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of the rules, which was intended to prevent the street railway companies from hiring men to take the place of the strikers.

COLONEL HOUSE, MYSTERY MAN. President Wilson's "Personal Representative" Back From Europe. His Unique Place in American Political History.

By RAYMOND G. FULLER.

THE mystery of Colonel House remains. Colonel House is back from Europe, where he is supposed to have discharged an "unofficial" mission for President Wilson.

He was interviewed, of course, at the earliest opportunity. "It's a trip I take every year," he said. In reply to a question, "I did not talk peace," he answered.

"You have information for the President's ear, have you not?" he was challenged. "Oh, yes, it would be the duty of any American citizen to give the President any information which might be of value to him."

"You are on your way to Washington?" "I may go there in a day or two, maybe three or four days."

But Colonel House is not a sphinx. A sphinx has an undeniably obtrusive quality. "Who is he?"

This man, who was dubbed early in 1913 the President's "silent partner," and more recently "Envoy Interrogatory and Minister Mediator," was first heard of by the country at the time of the Baltimore convention. It has been more or less credibly reported that the Texas delegation, when it reached Baltimore, was so enthusiastically for Wilson that Champ Clark's delegation from Missouri was afraid to sit in the next section.

Influential in the Baltimore convention in this same self-effacing way, he was likewise influential in the campaign. Not much light has been thrown on the secret of his power, but perhaps the following account of his appearance at national headquarters is as illuminating as anything that has yet been written of Colonel House.

"A man who was connected with the committee tried to explain what Colonel House did, and he said as nearly as he could work it out the Colonel had gone around keeping things quiet by suggestion. 'He would come into an office,' said this man, 'and say a few words quietly, and after he had gone you would suddenly become seized with a good idea. You would put that idea forth and receive congratulations for it; it would work out first rate. Long after, if you thought the thing over, you would realize that the idea had been oozed into your brain by Colonel House during a few minutes' quiet conversation. You did not know it, and the Colonel did not want you to know it. As a matter of fact, before the campaign was over in his quiet way Colonel House came near being the biggest man about the works, although he did not hold any position and would not take one.'

So, perhaps, the description of Colonel House as a man of mystery is inaccurate. It is the quality that is rare, the quietness which distinguishes him. His energy, his ability, his power, even his character, seem to be kept in hiding, or rather, in a sense, held in reserve. He is not given in the slightest degree to self-advertisement, a fact which represents a positive, not a negative, trait. And further, this is what President Wilson has said of him: "He is one of the best poised men I ever met. He can hold a thing at arm's length and discuss it without ever getting mixed up in it."

The Colonel, who received his title by grace of a Texas Governor, might have been a member of the Cabinet if he had given his assent. He brought about Bryan's acceptance of a place, and suggested to Mr. Wilson the names of Burleson and Houston. At least such was the political gossip when the Cabinet was in process of formation.

His acquaintance with Mr. Wilson began when the latter was Governor of New Jersey. They are regarded as intimates, and they have had a number of "good talks," yet it may be added that they meet infrequently.

Colonel House was born in Houston 57 years ago, and was graduated from Columbia University in 1881. He is married and has two married daughters. He has a home in Austin, a summer home at Magnolia, Mass., and an apartment in New York city. He is strictly temperate in his habits, gives liberally to charitable enterprises, likes to help men get on their feet on the road to success and finds his chief recreation on horseback.

SOLDIERS AND WHISKERS. From the London Chronicle. The suggestion that soldiers should be clean-shaven would not have commended itself to Victor Emmanuel II, who held it incumbent on a soldier to look ferocious.

ANTICIPATION



MEN OF THE MAYORALTY CAMPAIGN

Congressman William S. Vare, Who Is Said to Have the Chance of a Lifetime to Prove Himself of "Party Calibre." A Personal Sketch

By HERBERT S. WEBER

The series of personal sketches of men who will figure prominently in the mayoralty campaign does not seek to determine the fitness of candidates, but only to present the personalities behind the names. This is the fourth article of the series.

Whether William Scott Vare will be the choice of the Vares for Mayor or not, it is beyond question that the brothers are the greatest organized power in the Republican party in this city as far as the selection of a Republican candidate is concerned. If Vare does not want the job for himself, and if the McNichol and Vare factions decide to support a compromise candidate, the brothers will unquestionably be strong enough to "shade" the ultimate Republican selection far nearer to their point in the political spectrum than McNichol.

But what are the primary colors of this political spectrum? Sometimes there are only two, Gang and Reform. This year there are four, and an analysis of them may elucidate the business of "shading," the phase into which the campaign seems now to be developing. In the absence of an early crystallization of enthusiasms around dominating personalities.

The four types of mayoralty possibilities (reflected in corresponding sections of the public) are (1) Gang men, (2) Organization men, (3) Party men and (4) Independents. It is a rough classification and only a convenience. William Vare has a "shade" which is expressed by the man in the street sometimes when he says, "He's better than McNichol or Penrose, anyhow." So for practical purposes call McNichol and Penrose Gang men, the Vares Organization men. A typical party man is Brumbaugh. A typical Independent is Blankenburg. Between the last two "shades" there is only the difference of method.

The most interesting thing to watch for now in the campaign will be the answer to this question: Has William Vare advanced sufficiently in his progress toward Party calibre, or the Brumbaugh order, to encourage an open debate among prominent Republicans, who are not professional politicians, as to who would be a good man for Mayor, and, then, if a good, free man should develop a "boom" support that "boom" (it might conceivably turn out to be his own) or will he enter into an understanding with McNichol to unite with him in support of a "good man"—just "good" enough to be a strong Republican candidate in the eyes of the people, but not really good enough to be above dividing the spoils equitably between the two factions in the Organization?

In a word, he has the chance of his life now to align himself with the Party rather than with the Organization.

From Cash Boy to Congressman Augustus Vare, born in the southern section of Philadelphia in 1813, and his wife Abigail raised a large family in "The Neck," a section whose contemptuous nickname is the best proof that it was not in line for benefits. The three children to attain distinction were George, born in 1839; Edwin, 1852; and William, who was born on Christmas Eve, 1867. The family homestead was at 4th street and Snyder avenue, on their small farm. Everybody kept pigs in that part of the world, and the Vares did, too, and pigs have to be fed. Edwin Vare drove a garbage wagon for a city contractor named Pollock, who got into financial difficulty and was ably helped by his employee. In his study of the larger problems of the garbage collecting business Edwin soon fitted himself to become a contractor himself.

tion, a watchful eye and grasp, but appear before the people as a man who had broken into a wider field of political thought which was not for a McNichol to enter. To be known as the Congressman who was backing Philadelphia in Washington (fathering a bill for the expansion of League Island's battleship-building facilities with the support of the Secretary of the Navy) and who took part in "local" politics only in seeing that the Republican Governor's program was supported. And then, perhaps, to hold back from the strictly local question of a mayoralty contest, as is befitting a national figure, encourage an open primary and align himself with the Governor with the best start toward the Presidency of any Republican in the country!

Has Vare Broadened?

With this as his dream, he could well afford now, at 47, to put aside the Mayoralty for four years, perhaps forever, and try to live down his past by means of a clean slate unrelated to his municipal record.

That he thinks it's worth while trying to appear more than a reformed Gang man, more than a mere Organization stalwart, nothing short of a first-class party man—proved by a glance at William Vare. There is an earnest, appealing look in his small blue eyes and almost a pout on his firm mouth, the corners of it drawn sharply in; it is the expression of a man who wants to be liked and thought well of by people, emphasized by a certain play of sensitiveness, in spite of the shrewdness, and by a boyish freshness of skin. He has a high forehead and a square chin, a determined jaw. The thin lips show cautiousness enough, and his stocky, portly figure suggests a merchant of non-speculative tendencies. In a word, he does not look like a self-assured, overbearing boss, openly defiant of public opinion.

William and Edwin Vare married sisters; the former married Miss Ida Morris in 1887. They have three daughters, whom the Congressman sent to one of the many public schools in South Philadelphia which he had worked to give that section. His home is at 2238 South Broad street and he has a large cottage in Berkeley square, Chelsea.

Congressman Vare is a Methodist. He belongs to several orders, being a Moose, a Red Man, a Shriner and an Elk.

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