

# BACK FROM ELBA CLUB MAKES BOW

## Gridiron Club Accomplishes Crowning Feat of Its Career at Big Dinner.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Having solved all the other great world problems, the Gridiron club, at its silver anniversary dinner tonight, accomplished the crowning feat of its career.

For months there had been whispering in and about the capital concerning the formation and operations of a "Back From Elba Club." This most astute political Sherlock Holmes in the business had been baffled in their efforts to trail this elusive society to its lair and to discover its membership. It remained for Washington's famous organization of newspaper men to turn the trick. The Gridironers not only found the "Back From Elba Club," but actually persuaded its members to hold a meeting for the edification of tonight's guests.

In the presence of President Taft, Vice President Sherman, Speaker Cannon, several members of the cabinet, a score or more of members of congress and some 200 other men distinguished in business or politics, in this or other cities, the rites of the mysterious society were exposed.

**Signs are on.**

Scarcely had the huge gridiron, with its hundreds of incandescent bulbs, back of the president's chair, flashed its welcome as the guests took their seats in the big banquet hall of the New Willard, when to the strains of the "Marseillaise," played by the Marine band, in marched 12 men wearing black military cloaks, Napoleon chapeaux, and very serious countenances. Their leader bore proudly a "big stick" surmounted with a spear head, which he thrust into a socket on the floor and around which his companions gathered in reverential silence.

"Sergeant Glavia, call the roll," ordered the leader. Then for the first time there was revealed to a palpitating world the personnel of the "Back From Elba Club." The member garbed men answered to the following list: Grand marshal, Henry Cabot Lodge; Field marshal, Gifford Pinchot; Lieutenant general, James R. Garfield; Brigadier general, Jonathan Bourne; Major general, Charles Joseph Bonaparte; Colonel, William Dudley Foulke; Captain, Herbert Knox Smith; Major, Nicholas Longworth; Lieutenant, William Loeb; Chaplain, Lyman Abbott; Drummer boy, Albert J. Beveridge; Grenadiers, Price and Shaw.

Each having answered "here," there was a pause, after which in solemn tones "Sergeant Glavia" called, "The Only One." The members saluted as they answered in unison with voices subdued, "Absent in Africa."

**Chant Club's Song.**

Before proceeding further with the business of the evening, the "Elbaites" joined in chanting the club's battle song:

"When Teddy comes marching home again, hurrah! hurrah!  
We'll give him a hearty welcome then, hurrah! hurrah!  
The club will cheer, the boys will

shout.  
The malefactors will all go out,  
And we'll all get jobs, when Teddy comes marching home."

Incidental to the meeting two candidates were initiated into the "Back From Elba Club," and they proved so proficient in replying to the rapid fire fusillade of questions shot at them that the grand marshal promptly passed them on to the Gridiron club for membership in that organization. The initiates were: John Callan O'Saughlin, of the Chicago Tribune; and George Edmund Miller of the Detroit News.

But the Elba stunt was only a starter. The real grilling of the Gridironers' guests came when the club's best actors put on their stirring melodrama, "Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Insurgents," with "Uncle Tom Murdock" in the leading role, ably assisted by "Little Eva Parsons, Simon Legree Dwight, Marks, the speaker, George Harris Hayes, Adolph Norris, Sambo Gardner, Quimbo Lennox, Secretary Carpenter, the auctioneer and others.

**Insurgent Heaven.**

"Uncle Tom Murdock" has been pointing the way for "Little Eva Parsons" to the insurgent heaven, "what their ain't no Rules and that ain't no Speaker; what every insurgent kin talk all he wants to and get in the papers eye's mortal; what they'll take us as seriously as we do ourselves; what the regulars came from troubling and the hot air flows so free." Suddenly "Simon Legree Dwight" with blackmake cracking in the air, disturbed the scene, "Back to the caucus for youse," he shouted at the terrified Uncle Tom and Eva. "I am Simon Legree Dwight; whip of the House, and here's my whip." "Massa, I'm an insurgent, and I can't go back," whimpered Uncle Tom.

"Well, I'll show you. See that hand? It's all calloused holding up the post-offices you fellows want. You belong to me."

"Massa, I can't. My vote belongs to the Democrats, but the patronage belongs to Taft."

Here Uncle Tom's meager following was reinforced by a bunch of other insurgents. Then entered "Marks the Speaker," who first demanded that the entire Uncle Tom-crowd be annihilated but later consented to have them auctioned off.

**Auctions His Wares.**

The auctioneer described his wares as: Murdock, a fine Kansas insurgent, sound in limb and especially sound in mind; Hayes, a red hot insurgent until he heard they were going to run a regular against him in his district—although he wears whiskers he does not deceive you; a Nebraska man named Norris, who says he's going to insure till he gets a better committee—very useful about the house as a megaphone; Gardner, a cautious insurgent, who never insures unless he thinks they're going to win; Lennox, a thoroughly reliable Wisconsin insurgent, who has to insure for fear LaFollette will print a piece about him in his paper.

The bidding was not very active, and "Marks the Speaker" was just about to gobble the entire lot for a song when he rushed "Secretary Carpenter," with a proclamation from the president grant; "the insurgents emancipation and amnesty if they would go back to the fold. All would be forgiven and patronage restored."

"Hooray! Didn't I tell you, Missy Eva, I could see dem nearly gates?" shouted Uncle Tom in ecstasy. (Tab-latix—Little Eva appears under a spot light with a large sign in her hand labeled "Patronage.")

**Knox Sets His.**

Secretary Knox "got his" in a skillful depicting the new "shotgun policy" of the state department. The premier of the cabinet, in shirt sleeves and carrying a shotgun and baseball bat, carried



View of Paris from the Arch of Triumph, showing district that was the most severely damaged by the flood.

various orders through his Under Secretary of State wearing knickerbockers and monocle, his Secretary of Near-sighted Affairs and Secretary of Par-sighted Affairs. He was particularly disturbed over a dispatch from London stating that the Conservatives there were using a letter bragging about American prosperity as an argument in favor of the protective tariff.

"Take this letter to Reid," shouted the secretary. "The protective policy is a Pittsburg asset. If I catch you letting the English in on this soft snap, I shall be compelled to recall you.—P. C. Knox."

During the course of the dinner "President Zelaya" appeared saying that as he was out of a job he would seize the presidency of the Gridiron club. He was proclaiming himself in that capacity, in the presence of his army of three brilliantly uniformed generals and one private, when someone called his attention to the presence of Secretary Knox. "Me for Mexico!" he shouted, beating a quick retreat, and quite for-

getting his army which escaped in disorderly fashion.

**The Absent One.**

Further respect was paid to the "Absent One" by the Gridiron chorus in the following song:

"In an African jungle a bold hunter sat  
On the skin of a slaughtered baboon;  
Where the dig-dig and bongos were teasing  
The ostrich the cat

And the ostrich was singing a tune,  
Said he's 'Mollycoddles, so harmless and tame—  
These are all that I find as I roam,  
It is really a shame, and I long for big game  
The kind I am used to at home.

"I wonder who's cussing them now,  
I wonder who's hissing the trusts,  
Wonder who's feelings are deeply stirred  
By the short, ugly word.

"I wonder who's wielding the stick,  
I wonder if Taft's learned the trick,  
Malefactors of wealth who do business  
By stealth—  
I wonder who's cussing them now."  
As a souvenir of the occasion—the

club's 25th birthday—each guest was presented with a handsome silver ash-tray with a gridiron handle. The menu card bore a reproduction of the club's first dinner.

Among the distinguished guests were: President Taft, Vice-President Sherman, Speaker Cannon, Associate Justice Burton, the Italian and German Ambassadors, the Chinese minister, Secretary of State Knox, Attorney General Wickersham, Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel, Postmaster General Hitchcock, Senators Gordon, Beveridge, Burrows, Bourne, Shively, Thompson, Burton, Oliver, Guggenheim, and Scott; Representatives McKinley, Lowden, McCall, Rucker, Stevens, Loudenslager, and Townsend; E. H. Gary, United States Steel Corporation; Frank A. Vanderbilt of New York; Seth Bullock, of Deadwood, S. D.; General Felix Agnus, of the Baltimore American; A. C. Fair, of the Pittsburg Gazette-Times; John A. Steicher, of Leslie's Weekly, and W. J. Calhoun, minister to China.

### YOUNG JOHN D. IS SECOND SPRECKELS

(By the International News Service.)  
New York, Feb. 5.—So interested has John D. Rockefeller Jr. become in the so-called white slave traffic questions, which the special grand jury of which he was foreman looked into last month, that he offered to donate \$25,000 out of his own pocket for a complete investigation. The offer was refused by District Attorney Whitman and Judge O'Sullivan, who held that the public should pay. The board of estimates at Whitman's request appropriated the money.

Sherman county farm laborers are forming a union.

# RUSSIA AIMS TO HAVE FAR EAST

## Czar's Empire Has Designs on Manchuria, and Prepares for War.

(Publishers' Press Special Wire.)  
St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—Russia will deal only with Japan on all matters affecting her interests in Manchuria and it may be said that the government of the czar no more gave up its designs in the far east because of the check incident to the Russo-Japanese war than it gave up its ambition to ultimately possess Constantinople and a big slice of European Turkey because of the Crimean war, or after she had been deprived of this prize by the treaty of San Stefano.

The reason why Russia declined to seriously consider the proposition from the United States state department to neutralize the Manchurian railway is because Russia is firmly convinced that some time—it may be years hence—and Japan will have another trial of strength with Manchuria, Korea and a good slice of China as the prize.

Quietly Russia is preparing for this struggle, and the next time she will not be caught napping.

Surprising progress has been made in the reorganization of the army, and while it has not perhaps reached the stage of perfection attained in the German army, it is doubtful if there is any other European army which is superior in effectiveness to that of Russia.

Less progress is being made in the rehabilitation of the navy, but a naval program has been prepared and will ultimately be carried out which will give the czar in time a formidable sea-fighting force. The most radical reform will be in the personnel. The Japanese war taught the lesson that sailors are needed to fight ships, and officers and men as nearly as possible are to be recruited from Russia's sea-faring population.

Unless Japan forces her hand too soon, and fear of this is felt here, in the next war she will face a very different Russia.

# WALL STREET KINGS VISIT THE PRESIDENT

(By the International News Service.)  
Washington, Feb. 5.—Frank A. Vanderbilt, president of the National City Bank of New York, called on President Taft this afternoon. Following the call of George W. Perkins yesterday there was considerable speculation about the executive offices as to the reason for the visits of these two representatives of the big interests in Wall street.

It is understood that Vanderbilt and the president discussed the federal incorporation bill in an informal way and that the financial situation generally was discussed. But Vanderbilt, it is said, did not talk to the president as the representative of any one and the conversation lasted only a few minutes.

# A Fine Time to Work Out the Food Problem

The wide spread "shriek" about high prices for meat will induce people to plan meals with more reason and better judgment of food strength and cost.

Many of our strong men, College Athletes and others, learned from actual experience that a vegetarian diet produced better results than a diet including meat.

Many famous names appear in the vegetarian list. Names whose owners are champions and prize winners in their chosen field of athletics.

After all the argument for and against any particular kind of diet, the question can best be solved for the individual by personal experiment.

Certain it is that those who have never tried it, have some facts to learn by breaking this way:

**A LITTLE FRUIT**  
either fresh or stewed

A dish of  
**GRAPE-NUTS**  
and cream

A cup of some hot beverage—  
**Postum—Tea—Cocoa**  
or Hot Milk

Some bread and butter  
and there you are—

**Plenty!**  
**Plenty!**  
**Plenty!**

for a strong

man, day worker or Brain Worker.

Looks "thin" you say. Our word for it, you will reach lunch time fully sustained—food well digested—head clear and ready for the noon-day meal.

Where is the sustaining power? You ask. In Grape-Nuts which we believe to be the strongest, most digestible food known. Five important points should guide the wise selection of food.

Must be made of nourishing ingredients—Grape-Nuts.

Must be easily digested—Grape-Nuts.

Must taste good—Grape-Nuts.

Must be economical—Grape-Nuts.

Must be guaranteed under the Pure Food Laws—Grape-Nuts.

**AS TO PRICE:—One 15c package of GRAPE-NUTS contains 14 portions, practically ONE CENT each. Sold the same today as this food has always sold. No rise in price. There's a pathway to reasonable economy in food and that's not all—**

## "There's a Reason" for Grape-Nuts

Postum Cereal Company, Ltd., Battle Creek, Michigan.