

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT HAS EYES ON NATIONAL POLITICS

Scents His Popularity With West

Teddy Enjoys His Work as New York Executive, But Retains Interest in Presidential Campaign.

Loses Honor Medal Award

(Copyright, 1925.)

The controversy over whether Roosevelt should have the medal of honor was in progress after he became governor of New York in January, 1925. His enemies in the War department had looked during his January and were more inclined to withdraw their opposition to keep in clear view the possibility of a governor he never would be elected in clear view of the nation's politics, and it was not long before he had the vice president's resignation under Senator Platt's plan. As was told in the first installment of the Roosevelt-Lodge letter, the corporations wanted to get Roosevelt out of New York so they would be able to have him succeed in the vice presidency.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, Jan. 13, 1925.

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

Dear Cabot: As for that infernal medal of honor, I really wish and ask that you do nothing more about it at all. Alger has succeeded in putting the matter in such a position that now if it is granted it will look as though I had to get political influence to have it granted.

Of course, as a matter of fact, I have done nothing at all except through your kindness in finding out what the department refused to inform me personally, viz: that there was not sufficient evidence; and then to furnish the evidence required. But the War department, including the members of the board who were to award the medal, have been stating that I have sought to bring pressure to bear through politicians to force the giving of the medal, the same members of the board being particularly careful not to mention Alger's outrageous conduct in publicly stating again that I should not receive the medal, which was in itself the strongest kind of pressure upon the board to refuse these statements being made when he knew absolutely not one thing about the matter. I felt very angry about it at first, but I do not feel angry now, in view of all that is going on. I mean quite seriously what I say when I tell you that I think myself fortunate in having escaped from reflection by the War department upon my conduct. This they stopped from making by their published reports; especially as it is rumored that they recommended me for a similar brevet to that recommended for Jack Astor!

Is there any way at all I can help you about the medal? I suppose there is not the slightest. It is very hard to have patience in this matter. Here in my own parochial affairs I am so far getting along very well and am developing considerable tact in a way. But I must see you sometime in the not far distant future to tell you all about it in person.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Jan. 21, 1925.

Personal.

My dear Theodore:

I have been extremely careful in all I have done about the medal, in fact I have spoken to no one except the president, Frank Greene and Wood* in regard to it. I think you are entirely mistaken about the board, although I think you are right about the secretary. The board from the beginning has, I know, been anxious to give you the medal. I also know they have been extremely sensitive and resented any attempts on the part of the secretary to guide their decision. The reports in the newspapers to the contrary are unfounded. I am certain, but the thing is all right now and there is no use in your giving it any further thought. I think we shall come out all right on the treaty by the sheer force of events, but they have enough men, all democrats but two, who say they are against the treaty, to defeat it if they could make them vote as they talk, which they cannot.

H. C. LODGE.

*Gen. Francis V. Greene and Gen. (then Colonel) Leonard Wood, Gen. (then Colonel) Leonard Wood, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, Jan. 26, 1925.

Dear Cabot:

Your speech was splendid. I confess I am utterly disheartened and cast down at the thought that the treaty is in such serious danger. It is a relief for me to speak with moderation of such men as Hoar.* That our barbarian friends on the other side of the political fence should be against us is not to be wondered at or wholly to be regretted; although of course it must be really a matter of regret that any American should be wrong at a time like this. I would give anything if I could be of any help to you. Thank the Lord I have at least done what little I could to keep things right! This huge materialistic community is, at bottom, either wrong or halfhearted on the Philippine question, and I can say that my influence has been one among the causes that have kept the republican party straight here.

I fear I shall have to wait until a little later, probably until the spring, before getting on to Washington. Edith cannot come now and my own work is exhausting beyond anything I have had since the first months in the police department.

Of course, I have any amount of trouble ahead of me, and serious trouble at that; but the first month (which is perhaps the most important) is over, and in almost every big question I have taken the first and decided steps. I shall have great trouble and shall receive much criticism, at times my relations with my own party leaders will be strained, but I think I have got things moving in the right direction and that there is a growing body of public opinion which is behind me, because it is convinced I am honestly striving to do well by the commonwealth, while Senator Platt and the organization people are, on the whole, satisfied, because they know I am a good republican; that I am not trying to build up a machine for myself; and that I am sincerely desirous of doing what they wish, whenever I conscientiously can.

With best love to Nannie.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*Senator George F. Hoar, republican, of Massachusetts.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, Feb. 7, 1925.

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

Dear Cabot:

I am more grateful than I can say, partly to the senate, partly to Providence and partly to the Philippines. They just pulled the treaty through for us. This of course means that you will leave Washington sometime in March. Could you have me and Edith on for Saturday and Sunday the 25 and 26?

The affairs of this parish continue to flourish fairly well; but what do I care for the parish when such things are going on in the nation? However, I am having a very good time.

Always yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*Senator Charles F. Smith, republican, of New York.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, March 2, 1925.

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

Dear Cabot:

I am greatly concerned to see by the papers that the ridiculous price of \$300 for armor* has been put on by the Senate. How can our dear friend Chandler** take such an action? I love him; I respect his patriotism; but I think I may at some future time cause grave disaster to this country.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*Armor for the navy vessels.

**William Chandler, senator from New Hampshire.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, March 9, 1925.

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

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**William Chandler, senator from New Hampshire.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, STATE OF NEW YORK, Albany, March 18, 1925.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Holland House, New York, N. Y.

Dear Cabot:

On the whole I am thoroughly enjoying this work, but I do get disheartened now and then. Of course it is not a temporary and slight discouragement, but it seems so difficult to accomplish even a very little and I have encountered so much unreasonable stupidity and sinister opposition from men on whose support I should be able to count. Well, my worse trials will be over in a month or so as this year is concerned and then the next year can take care of itself.

Meanwhile you will be having as pleasantly earned a holiday as any man in the United States could have. On the whole, there is no man of your age, or younger, in the United States who has quite as much right to be proud of what he has accomplished, quite as much right to feel that in his span of years he has done work which so redounds to the honor and advantage of his country. Now I do hope all of you will have a thoroughly happy six months. If you see Bryce, Trevelyan, Lord Spencer or Buxton, give each and all my regards. I know Nannie will enjoy herself thoroughly. Give my love to her and remembrance to the boys.

Faithfully yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, April 27, 1925.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Care J. S. Morgan & Co., Bankers, London, England.

Dear Cabot:

I made a speech in which I said that I had equally to dread the corrupt machine politician and the reformer. A large number of gentlemen, seemingly recognizing the fact that they came under the latter head, have written me in indignant denunciation, and the Evening Post is especially bitter about it.

Well, the legislature has just ended its work, so far as I am concerned, is over for the year 1925. I think I may say that I have come out of it all right. I am proud on excellent terms with Senator Platt. He has treated me admirably in every way and I believe, equally satisfied with the way I have treated him, except that I should have had some of his views about corporations. Frank Black, like Edith Root,* has occasionally appeared before me on behalf of corporation measures. It has happened that I have decided against both of them in every case. I mention this to the senator, saying that I was really sorry for it, but, of course, I felt that they should appear before me exactly as they would appear before the supreme court, when any corporation measure for which they had a retainer was concerned. He told me he absolutely agreed with me.

I have had great success with my appointments. I do not believe that is a single one that I have made that was open to any serious criticism, and on the whole, I believe they average better than those made by any governor during as long a time as I can remember. I got an excellent civil service law passed, a first class rapid transit bill, and a first class measure for taxing franchises—or rather for laying the foundation in the matter of taxing franchises; together with a sweat shop bill, the factory inspector's bills, a good banking law, etc., etc.

Altogether I am pretty well satisfied with what I have accomplished. I do not misunderstand it, I select not what it means—or rather, how little it may mean. New York politics are kaleidoscopic and 18 months hence I may be so much out of kilter with the machine that there will be no possibility of my renomination, and if renominated, my own conduct, or merely the general drift of events, may make it impossible to elect me; but at least I have a substantial sum of achievement to my credit in the governorship already, and I have kept every pledge, expressed or implied, that I made on the stump or anywhere else.

So much for my own parochial politics. As regards the nation at large, I do wish that President McKinley would get rid of Alger! Bryan is, I believe, a good deal stronger than he was three years ago, and it looks now as though it was going to be a serious struggle in 1926. Of course, McKinley must be renominated; so the success of the republican party depends upon him. I believe that we shall carry him through, even if Alger, but when one has to make a hard fight there is no use of handicapping one's self.

While Alger is in the cabinet I always have a feeling of uneasiness about Cuba and the Philippines. We need to exercise much care in the former and to show unyielding resolution in the latter. There are symptoms apparently of a break-up among the Philippine insurgents, but if it does not come soon, I wish that McKinley would mobilize about 25,000 volunteers and send a large force to the islands.

Ever yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*Edith Root, Frank Black, and Edith Root were powers in the republican party in New York.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Albany, May 27, 1925.

I was delighted to get your letter, as was Edith. I greatly envy you your trip to Sicily. For some reason I always peculiarly attracted me. I suppose it is because the history of the island gratifies to the full my taste for ethnic contests, and the struggle of wholly alien civilizations. A perfectly preposterous incident of contemporary popular delusion is that Admiral Schley* on his way through the west is being honored with a mad enthusiasm.

Since I wrote you I called an extra session of the legislature, and after a very doubtful and anxious struggle

won a complete triumph. Platt, as was to be expected, bitterly and frantically opposed the Ford bill taxing franchises. As with every other political leader of his type where the boss system obtains, his power rests in great part upon the money contributed by the corporations. He was influenced to defend them partly by this consideration and partly by his honorable desire to acknowledge the benefits he had received from them; and partly because, like most old men, he is very conservative in such matters, and fails to see that a just popular demand is often the best possible way of preventing a perfectly unjust popular demand, and that to do justice in the one case strengthens one in resisting injustice in the other. He and Dewey and the rest were crazy to vote the bill. But the bill was made in form and there were two or three extremely desirable amendments, notably one which would give the state the power of making the assessment, and I offered to call the legislature together for the purpose of making these amendments. At first they could not decide whether the corporations would be willing to have the amendments made; for not a few of them preferred to be blackmailed by Tammany rather than pay their just dues to an honest board of state assessors. Finally, however, they agreed to meet their minds to try for honesty, and Platt then told me he wished the extra session called. Thereupon we here to prepare a new bill, and here the attorneys for the corporations (including Frank Platt) tried to sell me a gold brick, by putting in seemingly innocent provisions which would have made the taxation a nullity. I told them that unless they passed the bill exactly as I wished it, I should sign the Ford bill; for having the Ford bill in my hands gave me the complete mastery of the situation. They then all went in in good faith to pass the bill.

The demagogues and Tammany now became my opponents; but we held every republican vote in the debate, which was the close and doubtful body, and gained three democrats, and the net result is that we have on the statute books the best important law passed in recent times by any American state legislature; and we have to our credit a perfectly clean record in appointments and legislation for the session and a great deal of positive work of a good character accomplished. Moreover, the break-up of the insurgent forces, the Ford bill has been healed by the passage of the amendments. I do not mean to say that they will entirely forgive me, or that they won't cut my throat when the time comes, but they will act with me, so far as I can see, during the present session. I shall have the chance of making a success rather than a failure.

I am very tired, for I have had four years of exceedingly hard work without a break, save for changing from one kind of work to another.

Ever yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Hon. H. C. Lodge, Care J. S. Morgan & Co., Bankers, London, England.

Dear Cabot:

I have just come back from a week in the west where I went to attend my regimental reunion at Las Vegas. It would really be difficult to express my surprise at the way I was greeted. At every station at which the train stopped, there was a crowd of Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico. I was received by dense throngs exactly as if I had been a presidential candidate. My reception caused some talk, so I thought it better to come out in an interview stating that of course I was not for President. McKinley's nomination, and that every one should be for it, and giving the reasons. Equally, of course, I am for Hoar's* renomination, if he will take it.

Now as to what you say about the vice presidency. Curiously enough Edith is against your view and I am inclined to be for it. I am for it on the perfectly simple ground that I regard my position as utterly unstable and that I appreciate as well as any one can how entirely ephemeral is the hold I have for a moment on the voters. I am not taken in by the crowd's enthusiasm, but I understand the use in the way of vociferous enthusiasm for the moment. It would be five years before it would materialize and I have never yet known a burrah to endure five years; so I should be inclined to accept any honorable position that the vice presidency would give me. As a matter of fact, the slightest idea that I could get it, if I did decide to take it, and I should feel like taking any honorable position that offered itself.

On the other hand, I confess I should like a position with more work in it. If I were a serious possibility for 1926 I should feel there was very much in what you say, but I do not think we need concern ourselves over the chances of the lightning striking me at that time rather than any other one of a thousand men. Meanwhile I could do more work in two or three years of governorship, although I might get myself in a tangle. What I should really most like would be to be re-elected governor with a first-class lieutenant-governor, and then be offered the secretaryship of war for four years. Of course it would be a better life if I became United States senator, but that I do not see any chance. Of all the work that I would like to undertake, that of secretary of war appeals to me most. There I think I really could do something, but of course I have no idea that McKinley will put me in the position.

Last night I dined with Wood and Greene and we went over at length the problems in Cuba and the Philippines. I have been growing seriously concerned about both, and this morning I decided to send to John Hay a letter of which I enclose a copy. Having just come out in an interview for the president's renomination, I

thought he might tolerate a little advice. I do not suppose it will do the least good, but I wrote on the off chance.

My week's railroading in the west put the finishing touch and I am now feeling completely tired out. I hope to have six weeks of practically solid rest before me, for I have worked pretty hard during the last four years.

Give my best to Nannie and the boys. Occasionally we see cables in the papers about you.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*Garret A. Hobart, vice president of the United States.

(Following is the principal part of the long letter which Governor Roosevelt sent to John Hay, to which he referred in the foregoing letter to Senator Lodge.)

July 1, 1925.

Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

Next to the man who is importing for office ranks in the scale of nuisance and crime the man who gives advice. I am about to put myself in the latter category.

If you think it worth while after reading this letter, pray show it to the president.

As a preliminary, let me say what I take for granted you know, viz: that I am heartily in favor of President McKinley's renomination, as I have said publicly. Moreover, I am heartily in favor of Mr. Hoar's* renomination for the vice presidency, and I have no earthly interest in what I am going to say except my interest as an American in the first place, and as a republican in the second.

I am uneasy at the way things seem to be going both in the Philippines and in Cuba. In Cuba we may lay up for ourselves infinite trouble if we do not handle the people with a proper mixture of firmness, courtesy and tact. In the Philippines we are certain to invite disaster unless we send ample forces, and what is even more important, unless we give these forces under some first class man. Both in Cuba and in the Philippines, what we obviously need, and need at once, is to have some man put in supreme command in whom we can absolutely trust and to whom we give the widest liberty of action.

Wood in Cuba.

All this is of course sufficiently obvious as to seem almost trite. The great point is in choosing the man who most earnestly urge the wisdom of the president putting Major General Wood in command of all Cuba, with a complete liberty to do what he deems wisest in shaping our policy for the island, and with complete control over every other military and civil officer, and I also very earnestly urge that Major General Wood be recalled to the service and put in complete command of the Philippines, being allowed the freest possible hand, with instructions not simply to defend Manila, but to assume aggressive operations and to harass and smash the insurgent in every way until they are literally beaten into peace; enterprising in his choice, and with the impulse on my part, but it is my very best judgment, arrived at after months of thought—months during which I have gotten hundreds of suggestions from soldiers, sailors, civilians and, in short, eye witnesses of every kind in the Philippines and Cuban matters. We need tact and judgment just as much as we need firmness in Cuba now. Wood is a born diplomat, just as he is a born soldier. I question if any nation in the world has now, or has had within recent time, anyone so nearly approaching the ideal of a military administrator of the kind now required in the Philippines as Wood. The Englishman who has appeared a peculiar faculty for getting on with the Spaniards and Cubans. They like him, trust him, and down in their hearts are afraid of him. He always pays deference not only to their principles but to their prejudices. He is scrupulously courteous and polite. He understands their needs, material and moral, and he also understands their sensitiveness and their spirit of punctilio. Finally, he is able, while showing them entire courtesy and thoughtful consideration, to impress upon them the fact that there can be no opposition when once he has made up his mind.

It has long been recognized that the most effective way to treat colds is to apply the medication directly to the affected parts. This of course can only be done by means of vapors that can be inhaled.

Vicks provides the ideal method of securing medicated vapors. When rubbed over throat and chest the ingredients—Menthol, Camphor, Eucalyptus, Thyme, Turpentine—are vaporized by the body heat and inhaled directly into the air passages and lungs.

At the same time, Vicks is absorbed through and stimulates the skin like a poultice or plaster, affording a double action which brings truly remarkable results.

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