

Postmaster General Is Ever in Action First Friend of Deserving Republicans

WILL HAYS FAMED AS ONE PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE

Apparently This Active Hoosier Knew All About His Department Before He Moved In.

(The fifth in the series of articles introducing the members of the Harding cabinet on their respective jobs is presented below. It is an analysis and description of the methods of postmaster General Hays written by Louis Selbold of The New York World Staff.)

By Louis Selbold

Washington, June 11.—A Presbyterian elder who has already earned the sobriquet of "human perpetual motion machine" is likely to attract attention anywhere. A physically large body could not achieve any such distinction. It is therefore completely fitting that Will H. Hays, Presbyterian elder, who has earned the title in official Washington, should be a small body—physically. He is. There is no record of anybody having noticed the postmaster general of the Harding cabinet on a weighing scale, but estimates as to his weight do not range much above 115 pounds. His height corresponds with his weight, probably being not far from 5 feet 2 inches.

But there are tons of relentless energy packed away in the box-sized frame of the new postmaster general, and somewhat more than the usual amount of gray matter lodged between the rather large ears that, with the piercing, restless black eyes, constitute the most conspicuous features of the elder's make-up. He is the sort of little body that is frequently described as "dynamic," or of the "whirlwind" type. Nobody ever saw Hays in repose. Even when he is sitting still his keen eyes are searching out objects of interest and reflecting the activity of the brain behind them. He has taken possession (because that is the only suitable word) of the postoffice department with the same vigor with which he directed the political battle that resulted in the election of Mr. Harding.

Within 48 hours after tackling the job of repairing the damage done by Burleson, Elder Hays was operating "all over the lot," as it were, which means that he had been in every room in the postoffice department, conferred with the chiefs of every division and mapped out a plan for a personal inspection of the postoffices of St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Boston and Baltimore. He announced at the very outset that

French



Will H. Hays, postmaster general

he was going to try to restore the postoffice department to its legitimate function; make it a going business and give the people their value for the money they have invested in the department. Within a week he had established direct or indirect contact with every one of the 300,000 employees of the department, and there has been no let up since his "took possession."

Even when a bad cold that would have sent most men to the hospital compelled him to keep to his apartment at the Shoreham hotel, Hays had a bunch of secretaries shedding orders from their typewriting machines all over the department. He also kept two or three telephones buzzing uninterruptedly from morning till night. There is no question but that Hays is a fast worker. That is his chief indoor and outdoor sport. He can work with equal facility in a Pullman car, on a bucking steamship, in an airplane, or at his desk.

DICTATES LETTERS AND TALKS
Some of his critics, and there are many of them, are unkind enough to say that there is a lot of "lost motion" about Hays, but none of them has ever charged that he is lazy, or even hinted at it. Hence the term "perpetual motion." When not "on the wing" or confined to his hotel, the new postmaster general is at his office at 9 o'clock in the morning. He has that disagreeable habit of making appointments between 8 and 10, which is a very unpopular period in official Washington for business. And

when he is at his desk, Hays is working "like a steam engine" all the time.

He has that breezy, Western faculty, that almost amounts to genius, of making it appear that he has lots of time to talk with visitors and that actual work is a genuine pleasure, which, of course, is pure fiction. I saw him the other morning in full play. He was shooting out orders and dictating to stenographers with pretty much the same precision as a modern printing press runs off the sporting editions of an afternoon paper. Yet he found time in between frequent interruptions to discuss plans he has mapped out for the reform of the postal service.

The most important of these plans to the long suffering victims of the Burleson system is that Hays is going to try to have letters delivered the same week, within a reasonable area; reduce the burdens on the taxpayers and make a herculean effort to restore the service generally to popular favor. He wholly mind plans to accomplish these wholly desirable results that appear to be neither visionary nor impractical, and which seem to have been worked out along definite and logical lines. If energy will put them over, there is little question that it will be possible for the average citizen to speak to the postoffice department without violating the third commandment.

Hays is an apostle of direct action. He approaches a thing with the air of a man who frankly wants to find out all about your grievance and lends a sympathetic ear to your requests or suggestions. But whether he is sitting at his desk or skyrocketing up the street or riding in a Pullman car, he seems to have something on his mind.

AS TO POLITICAL JOBS
Not all of his duties are of an official character. He divides with Attorney General Daugherty the responsibility for looking out for the political interests of the administration. The postmaster general's job has always carried with it rather more in the nature of political obligations and responsibilities than that of any other cabinet office.

Burleson was the politician of the Wilson administration, and even his colleagues admitted at times that he made a fine mess of things because he tried to run congress alone with all the executive departments of the government. Hays will be relieved of the congressional end of the job because President Harding, who served in congress, undoubtedly knows more about the workings of the legislative mind than Hays.

As chairman of the Republican national committee, from which he is soon to retire, Hays comes in for most of the disagreeable consequences of a political victory. In promoting the fortunes of Mr. Harding, he was called upon to assume, or to inherit, obligations included in achieving the result accomplished. It is quite natural, therefore, that almost every fellow that thinks he helped to make the country safe from the Democracy should come to him with his claim for recognition—and a job, because that's what most politicians mean when they use the word "recognition."

Hays maintains a fine time to listen to job hunters, but not at his office. He slips away at lunch time and holds court in his apartments at his hotel. He further devotes most of his evenings to the same dubious occupation. Of course he'll tell you, as he did me, that no pledges were made during the presidential campaign to appoint any man to any kind of a job.

That's what every politician who wins a battle always says. Perhaps Hays is right about it; nevertheless, the job hunters daily line up about his apartments or maintain a vigilant eye upon the elevators to intervene as soon as his diminutive form flashes through the doorway. Of course there are a lot of complaints that Hays has "not made good" or that he is not as sympathetic as he should be to "fellows like us that won the election." That is also a consequence of a political victory.

The soreheads also charge Hays with passing the buck to Harvey Daugherty, or the president himself, who does not entirely escape accusations of ingratitude. But as a whole, Hays manages to appease or placate the job hunters without losing their friendship.

CAN'T ALWAYS SUCCEED
He works hard enough to get them what they want and it is quite probable that his failure always to do so is the result of circumstances which he cannot control. The professionals generally accord him with a sincere interest in urging the distribution of jobs with an exact sense of fairness. He does not always, of course, succeed, mainly because other members of the cabinet who control the awarding of patronage have plans and candidates of their own.

Most of the trouble experienced by Hays is in trying to comply with the widespread demand for the annihilation of the executive order promulgated by President Wilson requiring competitive examinations for postoffice jobs, which has the same effect as a civil service regulation.

Members of congress generally are opposed to a revocation of the order because it will save them a lot of trouble with their constituents. Experience has taught congressmen that it is much safer to place the blame for their failure to land a constituent in a postoffice on

an executive order than it is to have to discriminate between several competitors for it.

Wherefore, they cheerfully pass the buck up to Hays and let it go at that. Whether Hays is really in favor of perpetuating the Wilson merit system is probably known only to himself. It is a fair assumption that he is in favor of it because the perpetuation of it will constitute a highly protective barrier against trouble for himself as well as members of congress. Yet there is no record of him having sought to evade responsibility for making good any promises resulting from the campaign of favoring any Democratic plan that will prevent a Republican from getting a job.

That he was entitled to a place in the Harding cabinet is admitted by even his critics. The services rendered by him previous to the nomination of Mr. Harding are conceded to have been of incalculable value. From his election as national chairman the wily little Indiana Presbyterian politician set about "poisoning" the well of public opinion against the Wilson administration, and he made a very good job of it, too. Weak after week Hays through the medium of partisan papers, launched a campaign of criticism that had much to do with bringing about the coalition of partisan and racial hatreds through which the defeat of the Democratic party was ultimately accomplished.

The professional Republicans who afterward benefited from the results of the intensely bitter propaganda resorted to by Hays did not criticize it then, but praised him for the skill with which he conducted it. The one crime urged against him that characterized the Friday deadlock between the Wood, John-

SAY HE SOUGHT PRESIDENCY
Incident that characterized the Friday deadlock between the Wood, John-

son and Lowden forces at Chicago last June are recalled to prove conclusively that Hays and Colonel George Harvey, new ambassador to the court of St. James, tried to manipulate the machine of the convention to bring about the nomination of Hays for president. Now such an ambition would have been wholly within the lines of legitimate endeavor and for a much too fleeting period it looked as if Colonel Harvey might put it across. He probably would have done so if the animosities which are ever present in Indiana politics had not clogged the machinery.

Still it is the one thing that some of the Harding supporters hold against Hays, even though the Ohio senator seemed to have but little chance of winning, while Colonel Harvey was going at top speed in promotion of the Hays candidacy. According to professionals on the inside, Hays is coming in for most of the odium and none of the pleasure of the victory to which he so largely contributed. Some of his friends and co-workers have been completely ignored by Mr. Harding in the distribution of patronage. But Hays takes his medicine and presents a smiling front whenever the subject is mentioned.

Regarding other criticisms of his methods in conducting the crusade against the Wilson administration the friends of Hays assert complete justification on the ground that "you have to be tricky in Indiana politics or you won't get anywhere." Hays, who is ostentatiously frank (as all good Presbyterian elders should be), seems to be content to let the critics harp.

He is postmaster general and still chairman of the Republican national committee, both of which offices carry with them a highly important degree of prestige. He is going to quit his job as the national boss in a month or two and devote himself entirely to "re-establishing the postoffice department

in the good graces of the American people." There is no question that he will work hard enough to do so, because any change in the Burlesonian method is certain to meet with popular approval.

If Hays has any idea or outside overtures he sedulously keeps them under cover. He doesn't appear to care for anything but work. He doesn't play golf; rarely, if ever, goes to the theatre; neither smokes, chews nor violates the eighteenth amendment. He is a keen student of public affairs, an omnivorous reader of newspapers, and when not actually at work likes to talk international politics.

He is the youngest member of the cabinet, having just passed his forty-first birthday. His only habit is going to church. The only medal he ever won was for constant attendance at Sunday school. He is married but has no children.

Next Sunday: Harry M. Daugherty, Attorney General.

Municipal Judge Incensed; Lecture Termed Deserved

Municipal Judge Rossman was still incensed Saturday night over developments in his court Friday, which led to his uttering scathing remarks to a group of young people who had been taken up as disorderly following a fight between two girls in an automobile several days before.

The judge had censured young men, posing as respectable, who would give girls liquor just to watch their conduct when drunk. He directed his remarks chiefly at W. E. Sinner, though the sermon that followed applied to the entire

AMERICA IGNORES CLAIM OF DUTCH

Contention That U. S. Interests Are Too Late in Sumatra Oil Issue Rejected.

Washington, June 11.—(U. P.)—The United States government tonight made it plain that it will not recognize the contentions of the Dutch government that American interests applied too late for permission to engage in the exploitation of the Djambi oil fields in Central Sumatra.

The note of the American government to Holland on May 27, which was made public tonight by the state department, instructed the United States legation at The Hague "to state that the United States government finds it impossible to regard the applications of American companies or its own expressions of interest in the matter as having been communicated too late to the government of The Netherlands."

quintet, and beyond, to the whole class of men and women who find a form of pleasure in drunkenness and its consequences. George Weidenkeller, the other young man in the group, was not specifically named in the court's arraignment.

Junior League to Have Rummage Sale

The Junior League will conduct a rummage sale of millinery for the benefit of the public welfare bureau, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, at 305 Oak street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. Miss Irene Daly is president of the league, and Mrs. Mary Scarborough is chairman of the sale committee. They will be assisted by 20 members of the organization.

Berries Drop to 75 Cents
Salem, June 11.—(Clutter) markets here today brought the price of strawberries down to a record low level in the history of this section, berries being retailed at 75 cents per crate in an effort to clear the market before closing time tonight and save loss through spoilage over Sunday.

EKDEE HAIR CERATE

Worth its weight in Gold.
We say of beautiful hair.
Give yours the EKDEE treatment.
Keep looking young and fair.
EQUALLY GOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN.
12¢ a jar (8 1/2 x 1 1/2 in.)
at your druggist or from
THE EKDEE CO.
800 Union Ave. N., Portland, Ore.

Friedlander's Reduced Prices Were the Right Thing.

The public response has been wonderful and continues to be so. Is it to be wondered at?

\$100.00 diamond rings, as fine as any in the city, continue at \$72.50.

\$150.00 rings reduced to \$95.00.

\$300 to \$325 rings are now \$225 and \$245. Steel blue and perfect stones, too.

A tasty lot of \$50.00 rings are now \$30 to \$36.50.

\$25 15-jeweled wrist watches are a special feature at \$13.50 each. We have only a very few of these left.

Wonderful reductions in Sterling Silver flatware, Sheffield trays and tea sets.

All high-grade standard Seth Thomas, Chelsea and Ansonia clocks reduced.

FRIEDLANDERS
310 Washington, Bet. Fifth and Sixth

Established 1870

Open From 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.



\$6.85

C 1211—A new One-Strap with tongue, in black or brown suede, turn sole and baby French heel. Regular \$12.50 value.



\$6.85

C-1221—A new variation of the Strap Pump. Made of soft black kid with turn sole and covered French heel. Regular \$8.50 value.



\$6.85

2236—Dark Brown Calf Oxford, similar to cut except blucher pattern. Welt sole, Cuban heel. Regular \$8.50 value.



\$6.85

2242—Low heel Oxford made of genuine tan Russia calfskin with white rubber sole and white low heel. Regular \$8.50 value.



\$6.85

2241—A sturdy tan calf One-Strap Pump with welt sole and leather Cuban heel. Regular \$8.50 value.



\$6.85

A 2221—Dainty Black Satin One-Strap Pump with turn sole and baby French heel. Regular \$8.50 value.

Specials for one week only—That will startle the shoe buying public of Portland. All are summer time patterns, extremely desirable and very attractive—values to \$12.50 at one price—\$6.85

In addition to these \$6.85 specials, we also have on sale over 25 different styles at \$8.85. These are lines that formerly sold upto \$12.50. Worthwhile values—every pair

The Largest Retailer of Shoes West of Chicago

G.A. Baker

380 Washington Street

270 Morrison Street

308 Washington Street

Los Angeles

Portland

San Francisco