# thday

ster E. Siemon

ears ago today Dr. mon was born in New First he embarked on areer, and it was not 29 that he was grad- he Cleveland Univer- sity of Medicine and Surgery.

He has prac- ticed in Cleve- land continuous- ly since that time and has been on the staffs of City, Maternity and Huron Road Hospitals.

For many years he taught obstetrics at the Cleveland Uni- versity and was dean of the o 1910, when it was with Ohio State Uni-

was appointed to the board by Gov. Judson 11 and reappointed by nahey. He has been the Ohio College of nce its inception in the 80th president of Institute of Homeopa

and his wife have one king and fishing are ecreations. M. H.

s as swiftly and thor- forest fire destroys

n it coming in Spain d he watched its ef- a year of civil war. t he was wrong about his apprehension was it was disturbing. he same inclination to s into good and bad, e groups into angels s- if we were super- ties. Ordinary sense experience tell us that true. Yet politicians this viewpoint and a tional feeling backs

**ians Seek Goats**

business of politics to to try to assess respon- ailures wherever it is ent. It is the instinct htless to conceive of which originate in the causes as due to per- iness or to the ill- gle group, such as big nion labor.

is fact is that every mocracy such as this is nd what hurts or helps vill hurt or help the

is indivisible. If you w it away you can do be sure of what you its stead.

o-operation, just a lit- endliness and unity we few days around the eason, would remake lives and remold the

# WALTER LIPPMANN

*Writing of*

# "Today and Tomorrow"

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## Newton Diehl Baker

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The first time I talked with Newton Baker was on a late afternoon in March, 1916. He had arrived in Washington that morning, had left his suit case at his club, and had just returned to his room after taking the oath of secretary of war in President Wilson's cabinet. He was such a small, soft-speaking gentleman. It was so queer he should have been placed in charge of an army during the World War.

WALTER LIPPMANN

No one knew better than he how incongruous it was, that he, the friend and disciple of Mayor Tom Johnson, a life-long reformer and pacifist, should have become the civilian head of the American army at that moment. "I must begin," he told me, "by signing the orders which will send Gen. Pershing into Mexico."

I thought how strange it all was until he began to talk about Mexico. He talked for a long time, and gradually it dawned upon me that somehow, though he had had only a few days to consider the president's invitation, he had already acquired a most extraordinarily detailed knowledge of Mexican history and of the revolutionary social conditions which had led to Villa's raid and to the existing crisis. How he had learned so much I never found out. For he could not possibly have had the time which an ordinary man would have needed to learn what he already knew about issues so far removed from his personal experience.

### He Never Acted Upon Guesses or Hunches

Later on, while working for a few months as a member of his personal staff, I came to see that his great gift was a most unusual capacity to select and absorb the data of a problem and to master it intellectually and see it in all its four dimensions. He knew what he was doing at all times. He never seemd to act on guesses and hunches nor by improvising; always in important matters he seemed to have a lucid and orderly conception not only of the immediate question, but of its history and of what he thought were the lessons of experience.

I used to see him frequently, often late at night, during the agitated summer of 1917, and always the calmest spot in Washington was his office. Almost daily he was making difficult and dangerous decisions but never did he seem hurried. Always he seemed deliberate. Always he was judicial. Once he had mastered a problem in his mind, he was able to abide by his own decision with an unworried spirit.

It was this ability to deal with issues intellectually, free of all personal anxiety about the consequences to himself, that made him so great a civilian administrator in time of war. For everywhere it is now known he was a great secretary of war, undoubtedly the greatest this country has ever had in time of war. The most serious charge that was brought against him was that he did not develop military preparedness in the year before the United States entered the war and that charge is easily answered. He made, as Gen. Johnson has testified, the plans for mobilization. But it was Mr. Wilson's business, not Mr. Baker's, to decide how much military preparation there should be while the United States was still a neutral. In Mr. Baker's strictly constitutional and democratic philosophy the secretary of war must follow loyally the president in matters of high policy just as the soldiers must follow the secretary of war.

### Rapid Demobilization of Army Praised

At no matter what cost to himself in the way of personal popularity he was always uncompromisingly true to his understanding of the principles which must govern the relations between an army and the civilian authorities. With unerring lucidity of mind he made his great decisions with full knowledge of what was the business of the secretary and what was the business of the general staff and of the commander in the field. He kept the distinction clear in all matters and at all times, in executing conscription, in his selection of Pershing, in his dealings with Col. Theodore Roosevelt and Gen. Wood, in the relations with the Allies. He was always simple, always lucid, always definite and never undecided after he had made his decision.

That made him a great administrator, and the testimony of the soldiers came at last to be unanimous on that point. But he was more than a great administrator. Because he had such thorough grasp of the place of an army in a democratic state he was able to raise the largest army in our history and then to demobilize it without fastening upon the nation the curse of militarism. It might easily have been otherwise. For almost always in history a victorious army comes home to conquer its own people; the army of Wilson and Baker was quickly dissolved, however, in the civilian population from which it had been drawn.

That this happened was due principally to Mr. Baker's iron resolution, taken at the very beginning, that it should happen. Often I heard him say, even at the most critical moments of the struggle, that he was the civilian head of the army and would not forget that after the war there would again be peace. He knew very well it is dangerous for a democracy to go to war because in winning a victory it may so easily lose its own soul. The great good fortune of this country was that Mr. Baker understood this clearly. And so, if his army did not make the world safe for democracy it did in any event do nothing to make this country unsafe for democracy.

### Mr. Baker Called "An Almost Selfless Man"

Mr. Baker, it always seemed to me, had the exceptional strength of an almost selfless man. I do not know of any public man in our time who rose to such heights of power with so little personal ambition, or gave up power so easily and with so little personal regret. He had many enemies, but he himself was almost without enmity. He was one of the kindest, most considerate, and magnanimous human beings of our time. He had no vanity, no resentments, and no sense, I think, that he had been called to a high place at a great moment in history and that he had the chance to carve out for himself a memorable career and a resounding reputation. He seemed, rather, to take a certain satisfaction in the notion that he, who had to send men to the trenches to face mutilation and death, should not, in his place of physical safety, be enjoying the triumphs of his power.

I have always thought, too, and from stray remarks which I have heard him make in later years I feel sure I am right, that the real reason he retired from public life, though he was obviously the heir of Wilson and for long the first Democrat in the land, was that he could not bear the thought of making personal capital out of his career in the war. In 1932 when he came so near to the nomination for the presidency, he was almost perversely unhelpful to his enthusiastic friends. For in the depths of his spirit there was a humility about the terror of the war and a pity about the sacrifices of the men who had gone to France which made him feel, I believe, that he could exploit no part of it, and that to do anything which brought him profit and glory from it would be unseemly.

We shall not often see a man of his quality, and those who had the privilege of working for him loved him and will think of him as one of the most unworldly men who ever in our time played so great a part in the world.