

I told the Colonel I had come to get a political story, I told him I was going to write a political story and that he might talk to me on politics or not just as he thought best. I am not at liberty to quote him or to say what he did or did not talk about. I am just going to write a political story.

But first a parenthesis. All that has been said about the Colonel's physical hardships are true—and then some. He is thinner by forty pounds than I ever saw him. His neck is thin, his clothes lack that bulge and wrinkle about the arms and shoulders that they used to have; but more noticeable to me than anything else is a peculiar huskiness in his voice, suggestive of the patient who is weak and speaks with difficulty.

Not that Roosevelt is very weak; far from it, he is still the human dynamo. I sat with wonder in his office and watched him dispatch more business in ten minutes than us husky men would get through in a forenoon. And he has the old time grip and the old time jubilant, snappy way; he promises in a short time to be as much the bull moose as ever, and with the aid of some considerable food and exercise no doubt he will.

This tends the parenthesis.

Now for the politics.

Roosevelt's public utterance on the subject of his party (Progressive) and his own activities in the future were these words. They were uttered at a dinner given by friends on the night before his departure eleven months ago:

"The party is solid, and it is the firm determination of rank and file, no less than leaders, to preserve its political entity, its solidity and integrity.

"This year we shall enter undaunted as a national party on another national campaign. I will not rest content until every single principle enunciated by us is put into practical operation in this nation.

"This movement will never go back, and whatever may betide in the future, of one thing the disciples of an easy opportunism may rest assured.

"I will never abandon the principles to which we progressives have pledged ourselves, and I will never abandon the men and women who draw around me to battle for those principles.

"They and I stand with our faces toward the morning; we will never be sundered from one another and we will never yield the ground we have taken nor flinch from the fight to which we are pledged."

That is where Roosevelt stands today. The question answers several questions.

The "disciples of easy opportunism" are the Republicans and Progressives who are talking about amalgamating the Republican and Progressive parties on a platform of "united we win."

Roosevelt will not lend himself to that plan.

The division between the Progressives and the Republicans and the impossibility of harmony between them is made conspicuous by the choice of Boies Penrose as Republican nominee for U. S. senator in Pennsylvania. That state is to be the battleground in the fall campaign and Roosevelt will be in it denouncing Penrose in no moderate terms, while in terms no less emphatic he will urge the voters to support Gifford Pinchot, Progressive candidate for the senate.

Will Roosevelt go to California? If Hiram Johnson wants him, yes. Will he campaign generally for Progressive candidates for congress? Yes, as much as physical limitations will permit. But it must not be expected that he will do a cart-tail speaking campaign over the whole country. That would be too great a drain on his strength, and is not necessary. There will be support for worthy Progressives, and even for