be made as to it. Lincoln started into his campaign handi-

capped with cabinet promises. His nomination was largely secured through such promises, and I had a chat the other day with Peter S. Grosscup of Chicago, who has just been appointed United States district judge by President Harrison, which gave me the true inwardness of this part of our history. Mr. Grosscup was the law partner of Leonard Swett, President Lincoln's long-time friend and political adviser. Leonard Swett and David Davis were the real workers of the Illinois delegation at the nominating convention, and the circumstances of the nomination were told by Swett to Mr. Grosscup. Said he:

"When the convention met the chances of Lincoln's nomination were by no means certain, and Swett and Davis were the only true workers in the delegation. They promised everything in order to get votes, and they agreed that Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania should have places in the cabinet if these states would vote for Lincoln in the convention. As soon as the nomination was made they went to President Lincoln and told him of the contracts they had made for him and the names of the men whom the states would probably want to appoint. President Lincoln said: 'As to Indiana, Caleb Smith is a good man and I would be glad to have him in my cabinet. I don't object to James Speed of Kentucky, but I don't know about Simon Cameron. Either justly or unjustly he has been charged with having been accessory to certain jobs. I am making this campaign as honest old Abe, and I want to avoid even the appearance of evil.' It was a long time before Davis and Swett could accomplish their ends, but Cameron, at their entreaty, got the secretaryship of war. Smith of Indiana was made secretary of the interior, and later on in the administration, James Speed of Kentucky was made attorney general. Cameron was afterward appointed minister to Russia, and he left the cabinet on that account."

EX-POSTMASTER GENERAL TYNER TALKS OF GRANT'S CABINET.

Judge Tyner of Indiana now attorney general of the post office department, was in the cabinet of President Grant as postmaster general. He was first assistant postmaster general during the first part of Grant's administration and he has given me some interesting data about General Grant's cabinet methods. I called upon him yesterday in his office at the Post Office Department. During my conversation he said:

"General Grant's cabinet was, you know, a surprise to every one. It was generally thought that he would appoint politicians and when he selected A. T. Stewart, the great merchant of New York, to be secretary of the treasury, and Adolph E. Borie as his secretary of the navy, every one was surprised. The appointments created a good deal of comment, and Stewart was unable to serve because of a law which prevented all men who were interested in the importation of merchandise from being secretaries of the treasury. About a week after the inauguration I went up to call on President Grant at the White House and renewed the acquaintance I had made with him during the war. I had met him when he was in command at Cairo, when I was an agent at the post office department, sent to confer

with him about the mails. I said to him during the talk: 'I see that in the making of your cabinet you have decided to break away from the old rule of appointing all politicians and are taking men from other ranks in life.'

"Yes, it does seem so," said President Grant.

"Well," I went on, 'you might be able to do this if you were managing an army, but I am sure that you will find before you have gone through your administration that the politicians will be the best men to aid you in the management of your administration, and that you will ultimately rely upon them.'

"That may be," replied the President. 'I will, however, first try the other course, but I will be honest about it, and if I find that I am not doing the right thing I will make the change as soon as I can do so.'

"He did find himself wrong in this respect," continued Judge Tyner, 'and when I met him at Paris during his trip around the world I referred to my conversation and to his change to politicians, and he told me that he found it a necessity.'

HOW GRANT TREATED HIS CABINET.

"How did Grant treat his cabinet ministers, Judge Tyner?" I asked.

"He left all matters concerning their own department to them," replied Judge Tyner, "and he excepted them to decide all ordinary questions for themselves. Questions of public policy he considered for himself and very important matters relating to the service were always brought to him, but as a rule he adopted the recommendations of his cabinet advisers. As an instance of his mode of doing business, a day or so after I was made postmaster general I took up about a score of important appointments and one or two questions involving the expenditure of money to him. I had the briefs concerning these in my hand and I asked him to look at them. He said:

"Have you read them?"

"Certainly I have," I replied.

"Have you considered what is best to do about them?"

"Yes; here are my recommendations as to the disposal of them."

"Well, that is all I want to know," replied General Grant. 'I will make the appointments and sign the papers.'

"But don't you want to look into the records of the men and see the arguments in the briefs?" said I.

"No, I do not," replied General Grant. 'That's what I have you for. If your judgment is not sufficiently strong to pass upon such things and to investigate them in the proper way I will have to look around for some man who is out of a job to take your place. All I want you to do is to look into such matters and decide them for me. If you are sure they are right I will do as you say.' And he thereupon made the appointments and signed the papers."

HORATIO KING ON BUCHANAN'S CABINET.

President Buchanan treated his cabinet in about the same way that Grant did. He was, however, a tickler for cabinet etiquette, and he was very particular that no outside expenses should ever creep into his department budgets. He got very angry at Howell Cobb, his secretary of the treasury, one day for charging up a junket on one