

# 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 worked during the last year and were more inclined to withdraw their opposition to keep in clear view the possibility of a governor he never would be elected to.

Dear Cabot:

Your speech was splendid. I confess I am utterly disheartened and cast down at the thought that the republic is in such serious danger. It is a matter 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.

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 must say that he is taking a position which may at some future time cause grave disaster to this country.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.  
\*Armistice for the navy vessels.

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

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

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

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 worst 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 Bryan. In my belief, 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 should carry him through, even if Bryan, 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 was in the republican party in New York.

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

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. 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 Hobart'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 anyone 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 am 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 is the best, and I have appeared 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. Hobart'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 be 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 a sudden 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.

Perhaps one or two of the Englishmen who have 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.

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2. Saturate a clean cloth with Carbona, using the Carbona Cleaning Fluid and lather with a sweeping motion as illustrated—never rub in circles. Raise your hand at the end of each stroke after passing the edge of the spot. (This blends the edges of the spot cleaned with the rest of the fabric and prevents a "ring".)

3. Rub gently as it is the Carbona that cleans, not the rubbing.

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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 me 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