

# BORN MULTI-MILLIONAIRES IN PUBLIC LIFE

Conspicuous Only in the Diplomatic Service of the United States



SENATOR HENRY A. DURANT OF DELAWARE



LEWIS STUYVESANT CHANLER

Inability to "Mix" Prevents Them From Being Chosen to Elective Office



BELLAMY STORER, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

BY DEXTER MARSHALL. **D**ESPITE the fact that one of the opposing principals in the recent gubernatorial contest in New York was a born multi-millionaire, it seems, more and more as the Republic grows older, that men who have inherited great riches either do not care, or are not able, to cut much of a figure in public life. There are plenty of rich men in politics—there are rich state Governors, rich Senators, rich Representatives in Congress and rich diplomats. But, except among the diplomats, most of them have accumulated their wealth for themselves.

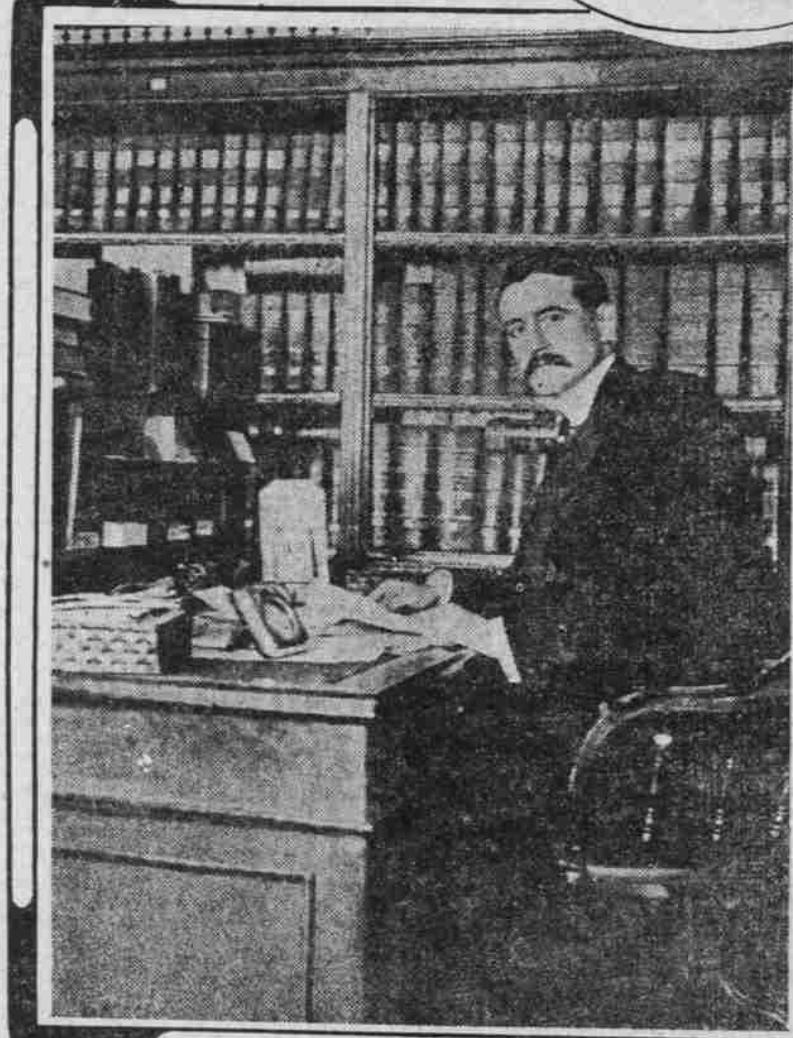
Secretary of State Root is now a man of great wealth, but he began a poor boy, and many of his New York friends remember him as a struggling young lawyer. Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock is also very rich, but he earned his own money. Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte inherited his wealth. Secretary of War Taft inherited money, but not great wealth. No other Cabinet member is a marked man because of great possessions.

Among the Senators, Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts inherited his wealth, but he can hardly be termed a multi-millionaire. Mr. Keen, junior Senator from New Jersey, was born rich. Mr. Dryden, senior Senator from the same state, is much richer, but as recently as 20 years ago was just beginning his remarkably successful career in life insurance. Mr. Clark of Montana is considered in many quarters next to Rockefeller as to wealth, but the world has been told over and over again how poor he was when he began and how desperately he struggled to get started. Mr. Hale of Maine and Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island, both rich men, did not inherit their wealth. Mr. Du Pont, the new Senator from Delaware, did, but his case is somewhat unusual. An analysis of the entire list of very rich men now in public life would show that the majority of them had little money when they began for themselves and that they got their riches mainly by reason of their own power of initiative and their personal push and drive.

The famous millionaire Senators from the Golden West—Fair, Hearst, Tabor, Jones and all the rest—who bulked so large in public life 20 or 30 years ago, were poor when boys and won or mined their own wealth. As to the Presidents, Washington was a wealthy man, for his times, when made President, but he was by no means rich when young. Next to Theodore Roosevelt, Jefferson was perhaps the richest man by inheritance who has ever sat in the Presidential chair. Neither of the Adamses, nor Monroe nor Madison, was poor, but none of them was born to great riches. Benjamin Harrison was born well-to-do, but his family was never famous for its millions, while the early life of nearly every other President after John Quincy Adams, except Ben Harrison's grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was full of struggles with fortune. Jackson, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, McKinley—all were poor boys who had to fight to make their way in life.

**Famous Rich Families Not in It.** Not one of the families that have been most famous for their many millions during the last ten or three generations has a representative in public life at the present time. Some of them have been represented for brief periods, but none for very long. No member of the famous multi-millionaire family founded by Commodore Vanderbilt has ever tried to cut a figure in the public service in any way. The whole country would be stirred with a ripple of genuine surprise today were Alfred Greyne, or Reginald, or "Wills K." Jr., to be put forward as a candidate for the votes of the people for any office whatsoever.

It was proposed not many years ago that the present Cornelius Vanderbilt should offer himself as a candidate to the State Legislature or the National House of Representatives, but either he declined or the political leaders decided against it, probably the former. At all events he went no further in politics than to attend some primaries and to serve as a delegate to a state convention or two. There was talk some time ago of giving him a place in the Diplomatic Service, but it didn't materialize. It is



LOYD C. GRISCOM, AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL

quite likely that his entry into public life would be received with less surprise than that of any other Vanderbilt. He is a man of ability and serious purpose in life. While it is not, perhaps, to their discredit, none of the other Vanderbilts of the present generation has ever shown himself to the public in any other role than as a coaching man, a patron of automobile and motor-boat contests, or a man of leisure.

The Astors have been little more prominent in public life. John Jacob Astor, the founder of the family, helped finance the Government in the War of 1812, as Commodore Vanderbilt did in the Civil War. William Waldorf, now a British subject, was elected to the State Legislature for a term or two, and tried to go to Congress, but could not keep the pace. He was sent to Italy as Minister by President Arthur, but on leaving that post dropped out of public life and has remained a private citizen ever since.

Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, named for



been a long while since he was a factor of weight. Oliver H. Belmont showed political aspirations a few years ago and established a politico-comic weekly, the Verdict, edited by Alfred Henry Lewis, to help himself along. But the result was not encouraging, and there is no sign that he intends to enter the political lists again. August Belmont was chairman of the Democratic National Campaign Committee in 1904, but he has never shown any desire to be a candidate for any office.

As to the Havemeyers, the Lorillardes, the Gerys, the Arnoums, the Goulds and the Rockefellers, multi-millionaires in sugar, tobacco, real estate, beef and pork, railroads and oil, they have all, save the Havemeyers, let politics severely alone, so far as pushing their own personal claims for office is concerned. W. P. Havemeyer was elected Mayor of New York twice, in 1848 and in 1872. Theodore A. was long Consul-General of Austria at the port of New York, and believed himself entitled to a place in the diplomatic service of the United States, though he never got it. No Havemeyer of the present generation appears to have any desire at all for public life.

More hereditary millionaires have been prominent in the politics of New York State than elsewhere, chiefly, perhaps, because the City of New York has had more millionaires as possible candidates to the National House of Representatives and with some distinction, but that was nearly 20 years ago. He still has political aspirations—which he inherited, as well as his wealth, from his father, who was long chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and he still occupies himself largely with public matters, but it has



SETH LOW'S NEW \$100,000 BARN



PRESENT HOME OF THE HON. SETH LOW, FORMER MAYOR OF NEW YORK

York was a city by itself. His election as Mayor of the greater city to follow Van Wyck, the first Tammany Mayor after its formation, was thought to be a long step on the road to the Governorship. Itself the next step on the way to the Presidency, then supposed to be Low's ultimate ambition. But somehow it didn't work out as expected. Neither Low nor his friends and backers could ever understand it, but when he came to run for a second term in 1902 he was beaten, hands down, by McClellan, himself born more than well-to-do, though by no means so rich as Low.

Low's public career, now seems perfectly a thing of the past. His career as an educator was cut short when he became Mayor, since he could not resume the presidency of Columbia University at the expiration of his two years' incumbency of the Mayor's chair. In spite of the fact that he had given to the university a magnificent library building, which cost \$1,000,000 or more, and ate up a third or more of his fortune.

Undoubtedly he was convinced that he would be able to make himself a permanent power in politics when he accepted the nomination for Mayor. Soon after accepting the presidency of Columbia, he said frankly that his ambition was to devote the remainder of his life to that institution. Nothing save his practical conviction that by leaving it he would be able to gratify his political aspirations, which had lain dormant after the expiration of his last term as Brooklyn's Mayor, could possibly have induced him to give up Columbia.

Mr. Low's failure to be elected a second time as Mayor of New York is not attributed to lack of intellect, nor to his inability, but rather to lack of the power to "mix next" to the people, to "mix" with them, as only the man who is or has been obliged to earn his living is generally able to do. Somehow Low could not take the ordinary man's point of view at all, and, while he would never have found it necessary or desirable, perhaps, had he remained president of Columbia, it was his inability to do so that made it impossible for him to win a second term as Mayor or advance from the Mayoralty to the Governorship. Mr. Low's disappointment was profound. His friends were anxious that he should not drop out altogether and there was talk for some time about his being named to a diplomatic post of high degree. Whether the President ever contemplated naming him to such a post or not, it is generally understood by Mr. Low's friends that he did not wish to enter the diplomatic field because of his distaste for social life as it is lived in the great capitals of the world. Some of his friends rather expected he would turn to literature, but apparently it has no charms for him. He spent most of the year 1905 abroad, and in 1906 located himself on an estate up the Hudson, where, it has been announced, he intends to live out his days as a country gentleman, unweaved by the strife of politics. Failure to learn how to be a good "mixer" has undoubtedly been the main trouble with more than one rich man by inheritance, who would have been glad to be a public figure.

### Rich Man in Diplomacy.

Although Mr. Low did not care to be a professional diplomat, there are many men of inherited wealth who think

service an ideal one. Men born to money could undoubtedly be found to take every one of the Ambassadorships to Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, Brazil and Russia, and, as a matter of fact, three of these Ambassadorships are now being filled by men who are rich by inheritance. Robert S. McCormick, Ambassador to France, and Charlemagne Tower, the Ambassador to Germany, were both born to millions. Clement C. Griscom, Ambassador to Brazil, though not so rich, probably is in very good circumstances, indeed, through inheritance.

Until a few months ago the Embassy to Austria was held by a man of large inherited wealth, Bellamy Storer. His resignation, it will be remembered, was demanded by President Roosevelt last Spring because of Mrs. Storer's activity in Roman Catholic Church matters, although she was closely related to Nicholas Longworth. It should be said of Mr. Storer, however, that before entering the diplomatic service he did what comparative have done in the United States. He served more than one term in the lower House of Congress at Washington from a Cincinnati district, winning his preference at the polls in the orthodox way. He served in Belgium and Spain before going to Austria-Hungary.

Neither Charlemagne Tower, son of a typical Philadelphian, Amos Robert S. McCormick, son of the reaper inventor who won his wealth manufacturing harvesters in Chicago, ever appeared to the voters for office. McCormick is much the richer man of the two; Towers has, perhaps, the greater initiative. He is now only a year or two less than 60, and has nearly 20 before he settles down to a choice of a career, late in the 70s. A graduate of Harvard in 1872 he studied and traveled in Spain, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Greece and Egypt till 1875.

Then he fell to in earnest and studied law in Philadelphia, where he was admitted to the bar in 1878. Four years later he was made president of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad, which made residence in Duluth necessary for some years. By 1887 he was back in Philadelphia, where he became interested in many enterprises. He entered the diplomatic service nearly 10 years ago, his first post being that of Minister to Austria-Hungary; was transferred to Russia in 1899, and to Germany in 1902 to fill the place which Andrew D. White had occupied acceptably for some years.

McCormick followed Tower in Russia, where he remained till a year or two ago, and where it was said that the Russians treated him with some coolness while the Russo-Japanese war was in progress, presumably because of the strong sympathy for the Japs in America. Tower's predecessor at Berlin, Andrew D. White, is not of a multi-millionaire family, but his father was a rich man—a banker in Syracuse, N. Y.—though not so rich as to make it impossible for his sons to "get next" to the voters. At all events, Andrew D. White began his public life by appealing to the voters of Syracuse, who elected him to the State Senate.

He was a member of that Legislative body when Ezra D. Cornell, having become several times a millionaire, and regretting more than anything else his own lack of education, determined to found a school in Ithaca, "where," as he put it, "any man could be educated on any subject."

This determination was crystallized in Cornell University, and, next to Cornell himself, the then young Senator had more to do with the realization of Cornell's design than any other man. He took hold of the project with enthusiasm, and, but as a politician and a scholar—for he was a Yale graduate and had studied exten-

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