

THEO. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT, IS AN ALL-ROUND AMERICAN

His Life Has Been Full of Interest.

FROM COWBOY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The New Head of the Government Has Trodden All Pathways and Won Fame.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, President of the United States, is the youngest man who has ever occupied that high office. The new president, whose taking of office comes under such dreadful circumstances, is one of the most remarkable personalities in the history of the United States.

In youth puny and of uncertain health, manhood found him ready for any duty, owing to the perseverance and skill with which he fought for strength. From the first he showed that he was born to lead, and the history of his early life indicates that his resourcefulness, which has marked his later years was cultivated in the lad becoming the ruling passion of the man.

The record of his achievements runs the gamut of the possibilities which lie before the youth of the Republic. Alike has he made his mark as soldier and statesman, ranchman and litterateur, and the places which he has filled furnish a list which has been equaled by no other man in public life today, for he has been cowboy on the plains, hunter of big game, Colonel of his own regiment, politician, historian, novelist, civil service reformer, police commissioner of the metropolis, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Governor of his native state of New York, member of the legislature of that state, Vice-President of the United States and now as President at a time when the wisdom of the executive means so much for the future of the country, he takes up the highest office under the government and solemnly promises to follow in the footsteps of the man whom one short year ago the people chose as their pilot through the rapids of changing conditions.

In every walk of life which he has trodden he has displayed a peculiar aptitude for the work which his hands found to do. As member of the legislature he did much to purify office holding, as an historian he displayed not only deep reading but a grasp of the meaning of events which indicated the statesman in the rough; as a plainsman he gave promise of the caretaking and valiant soldier whose fame would be safe did it rest alone upon San Juan Hill, as member of the civil service commission and police commissioner of New York he enforced unpopular laws in such a way as to arouse admiration and finally to create a sentiment in favor of the very legislation which was condemned. It was as Assistant Secretary of the Navy that he showed his far-sightedness, and the preparedness of the Navy for the war in 1898 was due in great part to his actions, for he saw that there must be a collision of the nations and that nothing could be of such weight for peace as ability to force the fighting.

In his person there are combined the men whose mental attributes he attains. He is brusque with the candor of conviction, free of speech in that he has no opinion of which he is ashamed, vigorous in all things, for his life has been made by action in the open air, forgetful for the reason that his conviction of truth and right carries all before him. In build he is of the medium height, broad, very thick-set, solid and muscular. Even through the large-lensed glasses he is obliged to wear when at work he looks boyish, and is constantly thus referred to in the press. That is because he is not only young, but his youth has been preserved by an active outdoor life rationally directed. He has a plump, almost round face, thick brown hair, the small light mustache of a younger man than he is, and snapping blue eyes. His photographs make him look a trifle stern, because they are taken with his glasses off, and the strong light makes him half close his eyes, like a man influenced by a stern resolution or character. In reality, he is a kindly, genial, happy man, too full of animal spirits and too fond of fun to be stern except upon rare occasion.

His mind works quickly, and he is quick in every impulse, he talks fast and his words, fly from him in short volleys, not in a loud tone, but with only half-restrained energy. He is noted for his high ideals, but he is nevertheless exceedingly practical. When asked once what he expected to be or dreamed of being when he was a boy, he said: "I do not recollect that I dreamed at all or planned at all. I simply obeyed the injunction, 'whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, that do with all thy might,' and so I took up what came along as it came. Since then I have gone on Lincoln's motto: 'Do the best, if not, then the best possible.'"

Theodore Roosevelt was born at No. 28 East Twentieth street, New York city, on October 27, 1858. Eight generations of his father's family have lived there and have always been prominent in business, social and political affairs, many of its members have taken active part in all the wars of the country, from the Revolution to the Spanish War. Of mingled Dutch, Scotch, Irish and French Huguenot ancestry, Theodore Roosevelt was born in a home of some wealth, but not to a life of idleness. He was brought up with the constant injunction to be active and



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN CAMPAIGN DRESS.

industrious. He was graduated from Harvard in 1880, and then spent some time in European travel and Alpine climbing.

On his return home he began the study of law. In the fall of 1881 he was elected to the State Assembly from the twenty-first district of New York, generally known as Jacob Hess' district, by re-election he continued in the body during the sessions of 1883 and 1884. He introduced important reform measures, and his entire legislative career was made conspicuous by the courage and zeal with which he assailed political abuses. As chairman of the Committee on Cities he introduced the measure which took from the Board of Aldermen the power to confirm or reject the appointments of the Mayor. He was chairman of the noted Legislative Investigating Committee which bore his name.

In 1886 Mr. Roosevelt was the Republican candidate for Mayor against Abram S. Hewitt, United Democracy, and Henry George, United Labor. Mr. Hewitt was elected by about 22,000 majority. In 1889 Roosevelt was appointed by President Harrison a member of the United States Civil Service Commission. His ability and rugged honesty in the administration of the affairs of that office greatly helped to strengthen his hold on popular regard. He continued in that office until May 1, 1895, when he resigned to accept the office of Police Commissioner from Mayor Strong. Through his fearlessness and administrative ability as president of the board the demoralized police force was greatly improved.

Early in 1897 he was called by the President to give up his New York office to become Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Then again his energy and quick mastery of detail had much to do with the speedy equipment of the Navy for its brilliant feats in the war with Spain. But soon after the outbreak of the war his patriotism and love of active life led him to leave the comparative quiet of his Government office for service in the field. As a Lieutenant-Colonel of Volunteers he recruited the First Volunteer Cavalry, popularly known as the Rough Riders. The men were gathered largely from the cowboys of the West and Southwest, but also numbered many college-bred men from the East.

In the beginning he was second in command, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, Dr. Leonard Wood being Colonel. But at the close of the war the latter was a Brigadier-General, and Roosevelt was Colonel in command. Since no horses were transported to Cuba, this regiment, together with the rest of the cavalry, was obliged to serve on foot. The regiment distinguished itself in the Santiago campaign, and Colonel Roosevelt became famous for his bravery in leading the charge up San Juan hill on July 1st. He was an efficient officer and won the love and admiration of his men. His care for them was shown by the circulation of the famous "round robin" which he wrote, protesting against keeping the Army longer in Cuba.

Upon Colonel Roosevelt's return to New York there was a popular demand for his nomination for governor. Previous to the state convention he was nominated by the Citizens' Union, but he declined, replying that he was a Republican. The Democrats tried to frustrate his nomination by attempting to prove that he had lost all legal residence in the State. The plan failed and he was nominated in the convention by a vote of 753 to 218 for Governor Black. The campaign throughout the State was spirited. Colonel Roosevelt took the stump and delivered many speeches. His plurality was 18,079. His administration since January 1, 1897, is fresh in the minds of all. The manner of Colonel Roosevelt's nomination for the Vice-Presidency last year is well remembered. Although he held back until the last moment, unwilling to accept second place on the Presidential ticket, when he finally consented to be nominated the Philadelphia convention was swept by a wave of wild enthusiasm. During all these years of intense political activity, and long afterward, Mr. Roosevelt found opportunity to make half a hundred expeditions into

the wild heart of the West, to turn cowboy, ranchman and hunter of big game, and to become more familiar, perhaps, with the "rugged and stalwart democracy" of the pioneer frontiersman than any other Easterner. He built a log house on the banks of the Little Missouri, among the buttes and Bad Lands of northwestern Dakota, working on it with his own hands. It was a low, rough building, with a wide veranda, shaded by leafy cottonwoods, and so far from the bounds of civilization that Mr. Roosevelt tells of shooting a deer from the front door. Here, in a flannel shirt, and overalls tucked into alligator boots, he worked side by side with his cowboys during many an exciting round-up, coming home to sleep on a park-skin and buffalo robes, trophies of his skill as a hunter.

Here, too, he kept the favorite books of a ranchman, the works of Fenimore Cooper—who has touched the life of the pioneer more closely than any other writer, Mr. Roosevelt thinks—many books on hunting, trapping and natural history, and the works of Irving Hawthorne, Lowell, Poe and a few other American writers. In speaking of Poe, Mr. Roosevelt says: "When one is in the Bad Lands he feels as if they somehow look just exactly as Poe's tales and poems sound."

One of Mr. Roosevelt's experiences in the West gave the cowboys a very high opinion of his determination, and forever blotted out the implication that he was a tenderfoot. Cattle had been stolen from his ranch. He followed the thieves with unflinching pertinacity for two weeks, and finally captured three of them and had them sent to the penitentiary at Mandan for terms of three years. He hunted and shot with all the keen zeal of a lover of the wilderness. He killed as a sportsman, not to make a record for killing, and usually only when his camp needed food.

In the midst of his intensely active life Mr. Roosevelt has found time to do considerable literary work. The year after he was graduated from college he published his "Naval War of 1812"; in 1886 there came from his pen a "Life of Thomas H. Benton," published in the American Statesmen Series; the following year he published a "Life of Gouverneur Morris," which was followed in 1888 by his popular "Ranch Life and Hunting Trail." In 1889 he published his first two volumes of what he considers his greatest work, "The Winning of the West." In 1890 he added to the series of "Historic Towns" a "History of New York City." "Essays on Practical Politics," published in 1892, was followed the next year by "The Wilderness Hunter," while in 1894 he added a third volume to his "Winning of the West." In 1896 he collected a volume of essays, entitled "American Political Ideas." Since the Spanish War he has written a book on "The Rough Riders" and a series of articles on Oliver Cromwell by him has been appearing in Scribner's.

In 1886, Mr. Roosevelt married Miss Edith Kermit Carow, and they have five children, three sons and two daughters. Their home is at Sagamore Hill, about three miles from Oyster Bay, on Long Island Sound. A big, roomy, comfortable house stands on the top of the hill. Wide green vistas open in front, so that a visitor sitting in one of the hospitable chairs on the veranda may see miles of wooded, watered country, a view unsurpassed anywhere else on Long Island Sound. The rooms within everywhere give evidence in the skins of bears and bison, and the splendid antlers of elk and deer, of Mr. Roosevelt's prowess as a hunter. The library is rich with the books of which he is most fond—history, standard literature, and hunting. Portraits of the three greatest Americans, Lincoln, Washington and Grant, have the place of honor over the cases, and there are numerous spirited animal compositions in bronze by Kemys, the American sculptor. Here Mr. Roosevelt lives and works. He never has been much of a society man, but he has drawn around him a society of his own, of men who have accomplished things in the world. He is a member of the Century Club, the Union League, and other clubs, and he is the organizer of the Boone and Crockett Club, of which he was for a long time the president.

In Washington as Vice President, Mr. Roosevelt had a quiet home near Dupont Circle, and while his was not the most fashionable home at the capital, it was one noted for its elegance and the excellence of the entertainment. Mrs. Roosevelt is essentially the mother, and her home circle is her kingdom.

MR. ROOSEVELT TAKES OATH.

(Continued from Page 2.)

shaded by enormous elms. A few words were privately exchanged and the cabinet ranged themselves to the right of the entrance, so they would face the president. Standing beside the president was Judge Hazel, who was to administer the oath of office, and Mr. Keating, the clerk of the court. The persons who had been invited as spectators stood in the background, and the awfully paper men who were permitted to witness the ceremony crowded into the hall and viewed it through the open doors.

The scene was very impressive. The vice president was very grave and there was not a smiling face in the room. The members of the cabinet appeared as men utterly broken. Some of the ladies were trembled with emotion, and such all the nation seemed for a moment to be brought home in a most emphatic way to the party gathered in the Wilcox parlors. An impressive silence fell upon the group. Presently, advancing a step beyond the line formed by his associates in the cabinet, Secretary Root began to speak to the president in a low voice. His face was very grave and his voice trembled with emotion, although all the outside signs indicated that he was very calm. Facing him, President Roosevelt, his mouth firmly set, listened with deep attention.

"President Roosevelt," said the Secretary, "I have been requested by all the members of the cabinet of the late President who are here in the city of Buffalo, to all except two, to request that for reasons of weight affecting the administration of the government you should proceed without delay to take the constitutional oath of office."

Another silence fell upon the group. It lasted but a moment, and then Roosevelt spoke. "Mr. Secretary," he said, "I shall take the oath at once, agreeable to the request of the members of the cabinet, and in this hour of terrible national bereavement, I wish to say that I shall continue absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for the peace, prosperity and honor of our beloved country."

Again deep silence fell upon the party. This time it was broken by the voice of Judge Hazel, who said: "Theodore Roosevelt, hold up your right hand."

The president complied, and Judge Hazel read the oath, the president repeating it after him, phrase for phrase. It was very brief, reading as follows: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Another pause came, which was broken by Secretary Root quickly stepping up to the president and shaking hands with him and wishing him success during his term as president. Thus Theodore Roosevelt assumed the responsibilities of the President of the United States.

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