

# SKETCHES FROM THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S LIFE.

## Theodore Roosevelt's Father.

Theodore Roosevelt is the youngest American citizen who has ever been called to the head of our nation. He was born in New York City, October 27, 1858, his father, after whom he was named, being a prominent merchant, a patriot, a philanthropist, and a moving spirit in the Civil War. The elder Theodore Roosevelt went to Washington after the first Battle of Bull Run, and warned President Lincoln that he must get rid of Simon Cameron as Secretary of War, with the result that Mr. Stanton, the "organizer of victory," took his place. When the war was fairly under way, it was Theodore Roosevelt who organized the allotment plan, which saved the families of eighty thousand soldiers of New York State more than five million dollars of their pay; and when the war was over he protected the soldiers against the sharks that lay in wait for them, and saw to it that they got employment. Through his influence the New York newsboys' lodging-house system and many other institutions of public benefit and helpful charity were established. There were four children in the Roosevelt family, of whom Theodore was the second. There were two boys and two girls. A younger brother was killed in a railroad accident, and the hopes of the father were centered on Theodore. At the age of five or six, Theodore gave little promise of maintaining the prestige of the Roosevelt family line.

## The President's Early Boyhood.

He was a puny, sickly, delicate boy. Some one who knew him in those days of the Civil War described him as a "weak-eyed, pig-chested boy, who was too frail to take part in the sports of his age." When he arrived at the age of six, he was sent to the famous old McMullen School, where he remained for eight years. It was not, however, in New York that the boy Roosevelt spent with most profit the months to which he looks back with pleasure. The elder Roosevelt believed that children best thrive in the country. He selected a beautiful spot near the village of Oyster Bay, on the north shore of Long Island, and erected a country house which well deserves its title, "Tranquillity." Here it was among the hills which border the sound and the bay, that Theodore Roosevelt and his brother and sisters spent the long summer months. At fourteen Theodore was admitted to the Cutler School, a private academy in New York conducted by Arthur H. Cutler. Here he took the preparatory course for Harvard University, making rapid advancement under the careful tuition of Mr. Cutler, and graduating with honors.

## Becomes an Athlete.

By careful attention and plenty of gymnastic exercise and out-of-door life his frame became more sturdy and his health vastly improved. It thus happened that when young Roosevelt entered on college life at Harvard, in 1875, he suffered little by comparison with boys of his age. While he did not stand in the front rank of athletes, he was well above the average, and had no reason to be ashamed of his physical prowess.

Never for a waking moment was he idle. It was either study or exercise. In addition to his regular studies and special courses he took upon himself the editorship of the college paper, and made a success of it. He was democratic in his tastes and simple in his mode of living. Theodore Roosevelt was graduated from Harvard in 1880 with high honors. In spite of severe study, his health was but little impaired, and he at once started on a foreign journey in search of instruction, pleasure and adventure. He distinguished himself as a mountain climber, ascending the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn and many other peaks, and was made a member of the Alpine Club of London.

## Begins Study of Law.

On his return to America he studied law, and 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's district.

By re-election he continued in the body during the session 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 1884 he went to the Bad Lands in Dakota, near the "Pretty Buttes," where he built a log-cabin, and for several years mingled the life of a ranchman with that of a literary worker. From his front door he could shoot deer, and the mountains around him were full of big game. Amid such surroundings he wrote some of his most popular books. He became a daring horseman and a rival of the cowboys in feats of skill and strength. In 1886 Mr. Roosevelt was the Republican candidate for Mayor against Abram S. Hewitt, United States Senator, and Henry George, United States Laborer. Mr. Hewitt was elected by about twenty-two thousand plurality. In 1889 Roosevelt was appointed by President Harrison a member of the



26th PRESIDENT of the U.S.

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.

## Police Commissioner in New York.

Roosevelt continued in that office until May 1, 1895, when he resigned to accept the office of Police Commissioner from Mayor Strong. He found the administration of affairs in a demoralized condition, but he soon brought order out of chaos. Says James A. Rilis, who is an intimate friend of President Roosevelt:

We had been trying for forty years to achieve a system of dealing decently with our homeless poor. Two score years before the passage of the police department had pointed out that herding them in the cellars or over the prisons of police stations in festering heaps, and turning them out hungry at daybreak to beg their way from door to door, was indecent and inhuman. Since then grand juries, academies of medicine, committees on philanthropic citizens, had attacked the foul disgrace, but to no purpose. Pestilence ravaged the prison lodgings, but still they stayed. I know what that fight meant, for I was one of a committee that waged it year after year, and suffered defeat every time, until Theodore Roosevelt came and destroyed the nuisance in a night. I remember the caricatures of tramps shivering in the cold with which the yellow newspapers pursued him at the time, labeling him the "door man's foe." And I remember being just a little uneasy lest they wound him, and perhaps make him think he had been hasty. But not he. It was only those who did not know him who charged him with being hasty. He thought a thing out quickly—out, and, having thought it out, acted to his judgment. Of the consequences he didn't think at all. He made sure he was right, and then went ahead with perfect confidence that things would come out right.

## His Advice to Organized Labor.

Mr. Rilis says he never saw Roosevelt to better advantage than when he once confronted the labor men at their meeting-place, Clarendon Hall:

The police were all the time having trouble with strikers and their "pickets." Roosevelt saw that it was because neither party understood fully the position of the other, and, with his usual directness, sent word to the labor organizations that he would like to talk it over with them. At his request I went with him to the meeting. It developed almost immediately that the labor men had taken a wrong measure of the man. They met him as a politician playing for points, and hinted at trouble unless their demands were met. Mr. Roosevelt broke them off short:

"Gentlemen," he said—with that snap of the jaws that always made people listen—"I asked to meet you, hoping that we might come to understand one another. Remember, please, before we go further, that the worst injury anyone of you can do to the cause of labor is to counsel violence. It will also be worse for him. Understand distinctly that the order will be kept. The police will keep it. Now we can proceed."

I was never so proud and pleased as when they applauded him to the echo. He reddened with pleasure, for he saw that the best in them had come out on top, as he expected it would.

## Attacked by "Yellow" Newspapers.

It was of this incident that a handle was first made by Mr. Roosevelt's enemies in and out of the police board—and he had many—to attack him:

It happened that there was a musical hall in the building in which the labor men met. The yellow newspapers circulated the lie that he went there on purpose to see the show, and the ridiculous story was repeated until actually the liars persuaded themselves that it was so. They would not have been able to understand the kind of man they had to do with, had they tried. Accordingly they fell into their own trap. It is a tradition of Mulberry Street that the notorious Steyer dinner raid was planned by his enemies in the department of which he was the head, in the belief that they would catch Mr. Roosevelt there. The dinners were supposed to be his "stet."

Some time after that, Mr. Rilis was in Roosevelt's office when a police official of superior rank came in, and requested a private audience with him:

They stepped aside and the policeman spoke in an undertone, urging something strongly. Mr. Roosevelt listened. Suddenly I saw him straighten up as a man recoils from something unclean, and dismiss the other with a sharp: "No, sir, I don't fight that way." The policeman went out crestfallen. Roosevelt took two or three turns about the floor, struggling evidently with strong disgust. He told

me afterward that the man had come to him with what he said was certain knowledge that his enemy could that night be found in a known evil house uptown, which it was his alleged habit to visit. His proposition was to raid it then and so "get square." To the policeman it must have seemed like throwing a good chance away. But it was not Roosevelt's way; he struck no blow below the belt. In the governor's chair afterward he gave the politicians whom he fought, and who fought him, the same terms. They tried their best to upset him, for they had nothing to expect from him. But they knew and owned that he fought fair. Their backs were secure. He never tricked them to gain an advantage. A promise given by him was always kept to the letter.

## Assistant Secretary of Navy.

Early in 1897 he was called by President McKinley to give up his New York office to become Assistant-Secretary of the Navy. 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. It was he who suggested Admiral Dewey for commander of the Asiatic station.

Dewey was sometimes spoken of in those days as if he were a kind of fashion-plate. Roosevelt, however, had faith in him, and while walking up Connecticut avenue one day said to Mr. Rilis: "Dewey is all right. He has a lion heart. He is the man for the place." No one now doubts the wisdom of his selection, and naval officers agree that the remarkable skill in marksmanship displayed by the American gunners was due to his foresight. He saw the necessity of practice, and he thought it the best kind of economy to burn up ammunition in acquiring skill.

A characteristic story is told regarding Roosevelt's insistence on practice in the navy.

Shortly after his appointment he asked for an appropriation of \$800,000 for ammunition, powder, and shot for the navy. The appropriation was made, and a few months later he asked for another appropriation, this time of \$500,000. When asked by the proper authorities what had become of the first appropriation, he replied: "Every cent of it was spent for powder and shot, and every bit of powder and shot has been fired." When he was asked what he was going to do with the \$500,000, he replied: "Use every ounce of that, too, within the next thirty days in practice shooting."

## His Cuban War Record.

Soon after the outbreak of the war, however, 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 of 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.

## As Governor of New York.

Upon 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 his legal residence in that state. That 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. Roosevelt took the stump and delivered many speeches. His plurality was 18,079. As the campaign of 1900 drew near, the popular demand that Roosevelt's name should be on the National Republican ticket grew too imperative to be ignored by the leaders. The honor of the nomination for Vice-President was refused time and time again by Roosevelt, who felt that he had a great duty to perform as governor of New York state.

Says Cal O'Laughlin, apropos of the Republican National Convention, which was held in Philadelphia on June 19, 20 and 21, 1900:

**Nomination at Philadelphia.**  
On the evening of the first day of the convention, Roosevelt saw Platt. "My name must not be presented to the convention," he told him. Platt was mad, and mad clean through; but he acquiesced, and Roosevelt returned to his apartment to run into the arms of the Kansas delegation. "We do not request you to accept the nomination," said State Senator Burton; "we do not urge you to accept the nomination, but we propose to issue orders to you, and we expect you to obey them." Throughout the delivery of Mr. Burton's remarks, Roosevelt stood, with shoulders square and feet at right angles, his chin occasionally shooting forward as if he were on the point of objecting to the argument that he alone could rescue "bleeding Kansas" from demagogism and populism. But he waited patiently until the address was ended, and then appealed to the Kansas to take his words at their face value, and vote for some one of the candidates. But his appeal was useless, for Senator Burton, grasping his hand, congratulated him "in advance upon his nomination and election," and the delegation enthusiastically approved the sentiments. So certain was Kansas that Roosevelt would be the choice of the convention, that it had printed a huge placard, bearing the words in large, black type:

"KANSAS DELEGATION FIRST TO DECLARE FOR GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT."

And, when the nomination was declared to have occurred, triumphantly carried it about Convention Hall.

After his nomination, Roosevelt said:

I held out as long as I could. I had to give in when I saw the popular sentiment of the convention. I believe it is my duty. Now that it is all over, I want to say that I appreciate fully the sentiment which accompanied my nomination. The grandeur and enthusiasm of the convention and my nomination never will be forgotten.

During the political campaign which followed, he traveled 15,100 miles, flashed through 23 states, delivered 459 speeches, containing 860,000 words, and made his appeal directly to 1,600,000 persons.

## His Capacity for Work.

Mr. Rilis says that the thing that bedevils the judgment of his critics is Roosevelt's amazing capacity for work. He says:

He can weigh the pros and cons of a case and get at the meat of it in less time than it takes most of us to state the mere proposition. And he is surprisingly thorough. Nothing escapes him. His judgment comes sometimes as a shock to the man of slower ways. He does not stop at conventionalities. If a thing is right, it is to be done—and right away. It was notably so with the round-robin in Cuba, asking the government to recall the perishing army when it had won the fight. People shook their heads, and talked of precedents. Precedents! It has been Roosevelt's business to make them most of his time. But is there anyone today who thinks he set that one wrong? Certainly no one who did not see the army come home. It did not come a day too soon. Roosevelt is no more infallible than the rest of us. Over and over again I have seen him pause when he has decided upon his line of action, and review it to see where there was a chance for mistake. Finding none, he would issue his order with the sober comment: "There, we have done the best we could. If there is any mistake we will make it right. The fear of it shall not deter us from doing our duty. The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything."

## Enforcing the Law.

Referring to Roosevelt's strict enforcement of the Sunday excise law, the San Francisco Argonaut's New York correspondent, "Flaneur," wrote under date of September 2, 1895:

The law is not a Republican law. It was passed by Tammany as a means of blackmailing saloonkeepers who refused to yield up tribute. It is a Democratic law, was introduced at the instigation of Tammany, was passed by a Democratic legislature, and was signed by a Democratic governor, David B. Hill. Senator Hill is now trying to make political capital by abusing Roosevelt for enforcing the law, but he places himself in a very questionable position. When a man is the leader of a party in a state, when his party passes an excise law, and when he himself signs it as governor, he certainly stultifies himself when, to embarrass a political opponent, he fights against the enforcement of the very law which he himself passed. The opponents of enforcing the law are having a rather hard time. Nobody denies that the law exists; all that they say is that it is "a hardship to enforce it." But who is to decide on the relative severity or mildness of the laws? Commissioner Roosevelt himself frankly says that he does not believe in such a severe Sunday law, but as it is the law, he is going to enforce it. And he is certainly doing so. There is a good deal of humor in the American people, and in this great city there are many thousands who are smiling sardonically over the plight of Tammany caused by enforcing a Tammany law. For Tammany's revenues come largely from the blackmailing of liquor saloons.

President Roosevelt has been a student of political economy since boyhood. He has been an omnivorous reader, and has pursued his studies with the same zeal and energy that have characterized all his acts in civil and military life.—San Francisco Argonaut.

## SYSTEM FOR GETTING STATISTICS

Deputy Assistant Watson is Ready to Be Shown.

LINCOLN, Oct. 7.—The officers of the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics are endeavoring to formulate a plan by which accurate statistics may be gathered in Nebraska. With this purpose in view, Deputy Commissioner Watson has been corresponding with statisticians in various parts of the country and the replies so far received indicate that only a few of the states succeed in obtaining a complete registration. The following discussion of the subject was received from Chief Cressy L. Wilbur of the vital statistics division of Michigan:

"Many other states have endeavored to collect mortality statistics, but in most cases with very poor success. Some of these are: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California and Washington. There are two states which have adopted modern systems of registration, but so recently that their results could not be passed upon by the census, so I am not sure whether they can be included in the list of registration states or not. These are Colorado and Indiana. Of the latter I am quite sure that the accuracy of the registration is very good. I may say also that the state of Illinois has adopted a new law by which certificates of death will be required. This law, if effectually administered, may perhaps bring Illinois in the list of registration states, although it has some very serious organic effects.

"I hope that in the near future Nebraska may adopt a satisfactory law for the registration of vital statistics. Should any such legislation be undertaken, however, it will be of great importance to avoid the very serious mistakes which are very frequently made. Thus, Iowa only a few years ago adopted new registration laws for the collection of deaths, which any person at all informed in registration methods could have said from the start would be utterly worthless in practice, as they have since turned out to be."

## A SENSATIONAL DIVORCE CASE.

Filing of a Petition Sets Gossiping Tongues Wagging.

IOWA FALLS, Oct. 7.—The filing of a petition in the district court by Mrs. Fannie Wisner Crockett praying for a divorce from her husband, Frank W. Crockett, has created a sensation in this county, where the couple has lived for years, and where, on account of their social position, they have been prominent. In 1895, Mr. Crockett married Mrs. Fannie Wisner, the widow of George H. Wisner, a wealthy and prominent citizen of this county. One child was born to the couple, and the wife will ask custody of the offspring. The charge alleged in the petition is incompatibility of temper. The case will probably come up for trial at the next term of court. Mr. Crockett was formerly of Alden, and later principal of the schools at Williams. For two terms he was clerk of the district court, and is widely known in central Iowa. The parties reside at Eldora.

## Tried to Kill Himself.

FREMONT, Neb., Oct. 7.—An unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by hanging himself was made by William Etherton, a resident of Fremont. He became intoxicated and secured a rope and went to the barn. He tied one end to a rafter and put his neck into a noose on the other end. When he swung himself off, however, the rope broke.

## Captures a Horse Thief.

WEST POINT, Neb., Oct. 7.—Sheriff Phillips captured a horse thief from South Dakota, west of the city. The culprit is a large negro, and had in his possession two fine matched grays. He refused to give his name, but stated that he was bound for Kansas City, where he had intended to dispose of the horses.

## General and Mrs. Manderson Return.

OMAHA, Oct. 7.—General Solicitor Manderson of the Burlington returned home from a three weeks' trip east, which included the late presidents' funeral at Canton, the Buffalo exposition, New York, Philadelphia and Washington. He was accompanied by Mrs. Manderson.

## To Strengthen Institute.

SPRINGVIEW, Neb., Oct. 7.—Dr. A. T. Peterson and Professor E. A. Burnett of the state university addressed a farmers institute here and the farmers and stockmen were delighted with the manner in which those gentlemen handled their subjects. A county organization was perfected which will in the future assist in creating more interest in the work of this organization. J. H. Myers was selected for president; E. H. Williams, secretary.

## WHEREABOUTS OF THE MONEY

State Treasurer Stuefer Tells Where Public Funds Are Deposited.

LINCOLN, Oct. 5.—State Treasurer Stuefer makes the following statement regarding disposition of public funds: "The total amount in depository banks is \$395,418.13. As the total amount on hand is \$662,942.13, the balance on hand is \$267,524."

"The current fund bank account for the month of September follows:

Union National bank, Omaha	\$23,151.99
United States National, Omaha	29,415.41
National Bank of Commerce, Omaha	11,719.48
City National bank, Lincoln	28,737.54
Packers National, South Omaha	18,699.13
First National bank, Lincoln	21,296.95
Saunders County National bank, Wahoo	10,067.18
Adams County bank, Hastings	9,795.16
German National bank, Hastings	8,638.29
Bank of Commerce, Louisville	3,900.00
Battle Creek Valley bank, Battle Creek	19,900.00
First National bank, Alliance	4,129.14
First National bank, York	5,118.03
First National, Pawnee City	8,440.38
Broken Bow State, Broken Bow	6,000.00
Citizens bank, McCook	8,980.58
Union State bank, Harvard	6,973.47
City National bank, York	3,250.68
State bank at Curtis	4,284.49
Farmers and Merchants bank, Stromsburg	5,987.31
Bank of Cass County, Platts mouth	10,000.00
Omaha National bank, Omaha	42,356.69
Columbia National bank, Lincoln	29,944.13
Merchants National, Omaha	35,528.51
Bank of Bazile Mills, Bazile Mills	1,500.00
First National bank, Holdrege	4,768.81
First State bank, St. Paul	4,500.00
First National bank, Pierce	15,075.00
Pierce County bank, Pierce	7,900.00
Bank of Orleans, Orleans	6,000.00
Grand Island Banking company, Grand Island	10,000.00
First National bank of Loomis	5,000.00

"The above named banks have collectively given bonds to the amount of \$1,913,500, now on file in the auditor's office. These bonds have been examined and approved by a board composed of the governor, attorney general and secretary of state before the deposit of any state funds. None of these banks have a deposit to exceed one-third of the amount of the bond given by the bank. The securities on my bond for \$1,500,000 are the Fidelity and Deposit company and the United States Fidelity and Guarantee company, both of Baltimore, Md."

## Favors Union Pacific.

OMAHA, Oct. 5.—Judge Smith McPherson in the United States court at Council Bluffs ruled that the east half of the Union Pacific railway bridge across the Missouri is not liable for the payment of regular city taxes. The decision was handed down in the suit brought by William Arnd, treasurer of Pottawattamie county, to recover taxes from 1897 to 1900 inclusive, amounting to \$14,000.

## Charged With Embezzling.

HASTINGS, Neb., Oct. 5.—Sheriff Gustus of Phelps county arrested C. A. Jarvis of Holdrege here on the charge of embezzlement. Jarvis had been employed as agent for the McCormick Harvesting Machine company at Holdrege, and is accused of embezzling \$800 belonging to the firm at Holdrege. Sheriff Gustus took his prisoner to Holdrege.

## Rural Mail Routes.

MINDELA, Neb., Oct. 5.—The rural free mail routes started from this point last week. The routes were surveyed last spring, but delayed in starting. Four carriers leave daily and their routes average about thirty miles. The carriers are: Dr. Ayres, H. Slusser, Stephens and Jones.

## Lad Shoots Off an Arm.

SHELTON, Neb., Oct. 5.—A son of Lawrence Vehlend, a farmer living five miles southwest of Shelton, while hunting accidentally shot himself in the left arm, shattering the member so that amputation was necessary.

## Ends Trouble With a Bullet.

OMAHA, Oct. 5.—John Woodward, an officer of the Metropolitan Insurance company, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. He leaves a wife and daughter, the former living in Lincoln.

## Ranchman Knocked Unconscious.

LONG PINE, Neb., Oct. 5.—While herding cattle S. Runolfson, a ranchman north of town, was thrown from his horse by it stepping into a gopher hole. His head and chest were badly injured and he is not expected to live.

## More Mortgages in Polk County.

OSCEOLA, Neb., Oct. 5.—The mortgage indebtedness of Polk county, as shown by the records in the clerk's office, was increased for the month of September \$8,002.90.

## Lectures on "Beautiful Nebraska."

KEARNEY, Oct. 5.—Mr. Moses Sydenham, the pioneer editor of this city, has evolved a lecture on "Our Beautiful Nebraska," which he proposes delivering at such times and places as various committees may elect. Mr. Sydenham has lived in the state over forty years, has made a study of its resources, past and prospective, and will no doubt make interesting talks along lines that ought to interest every citizen.