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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt is dead. The sage of Sagamore Hill has answered the mystic roll call from up yonder, and to which every man must yield. Although Colonel Roosevelt had been failing in health for several years, and had undergone surgical operations, his death was unexpected, and the entire country was startled and saddened when word was flashed across the land that the former president of the United States of America was no more.

The memory of Theodore Roosevelt will ever be preserved in written American history. He has been described by some as "the greatest American." Whether this characterization of the colonel will in time be generally recognized, remains for the future to reveal.

Colonel Roosevelt, who was twice president of the United States, was a man of great personal magnetism. He was a recognized leader, first in the Republican ranks of the nation, and afterward was a leader of his own individual party, the Progressive, which had a following so tremendous that in 1912 it disrupted the Republican party and permitted the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency of the United States. No man save Roosevelt could have so shattered a political party in the United States, and his vast following in all parts of the land was due primarily to the colonel's magnetic personality. This quality again was fully revealed when the colonel sought, at the time America entered the late war, to organize a regiment of volunteers for service overseas. His plan was stemmed by the present administration.

Colonel Roosevelt's accession to the office of president was purely a matter of luck. He became president in 1901 when as vice-president of the United States he succeeded in office the martyred McKinley. Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest president of the United States. He was scarcely 43 years of age when he took office.

Theodore Roosevelt was a man splendidly equipped for the presidency, and soon he developed into a leader commanding world-wide attention. A man of amazing vitality and courage, few were his ambitions during his terms of public office that were not realized. Acquisition by the United States of property rights for construction of the Panama canal was accomplished under Roosevelt's administration, and the colonel became famous for causing the prosecution of trusts, the regulation of railroads, and betterment of conditions for the working man. His two administrations may truly be described as strenuous, a word the colonel so "delighted" in using.

Besides being a capable executive and statesman and a leader of men, Colonel Roosevelt was noted as a traveler, author, soldier and rancher.

Theodore Roosevelt's title of colonel was acquired during the Spanish-American war when he was colonel of a cavalry regiment of "rough riders," at the head of which he rendered distinguished service in Cuba.

Colonel Roosevelt, during his presidency, was immensely popular with the people of the United States. The zenith of this popularity probably was reached when he retired from the presidency in 1909. In 1912, when he was the Progressive candidate for president, there was again a nation-wide outbreak of enthusiasm for the colonel, but with the defeat of the Progressives his stock rapidly dropped and a further decline came within the last year because of his scathing criticism of the Wilson administration's conduct of the war. Yet no one can doubt the sincerity of Roosevelt in his criticisms.

Colonel Roosevelt has been a national figure for more than twenty years and, while as a man he has had shortcomings, as have all, his good deeds far overbalance his lack of judgment at certain times, and his name will ever be cherished by the American people.

WELCOMING SOLDIERS

The reception given William Francisco, a returned soldier, at Riggins, the other day, is entirely in keeping with the welcome that should be extended to soldiers and sailors who have done their part in the war and who have returned to their homes.

It occurs that the Riggins people have outdone those of Grangeville in the extent of their greetings to the soldiers who come back. The apathy on the part of Grangeville folk in extending more than mere handshakes and smiles to the soldiers is, it is believed, purely to neglect on the part of any one person or group of persons to promote any community welcoming.

Though the soldiers are coming home one by one, the community should not, because the arrivals are scattering, fail to normally recognize the boys for the service they have rendered their country. Some plan should be devised that will show the soldiers and sailors who come home that the home folk really have appreciated what they have done.

STATEHOUSE CHANGES

Monday saw the inauguration of a new administration in the state of Idaho—that of D. W. Davis. The Alexander administration on that day retired. The Democratic government of the state gave way to the Republicans, and with few exceptions changes were made in all state offices.

Moses Alexander has been governor of Idaho for four years. He served two administrations, and his terms of office must be regarded as a success. While Governor Alexander's second administration no doubt was stronger than the first, there are the genuine flaws that can be picked in his conduct of the state's affairs. True it was that Governor Alexander made

pre-election promises that were never fulfilled, but failure to make all deliveries promised for the future has not heretofore been an unwritten fact.

From Governor Davis and his associates is expected a period of construction in Idaho and it is sincerely hoped during the ensuing two years development and growth of the state will be rapid.

JONES MAKES HIT IN BOISE.

Seth D. Jones, one of Idaho county's representatives in the state legislature, made a decided hit immediately he arrived in Boise to attend the legislative session. The Boise Statesman likens Mr. Jones to William H. Taft, ex-president of the United States, when it says:

Taftlike to the last degree in the matters of bulk, curves and contours is Seth D. Jones of Whitebird an Idaho county representative who arrived in Boise Friday. Mr. Jones is known in northern Idaho as the "largest cowboy in the world." Accurate scales place his avoirdupois at 365 pounds.

Serving his first term as a legislator, the grateful stockman promises to prove one of the unique figures of the coming session.

The voters of Idaho county could have sent to the legislature no man who is more acquainted with the needs of central Idaho than Mr. Jones.

SALMON RIVER AND NEWPORT NEWS

Elsewhere in this issue of the Free Press is printed a letter from a soldier, formerly from the Salmon river. He is at Newport News, Va., and in his letter recites that he always thought the Salmon river section "was a tough little country," but "Newport News is so much tougher than old Salmon that the river wouldn't be in it at all." It had not occurred to the Free Press that the Salmon river country bore such an unsavory reputation and it is exceedingly fortunate for our soldier friend that he has seen Newport News, for now he can return to the Salmon river and feel that after all "there's no place like home."

The Oregon state legislature, scheduled to meet January 13, may not convene, because of seriousness of the influenza epidemic in Oregon. It is felt that the public health may be menaced by the gathering of the lawmakers. And many a time the public would be spared needless suffering were legislative sessions abandoned.

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Fraternal Orders

W. O. W. Grangeville Camp No. 206
Meets first and third Monday of each month at I. O. O. F. Hall
R. H. Ambler, Clerk
J. B. Crea, C. C.
I. O. O. F. Mt. Idaho Lodge No. 7
Meets every Saturday night at 7:30. Visiting Odd Fellows always welcome. Pacific phone.
Nephi Aldrich, N. G.
J. N. Oliver, Rec. Sec.
ENCAMPMENT I. O. O. F. Camas Prairie No. 18
Meets the second and fourth Saturdays at I. O. O. F. Hall.
J. N. Oliver, C. P.
Jesse L. Rains, Rec. Scribe.
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS Buffalo Hump Lodge No. 30
Meets every Tuesday. Visiting Knights always welcome.
B. Auger, K. of R. and S.
E. O. Abramson, C. C.
CAMAS PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD No. 5619
Brotherhood of American - Yocmen meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.
Correspondent, F. L. Leonard.
Foreman, Wm. T. Williams.

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