FACE THE FACTS!

Weeks Talks About Our Navy and National Defense.

Insists on Military, Commercial, Financial and Industrial Preparedness—Let Us Be Ready for Peace as Well as War.

By JAMES B. MORROW, in the Philadelphia Record.

NONE of the Weekses, save John Wingate, the senator and the Massachusetts candidate for president—toiling as they all did among the granite humps of New Hampshire—was ever noted for his accumulation of cash or property.

They were farmers mostly, beginning with Leonard Weeks, who, emigrating from England in 1656, became the head and source of the family. Agriculture sternly practiced among the embedded rocks and irremovable bowlders taught them to be resourceful and to keep at least one eye open to opportunity.

So William D., the father of the senator, was a probate judge, and once essayed to be a manufacturer. With the co-operation of neighbors, likewise alert and adventurous, he started a factory at Lancaster for making starch from potatoes.

"I will never forget the look on my father's face," Captain Weeks told me, "when, on a Sunday morning, just as we were leaving church, we saw men and boys running down the street and heard them crying: 'The starch factory is burning.'

Captain John Wingate Weeks.

"There was no insurance—the policy had lapsed—and the fire swept away all of my father's means and put a burdensome mortgage on his farm, two and a half miles in the country."

If there had been a navy of a respectable size in 1881 John Wingate Weeks would now be a captain instead of a senator. Nor would he ever have become a banker and thus have set at naught all the traditions of the Weeks family for self-respecting, capable and wholesome poverty.

And yet a psychological analysis of inherited traits might show that the senator comes naturally by his talents for public affairs and finance. Any inquiry into his personality must include the Wingates, the chief of whom, John, an Englishman, emigrated to New Hampshire in 1660.

The Weekses and the Wingates intermarried during the second American generation—the Weekses to continue as farmers, with an excursion into potato starch, as has been recorded, but the Wingates to become soldiers, preachers and statesmen. Paine Wingate, for example, the great-grandson of John, was a member of the Continental congress and later a senator from New Hampshire.

A Big Man Physically.

John Wingate Weeks of Massachusetts, in his name, therefore, goes back to the middle of the seventeenth century. Perhaps his gifts are equally as ancient. Wherever they originated, he has made good use of them. He is well-to-do—but has less money, perhaps, than is often represented—and Republicans in Massachusetts have notified the country that he is their candidate for president. If he is nominated at Chicago in June, the main reason will have been that he is a business man. His candidacy, then, will be something entirely new in national politics.

In his measurements, Captain Weeks is a large man. A reasonable guess at his weight would be 250 pounds. His stature, perhaps, is five feet and eleven inches. His eyes are gray and his manner is frank and hearty. While at the naval academy he could slowly raise a 112-pound dumbbell above his head with his right hand. Then, kneeling with one leg, he could slowly raise an 81-pound dumbbell with his left hand. More than that he could lower his hands to his shoulders and slowly and simultaneously put both dumbbells above his head the second time.

A muscular youth, he was recommended by his principal to the "prudential committee" that called at the academy in Lancaster on a hunt of a teacher for their district school. The school was then closed—a group of the large boys having carried the teacher into the road, slammed him down in the dirt and warned him never to return.

"Lick 'em and lick 'em good," the prudential committee said. "We'll back you up if you do."

"The third day, Captain Weeks told me, "a big, red-faced boy took his pen in hand and laboriously began to write a letter—that is, he was seemingly engaged in writing a letter; as a matter of fact, he was showing off before the school and experimenting with the new teacher. When ordered to put his pen and paper away, he smiled around the room at the pupils, who had stopped working, and then resumed his writing.

"I took him by the collar, dragged him out of his seat and gave him a thorough whipping. He turned out to be the son of the chairman of the prudential committee. The old man never spoke to me again, not even when I met him in the road, he riding in a buggy and I walking to or from my work."

Went to Sea for Two Years.

On his graduation at the Annapolis Naval Academy, young John Wingate Weeks went to sea for a cruise of two years. Seventy men were in his class, but there was room for only 10 of them in the navy. The navy itself consisted of but five steam vessels classed as first-rates, and they were obsolete and unfit for active duty. George Barnett, his room-mate, went into the Marine Corps and is now a major general and the commandant of that branch of the naval service.

In Florida, where he had been engaged as a surveyor on a railroad, the late Midshipman Weeks learned that an old firm in Boston was going out of business. One of the partners had died and another had become blind. Henry Hornblower, a son of one of the partners, and the youthful Mr. Weeks bought the business, the latter borrowing the money with which to begin his career as a banker and broker.

Hornblower acted for the firm on the floor of the Boston Stock Exchange. Weeks kept the books and waited on the customers as they appeared. In a few years the two young men had offices all over New England and in cities as far away as Chicago.

"I got my first valuable business idea from a famous New England dressmaker," Captain Weeks said to the writer of this article. "A friend who came to spend the night at our house was talking to Mrs. Weeks while I was reading a newspaper. I heard her say that she had bought a dress in Boston, and that soon after, on returning to the store, the proprietor, noticing her at the counter, asked if she had purchased the dress she was wearing at his establishment. On learning that she had, he said:

"'It is not right. Please give your name and address to the clerk and we shall correct the matter at once.'

A Story of Great Value.

"'But,' the woman replied, 'the dress is satisfactory to me. Whatever is wrong is so small that it is not worth mentioning.'

"'Small to you, madam,' the man answered, 'but very large to us.'

"'And do you know,' the woman told Mrs. Weeks, 'the dress was not only taken back, but it was kept and I was given a new one.'

"I repeated the story to my partner next day," Captain Weeks said, "and from that time onward we tried to please our customers before we thought of ourselves and the probable profits we could make in our transactions."

Three years ago, following at once his election to the upper House of Congress, Captain Weeks sold out to his partners and disposed of every interest that might be thought, even indirectly, to influence his judgment as a lawmaker. It it said in New England that he has always been very careful about his reputation as a business man. An anecdote told of him in State street, the Wall street of Boston, shows how his sensitiveness to public opinion on one occasion proved highly profitable to his partner and himself.

A run on a bank in which Captain Weeks was a director, though he owned but $900 of the stock, threatened, so he feared, to injure his standing in the community. He spent a day and a night at the bank, pledged two-thirds of all the property he and his partner owned for the payment of the bank's debts and put through a rehabilitating plan under which the shareholders were assessed 50 per cent. on their holdings. The bank was saved, but some of the frightened shareholders sold out. Their interests were promptly bought by Captain Weeks. The bank prospered and later was combined with other large banks. Boston financiers say that Mr. Hornblower and Mr. Weeks ultimately made $250,000 on the stock which they purchased when the bank seemed to be on the verge of ruin.

When I asked Captain Weeks about the matter, he said: "I was a young man and couldn't afford to be a director in a bank that had closed its doors in the faces of its depositors, many of whom were poor and most of whom were small merchants and wage-earners."

"How," I asked him, inasmuch as he was a sailor himself once, and is now on terms of intimacy with many high officers, "would you describe the navy of the United States?"

"At the outbreak of the war in Europe," he answered, "our navy, in my opinion, was the second best in existence. Authorities for whom I have great respect did not agree with me. They ranked our navy third or fourth—some giving France second place and some believing Germany was stronger at sea than ourselves.

"I still think that in ships alone we were the equal of France or Germany and much the superior of Japan. Our officers are the ablest in the world; our crews are the most intelligent. No nation gives its officers the training that is given to the naval officers of the United States. And the men in our ships, coming from farms and villages, in large part, are the finest morally and physically afloat.

"In my days, back in 1880, let us say, the sailor on shore leave who returned to his ship sober was keelhauled or otherwise punished by his mates. All that has changed. Intoxicated sailors are see no more on the streets. Our men are sober, serious and capable. When an estimate of any navy is made, the personnel, as well as the ships, must be considered.

Lessons of the War.

"So I had thought that only Great Britain excelled us as a naval power at the outbreak of the war in Europe. Since the war started, France and Germany have geen building ships. Our rank just now, therefore, is uncertain. But we have a good navy. Still, it should be much larger."

"Has the war taught the world any naval lessons?"

"A great many. It has shown the value of aeroplanes, which are now known as the eyes of the fleet. They are very necessary as scouts. Leaving the deck of a vessel, they can easily locate the enemy and are therefore of the greatest possible use in the events that occur before a battle.

"The submarines, too, it has been learned, are of a real and practical service. All officers think they have become a permanent addition to every navy, but there is some disagreement as to their general utility. Can a swarm of submarines, for instance, go to sea, meet a fleet and destroy it? The question cannot be answered until such an attempt has been made and either failed or succeeded.

"I asked one of the highest military authorities in the country if 1,000 submarines, along with mines, could safeguard the United States against invasion—the mines to blow up the enemies' ships off shore, if any happened to get that near, the submarines having met the rest and destroyed them before they came within striking distance of our coasts. The answer was that such a measure of protection, an invasion of the United States would, to say the least, be made very difficult.

"You see, no one can tell as yet what part the submarines will take in the wars of the future. Their uses are slowly being developed, and we cannot know what they are capable of doing until the French or British fleet meets the fleet of Emperor William.

"Also, it has been learned that battle cruisers are required to bring a navy up to its highest efficiency. Cruisers formerly were used as scouts and to hunt down and destroy the merchant ships of an enemy. They were swift, but not heavy enough to take a place in the battle line when large vessels were engaged.

A Sea Battle First.

"The modern cruiser, however, can fight, being covered with armor and armed with large guns. Steaming 30 knots an hour, it can run all around a fleet of dreadnaughts and pump shells into them from a long distance and from any angle. Our navy must have battle cruisers, besides a great many submarines and aeroplanes, if we mean to be in a position where we can protect ourselves against injury, insult or dishonor.

"It should be always remembered," Captain Weeks went on to say, "that our navy will be our first line of defense. American ships will meet foreign ships before there is a battle on shore. If the United States goes to war with any nation in Euorpe or Asia, the fleets of the two countries will fight for the supremacy of the sea.

"No invading army will set out for America until it is safe from attack by our fleet. So long as our fleet is afloat, no army will venture to start for our shores. Moving troops from one country to another is an immense undertaking, even when it is safe to do so.

"Four hundred large ships, for example, would be required to transport an army of 250,000 men from Japan to the United States. Armies traveling by water have to carry their own artillery, ammunition and horses. Japan would not send 400 large troop ships out into the Pacific unless its fleet had fought and defeated our fleet. Nor would Germany or any other country in Europe attempt an invasion of the United States so long as our fleet, decks cleared, was waiting in the Atlantic.

"Looking to the East, I can see no probable danger that is likely to occur in the near future, unless the allies are thoroughly beaten by Germany, or unless Germany is thoroughly beaten by the allies. If the war is practically a draw at the end, the efforts of all the great nations to maintain an equilibrium of power will keep them entirely engaged for some time with their own affairs."

"Do you believe that a trade war against this country will follow the restoration of peace in Europe?"

"Such a war will come—there is no doubt of it. Loaded with debt, burdened with taxation, Europe will turn with energy and ferocity to the works of peace. The factories in Europe, except in Belgium, Poland and Northern France, have not been shut down nor burned. Indeed, new ones have been built. Industrially, save in the places I have named, Europe is better situated now than when the war began.

Facts to Be Faced.

"Things have been speeded up in Great Britain, Germany and France. The factories, old ones and new ones, are running. They will be running after the armies at the front have been sent home, but instead of making cannon and ammunition, as at present, they will be operated night and day in the production of goods for the American markets.

All Americans, no matter whether they call themselves Democrats or Republicans, ought to have courage enough and wisdom enough to face the facts. Europe is going to take possession of the markets in this country if we do not defend ourselves. You spoke of an invasion by soldiers. There can also be an invasion with products.

I favor all kinds of defenses—military, commercial, financial and industrial. And right here at home I think some of us need defense against fallacious ideas. For instance: This is a great business nation and yet we hear many suggestions that business be taken out of the ownership and management which have developed it and made it wonderfully successful, so that it may be turned over to the national government.

Business ought to be regulated, but we have regulated the railroads so vigorously that no more are being built, although they are sorely needed in some parts of the country. Furthermore, the time has come when the railroads cannot borrow money for short periods on as advantageous terms as can other lines of big business. And yet transportation, next to agriculture, is our most important industry.

Would government ownership and operation improve the situation?

No; the situation would be made worse. State ownership and operation has failed in France, Canada and other countries. Wherever it has been tried, expenses are increased and deficits created. On the Western Railroad of France the operating charges went up 50 per cent in three years. More than 5,200 new men were employed—no workers on the tracks, engineers, conductors or brakemen, but clerks, porters and other little politicians, places for whom were found around the general offices and at the stations.

Government ownership in the United States would add 1,200,000 men to our office-holding class, and congress would fix their salaries. Freight rates, I am sure, would be higher than at present and the consumers—the men who work—would be losers and not gainers.

THE OLD SONGS AND THE NEW

Stephen Foster and the Modern Ragtime Music.

The modern ragtime music—so-called, may be considered but a temporary aberration. A few years ago the popular airs were taken from the light comic operas, or from the sketchy music of the vaudeville artist. These have given way to variations on the plaintive negro airs of the old south and will in turn lead to something else that happens to catch the popular fancy.

But the simple songs of our fathers—the beautiful music and the heart-stirring words will again come into their own. And when they do the great American balladist, Stephen Foster, will be recognized as one, who perhaps more than any other, caught the spirit of his time, and rendered it into music and words that were sung by millions of his country men and women.

Foster was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1826, and received his education in the public schools. When only sixteen years of age, he wrote his first song, while clerking in a little store in Cincinnati. It was called "Open the Lattice, Love," and was soon followed by "Uncle Ned"—which at once caught the popular ear, and was sung all over the country.

Then came "O, Susanna"—popular with the minstrel troupes—and for which he received a hundred dollars. His "Old Folks at Home" was published in 1850—and brought him five hundred dollars from the then famous Christy minstrels. For copyrights o fthis song he received, first and last, nearly $15,000.

Among his most popular productions were "Old Black Joe," "Old Kentucky Home," "Old Folks at Home," and "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming." These touching and beautiful compositions are all to be found in "Heart Songs"—that wonderful song collection now being ofefred by this paper for six coupons and the cost of distribution. We believe this to be one of the most remarkable presentations ever offered to our readers—and it has our hearty endorsement back of it. A reference to the coupon printed in this issue will give information as to the terms upon which it may be had.

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BALLOT RULING IS GIVEN

All Must Be Numbered by Printer, Says Attorney General.

SALEM, April April 1.—Election ballots must be numbered for each precinct by the printer, and not by the clerks of election, when issued to the voters as heretofore, Attorney General Brown ruled. The attorney general declares that the legislature's elimination of the requirement that the number be placed on the ballot with pen and ink by the clerk woud indicate that the intent was to have the numbers placed there at the time the ballots are printed.

"The statute as amended," writes the attorney general, "providing that all of the ballots for each precinct shall be numbered consecutively, show that not only the ballots which are to be used are to be numbered, but all ballots."

TUSKEGEE SINGERS.

From Booker T. Washington Tuskegee School, crowded houses in California. Plantation melodies, Negro folk songs, dialect readings. Hear them on Monday, April 3, 8 p. m., M. E. church. Admission 25 cts., children 15 cts. 4141-a3

According to ord received here today the through service on the S. P. road to North Bend and Marshfield will commence April 15. On account of the fact that the bridge across the Umpqua river is not yet completed it will be necessary to transfer at this point. The train will leave Marshfield at 4:20 a. m. and arrive in Eugene at 5:10 p. m.

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