Newton D. Baker: Pacifist became secretary of war, fought big business, then joined it

By Robert G. Mikkelsen

He was a paradox: Champion of the belief that government was for the people, Baker was the same Tom L. Johnson who fought the big business interests. In 1907 he was a big business man.

He was the pacifist who served as secretary of war.

Baker achieved a prominent place in Cleveland and national affairs as a lawyer, even before he was born.

He inherited the mantle of Johnson as reformer of local government. Johnson had been on the scene for many years before.

Supporters promoted him for the presidency, but the man regarded as a reformer, a liberal public figure, never sought a run for the White House. The man who defeated him was one of the seven men who were elected president of the Union League of Cleveland.

When he was nominated for mayor of Cleveland, he was 32 years old.

He was a relentless campaigner for peace and mediocrity, apparently never realizing the role.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes became a pacifist when he was 89 years old.

Two college associates, a former Cleveland mayor, and an avid union member, an attorney, was elected mayor.

He was the only man who could control Cleveland.

Baker was the director and majesty of Cleveland.

He was a member of the Cleveland School of Law, a member of the Ohio Bar Association, and commissioner of the Cleveland School of Law. He was elected mayor in 1907.

Cleveland turned on Johnson because he used his power to control the newspapers.

Then he was defeated in the election of 1909 by William S. Porter.

Baker became law director in 1912 when the post was made an elective office in 1909.

At the time of his death, Baker was 71 years old.

Cleveland was a city of 100,000 people. Baker was a former member of the Ohio Bar Association, and commissioner of the Cleveland School of Law. He was elected mayor in 1907.

He was the only man who could control Cleveland.

Baker became law director in 1912 when the post was made an elective office in 1909.

In 1912, Baker was elected mayor by a margin of 12,783 votes.

Baker served as mayor in 1912 by a margin of 12,783 votes.

Baker was the representative of the Municipal Light Plant, and was the first man to be elected mayor.

When William D. Wilson died, Baker became president of the Cleveland Club.

The Democrats were hoping for a victory in 1912, and many thought Baker would be the next mayor.

Two years later Baker resigned his position as mayor of the city of Cleveland.

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