

# ROOSEVELT'S RINGING LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

## A Document Breathing with the Life of Patriotism and National Duty.

### VITAL ISSUE DECLARED TO BE PROSPERITY

#### Government in the Philippines by Tagalogs Would Be Equivalent to Government in America by Indian Tribes—New Duties and Problems for the Nation.

Gov. Theodore Roosevelt has completed the formal acceptance of the Republican nomination for Vice-President. His letter bears an Oyster Bay date and is directed to Senator Edward O. Wolcott of the notification committee. It reads:

To Edward O. Wolcott, Chairman Committee on Notification of Vice-President—Sir: I accept the nomination as Vice-President of the United States, tendered me by the Republican national convention, with a very deep sense of the honor conferred upon me and with an infinitely deeper sense of the vital importance to the whole country of securing the re-election of President McKinley.

The nation's welfare is at stake. We must continue the work which has been so well begun during the present administration. We must stand in fashion incapable of being misunderstood that the American people, at the beginning of the twentieth century, face their duties in a calm and serious spirit; that they have no intention of permitting folly or lawlessness to mar the extraordinary material well-being which they have attained at home, nor yet of permitting their flag to be dishonored abroad.

**Fears Disaster if Democrats Win.**  
I feel that this contest is by no means one merely between Republicans and Democrats. We have a right to appeal to all good citizens who are far-sighted enough to see what the honor and the interest of the nation demand.

To put into practice the principles embodied in the Kansas City platform would mean grave disaster to the nation; for that platform stands for reaction and disorder; for an upsetting of our financial system which would mean not only great suffering but the abandonment of the nation's good faith; and for a policy abroad which would imply the dishonor of the flag and an unworthy surrender of our national rights. Its success would mean unexampled humiliation to men proud of their country, jealous of their country's good name, and desirous of securing the welfare of their fellow-citizens. Therefore, we have a right to appeal to all good men, North and South, East and West, whatever their politics may have been in the past, to stand with us, because we stand for the prosperity of the country and for the renown of the American flag.

**Prosperity the Great Issue.**  
The most important of all problems is, of course, that of securing good government and moral and material well-being within our own borders. Great though the need is that the nation should do its work well abroad, even this comes second to the thorough performance of duty at home. Under the administration of President McKinley this country has been blessed with a degree of prosperity absolutely unparalleled, even in its previous prosperous history.

While it is, of course, true that no legislation and no administration can bring success to those who are not stout of heart, cool of head and ready of hand, yet it is no less true that the individual capacity of each man to get good results for himself can be absolutely destroyed by bad legislation or bad administration, while under the reverse conditions the power of the individual to do good work is assured and stimulated. This is what has been done under the administration of President McKinley. Thanks to his actions and to the wise legislation of Congress on the tariff and finance, the conditions of our industrial life have been rendered more favorable than ever before, and they have been taken advantage of to the full by American thrift, industry and enterprise. Order has been observed, the courts upheld and the fullest liberty secured to all citizens. The merchant and manufacturer, but above all the farmer and the wage-worker have profited by this state of things.

**Dependent on Financial Question.**  
Fundamentally and primarily the present contest is a contest for the continuance of the conditions which have told in favor of our material welfare and of our civil and political integrity. If this nation is to retain either its well-being or its self-respect it cannot afford to plunge into financial and economic chaos; it cannot afford to endorse governmental theories which would unsettle the standard of national honesty and destroy the integrity of our system of justice.

The policy of the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 is a policy fraught with destruction to every home in the land. It means untold misery to the head of every household, and, above all, to the women and children of every home.

**As to Democratic View on Silver.**  
When our opponents champion free silver at 16 to 1 they are either insincere or sincere in their attitude. If insincere in their championship they, of course, forfeit all right to belief or support on any ground. If sincere, then they are a menace to the welfare of the country. Whether they shout their sinister purpose or merely whisper it makes but little difference, save as it reflects their own honesty. No issue can be paramount to the issue they thus make, for the paramountcy of such an issue is to be determined not by the dictum of any man or body of men, but by the fact that it vitally affects the well-being of every home in the land.

The financial question is always of such far-reaching and tremendous importance to the national welfare that it can never be raised in good faith unless this tre-

mendous importance is not merely conceded but insisted on. Men who are not willing to make such an issue paramount have no possible justification for raising it at all, for under such circumstances their act cannot under any conceivable circumstances do aught but grave harm.

**Gold Basis Must Stand.**  
The success of the party representing the principles embodied in the Kansas City platform would bring about the destruction of all the conditions necessary to the continuance of our prosperity. It would also unsettle our whole governmental system, and would therefore disarrange all the vast and delicate machinery of our complex industrial life. Above all, the effect would be ruinous to our finances. If we are to prosper, the currency of this country must be based upon the gold dollar worth 100 cents.

The stability of our currency has been greatly increased by the excellent financial act passed by the last Congress. But no law can secure our finances against the effect of unwise and disastrous management in the hands of unscrupulous administrators. No party can safely be entrusted with the management of our national affairs unless it accepts as an axiomatic the truths recognized in all progressive countries as essential to a sound and proper system of finance. In their essence these must be the same for all great civilized peoples.

**Vital Question for Wage-Earners.**  
In different stages of development different countries face varying economic conditions, but at every stage and under all circumstances the most important element in securing their economic well-being is sound finance, honest money. So intimate is the connection between industrial prosperity and a sound currency that the former is jeopardized not merely by unsound finance, but by the very threat of unsound finance.

The business man and the farmer are vitally interested in this question; but no man's interest is so great as that of the wage-worker. A depreciated currency means loss and disaster to the business man; but it means grim suffering to the wage-worker. The capitalist will lose much of his capital and will suffer wearing anxiety and the loss of many comforts; but the wage-worker who loses his wages must suffer and see his wife and children suffer for the actual necessities of life. The one absolutely vital need of our whole industrial system is sound money.

One of the serious problems with which we are confronted under the conditions of our modern industrial civilization is that presented by the great business combinations which are generally known under the name of trusts.

The problem is an exceedingly difficult one and the difficulty is immensely aggravated both by honest but wrong-headed attacks on our whole industrial system in the effort to remove some of the evils connected with it, and by the mischievous advice of men who either think crookedly or who advance remedies knowing them to be ineffective, but deeming that they may, by darkening counsel, achieve for themselves a spurious reputation for wisdom.

No good whatever is subserved by indiscriminate denunciation of corporations generally and of all forms of industrial combination in particular; and when this public denunciation is accompanied by private membership in the great corporations denounced, the effect is, of course, to give an air of insincerity to the whole movement. Nevertheless, there are real abuses, and there is ample reason for striving to remedy these abuses. A crude or ill-considered effort to remedy them would either be absolutely without effect or else would simply do damage.

**Plan for Federal Interference.**  
The first thing to do is to find out the facts; and for this purpose publicity as to capitalization, profits and all else of importance to the public, is the most useful measure. The mere fact of this publicity would in itself remedy certain evils, and, as to the others, it would in some cases point out the remedies, and would at least enable us to tell whether or not certain proposed remedies would be useful. The State acting in its collective capacity would thus first find out the facts and then be able to take such measures as taxation dictated. Much can be done by taxation. Even more can be done by regulation, by close supervision and the unparing excision of all unhealthy, destructive and anti-social elements.

The separate State governments can do a great deal; and where they decline to co-operate the national government must step in.

**How We Deal with Expansion.**  
While paying heed to the necessity of keeping our home in order at home, the American people cannot, if they wish to retain their self-respect, refrain from doing their duty as a great nation in the world.

The history of the nation is in large part the history of the nation's expansion. When the first continental congress met in Liberty Hall and the thirteen original States declared themselves a nation, the westward limit of the country was marked by the Allegheny mountains. Even during the revolutionary war the work of expansion went on. Kentucky, Tennessee and the great Northwest, then known as the Illinois country, were conquered from our white and Indian foes during the revolutionary strug-

gle, and were confirmed to us by the treaty of peace in 1783.

Yet the land thus confirmed was not then given to us. It was held by an alien foe until the army under Gen. Anthony Wayne freed Ohio from the red man, while the treaties of Jay and Pinckney secured from the Spanish and British Natchez and Detroit.

**Louisiana Purchase and Philippines.**  
In 1803, under President Jefferson, the greatest single stride in expansion that we ever took was taken by the purchase of the Louisiana territory. This so-called Louisiana, which included what are now the States of Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Idaho, Montana and a large part of Colorado and Utah, was acquired by treaty and purchase under President Jefferson exactly and precisely as the Philippines have been acquired by treaty and purchase under President McKinley.

The doctrine of "the consent of the governed," the doctrine previously enunciated by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, was not held by him or by any other sane man to apply to the Indian tribes in the Louisiana territory which he thus acquired, and there was no vote taken even of the white inhabitants, not to speak of the negroes and Indians, as to whether they were willing that their territory should be annexed. The great majority of the inhabitants, white and colored alike, were bitterly opposed to the transfer.

**Jefferson Forced Consent.**  
An armed force of United States soldiers had to be hastily sent into the territory to prevent insurrection. President Jefferson sending these troops to Louisiana for exactly the same reasons and with exactly the same purpose that President McKinley has sent troops to the Philippines.

Jefferson distinctly stated that the Louisianians were "not fit or ready for self-government," and years elapsed before they were given self-government, Jefferson appointing the governor and other officials without any consultation with the inhabitants of the newly acquired territory. The doctrine that the "consent follows the flag" was not then even considered either by Jefferson or by any other serious party leader, for it never entered their heads that a new territory should be governed other than in the way in which the territories of Ohio and Illinois had already been governed under Washington and the elder Adams; the theory known by this utterly false and misleading phrase was only struck out in political controversy at a

much later date for the sole purpose of justifying the extension of slavery into the territories.

**Consent Not Necessary.**  
The parallel between what Jefferson did with Louisiana and what is now being done in the Philippines is exact. Jefferson, the author of the declaration of independence, and of the "consent of the governed" doctrine, saw no incongruity between this and the establishment of a government on common-sense grounds in the new territory; and he rallied at the sticklers for an impossible application of his principle, saying in language which at the present day applies to the situation in the Philippines without the change of a word, "though it is acknowledged that our new fellow-citizens are as yet an incapable of self-government as children, yet some cannot bring themselves to suspend its principles for a single moment." He intended that ultimately self-government should be introduced throughout the territory, but only as the different parts became fit for it and no sooner. This is just the policy that has been pursued.

**Philippines on Basis of Indians.**  
In no part of the Louisiana purchase was complete self-government introduced for a number of years; in one part of it, the Indian Territory, it has not yet been introduced, although nearly a century has elapsed. Over enormous tracts of it, including the various Indian reservations, with a territory in the aggregate as large as that of the Philippines, the constitution has never yet "followed the flag"; the army officer and the civilian agent still exercise authority, without asking the "consent of the governed."

We must proceed in the Philippines with the same wise caution, taking each successive step as it becomes desirable, and accommodating the details of our policy to the peculiar needs of the situation. But as soon as the present revolt is put down and order established, it will undoubtedly be possible to give to the islands a larger measure of self-government than Jefferson originally gave Louisiana.

**Florida Got Like Philippines.**  
The next great step in expansion was the acquisition of Florida. This was partly acquired by conquest and partly by purchase, Andrew Jackson being the most prominent figure in the acquisition. It was taken under President Monroe, the aftertime President John Quincy Adams being active in securing the pur-

chase. As in the case of the Philippines, Florida was acquired by purchase from Spain, and in Florida the Seminoles, who had not been consulted in the sale, rebelled and waged war exactly as some of the Tagals have rebelled and waged war in the Philippines. The Seminoles war lasted for many years, but President Monroe, Adams and Jackson declined for a moment to consider the question of abandoning Florida to the Seminoles, or to treat their non-consent to the government of the United States as a valid reason for turning over the territory to them.

**Texas and Alaska Were Acquisitions.**  
Our next acquisition of territory was that of Texas, secured by treaty after it had been wrested from the Mexicans by the Texans themselves. Then came the acquisition of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and parts of Colorado and Utah as the result of the Mexican war, supplemented five years later by the Gadsden purchase.

The next acquisition was that of Alaska, secured from Russia by treaty and purchase. Alaska was full of natives, some of them had advanced well beyond the stage of savagery and were Christians. They were not consulted about the purchase nor was their acquiescence required. The purchase was made by the men who had just put through a triumphant war to restore the union and free the slave; but none of them deemed it necessary to push the doctrine of the "consent of the governed" to a conclusion so fantastic as to necessitate the turning over of Alaska to its original owners, the Indian and the Aleut. For thirty years the United States authorities, military and civil, exercised the supreme authority in a tract of land many times larger than the Philippines, in which it did not seem likely that there would ever be any considerable body of white inhabitants.

**Hawaii Disproves Danger Idea.**  
Nearly thirty years passed before the next instance of expansion occurred, which was over the island of Hawaii. An effort was made at the end of President Harrison's administration to secure the annexation of Hawaii. The effort was unsuccessful.

In a debate in Congress on Feb. 2, 1894, one of the leaders in opposing the annexation of the islands stated: "These islands are more than 2,000 miles distant from our extreme western boundary. We have a serious race problem now in our country and I am not in favor of adding to our domestic fabric a mongrel population (of this character). Our constitution makes no provision for a colonial

ment for which their populations are severely fitted. Cuba is being helped along the path to independence as rapidly as her own citizens are content that she should go.

Of course the presence of troops in the Philippines during the Tagal insurrection has no more to do with militarism or imperialism than had their presence in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wyoming during the many years which elapsed before the final outbreaks of the Sioux were decisively put down. There is no more militarism or imperialism in imprisoning Luzon until order is restored than there was imperialism in sending soldiers to South Dakota in 1890, during the Ogallala outbreak. The reasoning which justifies our having made war against Sitting Bull also justifies our having checked the outbreaks of Aguinaldo and his followers, directed, as they were, against Filipino and American alike.

**No Abandonment.**  
The only certain way of rendering it necessary for our republic to enter on a career of "militarism" would be to abandon the Philippines to their own tribes, and at the same time either to guarantee a stable government among these tribes or to guarantee them against outside interference. A far larger army would be required to carry out any such policy than will be required to secure order under the American flag; while the presence of this flag on the islands is really the only possible security against outside aggression.

The whole argument against President McKinley's policy in the Philippines becomes absurd when it is conceded that we should, to quote the language of the Kansas City platform, "give to the Philippines first a stable form of government." If they are now entitled to independence, they are also entitled to decide for themselves whether their government shall be stable or unstable, civilized or savage, or whether they shall have any government at all; while it is, of course, equally evident that under such conditions we have no right whatever to guarantee them against outside interference any more than we have to make such a guaranty in the case of the Boxers (who are merely the Chinese analogues of Aguinaldo's followers).

If we have a right to establish a stable government in the islands it necessarily follows that it is not only our right but our duty to support that government until the natives gradually grow fit to sustain it themselves. How else will it be stable? The minute we leave it, it ceases to be stable.

**Now a Question of Contraction.**

Properly speaking, the question is now not whether we shall expand—for we have already expanded—but whether we shall contract. The Philippines are now part of American territory. To surrender them would be to surrender American territory. They must, of course, be governed primarily in the interests of their own citizens. Our first care must be for the people of the islands which have come under our guardianship as a result of the most righteous foreign war that has been waged within the memory of the present generation. They must be administered in the interests of their inhabitants, and that necessarily means that any question of personal or partisan politics in their administration must be entirely eliminated.

We must continue to put at the heads of affairs in the different islands such men as Gen. Wood, Gov. Allen and Judge Taft; and it is a most fortunate thing that we are able to illustrate what ought to be done in the way of sending officers thither by pointing out what actually has been done. The minor places in their administration, where it is impossible to fill them by natives, must be filled by the strictest application of the merit system.

It is very important that in our own home administration the merely ministerial and administrative offices, where the duties are entirely non-political, shall be filled absolutely without reference to partisan affiliations; but this is many times more important in the newly acquired islands. The merit system is in its essence as democratic as our common school system, for it simply means equal chances and fair play for all.

**Parallel with Indian Government.**

It must be remembered always that governing these islands in the interest of the inhabitants may not necessarily be to govern them as the inhabitants at the moment prefer, to grant self-government to Luzon under Aguinaldo would be like granting self-government to an Apache reservation under some local chief; and this is no more altered by the fact that the Filipinos fought the Spaniards than it would be by the fact that the Apaches have long been trained and employed in the United States army and have received signal service therein; just as the Pawnees did under the administration of President Grant; just as the Stockbridge Indians did in the days of Gen. Washington, and the friendly tribes of the six nations in the days of President Madison.

There are now in the United States communities of Indians which have advanced so far that it has been possible to embody them as a whole in our political system, all the members of the tribe becoming United States citizens. There are other communities where the bulk of the tribe are still too wild for it to be possible to take such a step. There are individuals among the Apaches, Pawnees, Iroquois, Sioux and other tribes who are now United States citizens and who are entitled to stand, and do stand, on an absolute equality with all our citizens of pure white blood. Men of Indian blood are now serving in the army and navy and in Congress and occupy high position both in the business and the political world.

**Philippines' Hope of Liberty.**

There is every reason why as rapidly as an Indian, or any body of Indians, becomes fit for self-government, he or it should be granted the fullest equality with the whites; but there would be no justification whatever in treating this fact as a reason for abandoning the wild tribes to work out their own destruction. Exactly the same reasoning applies in the case of the Philippines. To turn over the islands to Aguinaldo and his followers would not be to give self-government to the islanders; under no circumstances would the majority thus gain self-government. They would simply be put at the mercy of a syndicate of Chinese half-breeds, under whom corruption would flourish far more freely than ever it flourished under Trece, while tyrannical oppression would obtain to a degree only possible under such an oligarchy. Yours truly, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

## "THERE IS NO SUCH WORD AS RETREAT, BOYS; CHARGE!"

### McKinley Forty Years Ago and To-Day Has the Same Principles.

"There is no such word as retreat, boys; charge." These words were those of Maj. McKinley nearly forty years ago. They picture the character of the President of to-day as of the soldier of 1862.

Thomas O'Callahan, with one eye blinded and one ear closed to sound forever by a bullet wound received under the national colors at Gettysburg, is now a resident of Fort Collins. He served through the war with distinguished bravery.

"I served under President McKinley in 1883 and have met him frequently since. Every meeting brings back to me one of the most patriotic expressions that ever passed the lips of a soldier. A party of forty men under the then Maj. McKinley went on scouting duty. They were perilous times then.

"All went well until we reached the top of a hill and unexpectedly ran into a body of 'Johnnies' numbering between 300 and 400. They were in ambush, drawn up in firing line and awaiting our approach. Our first knowledge of their presence in the ambush was a volley which brought down our three front fours of horses and men.

"Retreat! our captain shouted. 'There is no such word as retreat, boys; charge' came a second order, this time from Maj. McKinley, who, drawing his sword, dashed ahead, followed by every one of our men except those who had given their lives to the cause. The enemy were completely astounded and at our charge retreated in confusion.

"Before we started on this scouting expedition we were ordered to take three days' provisions. I had a sack of pounded oats on the pommel of my saddle. After the rout of the enemy I turned the oats out to feed my horse, and found fifteen bullets in the sack. My horse was wounded, as was Maj. McKinley's, and his sword hilt was cut to pieces by bullets. Maj. McKinley laughingly called attention to it, and at the same time complimenting his men on their bravery, remarked:

"You have done me a great favor, boys, and if it ever lies in my power, I'll reciprocate."

## "DEAR BOY" LETTERS—NO. 7

My Dear Boy:  
You inform me that John Jones, Tom Bently and old Harry Weldon say that they are going to vote for McKinley and Roosevelt, but that they will vote against our Congressman, now a candidate for re-election.

Well, the Republican party is very much like Bro. Robinson's church. Bro. Brown and Bro. Robinson, two clerical friends of mine, were talking about the churches under their care. Bro. Brown said:

"My church has a large membership, but only about one-fourth of them are active members."

Bro. Robinson replied:

"My church members are all active. The last one of them is active. Those who won't do anything else will kick."

The Republican party is a very active organization. There is nothing dead about it. The last one of its mighty membership is doing something, and it is not surprising that some of this activity should display itself in kicking. Jones, Bently and Weldon have lined up with the kickers.

Now, I am sorry. I will tell you why I am sorry. In my judgment, the leaders of the Democratic party have very little hope of electing Mr. Bryan, but they do hope to elect a Democratic House of Representatives. They do expect to paralyze legislation, tie McKinley's hands, block the wheels of the nation's progress, and cripple the ship of state right in the midst of the breakers that surround it. And their hope lies in the kicking of such men as Jones, Bently and Weldon.

I happen to know just what is the matter with those three men. Jones failed to be appointed postmaster at Squedunk Station. Bently didn't get to take the census in Pawpaw township, and Weldon thinks he ought to have his pension increased to twenty-four dollars a month, and the department decided that fourteen dollars was enough. Each of them thinks that his representative in Congress is to blame for his failure to get what he wanted. Hence the kicking.

Now, I do not attempt to solve the personal equation in either of these three cases. Perhaps Jones would be a very good postmaster at Squedunk. It may be that Bently was the most competent person to take the census in Pawpaw township. For aught I know Weldon ought to have a pension of twenty-four dollars a month, although I doubt whether he is more disabled than myself and I get only eight dollars and am not kicking about it. I could use more to very good advantage, but am thankful for what I have.

Why, my boy, we are entering upon wonderful times. The ancient civilization of the Orient is crumbling. The islands of the sea are being transformed. The Christian nations are coming together. America, with her inexhaustible resources, her intelligence and freedom of thought, her energy and inventive genius, is becoming the foremost factor in the coming regeneration of the world.

And at the head of this great nation stands William McKinley, enduring the most tremendous strain which has come upon any President since Lincoln's day. His wise and dignified faithfulness commands the respect and confidence of the world. He should be re-elected and should have a Congress upon whom he can depend.

In view of these great things, how small the postmaster's place at Squedunk and such trifling personal matters appear!

Once there was a man who traded a good farm for a drink of whisky and a plug of tobacco. The Bible tells us of Esau who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Tradition informs us of a man who cut off his nose to spite his face. And of such are Jones, Bently and Weldon and others who let little things blind them to great things.

My boy, this is not the year to kick. Think on these things and DON'T BE A KICKER. YOUR FATHER.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

