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The Tribune
Printers for Boosters

MRS. TAFT AVOIDING POLITICAL CLIQUES

All Factions Are on Common Ground
in Social Life at White
House Now.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—When the President and Mrs. Taft gave a large dinner a few days ago in honor of the Speaker of the house and Miss Cannon, society was given to understand that although the President may have had some heritage cast upon him by the proceeding administration, those of a personal character are not going to be borne, if the diplomacy of Mrs. Taft can avert it.

When the Tafts went into the White House society whispered among its own little circle its curiosity to know just what Mrs. Taft would do about recognizing those who were not in favor at the White House during Roosevelt's reign. It was not long before society found out that Mrs. Taft proposed to be as level-headed about looking after her household affairs, for almost the first distinguished guests to be received by the President and his wife were Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy Storer.

Storers Reduced.

The Storers had been persona non grata since the time when Roosevelt had been placed in an embarrassing position at Rome through Mrs. Storer's supposed activity in behalf of Archbishop Ireland for a courtship. When they came to Washington and called at the White House society stood aghast—not because it was not all right, but because it was so unexpected.

Mrs. Taft manifestly does not intend to play political favorites. In fact she has not aligned herself conspicuously with the wives of men prominent in the official circle. Her nearest friend is Miss Mable Broadman, who but for her connection with the National Red Cross, would occupy a position of prominence only through her social affiliations and wealth. Mrs. Winthrop Murray Crane, wife of Senator Crane, of Massachusetts, is another very close friend of Mrs. Taft, not because she is the wife of Senator Crane, but because she is a sister of Miss Broadman. Another close friend of Mrs. Taft is Mrs. Clarence Edwards, wife of Gen. Edwards, Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, who has absolutely no political connections, and still another is Mrs. J. Franklin Bell, wife of the Chief of staff of the army. Both of the latter were associated with her out in the Philippines.

Many Dinner Parties.

All this does not mean that Mrs. Taft is not gathering about the wives of men conspicuous in the political game. Her dinner parties have been given for little groups of Senators and representatives in congress and their wives, for men who are playing a prominent part in the politics of the day, and she is about to inaugurate a series of smart garden parties on the south lawn of the White House to which will be bidden members of the diplomatic, official and residential circles.

Mrs. Taft evidently has seen the game of politics played to long and has noted the consequences of affiliating with one side or the other. If she has any mind to align herself with one of the many factions so eager for such distinction in Washington she has not yet given any intimation of it. She is making an effort to bring all factions of society together and manifestly believes the best way to do this is to keep away from the interests of each little clique.

Miss Ethel Roosevelt, youngest daughter of the former President, is to come to Washington for a visit to Mrs. Longworth, but as there are no young people at the White House just now it is possible that Miss Roosevelt's visit to the Executive Mansion, if she makes any at all, will be merely calls of courtesy upon her father's successor.

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