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teachers who are going back to the States on a vacation.

We have only made one stop—at Bahia—and that for a few hours. Bahia is the oldest Portuguese city in South America and was for two centuries the capital of Brazil. We stayed long enough to pay our respects to the officials, inspect the cocoa and rubber and get an impression of the city and its excellent harbor. A number of passengers supplied themselves with parrots and monkeys there and we could equip a good sized zoological garden with specimens of birds and beasts. As the one big parrot which I am bringing from Rio is quite enough for me I contented myself with getting some wire at Bahia and the ship carpenter has fashioned it into a very neat cage.

We passed the mouth of the Amazon eighty miles from shore, but even though this is the period of low water the turbid flood of this great river had not entirely lost its color in the ocean blue.

We are near enough to Barbados, where I leave the Verdi for a Venezuela boat, to make it safe to praise the weather. Neptune has been good to us. The sea has been calm and the occasional showers have only made the sunlight the brighter.

We crossed the Equator without accident. Some declared they felt the ship lurch a little as it went over but the captain assured them that Lamport and Holt had, at great expense, depressed the Equator at this point so that the longest ships can pass over it in safety. On the way south the men who are crossing the Equator for the first time are generally ducked in a tank of salt water by order of Neptune.

I have enjoyed the trip, the only drawback being that I am alone. Mrs. Bryan and our daughter having preceded me a couple of weeks.

The traffic between the United States and the east coast of South America is growing. This vessel increases the number of its passengers each trip and the patronage has led the company to put on a still larger ship, the Vesori,

which is now on her third trip south. When the beauties of South America are known a greater number of our people will find pleasure and instruction in a winter's tour of South America. In three months one can visit the Isthmus, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil and come back as I am coming, impressed with the future of South America and anxious that our nation shall devote more attention to the south half of the western hemisphere. W. J. BRYAN.

Roosevelt, Taft and the Insurgents

An interesting story printed in the Kansas City Post and written by its Washington correspondent follows:

Washington, May 24.—With "Roosevelt and Insurgency" for a battle cry in the fight for re-election next fall, the house progressives are today planning to sweep Theodore Roosevelt into the midst of the terrific campaign which confronts them. Hitherto secret information on which the insurgents based their assurance of Roosevelt's active support in the fight against "Cannonism" became available today.

The situation revives an unpublished report made to the insurgent organization in caucus in March, 1909, by the insurgent executive committee, Representatives Nelson, Madison and Gardner, charged with the mission of obtaining the indorsement of Roosevelt for the insurgent policies, in those strenuous closing days of the strenuous administration.

The following statements, incorporated in that report, and known for over a year to every house insurgent, are here made public for the first time:

On March 2, 1909, Theodore Roosevelt proposed to give Representative Nelson, chairman of the insurgent executive committee, a letter indorsing the fight on Cannon and the house rules.

He expressed himself as thoroughly in sympathy with the progressive movement, particularly in the fight against Cannon, as he said: "Cannon has been the greatest obstacle in the way of my efforts to secure good legislation for the people of the country, throughout the seven years of my administration."

On March 4, after spending the evening of March 3 with President-elect Taft, he begged to be excused from writing the letter. As a ground for his change of purpose, he said that from conversations with Taft he was afraid such a course would embarrass his successor.

One of the last acts of Roosevelt's administration as he stood in the president's room in the senate wing, was to take Representatives Gardner and Nelson by the hand, lead them over to Taft and plead with the president-elect to take up the insurgent cause.

"The Story of the Indorsement That was Never Given," was outlined to the insurgent caucus by the executive committee as follows:

Representatives Nelson, Gardner and Madison of the executive committee of the progressives' caucus, were present to endeavor to secure President Roosevelt's endorsement of the insurgent attack on Cannon and the rules projected by the progressives to be made during the special tariff session that convened March 15, 1909.

They had arranged an appointment with President Roosevelt for the afternoon of March 3. The eleventh hour of the Roosevelt administration was at hand and Roosevelt was moving out of the White House. The executive offices were in confusion. Clerks were rushing in and out of the president's office and Roosevelt led the insurgent committee into the old cabinet room.

Nelson, as chairman of the committee, outlined to the president the plan of attack on Cannon and the rules, the object and chances of success for the entire insurgent program and asked Roosevelt to indorse officially the movement. Roosevelt raised himself in his chair, drew up one leg beneath him in his favorite deliberative attitude.

"Now, boys, let me think out loud."

Then for thirty minutes he proceeded to outline his position in the impending legislative struggle. He pointed out to himself and the insurgents that throughout his administration Speaker Cannon and certain of his followers in the house had opposed measure after measure that he advanced and advocated. He said in the beginning that personally he was in sympathy

with the insurgents and with what they were trying to do. He paused for a moment.

Then he continued, saying that he was now getting out of the limelight, that another was about to take up the reins and that the new president might not like to have them taken out of his hands.

Roosevelt declared that it seemed to him that he would be encroaching on the prerogatives of his successor if he publicly indorsed the insurgents' movements, that he had been dealing with these things in his own way and that his successor would want to do the same without interference.

Throughout the interview the only objection Roosevelt made to a public declaration of his sympathy with the progressive movement was the fact that his successor might be embarrassed.

"I don't want to seem to interfere at all. I don't want to appear to seize the reins from the hands of my successor," and he swept out his hands in a suggestive gesture. "I'm like that talkative New Bedford mate, whose captain told him, 'What I want from you is silence, and little of that.'"

For one hour and a half Roosevelt talked over the quest of the insurgent and they outlined their various projects. Repeatedly the president evidenced his desire to aid their cause, seeking only a way to do so that would not leave him open to the charge of interfering with Taft's administration.

Finally he made this suggestion: He offered to write a letter to Chairman Nelson of the insurgent committee indorsing the insurgent program. He told reminiscently of writing a similar letter for the use of the "organization republicans" early in his administration, in return for which they had promised to put through the Roosevelt legislative program.

"And you see what they have done for me," he added, leaning forward and grasping the arms of his chair. He said that under the circumstances he would not write the letter for publication, but that it could be used among the members of the house without reserve, not even excepting "Uncle Joe" himself.

The letter was to be a complete indorsement of the insurgents' program for amending the rules and the reduction of the speaker's power.

When the insurgents left the White House it was understood that Roosevelt was to write the letter and send it to Nelson. At noon the next day Roosevelt sat in the president's room off the senate chamber, at the capitol, signing the final bills of his administration. All the ceremonial preparations for the inauguration of President Taft were under way.

About Roosevelt, as he bent over the desk, were grouped several members of the house and senate. President-elect Taft was there. Roosevelt, summoning a page, sent for the insurgent committee that had waited on him the day before. Only Gardner could be found and Roosevelt dispatched him to find Nelson.

When Gardner and Nelson returned Roosevelt was busy with the numerous bills on the desk before him. He arose quickly, grasping Nelson by the hand and said: "Well, I'm sorry."

Then he told them that without discussing directly the suggestion he had made to the insurgents, he had brought up the rules-Cannon matter in Taft's presence, and that as a result he had reached the conclusion that to write the letter would be unwise in view of what Taft had said.

He again expressed his sympathy with the insurgents' plans, however. Gardner turned to him and asked: "Well, Mr. President, won't you ask Mr. Taft to do what he can for us?"

With an impulsive gesture Roosevelt turned to the two insurgents, grasped each by the hand and led them over to where Taft stood.

The other occupants of the room started a little, and turned their attention toward the president and the president-elect. Roosevelt briefly explained to Taft the plans of the insurgents in their fight against Cannon and the rules, and said that they had asked for his support.

For probably five minutes he pleaded with his successor for the insurgents and their cause, ending with the request: "At least keep your hands off."

Taft listened to Roosevelt's fervid plea, threw up his hands and turned the matter in a joking way.

Within half an hour Roosevelt had surrendered the presidency to Taft and had severed himself entirely from politics.

He has not discussed politics publicly since. But the insurgents have sent letter after letter to Africa and Europe. The replies to these letters are guarded carefully by their recipients.