

**Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents**

By JAMES MORGAN

**FIRST IN WAR AND PEACE**

- 1775—June 15, appointed commander in chief.
- 1781—Oct. 15, received the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.
- 1782—Dec. 23, surrendered his commission to congress.
- 1789—April 30, inaugurated first president, aged fifty-seven.
- 1793—March 4, inaugurated a second time.
- 1796—September, Farewell address.
- 1797—March 4, retired.
- 1799—Dec. 14, died.

THE choice of Washington to be commander in chief of the Revolution is one of the mysterious but happy accidents of history. Nothing in the deeds of this militia colonel, who had lost every fight that he had fought, pointed him out as the one and only man to meet the armies of the greatest empire in the world. Nothing in the words of this farmer, who never made a speech, inspired the congress at Philadelphia to turn to him by unanimous consent as the leader of the young nation. Yet Patrick Henry testified that this silent member was "the greatest man" in an assemblage which Lord Chat-



George Washington.

ham declared never had its superior anywhere in history.

As he went to the front, he met a courier on a lathered horse, bearing the dreadful news of Bunker Hill. "Did the militia fight?" was all he wished to know. "Yes." "Then the liberties of the country are safe." Although it is said that Washington never in his life read but one book on the art of war, he knew that if the people would only stand up to the king's regulars, they could lose every battle and still defeat an enemy who was 3,000 miles from his base.

The Revolution was not won by the sword of Washington, but by his indomitable character. It was his character, slowly built up by poverty and struggle, which had given him from the start the leadership over men who talked more; yes, and who knew more.

The invincible fortitude of a people, heroically embodied in him, overthrew the king's army and navy and his Hessians. The unconquerable spirit of the 3,000 hunted, hungering, shivering, ragged Continentals of Valley Forge wrested from the British crown an empire greater than all the conquests made by Napoleon's grand army.

At the last, as the Americans leaped those last hurdles to independence, the British redoubts at Yorktown, Washington only said: "The work is done and well done. Bring me my horse."

The war was over, but the noblest victory was yet to come. Having received the surrender sword of Cornwallis, Washington surrendered his own, unstained by personal ambition, to the people who had entrusted it to him and went back to his farm, from which he was called to become the first president of the republic.

No president has been more bitterly abused than the first. His cabinet quarreled until Jefferson, his secretary of state, resigned, and his next secretary, Edmund Randolph, busily betrayed him. His vice president, John Adams, called him "an old mutton head," who had "not been found out only because he kept his mouth shut." "Trencherous in private friendship and a hypocrite in public life," Thomas Paine pronounced him. Because he refused to take the side of revolutionary France, "10,000 persons in the streets of Philadelphia" then the capital—"threatened to drag Washington out of his house," John Adams tells us.

Notwithstanding the outbursts of partisanship, he retained the confidence of the country to the last, when the people at the inauguration of his successor followed the retiring president into the street and left the new president all but deserted. The long task of the homesick exile from Mount Vernon was done. He had found the Union a theory and he had left it a fact. He had found the United States paper and he had left it a rock.

**Americanism**

By LEONARD WOOD

Everybody likes and respects self-made men. It is a great deal better to be made that way than not to be made at all.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

IF AMERICANS did not like self-made men they would be in a constant state of rebellion against the commandment which tells you to love your neighbor. One of the glories of this country is that it is the land of equal opportunities. Self-made men are the product of the equality of opportunity. America is full of such men.

If it were not for the possibilities which lie in the field of American opportunity few immigrants would care to come here and few American born youths would like to live here? The chance to "make one's self" is the American chance and it is a chance taken in a lottery where there are a thousand fold more prizes than blanks.

There is something which might be said about the self-made man which perhaps ordinarily is not said nor even thought about. Every American who amounts to anything is a self-made man. Some of them are not so called simply because they may have been born to riches, but no child born to riches ever made anything of himself unless he underwent the process of self-making.

We don't think of men as men unless they are worthy. It is harder at times for a boy born to wealth to make anything of himself than it is for a boy born to poverty. In one case the incentive to effort is absent, while in the other it is sharply present. America is full of incentives for the acquirement of manhood in all that the word implies.

It is safe enough to say that nine-tenths of the men of worthy lives in America are men who have made themselves and their lives worthy. There is no royal road to manhood. It is a fairly easy road, however, for the man who takes the occasional stumble and the occasional hard knock with true American philosophy and who keeps on unflinching. America is a land of opportunity. Self-made men are a part of its worthy heritage.

**Serious Offense.**

"The judge didn't seem to know anything about the traffic regulations involved. Neither did the prosecuting attorney nor any of the lawyers."  
"Well?"  
"Yet the judge found me guilty."  
"He found you guilty of owning an automobile. You admitted that."

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Pres. & Treas.

L. D. Eldredge  
Vice Pres.

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**Fancy Rockers**

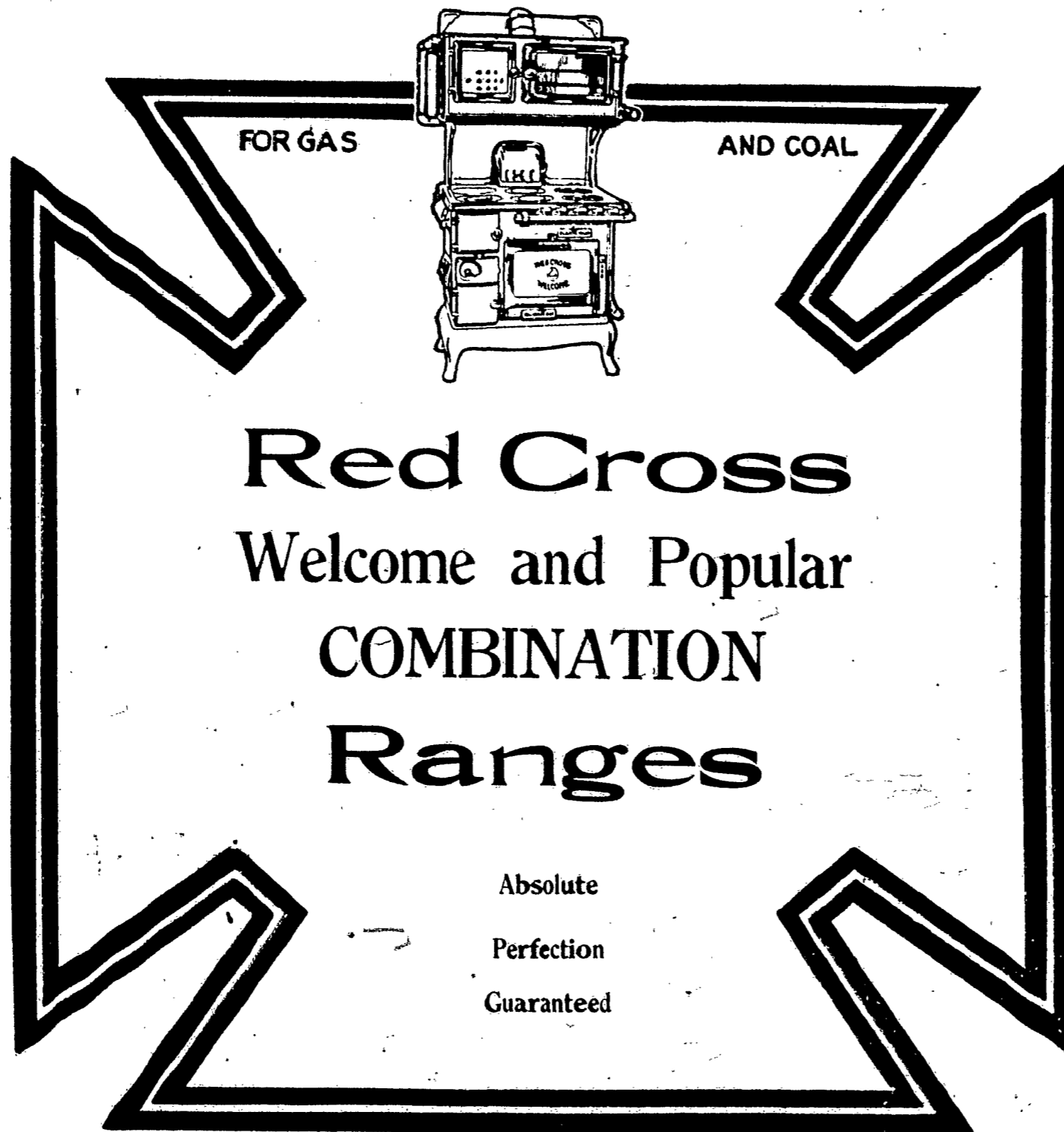
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