

Duty of Wealthy Youth to Study Government, Says Taft

"Unless it is recognized by its young men that there are careers other than those of money-making and the pursuit of pleasure, unless the spur of lofty, unselfish, and patriotic motives is strong enough to turn them to the service of their country, a republic is in a bad way indeed."

The man who is styled the secretary of war, William Howard Taft, but whose diversified and immense responsibilities are covered by no official title yet devised, arose to express himself the more emphatically. It was a subject which he is known by his friends to have much at heart.

"I acknowledge," said Mr. Taft, "the necessity of the material pursuit. None of them is in danger of being neglected by Americans. But there are interests which are not material, and there is work to be done which is not that of business. The very possibility of conducting business depends on conditions established by government—and government is itself a sort of business, or a profession, or, at all events, a duty, which has to be undertaken by some one. Isn't it apparent, on this aspect of it alone, that the work of administering the government is one which calls for the best brain, the best blood, the best conscience of the nation? And isn't it beyond all things clear that in the position in which our nation finds itself today, with the glorious history of the past inspiring it, with the serious problems of the present pressing on it, and with a future, boundless and inconceivable in its possibilities, inviting it, isn't it clear that there is nothing in the world that calls so loudly for the devotion of their best talents by our best young men as does the nation and its government?"



Secretary Taft.

they sleep and rise again and carry on their labor and provide for the unrequited future.

"There will never be, I say, any dangerous denial of the need that most men work at the productive and material duties. The danger is that material things may become all-absorbing. Prosperity may be so great that to share in it may come to seem the one end of living. The rewards of the commercial life are tangible and they are alluring. In times when these rewards are large and their attainment easily probable within a very short time, it would be strange if a people were not tempted to forget other and higher things and to devote themselves entirely to less noble."

Patriotism, Above Business. "But I say to you that if the young men of this country, enchanted by the glittering prizes of commercial life, close their eyes to the lofty duties of patriotism, forget that their country

calls no inconsiderable number of them to her own definite, professional service, and for the country."

"If the instructed, disinterested and patriotic abilities especially of its educated youth are not at the call of the country, alas for it, and alas for them! To little avail have they read their Plato and been told that they who do not take their share in the government shall be slaves of a government by the more ignoble."

There is Danger.

"Our national wealth is the result of efforts which perhaps no people ever put forth before, coupled with natural resources, good fortune, and divine favor. But we cannot rest in this. We cannot abandon ourselves to merely material superiority. We must not yield to the fascination of its ready rewards. There is danger that a people becoming at first intoxicated and then besotted by its own prosperity, will need above everything else now, realizing consciousness of our country's material prosperity is nothing unless it enables us the better to fulfill those high duties which are the true end, called to carry on here the most enlightened government, under which free men are prospering and enjoying their ideals, and to extend the blessings of that government, with the same beneficent ends, for their sake and for no advantage of our own, to those who have been providentially brought under it."

"Our wealth will enable us to do this the better in various ways. It has been necessary to the possibility of culture and the existence of art. But it is on my mind that perhaps in no way is our country's wealth more profitable as set than in the fact that it may now support young men who are willing to devote their public matters as to study the work and assume the responsibilities of public administrators."

Such Youths Efficient.

"The service of young men of wealth is likely to be especially efficient because their incomes makes them independent. The indifference they would feel with respect to the duties of an office would tend to make them faithful, independent, conscientious officials."

Duty of the Wealthy.

"If there is any one thing which I feel strongly it is the subject of the duty of the wealthy and educated young man of this country. It has many times been remarked that much of the administrative success in municipal and in imperial affairs has been due to the existence in the class of the wealthy of a governing class here. But if it is a fact that a considerable number of young Americans are nowadays annually leaving college of whom necessity does not require that they should give their time to bread-winning, it is not also a fact that the loud voice of public opinion should require of those young men that they consider whether their country does not need them. Oh, we may talk of culture and books and of serving the country by being a good citizen."

"That is very well. But good citizens need to know where their place is, and need to feel the obligation of jury duty, and need to be acquainted with the affairs of the municipality and the country, and need to offer themselves for duty in the state or in the dependencies, if they believe that they could do that work well."

"What is there wrong or objectionable in a good man's seeking office, when he feels himself competent to discharge its duties, is conscious of having a high idea of its responsibilities, and finds his heart warm with ambition to be of those to whom his country's honor is confided?"

There is a Career.

"Assuredly there is a career in the public service. One who is ambitious for every man commendably ambitious to enter it that he will end an ambassador, but there is abundant opportunity for such work. A man of good health and necessary, with the disposition to work and work hard. There are opportunities on every hand to distinguish themselves by services of eminent value."

As to Rewards.

"I do not talk of rewards. For the class of men to whom I would have the public service appeal, the matter of rewards would be irrelevant. There are many instances there might be few great instances there might be no satisfaction in being in the number of those who are living their lives peculiarly in their country's life? Is there no inspiration in the sense that one is helping to do the big things—the things that count, that last, that go into history? Or, rather, is there anything in that compares with the joy that rises in the heart of him who knows he has a part in those things?"

The Poor Man who Chooses this Way.

"The poor man who chooses this way will have to live plainly, as things go nowadays. At least, he won't pile up a surplus of wealth. Why should he want to? We used to be told in a homely adage that a millionaire had no advantage over a poor man in his capacity for food and drink. Wealth provides small satisfactions, but not deep ones. It can give no felicity like that which comforts the man who has identified himself with something bigger than himself which thrills the heart of the patriot of the public servant."

Plenty of Material.

"Do not let it be for a moment understood that there is or has been any difficulty in finding the public posts for the most part with competent men of the class men. Certainly this is not so in the case of the administration of the dependencies. There may be some difficulty at first, when the whole question of our attitude toward the islands lately acquired has been decided. Men could not be blamed for unwillingness to commit themselves to an enterprise neither the direction nor the end of which could be foreseen, but when it appeared the general agreement of the country that we had a work to do in the tropics, and that it was so unexpectedly come to us, there was no longer any trouble in finding men to do that work."

"Our ideals are said to be too high. All the more do we require the help of our best blood to realize them, and all the more surely shall we find it. It is a glorious sight to see young men awoken to the vision of the nation in her beauty and grandeur, and by their devotion; to observe some among them grow suddenly indifferent to the sordid allurements of wealth or pleasure, as their hearts are fired by the compelling charm of her call."—New York Times.

SILVERTON WOODMEN HONOR THE DEPARTED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Silvertown, Or., June 11.—Woodmen memorial Sunday was observed in this city by the local camp and fully 200 people attended the services at the cemetery. The memorial address was delivered by Attorney F. S. Senn of Portland. In the Silvertown cemetery lie two deceased Woodmen—J. E. Morris and E. W. Moser—both of whom met death quite recently by accident. The graves of these members were decorated with flowers. The W. O. W. circle and the Lewisburg camp joined with the local camp. The Lewisburg band furnished music.

Monument to Neighbor Olds.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Newberg, Or., June 11.—The team of uniformed Woodmen of the World went to Middleton Sunday to unveil the monument to neighbor Fred Olds. In the presence of a large number of the children's day exercises, which were held in the grove. At noon a luncheon was served by Mrs. Fred Olds. They then proceeded to the cemetery where the unveiling took place.

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