Recollections of Andrew W. Mellon

treated by him.

. _

By H. E. C. Bryant not come as a surprise to news- trembled when the reporters New York. paper men who knew him well filed into his office. Fingering The chief of the World Bu- there any discussion of the Rebringing up made him thrifty such conferences. and careful.

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of the fourth richest man in the wanted to know something about of the Treasury, Mr. Mellon was United States entering into such liquor permits and was passed Washington, Dec. 16-The like an innocent child when in a cheap conspiracy was very dif- on to Commissioner of Internal supposement of the United the hands of a drove of eager, ficult for me to swallow. Our Revenue David H. Blair. I went States Board of Tax Appeals aggressive, determined news- bureau was asked from the home to see Mr. Blair, and his books that the late Andrew W. Mellon hawks. I was at the first press office if we could get to the bot- stated that the man had been had been found innocent of the conference he had, and I felt tom of that report, then in cir- told how he and others could get charge of income tax fraud did sorry for him. He actually culation in certain quarters in permits for the withdrawal of

Mr. Mellon was a rich man, and a little all-tobacco cigar, about reau agreed with me that we publican committee debt. But money-making was not only a the size of a cigarette, his hand should not go to Mr. Mellon the man had achieved his purbusiness but a pastime with shook so that he could hardly without more information. The pose; he went back to New him. He liked to pile up dollars get it to his mouth. Although matter was dropped for the York and offered to sell his inas a sportsman likes to catch he had faced all sorts of busi- time, but in a few weeks it came fluence, and found suckers who fish or kill rabbits, birds, or ness men, sharpers and worse, up again. Once more we decided took the bait. other game. But persons close he had no stomach for the cor- to pass it up. But soon after The fact that a man of that to him could not believe that he respondents who swarmed about that we were informed of the type had been allowed to call was dishonest. His antecedants him, but he was friendly, polite name of the author of the story, on the Secretary of the Treasury were Scotch. He was a Scotch- and frank. As the weeks pass- and the declaration was made interested me, and I returned to Irish Presbyterian, and his ed he became more at ease at to us that he had seen Mr. Mel Mr. Mellon. I was told that the lon in person on a particular day fellow was unknown to him and I was on the New York World and taken up the matter of per- the record showed that he had On entering the cabinet of Bureau at the time Mr. Mellon mits for bonded liquor. We had been presented by a Republican President Harding as Secretary came to Washington to take to see Mr. Mellon; we felt it our United States Senator. Mr. Melover the Treasury Department. duty to him as well as to our lon had never heard of him be-Duty required frequent visits to paper.

> I had to ask were insolent if not him of the reports, and showed sented him. insulting; but I was never turn- him a telegram giving the lat- From Mr. Mellon I went to the ed away empty-handed or mis- est version. He was not nervous Capitol to interview the Sena-A story to the effect that Mr. chair, and taking a little firmer nothing about the man, but Mellon had agreed to allow cer- grip on his tiny smoker with his some colleague had asked him to tain liquor handlers to have per- teeth, he rang the bell for his go down and introduce him. mits for whiskey held by the secretary, and told him to bring When I told the Senator what I Government if they would pay in the diary for the date men-knew about the talk in New off the million and more debt of tioned. Sure enough the name York, and what Messrs. Mellon the Republican National Com- looked for was there, but with

mittee came to us. The thought it a notation that the caller whisky. At neither office was

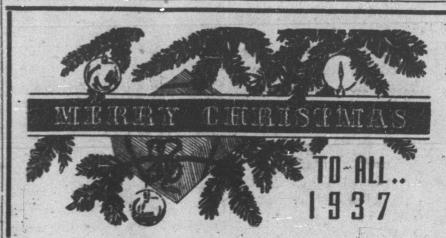
fore, but received him because him, and some of the questions I went over and called, told a member of Congress had pre-

that day. Bracing himself in his tor, who, in turn, said he knew (Continued on page seven)

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