

Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

THE STRENUOUS LIFE

- 1858—Oct. 27, Theodore Roosevelt born in New York city. 1880—Graduated from Harvard. 1882.4—Member of New York legislature. 1884.6—A ranchman at Medora, N. D. 1889.95—Member of national civil service commission. 1895.7—Member of New York police commission. 1897.8—Assistant Secretary of the navy. 1898—Colonel of the Rough Riders in Cuba. 1899.1900—Governor of New York. 1900—Elected Vice President. 1901—Sept. 14 took the oath in Buffalo as the twenty-fifth president, aged forty-two. 1904—November, elected president.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT was the most popular of all our presidents. With the exception of Lincoln, his was the raciest, the most interesting character that we have had in the presidency.

Yet he was born apart from the multitude whom he led and he might have lived and died a stranger to the masses of his countrymen but for one thing: He had not the health to enjoy the life of ease which opened to him at his birth. Roosevelt had to fight for his very breath in his gasping, asthmatic childhood.

Finally he took a post-graduate course in physical culture in the wild West, where the "four-eyed tenderfoot" had to fight the battle of his youth all



Roosevelt as a Young Man.

over again, in a strange world, with entirely different standards for measuring men.

Roosevelt cut his eye teeth in political leadership in the corrupt machine-run legislature of New York. He could not have chosen a more thorough school for instruction in the hidden, muddy springs of parties and politics. His experience at Albany put realism into his idealism and made the academic reformer over into the most intensely practical politician we have had in the presidency.

He decided at the outset to act in

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each office as it was to be the last that he ever would get, and for nearly 15 years after he left the legislature Roosevelt could not have been elected to anything in the boss-ridden state of New York. For a long time he was 'shelved' on the civil service commission at Washington, until a reform mayor of New York appointed him on the four-headed police commission; but it was soon single-headed so far as the public could see, and that head was full of teeth for police grafters and lawbreakers. At thirty-eight the most he could ask of the Republican politicians, with any hope of getting it, was the assistant secretaryship of the navy. The entire administration sighed with relief when at last he went off to lead his Rough Riders.

In five months he was back from Cuba in the far more troublesome role of a popular hero. The New York machine was in such sore need of a good name to pull it through the pending election that it met him at the wharf and humbly laid at his feet the Republican nomination for governor. But in the governorship, he realized the worst fears of Boss Platt that he harbored, as the boss naively wrote him, "various altruistic ideas," and that he was "a little loose on the relations of capital and labor, on trusts and combinations and . . . the right of a man to run his own business in his own way."

The only thing to do with this wild engine was to turn the switch and shunt it on to the side track of the vice presidency. Roosevelt loudly protested that he wanted to be re-elected governor. And while Platt was trying to push him on to the national ticket, McKinley and Hanna just as earnestly tried to push him back on to Platt. The Republican national convention rose up and roared his nomination, flinging him, in spite of himself, upon the tide that led to fortune.

THE BIG STICK

- 1903—February 6, Roosevelt induced Great Britain and Germany to arbitrate with Venezuela. November, the Panama revolution. 1905—May 12, brought Russia and Japan to agree to discuss peace. August 29, the peace of Portsmouth. 1906—Roosevelt awarded the Nobel peace prize. 1913—January 6, death of Theodore Roosevelt, aged sixty.

At the crackling of a twig in the still depths of the Adirondack mountains Roosevelt turned to see a guide coming out of the woods with the unexpected news that McKinley's condition was worse. Although he hastened to Buffalo, the president had died 13 hours before the vice president arrived.

At the outset of Roosevelt's ad-

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ministration a fearful citizen begged the rough rider not to permit his fighting spirit to plunge the country into an international war. "What!" the president exclaimed. "A war, and I cooped up here in the White House? Never!"

Many forgot the first half of the old motto that Roosevelt made his own, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." No man ever had a simpler faith in the efficacy of first "talking it over," man fashion, with an adversary, whether a senator or an ambassador.

The meddlesome German kaiser was the earliest to feel the "big stick" to see if it was only stuffed with straw. Germany and a Tory government of England were on the point of seizing territory as a security for some claims



Edith Carow Roosevelt.

against Venezuelan citizens, when Roosevelt succeeded in dissuading England from such a step, but he failed to induce Germany to arbitrate the matter. Thereupon he told the German ambassador that unless the Berlin government consented to arbitration in ten days, he would send Admiral Dewey to stop the Germans from landing in Venezuela. The ambassador protesting that the kaiser could not back down now, Roosevelt replied that he was not arguing with him but was simply telling him what would happen.

After waiting a week without an answer from Berlin, he told the ambassador that he was going to cut the limit to nine days and that unless Germany agreed in 48 hours to arbitrate, Dewey would sail. In 36 hours the ambassador came back with a message announcing that Germany consented.

In good time, Roosevelt employed the influence of his unique position before the world to bring to an end the Russo-Japanese war. Shrewdly choosing the right moment to step in, he appealed to the two belligerents with a common sense and a simple directness that a friend would use in bringing together two quarreling neighbors. Afterward he steered the peace conference at Portsmouth against its will steadily toward a peace of reconciliation, an impatient Russian declaring that his "steel wrist" hammered out a treaty that neither of the powers wanted at that time and that "the terrible American president—Il Strenuoso—was capable of locking the conferees into a room and starving them into submission."

Instead of starting a war, the "big stick" stopped the only great war that broke out in the period of its sway.

While the Roosevelts were its tenants, the White House was an example and the center of the simple family life of America. . . . "not a second-rate palace," the president said, "but the home of a self-respecting American citizen." A few months after graduating at Harvard, Roosevelt married Miss Alice Hathaway Lee of Boston, whom he had met in his college days. This bride of his youth passed from life as her daughter—Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth—entered it.

Nearly three years afterward he sailed from New York, directly following an unsuccessful campaign for mayor to marry a friend and neighbor of his childhood, Miss Edith Kermit Carow, who was sojourning in Europe.

TOWBOAT OWNERS WITHDRAW PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

After much controversy the Northwestern Tow Boat Owner's Association today withdrew their application filed in September with the state public service commission for proposed increase of 15 and 25 per cent in the rates covering all classes of towing on Puget Sound. The association has decided to put its rates back on the former basis to September when they entered the order for an increase.

Immediately upon the filing of the application for higher rates, the Logger's Information Association filed a complaint with the public service commission in which they stated that the increase was unjust and unreasonable. During October the Logger's Association again sent word to the public service commission, but this time to tell them that the Northwestern Tow Boat Owner's Association and their firm had come to an agreement and that the tow boat company would file a new tariff for increased rates with the commission. The new tariff was filed and today was withdrawn.

FLOUR, GRAIN COST STATE \$400,000

BOARD OF CONTROL AWARDS CONTRACTS TO SEVEN LARGE GRAIN CONCERNS

PRICES TAKE BIG DROP

Textiles Purchased at Figures Averaging 50 Per Cent Below Spring Quotations.

Approximately \$400,000 will be spent this year by the state board of control for flour and grain, according to the announcement made yesterday by Martin L. Bibb, purchasing agent of the board, who has just completed four months' buying for the state institutions.

The board accepted the bids of seven large milling companies in the state for flour and grain. Firms that received the bids were the Preston-Shaffer Milling company of Waitsburg, F. M. Martin Grain & Milling company of Cheney, Tacoma Grain company of Tacoma, W. F. Jahn & Co. of Seattle, Kenworthy Grain & Milling company, Puget Sound Flouring Mills, Seattle; Pasco Flour Mills company, and the Electric Feed Mill company, Walla Walla.

Tacoma Gets Largest Orders. The largest single order for flour went to the Kenworthy Grain & Milling company of Tacoma. From this company the board purchased 3,116 barrels of white flour at \$9.95 per barrel. From the Preston-Shaffer Milling company the board bought 1,975 barrels of white flour at \$7.60 per barrel.

White rye, graham, whole wheat flour, together with all kinds of stock feed, were purchased for the 13 institutions which the state maintains by the state board of control this week. The board bought for a period of four months. Never before in the history of the board have prices declined so much as this year, according to Mr. Bibb.

Blue Denim Comes to Earth. Three thousand yards of blue denim were purchased by the board at 27 cents a yard where six months ago, during the spring buying, 55 cents a yard was paid by the board, which shows a 50 per cent reduction. On calico the reduction figures just 50 per cent the present price being 15 cents on 5,000 yards as compared to the spring price of 37 1/2 cents per yard. The board bought 12,000 yards of sheeting at 39 cents a yard, which showed a 33 per cent reduction on the price of last spring, which was 57 1/2 cents.

Gingham was purchased at 17 cents per yard on 1,500 yards as compared to the spring quotation of 28 cents. The reduction here was 40 per cent. Four thousand yards of flannel were bought for 23 1/2 cents a yard and last spring the board paid 36 1/2 cents for the same material. On bids to supply 4,000 yards of cotton flannel the board accepted a bid of 28 1/2 cents where six months ago it had to pay 38 cents. Three thousand yards of unbleached muslin was bought at 22 cents a yard and last spring the quotation was 33 cents a yard.

The board also bought 1,200 dozen spools of cotton thread at 89 cents per dozen. Last spring thread was bought at \$1.11 per dozen. Five hundred pairs of shoes were bought for \$4.10 per pair.

ENTHUSIASM MARKS SESSION PARENT-TEACHER CONVENTION

The first Parent-Teacher county convention was held at South Bay, Saturday, November 13. It was an all-day session, attended by 150 or more enthusiastic members and children, which attendance shows the steady growth of interest in P.-T. A. work. With but one or two exceptions, all the circles of the city and county were represented.

Many of the members were taken out in private cars. The rest were met at the end of the street car line, Central street, by the South Bay school bus and taken to the meeting and back.

The forenoon session was called to order by our president, Mrs. Thomas Counts, and opened by prayer and song. Business and reports of circles occupied the morning hours.

The splendid reports given of work already done and planned show a deeper understanding of the aims and purposes of the association than ever before.

After adjournment for noon the members were invited to the Grange hall, where they found two long tables spread with delicious and appetizing foods prepared and served by the ladies of the South Bay circles.

After dinner the remaining part of the hour was spent in getting ac-

quainted, comparing circle work and looking over Mrs. Funk's well-arranged display of advertisements, through which our paper is made possible.

Called to order at 1:20, the convention was pleasantly and profitably entertained as follows:

Mrs. W. A. Walthew sang in her clear, expressive voice an appropriate Thanksgiving, refusing a hearty encore that the speakers might have more time.

Mrs. V. Maelstrom, president of the Council of Tacoma, talked to us in her convincing way on the aims and purposes of the association. When Mrs. Maelstrom finished her subject the summary was that the high aims were to help raise the standard of home life, thereby inculcating true patriotism, insuring happiness for the child and establishing cooperation between home and school.

The children of the school then gave a series of well rendered songs, which were heartily enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Victor Miller, chairman of the legislative committee, was listened to with the closest attention as she rapidly, concisely and with perfect understanding of the subject, called attention to and explained the important measures affecting child legislation to be brought before the legislature this coming winter. Mrs. Miller explained duties of members in regard to legislation and urged that no important bill be lost for want of public interest.

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION TOTALS THREE MILLION

Hazardous Occupations Cause 387 Deaths and 9,830 Injuries During Year.

The state of Washington paid out \$3,250,853.06 to injured workmen and to families of workmen killed while engaged in hazardous occupations during the year September 30, 1919 to September 30, 1920, according to the annual report of the state industrial insurance commission.

Of the \$3,250,853.06 awarded to the workman and their families by the state, \$304,286.52 was paid out in time awards for temporary total disabilities; \$1,997,384.48 was paid out in time awards for permanent disabilities; and \$949,182.06 was allotted by permission to families of workmen killed in industries in the state.

The total number of claims settled by the commission during the last year for injured workmen coming under the class of temporary total disability, totalled 9,830 and the number of days specified as time loss during the year totalled 212,080. The total number of claims settled

by the commission during the year for permanent partial disability award was \$919,475 for the year with a total compensation of \$1,997,384.48 for the permanent disability class.

The report on fatal accidents follow: Total number of claims settled during the year 387; total amount of monthly pensions, \$67,427.77; total reserves, \$875,139.99; number of burial awards, 387; total amount spent in burial awards \$34,724.75; 130 immediate payments; \$32,500 spent in immediate payments. Fifteen time awards were paid before death; total amount of \$2,370.75 for time awards before death; total compensation, \$949,182.06.

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the logging industry during last year, as 152 claims were settled in this class by the commission last year.

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