

Platt Swings to Roosevelt for Vice Presidency

Lodge Suggests Desirability of Candidacy; New York Republican Leader Agrees.

(Washington, D. C., date not given.)
Dear Theodore:

I have just had a talk with Platt. He said that he was anxious that you should succeed in your ambition and be a presidential candidate and taking the usual view he had therefore advised you against the vice presidency as not likely to be beneficial. This was voluntary and I am satisfied that he is for you for the future. But so far as the vice presidency is concerned his views are changing, if not changed, by nothing I said but by the drift of events. I did not press my views upon him but let him talk and was much surprised by all he said.

There are several New York candidates for the vice presidency. None quite to his mind and doubtful if they could win. If any one of them does win it will be awkward for us. This is my opinion thrown in.

Platt told me that he was going to see you Saturday and would then talk over with you your own affairs and the vice presidency so you see I am no dreamer at that point. Now think this well over. I am not going to urge you, but things are so shaping themselves that the vice presidency is becoming stronger and more desirable for you than I had thought possible. Do not say a word of what I have written to anyone. It is all in the deepest confidence. Above all do not let Platt suspect in the remotest that I have written you or that you had the faintest idea that he was going to talk to you about your own affairs. "The finger on the lips" as Hamlet says. Love to Edith. Tell her of course.

Yours,
H. C. LODGE.

December 20, 1898.

Personal
Dear Theodore:

I saw the president yesterday. He said of course you ought to have the medal and would have it, but that he had been very reluctant to pick out any one man ahead of all the others and give him the medal, because he did not think it quite fair, and he also felt that it would lead to a great rush and clamor for them from all quarters, which could be best stopped by the report of the board. For this reason he has taken no action for any of those specially recommended for gallantry and did not mean to until the board sent in their report. I told him that you ought also to have the brevet, to which he agreed, and I think I shall be able to bring that about also. He said that no one had reaped more from the war than you or more deservedly, and that there was no one in whose success he was more interested than he was in yours.

I have had some very interesting talks with him about our international policy. He has risen up, during the summer to the level of the great events in a very striking way, and I think you will be much impressed with it when you see him and talk with him. I think, as I wrote you, that we are going to ratify the treaty without trouble. Reed is terribly bitter, saying all sorts of ugly things about the administration and its

policy in private talks, so I keep out of his way, for I am fond of him, and I confess that his attitude is painful and disappointing to me beyond words. What a singular collection the so-called anti-imperialists are getting together—Bryan and Carnegie, Pingree* and Cleveland.

Always sincerely yours,

H. C. LODGE.
Governor Pingree of Michigan.

Oyster Bay, L. I., Dec. 21, 1898.
(Dictated)

Hon. H. C. Lodge,
Senate Chamber,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cabot:

I enclose a copy of a certificate which has been sent to the adjutant general in my case. I will get one or two more like it, and then, if they do not grant the medal, I shall feel, at least, that they have been deprived of all excuse.

In a letter to me, Howze adds that in his judgment, I was the one man of the entire cavalry brigade who did earn a medal that day. Howze is himself, a medal-of-honor man and, perhaps, the most reckless daredevil, as regards his own person, whom I met at Santiago.

Would you mind keeping the copy? It might be worth while to show to the president, and I should like to have it anyhow, later.

Always yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Personal

My dear Theodore:

It seems too bad to ask you a question when you are so bothered, but I cannot help it, for I am in trouble about one of my articles. I cannot get any statistics as to the number of Spanish troops at San Juan, or as to the number of the killed and wounded on the Spanish side. The little that I can gather from the Spanish account is so grossly false as to be beyond use. Could you tell me where to look, or give me any idea of how many men they had there, and how many they lost in the action with your division and Kent's?

Always sincerely yours,
Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

Sagamore Hill, Dec. 26, '98.

Dear Cabot:

As to the Spanish numbers, I think that the best figures are those of Frederic Randen, the British consul, who puts the Spanish force on July 1, as 6,000; 4,000 regulars, 1,000 guerillas, 1,000 marines and

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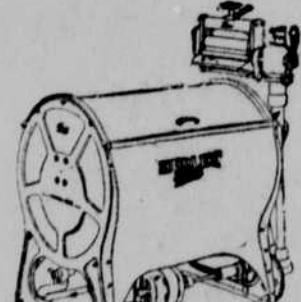
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