

Roosevelt Enjoys Navy Department Work, He Writes

Assistant Secretary Enters New Work With Zest and Is Praised by Chief.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, 300 Mulberry Street, New York, March 17, 1897.

Dear Cabot: At present there seems to be a hitch in the project to legislate us out of office. I think the project so bad from the civic and political standpoint that I am glad, but as regards myself I am really disappointed; I should like very much to see the bill go through as far as I am concerned. I can say conscientiously, and as a matter of honest belief, that no man could have done more than I have done in this position, and that no man who strove honestly to do his duty could have avoided the difficulties I have encountered.

During the two years I have been here (as police commissioner) I have in every way avoided any kind of attack upon the organization republicans, and all I could legitimately do that they have asked me I have done. In the greatest struggle in which they engaged, that over and about the presidential nomination, I backed them in every way, and the only feeling they have in return is a desire to cut my throat, not for any mistake I have made, but because I have administered the office honestly; and in the same breath in which they denounce me as not being a good republican because I will not do dirty work for them. As for the anti-Platt republicans, upon my word, I believe them to be almost a shade worse.

The Tribune has added insincerity to the catalogue of the machine voters, and has in every way opposed me ever since I declined to give them the police advertising; and to work under Mayor Strong is soul-harrowing, for he never follows out a consistent course, and never resolutely backs any man up. The so-called independent republicans of the Seth Low stamp are but little better. The only comfort is that I resolutely strive to give as good as I get.

There! I feel easier, having burdened you, as usual, with my parochial woes.

Best love to Nannie.
Always yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge,
Senate Chamber,
Washington, D. C.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, 300 Mulberry street, New York, March 19, 1897.

Dear Cabot: I am glad you have begun the fight on your immigration bill again. I took a kind of grim satisfaction in Cleveland's winding up his career by this action, so that his last stroke was given to injure the country as much as he possibly could.

Always yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*It is only fair to say that I heard some years later, that Mr. Cleveland spoke of the veto of the immigration bill which contained the first literacy test as one which he had since greatly regretted. It was said at the time that he had been much influenced by the representations of misrepresentations of the German steamship people in New York. But however this may be, I am now very certain that he was not only a strong and honest man and thoroughly American, as was shown by his action in the Venezuela case.
H. C. L.

In this letter Roosevelt as New York police commissioner takes a few parting shots at his police board associates against whom he has been fighting so hard during the last year—Parker, Grant and Conlin. He refers to W. M. K. O'Leary, then district attorney of New York City, as his possible successor, but indicates that the local republican machine objects to such a worthy citizen.
New York, March 20, 1897.

Dear Cabot: As I expected, my inquiries resulted in my being called before the mayor, with whom, however, I am bound to say, I had the pleasantest interview I have yet had. He told me that he hated to have me go, but that "he knew I was in hell" and he would take the utmost pleasure in writing to McKinley on my behalf. As to my successor, he said about what I told you yesterday. He has no idea himself who it would be, or who would take it; but it must be some one who will work as I have worked, and

who will be steadfast against Parker, Grant and Conlin. In this he is quite right. A decent man like O'Leary the mayor would gladly appoint; but O'Leary hates and distrusts Parker and Conlin as much as I do; being an honest district attorney he speedily found them out; and he told me he had nearly quarreled with Platt on the subject, telling him that it was incomprehensible to him how the machine could support that pair of scoundrels in their effort to ruin the police department.

You see the whole trouble comes from the attitude of the machine leaders. For the last year Parker's whole strength has been due to his deal with the machine; and Platt acquiesces in it; this is all that gives Parker his power for evil; and the machine, with a s h a n elessness rather worse than Tammany's seeks its profit out of the mischief he makes. Lauterbach, Lexow, and the other machine leaders are now moving heaven and earth to prevent the governor from removing Parker. Every decent man in the machine wishes him removed; but the fundamental difficulty with the New York machine at this moment is that the great majority of its leaders are not decent, and their quarrel with me is because I am. I wish you would show this to Tom Reed.

I feel this is rather a gloomy note to have to write you; but of course I simply cannot try to have chosen as my successor the kind of man who, I fear, would alone be acceptable to Platt; and if I did try it would do worse than no good.

Yours,
T. R.
(An assistant secretary of the navy under President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt continued to write frequently to Senator Lodge. They were always alike on the question of navy preparedness.)
Navy Department,
Office Assistant Secretary,
Washington,
August 3, 1897.

Dear Cabot: I entirely agree with you. We have every reason to be proud of what the president and congress have done during the five months of office; and unquestionably times are improving. Of course to prophesy about our politics is a little like prophesying about a kaleidoscope, and no human being can foretell anything with any accuracy; but it certainly seems to me as though this administration was opening, unlike every other administration of the last 20 years, with the prospects steadily brightening for its continuance during a second term.

The president has done so much that I don't feel like being discontented, but of course I do feel that it would be everything for us to take firm action on behalf of the wretched Cubans. It would be a splendid thing for the navy, too.

I was immensely amused to see that Congressman Walker has announced his intention of beating you for senator. I think he has quite a job on hand, and that your attitude can afford to be that of the Texan who examined the tenderfoot's .32 caliber revolver—"Stranger, if you ever shot me with that, and I know'd it, I would kick you all over Texas." Edith is here with me; and fortunately the weather is cool. She is grappling with desperate energy with the new house and the old furniture. The house will have a certain incongruous look next year, being furnished scantily in some directions, and over-abundantly in others, but we are very much pleased with it, nevertheless. It seems very comfortable, indeed, much more so than our old one. When Edith goes I shall probably spend some of the hot weather with Harry* at the observatory.

That good time are coming is now beyond a doubt. Wheat and gold together, and the fact that the tariff is out of the way, and the uneasiness abroad, all help.

Faithfully yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
*Captain Davis then in command at the naval observatory.
Navy Department,
Washington,
Aug. 5, '97.

Dear Cabot: Our house will be furnished largely from the wreck of Edith's forefathers' houses 60 years back, with an occasional relic of my own family thrown in—all the masonic or horsehair furniture stage. We have, come across

some lovely memories of a bygone civilization, including especially a number of stereopticon plates—"The Wedding Breakfast," "Dressing the Bride," "Evening Near Windsor Castle," or, varied with views of the family tombs in Greenwood cemetery, which our ancestors always deemed highly edifying.

Yours,
T. R.

(Roosevelt had no sooner become assistant secretary of the navy than he began to be known as the champion of preparedness—a stand which was to be one of his chief characteristics throughout his life.)
NAVY DEPARTMENT OFFICE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHINGTON, August 17, 1897.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Nahant, Mass.

Dear Cabot: My torpedo boat flotilla is in fine shape. Of the six torpedo boats they have got only two with the proper commanders, which is a real mis-

fortune, but still, thought I can't get the best work out of the flotilla, I shall get pretty good work. I have spent my spare hours in getting together a most interesting series of quotations from the messages of the presidents in congress on behalf of the navy. In some form or other I am going to try and have them made public. The first week in September I hope to spend three days with the squadron of battleships off Hampton Roads; from all of which you can readily gather that I am really enjoying my work.

Always yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Nahant, Mass.

NAVY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON, September 11, 1897.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Nahant, Mass.
Dear Cabot: I have never enjoyed three days

more than my three days with the fleet, and I think I have profited by it. In fact, I know I have, for there are a lot of things I am doing now because of what I saw there. I was very fortunate in the weather, which was wonderfully calm. Think of it, on the Atlantic ocean, out of sight of land, going out to dinner to a battleship in evening dress without an overcoat! I saw for myself the working of the different gear for turning turrets—electric, hydraulic, steam and pneumatic. I was aboard the Iowa and the Puritan throughout their practice under service condition at the targets and was able to satis-



Henry Cabot Lodge

fy myself definitely of the great superiority of the battleship as a gun platform. I was on the New York during the practice at night with searchlights and rapid fire guns at a drifting target, the location of which was unknown. I saw the maneuvers of the squadron as a whole and met every captain and went over with him, on the ground, what was needed.

With love to Nannie,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The London Morning Post has an article on me as "a lingo of the Lodge and Morgan school" and the Evening Post of New York is filled with wrath and contempt at my visiting the squadron because I am a "civilian."

"Senator Morgan of Alabama—a very able man, an ex-confederate general, in politics a democrat—H. C. L.

(Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, when ever he got an opportunity talked to his chief, President McKinley, about the need of being prepared for a war with Spain. He outlined to the president his ideas as sketched in the following letter to Senator Lodge.)

NAVY DEPARTMENT OFFICE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHINGTON, September 21, 1897.

Dear Cabot: If we get Walker with our main fleet on the Cuban coast within 48 hours after war is declared—which we can readily do if just before the declaration we gather entire fleet at Key West; and if we put four big, fast, heavily-armed cruisers under say Evans, as a flying squadron to harass the coast of Spain until some of the battleships are able to leave Cuba and go there; and if at the same time we throw, as quickly as possible, an expeditionary force into Cuba, I doubt if the war would last six weeks so far as the acute phase of it was concerned. Meanwhile, our Asiatic squadron should blockade, and if possible take, Manila.

But if we hesitate and let the Spaniards take the initiative, they could give us great temporary annoyance by sending a squadron off

our coast, not to speak of the fact that if they were given time, when once it was evident that war had to come, there would be plenty of German and English, and possibly French, officers instructing them how to lay mines and use torpedoes for the defense of the Cuban ports. Besides, we would have the Japs on our backs.

However, I haven't the slightest idea that there will be a war.

Give my best love to Nannie. Faithfully yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge,
Nahant, Mass.

(Mr. Lodge evidently had voiced a friendly criticism of a public statement made by his friend—hence the following letter.)
(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

Finnish Government Resigns. London, March 19.—An exchange telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says it is learned there that the Finnish government has resigned.

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