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Survey of the World

Elihu Root Succeeds
John Hay

When the President asked Mr. Elihu Root to go with him

to the funeral of Mr. Hay in Cleveland as the special representative of the State Department, the invitation was regarded as having much significance, because it was known that Mr. Root was the President's choice for the office of Secretary of State. It was commonly thought, however, that Mr. Root could not be induced to give up his law practice, to which, when withdrawing from the Cabinet, he had returned with the purpose of building up his private fortune. In a little less than a year and a half he has been very successful in his profession, his earnings rising to the neighborhood of \$200,000 a year. After long conferences with the President during the journey to Cleveland, he consented to take the office. The official announcement of his acceptance of it was delayed until the 7th, in order that he might be sure of obtaining a release from his many professional engagements, some of which involved service for five years to come. It was then made known that within about two weeks he would take the oath. At the same time it was intimated that supervision of the Panama Canal work might be transferred to the State Department. On the evening of the 6th, Secretary Taft was in San Francisco, attending a banquet given to him by the commercial organizations of the city. In the course of an address which he made there he said:

"In his great loss, the President turns to another man, Elihu Root, of New York, a man under whom it has been my great pleasure to serve as subordinate. I know that in him we have one of the greatest constructive states-

men of the age. Happy the country, happy the President, who, having lost a Hay, can turn to a Root."

At the close of his address to the teachers of the National Educational Association at Ocean Grove, on the 7th, Mr. Roosevelt spoke of Mr. Hay and his successor. Reviewing the career of Mr. Hay, "a great statesman, who was also a great man of letters," who "had the great advantage and great merit of being able at any moment to go back to private life unless he could continue in public life on his own terms," he said that such service as he had given to his country "could not have been rendered save by a man who had before him ideals as far apart as the poles from the ideals which have in them any taint of what is base or sordid." He continued:

"I wished to get for John Hay's successor the man whom I regarded as, of all men in the country, the one best fitted to be such successor. In asking him to accept the position of Secretary of State, I was asking him to submit to a very great pecuniary sacrifice, and I never even thought of that aspect of the question, for I knew he wouldn't either. I knew that whatever other consideration he had to weigh against taking the position, the consideration of how it would affect his personal fortune would not be taken into account by Elihu Root. And he has accepted."

Hay and Root, he went on to say, were not solitary exceptions, but were typical of a large class of men in public life. We had always had at the command of the nation, in any crisis, the best ability to be found in it, and that ability had been given lavishly, altho to the great pecuniary loss of the men giving it:

"There is not in my Cabinet a man to whom it is not a financial disadvantage to stay in it.

carried to the office as well as experience and training all of the grand characteristics which had marked him from youth. In his diplomacy as well as in personal relations with men he was frank, truthful and loyal. It took some time for the nature of his methods to be fully realized in the Old World, but they are understood and appreciated to-day.

A peculiar feature of Mr. Hay's life as Secretary of State has been that most of the time he has stood next in line for the Presidency. From the death of Vice-President Hobart to the inauguration of McKinley and Roosevelt and from the death of President McKinley till the last inauguration the death of the President would have placed him at the head of the nation. One of Mr. Hay's temperament could but keenly dread the possibility of such accidental prominence.

Personally, with all his friends, I mourn the death of Secretary Hay more than any words can express. He was the soul and sentiment of those who knew him well. His home was the one place in Washington where President Roosevelt frequently and informally visited. He often stopped there when returning from church on Sunday. Being a warm friend of the father, he had known the President from boyhood. In private life, to all who knew him, Mr. Hay was the most companionable of men, of wonderful versatility and practical information, but so modest and unassuming as to be within the reach of all. He was a supreme master of English. His conversation overflowed with apt stories, always clean and always vital. He was an apostle of sweetness and light, with a nature as tender and affectionate as a woman's and a man's strong and hearty

approval for that which appealed to him. As a characteristic instance of the man, when "Pickett and His Men" appeared, the great story of the great Confederate, General Pickett, Secretary Hay wrote to the widow of General Pickett, the author of the book:

"I have read your wonderful and beautiful story. I notice that the first chapter of the book begins with the name of my friend, Abraham Lincoln, and that the last chapter of the book begins with Abraham Lincoln. I thank you."

Mr. Hay was sometimes jovial, but oftener, in later years, depressed. Sadness had come into his life, and, besides, there seemed a sense of incompleteness. Full and effective as his life had been, the possibilities in him were so much greater still that the encroachments of age found him feeling that there was much he longed for time to accomplish, which must be left undone. He was right. He had not begun to exhaust his possibilities. Only this fell to his lot which can never fall to the lot of another: as Lincoln's secretary and confidential friend he played his part in the tragedy which welded the States into a nation, and a generation later, when that nation moved from obscurity to be a great world Power among the greatest nations, he stood at the helm and piloted it among the treacherous rocks of international diplomacy. He guided it to a position which is to-day the pride of every true American.

Whatever more it might have been, and however much we mourn and miss him, we know, and all ages to come will know, that his was a grand life well lived and a great work well done.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

In Memoriam:—John Hay

BY ETHELBERT D. WARFIELD

"PEACE hath her victories!" and such were thine

O brave and constant friend of world-wide peace.

And as to-day we mourn thy sad decease,
And for thy bier a fitting chaplet twine,
We choose no laurels, nor bright bays, to shine,

As oft in earlier years, above thy brow,—

Nor yet the civic oaken crown,—but now
The olive, only, shall thy locks confine.

Perchance it was from that great heart who bore

The bitterest burdens of fraternal strife
That thou didst learn the paths of peace to love;

And yet, methinks, thine eyes rose far above
All human forms to Him whose flawless life
Triumphed for peace the while hate's thorns

He wore.

EASTON, PA.