

Hughes, as Secretary of State, Wins Praise Of Newspapermen, Diplomats and Old Foes

Politicians Find Him a Sympathetic Listener to Their Pleas and No "Icicle"; Sticks to the Job, Regardless of Gossip.

This is the first of a series of articles written for the World by Louis Seibold describing and analyzing the methods and the qualifications of the new members of the cabinet. By Warren G. Harding.

By Louis Seibold
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Washington, May 14.—An apocryphal story that used to entertain New York politicians is that Charles Evans Hughes once expressed the wish that some one would slap him on the back and call him "Charley." There is no record of any of the Republican politicians (who were in the habit of calling Mr. Hughes by less affectionate names) ever having gratified his desire to be slapped on the back. After he became governor a good many of the stalwart and straight goods Republican leaders more than once manifested a desire to slap Mr. Hughes over the head with a sandbag. But times have changed since those good old days.

So unobtrusively has the erstwhile foe of the New York political bosses aided into his new job as secretary of state that it will not occasion a great deal of surprise if the veterans of his famous war with the Empire state machine put their arms around his shoulders, cuddle him affectionately and fall into the habit of addressing him as "Charley" just as some of them now address the president as "Warren."

Already the newspaper writers who come in daily contact with the secretary of state think of Mr. Hughes in terms closely approximating the familiarity, direct and agreeable form of salutation. By the exercise of a degree of tact that the old-time New York bosses would find most surprising, Mr. Hughes has managed to state has established the most amicable relations with the journalistic hucksters who call on him twice a day.

The baffling superiority of manner which Mr. Hughes intimates labeled dignity seems to have been entirely unlearned out during his uneventful four years ago. Having enjoyed an even more nerve-racking experience than Mr. Bryan in trying for the office it would not be unnatural if Mr. Hughes should flaunt his scars as did the Great Commoner when he became secretary of state after three decisive defeats.

But Mr. Hughes has displayed neither asperity, chagrin nor resentment toward the country since he assumed the direction of the foreign department of the government six weeks ago. On the contrary, he has entered upon the administration of the most perplexing duties confronting any member of Mr. Harding's cabinet with the zeal of a new "cop" on probation or the enthusiasm of a college freshman trying for the ball team.

AT HIS DESK EARLY
Always a tremendous worker, he is applying himself to the specific task of unravelling the intricate web of international relations by a conscientious, analytical study of the problems and bringing to the solution of them the full force of his administrative and mental processes. In doing so he has created a mechanism that makes for comprehensive method and systematic orderliness of procedure.

He is on his job at 9:15 o'clock in the morning. He arranges his program, insofar as is possible, a day ahead, so that when he slides into the high-backed chair in front of his large mahogany desk he knows precisely how he is going to begin and—harrowing unexpected developments—how the day is going to end.

There is no rush or confusion about it. His subordinates, having prepared the tools and the material from which Mr. Hughes is going to formulate a policy or proclaim a decision, already know just how long it is going to take him to turn out the finished product. His day is so divided that a certain portion of it is set aside for conferences with the heads of bureaus in his department or with the representatives of foreign governments.

It will probably surprise some of the old-time critics of Mr. Hughes in New York that he even finds time to hear recommendations and supplications of political bosses seeking jobs or some other favor of a political character. Also it will provide them with a new slant on the Hughes evolution to be appraised of a marked realignment of his manner of receiving such recommendations.

CONCEALED THEIR OBJECT
When Mr. Hughes was governor, the job hunters in his party learned to employ the most indirect and insidious means of concealing their purposes from him. They soon learned to know that he exacted much more convincing reasons than political arguments in selecting men for office. There has not been very much change in Mr. Hughes' method of appraising qualifications for the diplomatic and consular service, but he invites rather than rejects confidences of a political nature to supplement arguments relating solely to merits beneficial to the public service.

Consequently, the politicians who hoped for the best but feared the worst are inclined to ignore the experience of Boss Burns and other New York Republicans with Mr. Hughes and to revise their previous estimate of him.

This does not mean, of course, that they have fully probed the Hughes mind, but it does mean that up to date they have no complaint to make against it on the ground that he is "an icicle," "selfish," "ungrateful" or "hard-boiled." Regarding him as a necessary evil, the professionals set out cordially to display their wiles. They figured that the man who has smashed the bosses of the party in New York would probably flatten out the bosses of the nation.

Some of the facts that Mr. Hughes "is going to cause trouble for Harding." They made this prediction last fall when the then president-elect set aside Elihu Root, who was the popular choice of the party leaders for secretary of state, and decided that he wanted Mr. Hughes for the position.

Omitting sentimental considerations, Mr. Harding's preference for Mr. Hughes was conceded to be admirable from the standpoint of established ability. The leaders that placed more importance on patronage than policies assented the claim that Mr. Hughes would fit snugly into any collection of "best minds." Furthermore, they admitted that Mr. Harding was very fortunate in conceiving Mr. Hughes for the task of straightening out international tangles.

His selection for secretary of state would, in their judgment, relieve any strain upon the Harding intellect, which past performances justified in putting in the liberally, respectable list of least resistance class. So on the score of ability there was neither complaint nor criticism when Mr. Harding announced that he had selected Mr. Hughes.

Secretary of State Seen by Frueh



ident and his secretary of state constitute distinct and admirable follies for each other. As to the ultimate effect of these differences, there is a division of opinion. One group is quite convinced that Mr. Hughes will evolve an international program that not only will Mr. Harding but the senatorial oligarchy will accept as providing the ultimate in reason, logic and justice.

There is another group, however, which hark back to the record of Mr. Hughes as Governor of New York, and is quite convinced that, while his policies may reflect reason, logic and justice, his formulas will not prove acceptable to the senatorial assayers. Then the second group looks for one or two eventualities.

The first is that Mr. Harding will be compelled to side with the senate and suggest modifications in the Hughes plans that the secretary of state will be compelled to reject. Up to date the president has sedulously adhered to his full and complete control over his department. And there is not a single circumstance arising from their relations up to date that justifies any prediction that he means to abridge his declaration that Mr. Hughes is the boss of the foreign department.

Senatorial caustics advise suspension of judgment, however, until a real test comes. They are quite convinced that there will be "breaks" between the president and the secretary of state for "temperamental and other reasons" that will result in Mr. Hughes reaching for his hat and going back to his law office—"unless he can be placated."

The most logical process of mollification Mr. Hughes that comes to their minds is mentally prospecting the future is that he be elevated to the chief justiceship of the supreme court. A great many of the leaders who are trying to solve the Hughes puzzle give currency to the surmise that he would rather be chief justice of the greatest judicial tribune in the world than secretary of state.

They believe that Chief Justice White, who is already eligible to retire, will soon elect to avail himself of the privilege of seeking a rest after a wonderfully impressive career. Nobody really knows that Mr. Hughes wants to be chief justice, but all of them do know that it is the one place to which every lawyer aspires.

So the political minds of Washington figure it out that Mr. Hughes not only wants to be chief justice but that eventually he will be, unless, of course, the urge for the presidency has not been entirely eradicated from his soul. There are "craphangers" among the professional who profess to be satisfied with reasonable explanation that Mr. Hughes is only intent on filling his job as secretary of state to his own satisfaction and that of the country. They fabricate phantoms of contingencies to support their claims that he is certain to quarrel with President Harding or the senate, and that he will seize upon a breach to resign and seek to succeed Mr. Harding, just as James G. Blaine did when he broke away from Harrison's administration in 1882.

BETTER "MIXER" THAN IN ALBANY
The difference between Mr. Blaine and Mr. Hughes, however, is that Mr. Blaine was a professional politician and Mr. Hughes has triumphed in politics because he is not a professional politician. As far as the country generally is concerned, the ghosts that the professionals create out of the Hughes record are mere figments of prejudiced professional minds. Mr. Hughes is proceeding in an orderly, systematic way with the official business of his department, and if he meets a row with either Mr. Harding or the senate it is not apparent to the trained observer.

His experience as a "mixer" during the last presidential campaign has not, however, broadened his vision and somewhat relaxed his stiffness of manner. He meets a row with either Mr. Harding or the senate with an easy and genial grace that suggests the of the patronizing atmosphere in which when they entered his presence at Albany.

For a man of 69, he is as alert and vigorous as a man of 40. His old-time cautious smile has developed into a positive grin that discloses a set of large, sound teeth so perfectly preserved and delicately white as to provoke discussion regarding his inherent right to claim them as his own.

When Mr. Hughes first ventured—or was dragged into—politics, the greater

scribed and he did not figure conspicuously in either state or official functions. The politicians of both parties knew him, but he was not a name to be reckoned as governor of New York. Yet, few of them knew or are yet familiar with the circumstances under which he broke through the "ice" and became SON OF A MINISTER.

Born in 1852 at Glens Falls, where his father was a Baptist minister—whom later inspired some of the son's political ideas to dub him "The Baptist Pope"—Hughes attended Colgate university, the Columbia Law school, served an apprenticeship as law lecturer and hid in a law office in the canyons of lower Broadway. He first attracted attention because of his rare analytical skill. He did not figure in the public life of New York nor gain any celebrity as an orator until he became governor.

The New York public first became acquainted with Mr. Hughes through the World. In 1905, Mr. Hughes had established his great ability by passing upon legal matters in which the World was interested. It was then that the New York legislature created a committee to investigate the gas companies it recommended to the committee the selection of Mr. Hughes as investigating counsel.

The late Frederick C. Stevens, who was then chairman of the committee, Alfred R. Page, now a supreme court justice in New York, had been associated with Mr. Hughes and first suggested the selection of Mr. Hughes as the gas committee. Mr. Stevens in seeking information about Mr. Hughes, went to the World office, where the editor, Charles F. Johnson, had been trimmed as carefully as the high tribute paid to the then obscure lawyer that he announced his selection as counsel the same night.

The record of Mr. Hughes' public life as a celebrated and popular figure within three months. Then the New York legislature created the committee the committee to investigate the gas companies it recommended to the committee the selection of Mr. Hughes as investigating counsel.

When the thorough probing that he gave the insurance institutions caused the greatest sensation that New York had in many a day. The echo of the disclosure, which showed him the money of policy holders had been wasted or put to improper uses, had not died away when the Republican campaign for governor.

Three months after he had been inaugurated, the same Republican party realized that it had made a mistake. The new governor immediately set about substituting public service for political privileges. He brought about the creation of the public service commission to supervise utilities which, for half a century, had been exploited by the politicians for their own benefit and profit.

He put an end to professional grandstanding at the race tracks and, for the time being, eliminated graft of all kinds in the conduct of public service. His spectacular success in accomplishing these undertakings encouraged the presentation of his name to the Republican convention at Chicago in 1908 for president, though he received only a few votes.

SPLIT THE PARTY OPEN
When the Republican state convention met in that state to select his successor as governor, nine-tenths of the party leaders were opposed to him, but they were afraid to deny him a renomination. During his second term he practically split the party wide open, and in the view of his critics, opened the way for the election of Dix and Selzer in 1910 and 1912 respectively.

There has always been a theory among New York Republicans that President Taft had placed Mr. Hughes onto the supreme court bench at the behest of the frenzied leaders of the state, who claimed that he was wrecking the party beyond repair. However that may be, Mr. Hughes seemed to be agreeable to the change from the turmoil of New York politics to the tranquillity of the high bench.

But the impression made by him upon the people throughout the country for consideration of the matter too indelible to be so speedily forgotten, and he was nominated for president by the Republicans in 1916. Moreover, he came within a hair's breadth of being elected.

No other man possibly enjoyed (or experienced) so many thrills as he during the four days required to determine the actual result of the contest between Woodrow Wilson and himself. At the end of four days, California threw its votes to Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Hughes went back to the practice of law when he had recovered his breath.

Historians have not yet fully agreed as to what actually caused his defeat. The professionalists did not let him on the walls of which hang some fearful and wonderful portraits of past secretaries. "I am going to tell you boys something," he said, leaning against the long, red base table in the reception room on the walls of which hang some fearful and wonderful portraits of past secretaries. "I am going to tell you boys something, I want you to have the background so that you may be prepared for the news to come. I don't want you to put up with a reception room when the proper time comes you will be familiar with the origin and development of the case."

Now the importance of an incident of this sort is that it marks a decided departure from precedents long existing in the state department. Baldrige and Colby violated the tradition of secrecy that the utmost secrecy must be observed regarding international affairs, which explains why Mr. Colby became popular with diplomats and reporters alike. Mr. Hughes has even elaborated upon the Colby method and, for the first time in a great many years, the diplomats and journalists have, up to date, enjoyed more convenient facilities for the publication of international matters, and they hope it will continue. Certainly, the attitude of Mr. Hughes is most encouraging.

Washington finds the new secretary of state a figure of high interest, for while he served on the supreme court bench nearly six years, the circle of his acquaintance was naturally circumscribed.

ure reductions of their profits taxes, matters which are pending before the bureau of which Mr. Blair is named as chief. Probably this affair of the relatives would not have been given much consideration except for the affair at Chicago.

The interesting thing for Mr. McCamant and his friends to consider, of course, is that Hiram remembered Mr. Blair, which seems to insure a flood of recollections if by any chance President Harding should pick the Oregon ex-judge for new judicial honors. No executive session of the senate, it is certain, could contain within itself the things that Hiram would have to say concerning Mr. McCamant.

It was outside the executive session that Senator Johnson said this concerning Blair: "Blair, as a delegate to the national convention, did not obey the mandate of the primary. He violated the law and betrayed his people. He is now nominated to the most important administrative office in the United States. His administrative law, prohibition and other laws. A man who will violate his own state's law is unfit to administer the nation's laws."

While in Washington the other day Wallace McCamant chummed around with the vice president, insofar as anybody is able to chum with the Massachusetts statesman. Presumably he hopes that the vice president will go to the front for him, for it was he, Wallace McCamant, who nominated Mr. Coolidge in that howling mob at Chicago when the leading trumpeters of the convention had slated Senator Lenroot for the secondary nomination. If Coolidge does not owe him something, who does?

If the vice president takes this view of the situation, an interesting time will be had by all. Hiram will be in at the beginning, as well as the finish, and it appears that the waters of Oregon may also be mightily stirred. Will the two Oregon senators care to shout the

praises of Mr. McCamant at the White House, or will they prefer the silence of the non-committal pomp? Senator McNary indorses Johnson. Could he reasonably support McCamant, whom Johnson denounced as a betrayer of the people? These and other entertaining questions the future will develop.

Represent Oregon at S. A. R. Meeting
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—Wallace McCamant of Portland and Edward D. Baldwin, secretary to Congressman Sinnott, will represent Oregon at the national meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution at Buffalo, N. Y., which will be held from May 15 to 18.

Consolidation Bill Temporarily Stalled
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—The bill authorizing consolidation of the offices of register and receiver of land offices in the discretion of the president, which has been recommended by Secretary Fall of the interior department, has been temporarily stalled in the house committee on public lands.

There is a difference of opinion, Representative Baker of Montana in particular insisting that the offices should be maintained as they are. It is believed the bill is favored by a large majority of the committee and will ultimately be reported for action by the house.

Olympic Forest May Be Patrolled
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—Senator Jones of Washington has asked Secretary of War Weeks to extend the air forest patrol this season to cover the lower section of the Olympic national forest. The situation there,

says Senator Jones, presents a need that cannot be equalled under normal conditions anywhere else in the country.

Forest Exchange Bill Is Considered
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—The senate committee on public lands has been considering a bill by Senator Smoot to authorize exchanges of national forest lands by general act, special legislation being at present required for such action.

Desirability of such legislation is generally conceded if it carries proper safeguards. Senator Walsh of Montana pointed out that tax problems might become aggravated in some counties of his state if shifts were made of forest lands from one county to another, adding to the taxable area of one county and possibly depriving another of most of its taxable property. No action has yet been decided.

Butchers Accused of Profiteering
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—The retailers of meat, and particularly the retail butchers' associations, combined often with the grocers' associations, were squarely saddled with the charge of profiteering in peace as well as in war by Everett C. Brown, president of the National Livestock Exchange of Chicago, in testimony before the house committee on agriculture on the subject of packer legislation.

"Governmental figures will show you gentlemen conclusively that wholesale meat prices have followed the downward

trend of livestock prices," Mr. Brown told the committee, "so the retailer today can and does buy his meats at wholesale at practically pre-war prices."

Mr. Brown asserted that the retailers are following the rule of charging all the traffic will bear, have thrown reason to the winds, and are actually forcing people who would like to buy meat to go without. This limitation of consumption by high prices is in turn causing much of the trouble for the producer, who can find no market, even in times of peace, for his cattle, sheep and hogs.

Prices ran riot during the war, and the public took it in good humor as one of the things that went along with war. Now the producer and the packer are back to pre-war prices, he said, but the retailer never has been willing to do his share. Recently he made personal investigation, he said, and found that meats obtained from the same packer were being sold at from 10 to 15 cents a pound higher in one shop than in another across the street. In another shop he found sausage retailed at war prices, when he knew the maker of that brand has returned to pre-war prices in his wholesale selling.

Mr. Brown was opposed to federal legislation as affecting livestock commissionmen, except that there will be no opposition to registration or to examination of accounts similar to bank examination. He said the commission men have found "wonderful encouragement" in the message of President Harding "discouraging governmental interference with legitimate business."

Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture, who has advocated packer legislation along the line of the Kenyon bill in the past, was guarded in his statement before the committee. He said he was less sure as to the necessity and efficacy of government control the further he went into the subject.

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The National Capital

Johnson bothersome to convention opponents—Receiver and register of land offices may be consolidated—Meat dealers accused of profiteering.

Mr. Johnson Is Behind It All
WASHINGTON, May 14.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—First glance, there seems to be no kinship of interest between the appointment of David H. Blair of North Carolina to be collector of internal revenues and the aspirations of Wallace McCamant of Oregon to occupy a place on the bench as a judge of the United States circuit court of appeals.

Senator Johnson rose up promptly in his place when the nomination of Blair came before the senate for confirmation. The California told his colleagues that he objected to Blair, inasmuch as Blair had a reputation for being a member of the primary, and instead of voting for Johnson, voted for another candidate named Warren G. Harding. Evidently Blair's conduct in the record of the record last year, after a party primary had registered Johnson as the choice of his state.

It also happens that Mr. McCamant, a delegate from Oregon, pledged by the law of the state to support the result of the primary, declined to vote for Sen-