

and I am not an old man yet—not by any manner of means.

The little organ was placed right in the middle of the church, and I'll never forget the organist. She was my first sweetheart. True, I was only four or five years old, and she was a woman grown—but she was my first sweetheart, just the same. What's that? O, her name was Molly Delph, and if my memory serves me right she was the prettiest woman in the world. Besides, she was the finest organist that ever lived. My mother always had to sit right beside that organ so I could be near my sweetheart. I haven't much recollection of what that particular Christmas tree bore for me, but a pair of knit mittens, a red woolen tippet, a pair of crocheted wrist-lets, some gingerbread animals, molasses candy, copper-toed boots with red tops, and other things of a like nature were doubtless among them. And a candy heart! That was from

my sweetheart, of course. Wish I had kept it; but it was too tempting, and I ate it. I remember the decorations of the tree, too. Long strings of popcorn were festooned over every limb. Paper was cut into long strips and curled by being drawn over the edge of the scissors blade, and then hung in bunches. Cotton batting was too expensive for decoration in those days. But rosy-cheeked apples,

the red buds from the rosebushes—you know what I mean—and holly berries furnished the necessary red tinge. O, it was the very finest Christmas tree that ever bloomed and bore fruit!

Of course there was a Santa Claus, and he—

But there comes the office boy with the demand for "copy," and this is where we quit.

THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY NOT TO GO AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

The newspapers of Sunday, December 6, printed an elaborate program for the Roosevelt party's trip to Africa. It would seem from this statement that the journey is not to be entirely a personal affair.

Washington, December 5.—President Roosevelt today in a statement prepared by Secretary Walcott of the Smithsonian Institution, made his first official announcement regarding the hunting trip to Africa on which he will start within two weeks after he retires from the presidency.

The official statement follows: "In March, 1909, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt will head a scientific expedition to Africa, outfitted by the Smithsonian Institution and starting from New York City. This expedition will gather natural history materials for the government collections, to be deposited by the Smithsonian Institution in the new United States National Museum at Washington.

"Beside the president and his son, Kermit Roosevelt, the personnel of the party on leaving New York will consist of three representatives of the Smithsonian Institution, Major Edgar E. Mearns, medical corps, U. S. Army (retired); Edmund Peter and J. Alden Loring. On arriving in Africa, the party will be enlarged by the addition of R. J. Cunningham, who is now in Africa preparing the president's outfit. He will have charge of a number of native porters, who, with necessary animals will be formed into a small caravan.

"Mr. Roosevelt and his son will kill the big game, the skins and skeletons of which will be prepared and shipped to the United States by other members of the party. Kermit Roosevelt is to be the official photographer of the expedition.

"The national collections are very deficient in natural history material from the Dark continent and an effort will be made by the expedition to gather general collections in Zoology and botany to supply some of the deficiencies; but the main effort will be to collect the large and vanishing African animals.

"Mr. R. J. Cunningham, who is now engaged in assembling the materials for Mr. Roosevelt's use, has been employed to act as guide and manager of the caravan. Mr. Cunningham is also an experienced collector of natural history specimens, having made collections for the British museum in Norway and Africa. He is an English fieldman, who has guided numerous hunting parties in Africa and who was chief hunter for the Field Columbian exposition.

"Mr. Edmund Heller, a graduate of Stanford University, class of 1901, is a thoroughly trained naturalist, whose special work will be the preparation and preservation of specimens of large animals. Mr. Heller is about thirty years of age. His former experience, when associated with Mr. D. G. Elliot and Mr. Ackley of the Field Columbian museum in collecting big game animals in the same portions of Africa which Mr. Roosevelt will visit, will be a valuable asset to the expedition. Mr. Heller has had large experiences in animal collecting in Alaska, British Columbia,

United States, Mexico, Central America and South America. In 1898 he made a collecting trip of eleven months to Galapagos Islands, starting from San Francisco. He is a born and enthusiastic collector, as well as a well equipped naturalist. He is also the author of scientific papers on mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes. At present he is assistant curator of the museum of vertebrate zoology of the University of California.

"Mr. J. Alden Loring is a field naturalist, whose training comprises service in the biological survey of the department of agriculture and in the Bronx Zoological Park, New York City, as well as on numerous collecting trips through British America, Mexico and the United States. He is about thirty-eight years old, of ardent temperament and intensely energetic. In August, September and October, 1898, he made the highest record for a traveling collector, having sent into the United States National museum 900 well prepared specimens of small mammals in the three months' journey from London through Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

"Major Edgar A. Mearns, retired officer of the medical corps of the army, about fifty-three years of age, will be the physician of the trip and have charge of the Smithsonian portion of the party. He had twenty-five years' experience as an army doctor, and is also well-known as a naturalist and collector of natural history specimens.

"No fears need be entertained for the president's safety from the attacks of man or beast, as every member of the party is an excellent rifle shot.

"The party will reach Mombasa in April 11, 1909. No detailed itinerary has been decided upon, but the general route will be up the Uganda railway to Nairobi and Lake Victoria Nyanza, a distance of about 650 miles by rail, thence crossing into Uganda, and, finally, passing down the Nile to Cairo. Much of the hunting will be done in British East Africa, where the Uganda railroad can be used as a base of supplies and means of ready transportation. At least one great mountain, possibly Mount Kenia, will be visited.

"Khartoum will be reached, if all goes well, about April, 1910. The expedition may be expected to spend about one year on African soil."

SOME OBJECTIONS RAISED

There has been some criticism of the formal statement given out concerning Mr. Roosevelt's African trip. The New York World of December 7, has from its Washington correspondent, the following:

Washington, December 6.—Theodore Roosevelt, presiding officer, ex-officio, of the Smithsonian Institution, and Charles D. Walcott, its director, have decided that the institution shall pay the major portion of President Roosevelt's shooting trip to Africa. Representative John Dalzell, a member of the executive committee of the Institution, said to the World tonight:

"That is all wrong about the presi-

dent going to Africa at the expense of the Smithsonian Institution. No such expedition has been authorized, and no funds have been allotted for that purpose at a board meeting. Such an allotment would have to be made by the board. I do not care to discuss the future or what might happen, but you can be sure that the board is not going to pay anybody's hunting expenses."

Director Walcott said: "The government is not going to pay the expenses of the Roosevelt scientific expedition. The expense of outfitting will have to be done by the Smithsonian Institution. Our funds are not expended at the direction of congress. We have about \$800,000 of our own, and it is expended for scientific purposes. We get appropriations for maintenance and for investigations through the bureau of Ethnology and for several other branches of our work in connection with science and the National museum."

While Representative Dalzell is positive that the institution is not going to pay the expenses of the trip he explained that many such expeditions are privately endowed and privately financed. He said that this trip of the president's might be with such an arrangement.

The affairs of the Smithsonian Institution are nominally conducted by Director Walcott. He is in charge of the numerous departments and is answerable to an executive committee of the board of regents, which transacts all fiscal and financial business of the institution.

This committee has heard nothing of the Roosevelt hunting party officially, and the regents have not been advised of it either. The board of regents consists of prominent officials and citizens, and meets twice a year. The executive committee is called together frequently, and at none of these meetings has the Roosevelt hunt been broached. This committee is composed of John B. Hender-

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