

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT ASPIRANTS

Albany, N. Y., June 10.—Charles Evans Hughes is probably less of a politician than any other man in politics.

Politicians say he is an accident, the unnatural result of extraordinary circumstances. His admirers say he is the prophet of a new era in the political world. Every one who has been associated with him closely is certain of one fact—he is a man of outstanding individuality.

As governor of New York he has given the state an administration that is absolutely unique. It has not been wholly successful in the matter of accomplishment. He has worked alone, except for the aid of those who rallied to his assistance of their own accord. He never asks the aid of any man.

Old-timers at Albany, who admire the governor for his stand on all moral questions and who believe in most of his doctrines of right living say:

"He is a great governor. He has given the state an administration on a high plane. But Odell and Roosevelt did more for the people after all. They made the politicians do what they wanted them to do. They laid down the law to the legislature and the legislature usually obeyed. It is true that the preachers of the state did not agree with everything they did—but they got results."

Hughes considers the means fully as important as the end. His father was a Baptist preacher in Glens Falls, N. Y., and there is something of the Baptist preacher and much of the Baptist laymen in the governor today. A leaflet scattered about the legislature during the fight on the anti-race track gambling bills, said of him:

"He is a preacher among politicians; a politician among preachers."

He is the embodiment of system. He habitually looks before he leaps, and usually carefully measures the space and carefully estimates his leaping capacity in advance.

Much fun has been made of his conceit in comic papers and public speeches. It is no myth, either. The thing about Hughes that worries the politicians most of all is his placidity. He consults his conscience on every move and does what will satisfy it and then no matter what happens, he can say to himself:

"I have done the right thing. If others fail I cannot be blamed for their failure. I have done my full duty."

Hughes studied hard as a boy in school and has never stopped. He is now 46 years old and in his mind are stored away the results of almost that many years' study, for he began to read almost as soon as he began to talk.

But there is another side to the man—the side that usually is not seen by the public. He has all the human emotions in a strong degree, but he has learned to control them and keep them in the background. No man is better company at a dinner and no man enters more enthusiastically into the spirit of a joke or an evening of pleasure, when the evening has been set aside for that purpose.

At dinners such as the "Amen Corner" annual affair in New York, or the dinner of the Legislative Cor-

respondents' association at Albany, both of which are patterned after the Gridiron dinners in Washington, he enjoys all the fun that is poked at him and laughs loudest of all. He seems to revel in recreation of this sort, and the reason probably lies in the fact that he usually keeps his mind hard at serious work.

The very fact that he is unpopular with the politicians who have ruled New York so long has given Hughes much support—a support of a kind that surprised everybody. It came from men who usually are not heard from in public matters.

No man doubts his sincerity. No one has charged him with inordinate ambition. Many believe that he is the most popular man in the state and assert freely that few men ever were as popular with the people at large. But, they usually add, he does not take advantage of his opportunity.

The late John Vandercook, president of the United Press, in an article on Hughes, said:

"Some think Hughes at heart a Wall-street lawyer—some say that he is a moral prig. The bulk of his really earnest popular support comes from the up-state 'hayseed districts.' Were he ever made President, he probably would pursue the course he has as governor, that is, he would never take up a thing until he understood it thoroughly, and then pushed it through with calm insistent patience, falling back always on the same 'It's right' argument when anybody wanted to change his mind."

Hughes first sprang into public notice as counsel for the legislative committee in the gas investigation in New York in 1905. Then quickly followed the life insurance investigation in which he won national fame and which brought him the nomination for governor. Before these events he had been a deep-thinking, hard-working lawyer known more to lawyers than to laymen. Other attorneys sought his advice on tangled points. He had lectured on law in Cornell university and was looked upon somewhat as a professor in practice until he suddenly loomed up as a man of action.

One phase of Hughes' character is illustrated by his action on the Hearst bill providing for a recount of the ballots cast in the McClellan-Hearst mayoralty election in New York, which Hearst claims he won but was counted out. Hearst had been Hughes' opponent in the race for governor and had attacked him in many ways, constantly referring to him as an "animated feather duster." Yet Hughes recommended the passage of the bill. When he was counselled not to sign it, he replied decisively, "It is a simple act of justice," and thereupon affixed his signature to the bill, making it a law.

Taft.

Washington, June 10.—President Roosevelt has said that if it would help matters at all, he would cheerfully walk on his hands and knees from the White House to the Capitol to see William Howard Taft inaugurated president of the United States.

Senator Foraker, who would like to prevent the consummation of that

event, has declared that no one could meet Taft and not love him as a man.

There must be something wonderfully pleasing in a man's personality to evoke such expressions from two such diverse sources.

And there is. Genial, whole-souled, happy, hearty big "Bill" Taft, as he is known to his intimates, attracts men to him as irresistibly as the magnet does the steel.

One of the biggest men in the country, physically, Taft is six feet tall and weighs 280 pounds. His shoulders are so broad, and his frame so big, that he carries his weight without giving the appearance of a fat man in the ordinary sense.

Bubbling over with good nature, with laughter ever ready to his lips, Taft is, nevertheless, the personification of dignity and firmness. Convinced of the wisdom and justice of a certain line of action, no one, not even President Roosevelt himself, is more aggressive and courageous in pursuit of his object.

Taft is his own master. No greater mistake could be made than to assume that if elected President, he would be under the domination of any man. In the mapping out of the great policies of the Roosevelt administration no one has been more freely consulted than Taft, and no one has been more free to criticize the President when criticism seemed just.

Roosevelt is not a lawyer. Taft is. Sympathizing heartily with the President's purposes, Taft has used his legal training to shape Roosevelt's ideas into practical form. The abilities of the one have complemented those of the other, with the result that a great work has been accomplished for the people.

Temperamentally they are almost opposites. It would be difficult to conceive of Taft forming classes of "liars," "malefactors of great wealth," or "nature fakirs." He has not the phrase-making capacity of Roosevelt, but he can be none the less vigorous in denunciation of wrong. He does not believe that epithets are necessary to make a speech strong and incisive. Where Roosevelt is impetuous and sometimes has to change front with great suddenness, Taft's legal training makes him deliberate, judicial, and, once convinced, unyielding.

No man in public life is more frank and unreserved in his intercourse with newspaper men than Taft. He goes on the theory that the public has a right to know about the administration of the war department, and he takes the correspondents into his confidence, but he reserves the right to decide when the proper time has arrived for publication of the facts. He plays no favorites, but when Taft says "No," there is a finality about it which is generally accepted. On one occasion, however, a correspondent persisted in asking leading questions on a subject upon which the secretary had said that he could not speak. Taft's face lost its smile, the kindly gray eyes developed a steely glitter, and suddenly the storm broke. He declared that he was not to be "ballyragged" into answering questions that he did not want to answer, and gave the unhappy newspaper man such a raking-down before all of his colleagues, as he had probably never had before. It was such a surprise coming from Taft that for a few moments no one uttered a word. Then, just as suddenly, the storm cleared. Jumping up, Taft put his arm around the shoulder of the correspondent and in the most affectionate manner said:

(Continued on page seven).

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