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Charles Evans Hughes

New York's Energetic Governor, Who Is In the Presidential Limelight, Has No Use For Political Bosses.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

W HIO'S Hughes?" Such was the query of Chairman Stevens of the New York legislature's gas investigating committee in March, when State Senator Alfred R. Tamm, one of the members, suggested no Attorney Charles Evans Hughes for chief counsel or inquirer. Just at present Mr. Hughes is governor of New York, but he was an unknown lawyer when that question was asked. Mr. Page knew that Mr. Hughes was a good lawyer. A considerable group of men in New York city, where he practiced, also knew this fact. But there are many other good lawyers in New York, so that is not very much of a distinction. However, Mr. Page insisted to Stevens that Hughes was the very best lawyer available for the work in hand—to conspire out of Consolidated Gas officials, to poke the probe down into the rotten core of lighting contracts and illuminate the opaque interior and to discover that New York people were paying a dollar for gas that cost 28 cents. Hughes was hired and did the work. Now people no longer ask who Hughes is, but throughout the United States they are asking what Hughes is that kind of a man is this person at Albany. This new and novel figure in public life, for it is a fact that Hughes is a new element in civics, like radium in physics.

A Unique Governor.

Charles E. Hughes has been governor of New York for almost a year—quite long enough to allow his measure to be taken. Yet it is a difficult matter to classify the man at Albany. After looking at this human specimen from all sides and in all lights the conclusion is reached that he does not belong in any classification hitherto accepted, but is a whole new class by himself. As a public administrator Governor Hughes is unique.

People are asking, "What about this man Hughes?" with thoughts on presidential possibilities, but it is declared by close friends of the governor himself and indeed by intimate observers who oppose him politically that the subject of this curiosity is not thinking at all about what may happen to him or who Hughes may be next year or ten years hence. Hughes, they say, is simply attending to his job as governor of New York.

It may be said that Mr. Hughes' interpretation of the duties of a state executive is the one thing that differentiates him from the general run of governors the country over. How he interprets his duties is best explained by citing incidents in his official career. Before Mr. Hughes went to Albany the working desk of the governor was in a small room adjoining the fine large chamber which is known as the executive office. Former governors preferred the small room so that they could keep away from the crowd which frequently fills the large room; also, it must be said, some of them preferred the little office so that they could talk in private with politicians. Governor Hughes used the little room for a few days. Then he marched out into the big room and took his seat at the expansive flat desk which had been merely ornamental, and he works there every day.

Shortly after this move a certain individual entered the big chamber and

put his face close to the governor's, saying softly:

"I want to see you alone, governor."

"I am alone," replied the governor in his everyday voice.

"But this is a private matter, governor, and—"

"Is it official business?"

"Yes, but—"

"That politician thus made the startling discovery that New York has a governor to whom no official business is private.

It used to be mighty hard for a humble citizen to get access to the little room and the governor's ear. Now anybody not palpably a crank or lunatic can enter the big room and state his case to the governor, who listens as attentively to a cab driver as he listens to the president of a railroad. Some months ago a man just released from state prison called upon Governor Hughes in the big room, announcing himself as an ex-convict. The governor listened attentively while the man complained of certain abuses in the prison and offered suggestions as to remedies. Governor Hughes took copious notes during the conversation and promised to take the matter under advisement.

Sample of His Investigation.

Two former officials at the capitol will not forget the evening when the lights went out. The governor and his secretaries were working late. They lost valuable time hunting for candles. This led Governor Hughes to investigate the lighting system, bring about improvements which will obviate any future resort to candles, dismiss two important officials and censure a third. Hughes, you know, got his office because he was an investigator.

These are small incidents, but they have a large bearing upon the character of the man Hughes. One of the bigger affairs of his administration was his fight to oust Otto Kelsey, the state insurance commissioner. As everybody knows, after Lawyer Hughes had investigated gas he was called to investigate life insurance. After his searching questions had compelled insurance presidents and managers to disclose the facts which proved their gross mismanagement of the people's funds Mr. Hughes prepared the official report of the legislative investigating committee to which he had acted as chief counsel. When he became governor he knew life insurance down to the nub. He became convinced that the commissioner of insurance was not taking advantage of the findings contained in that report to protect policy holders. He proposed to have a new commissioner, but he gave Mr. Kelsey an opportunity to show cause why he should not be removed.

Won a Moral Victory.

Governor Hughes notified Commissioner Kelsey to appear before him in the big room for immediate examination. There was no precedent for such a thing, of course. But, then, Governor Hughes cares little for precedents. He cares more for common sense, for business methods applied on the jump to the case immediately in hand. After a few hours of what lawyers call "Q and A," otherwise cross examination, Mr. Kelsey felt like the bossom of a boiled shirt after being worn on a hot August day. He was wilted. The party machine in the state senate sustained Mr. Kelsey and prevented his removal, but the governor

won the moral victory.

Also the governor a little later by attending strictly to his business as chief executive according to his own interpretation took the starch out of the party machine. A correspondent wrote from Albany:

"He has smashed his party organization so that there is little left of it as a machine. To be sure, many of the working parts are intact, but they are not assembled."

Neither Boss Nor Machine.

And it is not at all likely that they will be assembled so long as Charles E. Hughes stays in Albany. There is no Republican party machine in New York state at present writing. Up to a year or two ago the machine was as active as an automobile with a full tank out to break the record. Now it lies by the wayside like an auto that has butted against a steel telegraph pole. Governor Hughes is the steel pole. There is no Republican boss in New York state. Boss Platt is no more. Boss Odell is no more. State Chairman Woodruff, who might be boss with some other man than Hughes in the gubernatorial chair, is not a boss at all. For the first time in many years New York state Republicans have neither boss nor machine.

Why not? Because the man at the big flat desk in the large open chamber at Albany steadfastly refuses to attend to anybody's business but his own. He is the governor and attends to the governor's business. His interpretation of the governor's business does not include partisanship of any sort, does not include fixing up any fences so that the party may win out next year, does not include slystering and chicanery, trickstering and trafficking in patronage—none of those things at all. Apparently he is not concerned, officially at any rate, as to whether New York city goes Republican or Cattaugus county carries the whole ticket with increased majorities. He does not care, officially speaking, whether the Empire State is Republican or Populist next year. That is none of his business. His business is to be governor of New York and do the work directly connected with that office until his term shall end.

Governor Hughes puts no ear to the ground to hearken the rumbling of popular issues. Last winter state legislatures east, west and south were passing laws reducing the railroad passenger rate to 2 cents a mile. The people clamored for such laws. The governors signed them. There seemed to be a general demand for an arbitrary regulation of passenger rates, and it was the most popular movement of recent times. New York's legislative assembly passed a two cent law. Governor Hughes vetoed it.

"The People's Governor."

At first the people were shocked. The utterly unexpected had happened. Indignation soon gave way to curiosity. Hughes had become known as "the people's governor," and he certainly was not the corporation's governor. He must have plausible reasons for vetoing the bill. When the people read the governor's reasons, submitted with his veto message, showing the two sides of the question, many of them applauded.

Rev. David C. Hughes, retired Baptist minister and father of the governor, says Charles was always a good boy, "but neither a prig nor a Puritan." Nobody denies that the mature Charles is making a good governor. But he is a new sort of governor because he is not playing politics. This extraordinary abstention from the game that is supposed to be a prerogative of the New York governorship, with vague outlines of the White House looming up in the immediate future, perplexes the politicians. They don't know where they are at. They are afraid to say where they stand as to the future of Charles E. Hughes.

The people, however, are in no such perplexity. Everywhere throughout New York state you may hear people "mentioning" Hughes for the presidential nomination. And this recent utterance of President Schurman of Cornell in a public address delivered

from the platform where Abraham Lincoln made his first speech in the east, the old Cooper Union in New York city, expresses the situation: "If the people want Governor Hughes for higher service, it is best for them to take the initiative and extend the call. He would not accept an invitation from the bosses."

Why He Never Married.

A matinee girl from Chicago looked up from a long and painful study of one of Clyde Fitch's autographed sentiments into that author's face.

"Mr. Fitch," she began mournfully, "I know why you have not married."

"Tell me, I would like to know."

"Certainly. It must have happened this way: You wrote a proposal of marriage to a beautiful leading woman in one of your companies. You should have proposed in person. But you wrote. She couldn't read your writing and thought it was a dismissal from the company. She drowned herself, and you are still unmarried."

The dramatic author thoughtfully rolled a cigarette.

"It is as good a reason as I know," he responded.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Painter Man.

Mark Twain at a dinner at New York once talked about the troubles of housekeepers at the painting season. He said, "If you are a housekeeper, I don't need to tell you that when a painter has taken up the parlor carpet, removed the furniture from the dining room, leaned two ladders against the hall mantel and stacked a half dozen varnished cans of paint on the sideboard it means he is now ready to paint the outside shutters and the back fence."

Almost as Bad.

"Was no one injured in the railway collision, count?"

No. Nevertheless it was a most painful situation. First, second, third and fourth class passengers all mingled together. Simply unheard of!—Transatlantic Tales.

Heart Interest.

"That play," remarked the critical person, "lacks heart interest."

"It does, eh?" answered the star.

"You just ought to see the way the manager is taking the box office receipts to heart."—Washington Star.

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|--------------|--|
| No. 7 | Departs 6:40 a. m., arrives at Portland 8:00 a. m. |
| No. 8 | " 8:50 a. m., " " 10:30 a. m. |
| No. 9 | " 1:30 p. m., " " 2:50 p. m. |
| No. 1 | " 4:44 p. m., " " 6:53 p. m. |

| SOUTH BOUND. | |
|--------------|---|
| No. 2 | Departs 7:00 a. m. from Forest Grove 8:34 a. m. |
| No. 3 | " 11:00 a. m., " " 12:20 p. m. |
| No. 4 | " 4:10 p. m., " " 5:40 p. m. |
| No. 10 | " 5:40 p. m., " " 7:00 p. m. |

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Notice for Publication
The undersigned, James A. Bailey of Jefferson County, Oregon, have applied to the County of Jefferson, State of Oregon, for and to be granted, under the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, as amended by act of August 4, 1902, the SW 1/4, Sec. 3 and 4 and NE 1/4 of Section 30, T. 3 N., R. 3 W., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes and to establish his claim to said land before Register and Receiver at Portland, Oregon, on the 6th day of February, 1903.
He names as his witnesses:
Olaf Ohlson of Portland, Oregon,
Mary E. Wilson of Portland, Oregon,
Charlotte Reed of Portland, Oregon,
Will Kelley of Buxton, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 6th day of February, 1903.
ALGERNON S. DRESSER,
Register.

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