

Medford Daily Tribune

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OUR FIRST PRESIDENT.

One hundred and seventy-seven years ago today in the family homestead at Bridges Creek, in Westmoreland county, Virginia, George Washington, who was to become the first president of these United States, first saw the light of day. For years this day has been set aside so that the American people would continue to reverence the memory of the father of our country, justly said to be "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

First in war—As men look back through the dim vista of the years to those times of strife, it is clearly seen that the greatest factor in the final success of the revolution was the personal leadership of Washington. If we seek to explain it, it was not his great mind, for Franklin's was greater; not his force, energy or ingenuity, for Benedict Arnold surpassed him in these qualities; not his military experience, for Charles Lee's was far more extensive; but it was the strength of character which day by day won the love of his soldiers and the perfect confidence of his countrymen. The absence of a mean ambition, the one desire of serving well his country and his fellow men, the faithfulness that could not be driven from its task through jealousy or resentment—these were the traits that gave him a unique and solitary place among the world's heroes.

Washington's services did not end at Yorktown. As he had been "first in war," because he was most fitted, so his unique character and pre-eminent place in American hearts fated him to become "first in peace."

He brought order out of chaos. He united the weak union of states, preventing them from degenerating into a number of petty, weak and hostile provinces. He escaped also from the political storm which threatened when a grateful public would have made him king. It was his labors upon the foundation of this great republic that secured for him the first place in the hearts of his countrymen.

His was a noble figure to stand in the foreground of a nation's history. His simple manner well graced a republic, and yet there was a gravity and lofty courtesy that lent dignity to democratic forms. His own self-mastery was a living lesson to democracy, with its ill repute for turbulence. No more fitting ideal of manhood could have been chosen for a new republic.

OUR NEXT PRESIDENT.

In ten days the presidential term of Theodore Roosevelt will come to a close, and that of William Howard Taft will begin. The country will, after Mr. Taft takes his oath of office, await with interest to see the new man in action. At this time, therefore, the views of a man, long and intimately associated with Mr. Taft, are of interest. James P. Brown in Everybody's magazine gives a pen point study of him as follows:

"Mr. Taft's mind is of the judicial type; but it is something more than that. Placed in a position of executive responsibility, the ordinary judge winds himself about with red tape, loses himself in precedent. Taft's mind is large enough to rise one stage higher than that. While remaining true to the fundamental principles of law, he can cut his own red tape. His great practical accomplishment, the restoration of order in the Philippines, illustrates this combination of faculties. He was there to establish the law in a turbulent, unsettled, half-savage state, new both to law and to liberty. Ignoring the precedent when precedent hampered the spirit of the law, he adjusted, he harmonized, he made a government for those un-governed islands.

"So, we may say now as he takes his seat, the dominant note of Mr. Taft's administration will be executive justice—positive, virile, resolute justice, which will not await tardy complaints. With an initiative and purpose of his own, he will seek out wrongs and right them according to the principles of that fundamental law in which all his training has taught him to believe. He will be a quiet, forceful kind of radicalism—a radicalism which will settle controversies rather than create them—the kind of radicalism that counts.

"Tools of this justice and this common sense view of the methods of justice, are his sweetness and his inherent strength of character—a rainbow about a throne." That self-sacrifice which makes him generous to the point of imprudence in his private affairs is personal, not official; he gives from his own, not from the things intrusted to him. That smile of a big, good-natured boy is the unshamed expression of a kind and gentle character superimposed upon a masterful and serious nature. Don't let that smile deceive you; don't think that it indicates any flabby yearning for popularity."

The Alaska Yukon-Pacific exposition will be ready to open on May 1, one month before the day fixed for its formal opening. This is the first exposition to make good upon its original "first day."

The Alaska Shift, which towers 80 feet high in the center of the Alaska Yukon-Pacific exposition, will be covered with gold leaf hammered from Alaskan nuggets contributed by enthusiastic "wanderers."

Everybody's Magazine

IF YOU'VE GOT a little more money than you need for every-day uses, that's liable to find its way to Wall Street sometime—"for goodness' sake" invest 15 cents of it in the March EVERYBODY'S and find out how much chance you've got in "the big fellows' game." Your 15 cents will pay you back in \$50.

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