

ROOSEVELT AS A RANCHMAN

Story of the President's Life in the Cow Country Told by a Companion.

ENERGY AND TENACITY OF PURPOSE

Lived in a Dugout, Herded Cattle and Hunted Thieves with the Cowboys—Dealing with a "Bad Man."

William F. Dantz of West Grove, Pa., met Theodore Roosevelt in 1888 and was soon a next neighbor of his in Dakota. He often shared Roosevelt's bed in camp and divided his "grub" with the man now president. Together they faced danger and hardship, desperadoes and blizzards. There could be nothing more satisfactory by way of introduction to a man's character than such an experience. Mr. Dantz has written for the Philadelphia North American his reminiscences of those days in the Bad Lands with Roosevelt, and they appear below:

It was along in the fall of '83 that I first saw him as he stepped from the train one evening in the little shack town of Little Missouri, a point where the Northern Pacific railroad crosses the river that has its name in the heart of the North Dakota Bad Lands.

A slender, blue-eyed young fellow of about 25, with little gray hair, a superb collection of rifles in perfect order. If you raked the continent with a fine-toothed comb you could have found no tougher aggregation of great American citizens unbound than the gang who, lounging in front of "Big Mouth Bob's" canvas saloon across the way, eyed the stranger with lax indifference. In their predatory estimation he was only one of those "predatory cude" hunters, who after a frightened existence of a day or two "pulled their freight" again for home in profound thankfulness.

His First Buffalo Hunt.

The station agent was, as usual, roaring drunk. The stranger managed, however, to secure information that led to his hiring a guide named Sylvane Ferris, who owned a bunch of saddle ponies grazing on the river bottom nearby. These were brought up and picketed to the sagebrush, while the stranger and his kit spent the night in a nearby dugout, preferring this to the vociferous joys of the "Blue Goose."

Next morning the outfit started for the buffalo range. The stranger, who said he was from New York and his name Theodore Roosevelt (although it might have been Nebuchadnezzar, for all it signified there), led his string of pack ponies behind those of the guide, as they plunged into that awful trackless waste of the Bad Lands.

Well named indeed is that mysterious land; piled higher and higher were great precipitous peaks, their scarred and blistered faces streaked with scoria and lava. Sheer down at their feet lay yawning chasms, from out of which rose sulphurous smoke from subterranean fires that knew no end. Winding its treacherous way, the faint path trail led along the faces of the giant buttes, where a single misstep meant death. Occasionally the trail crossed the swift, turbulent river, the sound of its quicksand course through this, the darkest, strangest, loneliest land that human foot has ever trod.

"Handy with a Gun."

Thirty miles to the south, the buffalo herd was struck and the guide, whose respect for his employer grew with each mile of the trail, looked on with wonder. Here was a new breed of "critter," a man who, while he kept his face as blank as a sheet, rode straight, shot straight, and took his medicine like a veteran. Hunger, cold, exposure were lost on him. With a grim, dogged courage that knew no end, he hunk to the chase. He was after buffalo and buffalo he got.

After a most successful trip he returned home. The denizens of "Big Mouth Bob's" caravansary were prone to admit that "their critter with a squint were plum handy with a gun."

On Roosevelt's lesson of the Bad Lands was not lost, his keen eye took in those shiny valleys and sheltered ravines covered with bunch grass and sweet sage, upon which lolled in luxury countless herds of wild game. If this apparent waste would keep elk, deer and buffalo, why should it not keep cattle?

Next spring he came again, but with more than six guns and a toothbrush. Behind him rolled train after train of stock cattle, which, as fast as unloaded, were driven to the ranch already situated by his former guide, eight miles to the south. The ranch proper was built by digging a trench eighteen feet square, into which were set cottonwood poles, palisade fashion. A heavy ridge pole supported the rafters, which were covered a foot deep with brush, straw and clay. A year later this was supplanted by a more pretentious shack of heavy logs.

The ranch was located eight miles south of Little Missouri, at a point where the lofty buttes receded, leaving a wide stretch of river bottom.

From the brand adopted—the "Maltese Cross"—the ranch took its name, which it still retains.

The ranch was a success from the start. Next spring saw the river bottom alive with folkling cattle, the big clean beef steers lolled in the shade of the cottonwoods by the river bank in luxury. In the meantime another ranch had been established by Roosevelt called "Elkhorn" ranch, twenty-three miles north of the "Maltese Cross."

In the locating and establishment of these splendid ranches the young owner was unopposed. First out in the hills shooting a deer for meat; then in the saddle plunging round up, or down on the ground in a violent wrestling contest with a husky calf that objected to the branding iron; occasionally taking a solitary pilgrimage to the nearest butte after mountain sheep remarkable as he sights through glasses.

He had a beautiful collection of rifles. His favorite, however, was a plain Winchester of 40-caliber. One of his rifles (an express) was beautifully inlaid with solid gold plates, exquisitely engraved. I have never seen him use it, however.

Roosevelt's half wild, wholly Indian-like native horses. On the ranch he kept six. His first favorite was "Old Manito." It is a difficult thing to find a really good hunting pony. Anyone who has ever tried to lift a limp, freshly killed deer on a horse's back can understand this. Manito was steady as a rock and a faithful companion until age gave him immunity from work.

His saddle was a beauty; it weighed over fifty pounds and was valued at \$125. It was of handsomely embossed leather, ornamented with silver.

Had a Bad Month.

One morning late in the fall the roundup was camped on the Lagacy camp range, the horses were brought in at daylight with frost on their backs and all in an ill humor. Roosevelt threw his saddle on a

big Roman nosed bay named Ben Butler. Ben was a natural-born degenerate. He was past master in pitching, "sunbathing" and high and lofty bucking. He was a crafty old villain, however, and submitted to the tightening of the hair cinches with only a wince. He was a "good fellow" with the cowboys, but never went in the riotous debauchery of their occasional spree.

Next to hunting, he liked best his horses. The "Maltese Cross" horses were famed as the biggest, huskiest, most rampaging beasts in the Bad Lands. They were mostly half-breeds, with an appalling amount of vigor and evil ways. I brought one east with me six years ago. He lived to be 20, and I believe one of his last acts was to kick the front end off of a farmer's milk wagon.

Roosevelt's cattle, of which he finally had about 3,000, were half-bred natives and bore the Maltese cross on the left hip, with dewlap on brisket. During the first years of ranching he bred cattle, but later discontinued it. Only recently he sold the ranch, the buyer being his trusted guide and subsequent manager, Sylvane Ferris.

His Old Companions. As an evidence of the picturesque character of his surroundings, I might mention that to trace the career of a few "Big Mouth Bob" drank hard; served a term for murder in Bismarck jail, and now is a broken down man. "Three Seven Bill" married the daughter of the section boss and is running a place of his own across the Montana line.

"Three Fingered Jack," professional horse thief, was driven to the Powder River mountains and froze to death in a blizzard. Will Eaton is running a silver mine in Mexico. "Old Man Lobo," his early hunting partner, is raising potatoes up about Ketchikan, Alaska. "Old Man" and "Old Man" are in the Kootenai valley, running a ranch in the Kootenai valley. "Liver Eatin' Johnson the Squaw Man" is eating government rations up Buford way. The Marquis De Moraes was killed in Africa.

It is hard to realize that the voice now given to dignified utterances upon which a nation hangs, once lifted in the roaring chorus, "Old Black Bull Come Down From the Mountain," nor that the strong young hand that forced his unwilling horse to breast the current of a treacherous river should now be guiding a pen on whose work rests the destiny of 75,000,000 souls.

SIBERIAN FARMING.

Success Depends on Energy, Patience and Perseverance. Dr. Nicholas Senn, a distinguished physician of the United States army, who has just completed a tour of Russia, writes to the Chicago Tribune as follows:

Farming in Siberia is to remunerative requires energy, patience, perseverance, and an ordinary degree of forethought. Afterthought in this country is a curse, and often disastrous experiment. The Siberian soil is fertile, the sun does all it can during the short summer to make it productive. In many parts of Siberia, more especially in the Amur province, grain raising is really a new thing. On the whole, however, this country is better adapted for the herdsman than the farmer.

The Russian government is anxious to populate Siberia with industrious farmers and intelligent ranchmen. It does its share in establishing new homes by giving each immigrant family the use of a tract of free of expense, agricultural implements to cultivate fifteen acres of land, a tarantass and a span of oxen or a pair of horses and 50 rubles in cash to make a start. The land is not sold, but leased, and the new settler is exempt from taxes for the first three years. This offer on the part of the government is a tempting one and has induced thousands of families to accept it. In many instances the venture has been successful. In others the new settlers have become discouraged and discouraged. The most formidable enemy of the settler is the farmer in the long and severe winter. All of the farm work has to be crowded within the narrow limit of four or five months. The long winter is a severe tax on the live stock. In many places where the snowfall is heavy, the winter is so severe that Amur province the snowfall is light and the cattle subsist on the dry grass of the

prairies and mountain pastures hidden under a blanket of snow. Stock raising is the coming industry and by judicious management can be made sufficiently remunerative. Sugar beets grow to an enormous size and with proper machinery beet sugar can be manufactured at a low price and be made a well-paying investment for the producer of the raw material and the manufacturer as well. Millet, clover and alfalfa grow luxuriously and could be used advantageously as fodder as a substitute for hay in localities where the latter cannot be obtained. It is said that some years grain does not ripen and on this account it will be well for farmers not to place too much confidence in the wheat, rye and

oat crops. A combination of stock-raising and agriculture will make farming in Siberia a success. The summer season is too short for the ripening of corn. Potatoes and vegetables of all kinds can be depended upon as a sure crop.

Good highways and substantial fences in the country are always sure indications of successful, remunerative farming.

Siberia is a new country and consequently has few well-made country roads. In the steppes the roads lead out in different directions from the hamlets to the grain fields and meadows to suit the convenience of the peasant. Two deep ruts mark the width of the tarantass and the central track is the path for the single horse. The

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Cuba's delicious Vuelta tobacco

is now successfully grown in the U. S.,— in three States touching southern Atlantic and gulf waters.

When agriculture was prostrated in Cuba, Bondy & Lederer of New York started experiments in transplanting young sprouts taken from the Cuban Vuelta Abajos district.

Portions of Florida, Louisiana and Texas have long been known to present the conditions of land elevation, soil, sea mists and action of the sun, identical with the Vuelta Cuban district which is so near those points. The young plants thrived and produced a tobacco exactly the same as grown a few miles across those waters. This leaf was found wholly different from the seed growths of Havana tobacco grown in this country for many years.

After these growths were increased from resprouting and expansive planting until a crop of large proportions was reached the first cutting was made and stored for curing. After three years of natural curing, its ripe, delicious flavor was found perfect for use in highest priced goods. But the saving of heavy duty and the continually increased supply of this tobacco at last prompted Bondy & Lederer to put this same stock into a five cent cigar; the old brand of the house known as the Tom Keene was selected for its benefit. This is why you find the exquisite flavor in the Tom Keene, never before known in a five cent cigar in this country. Try it, it will be plainly apparent to you.

PEREGOY & MOORE CO., Distributors, Council Bluffs, Ia.



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Checkmating a Raid

How Chicago Gamblers Avoid Police.

No electrician knows the uses of a little piece of insulating wire better than the professional gambler in Chicago. It is his finger on an electric button. This insulating wire is the men continue to be professional gamblers and are not serving the city as professional criminals.

The intricate system of alarm bells and danger signals with which gamblers are notified that the police are thundering at their gates is as complicated and as effective as any system of alarm bells. It is why detectives have taken to wearing disguises and why the methods of Old Sleuth and Captain Collier, those heroes of dime novels, so long scouted by real detectives, have crept into favor.

In the first place, relates the Chicago Tribune, it must be understood that there is gambling in Chicago, and it is not in the Hand books in which bets may be made on the races flourish like the green bay tree in many places where one would not look for them. Craps, poker, roulette and the old army game may be interviewed on most of the main streets, yet the number of good cases made out in court against the well-known proprietors of these games is pitifully small. The detectives have gone into gambling houses, arrested the inmates and then have come into police courts and have been forced to admit that they were unable to present a case strong enough to warrant the magistrate in holding the prisoners to the grand jury for trial. They have been ordered to fall back upon the old vagrancy charge. They accuse men of vagrancy who find that the gambling charges are not well enough sustained. Many men wearing the best clothes obtainable and laden with diamonds turn green with envy have been charged with being vagrants. All of which would be the knowledge that the gamblers in Chicago have of the usefulness of an electric wire.

The gambling resorts may be running full blast. The play may be heavy, the spectators as great in number as any fashionable concert, yet when the detectives break into the room the men are all there, the apparatus hidden and the gambling charge must fall flat. All of the gambling houses whose owners can afford the outlay are provided with a set of danger signals that would do credit to a train dispatcher's office or the main room in a telegraph concern.

It is often necessary to pass two and sometimes three lookouts before the main room is reached. But that is the easiest part of it. The hardest is to get as far as the first lookout without being recognized. The bootblack in the corner, the sawdoby, the porter, the janitor, the man who may be in the employ of the gambler whose place is near. As soon as a suspicious character enters the neighborhood and asks to be directed to a place where the game is running or when a detective assigned to gambling work leaves in sight the outside

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When agriculture was prostrated in Cuba, Bondy & Lederer of New York started experiments in transplanting young sprouts taken from the Cuban Vuelta Abajos district.

Portions of Florida, Louisiana and Texas have long been known to present the conditions of land elevation, soil, sea mists and action of the sun, identical with the Vuelta Cuban district which is so near those points. The young plants thrived and produced a tobacco exactly the same as grown a few miles across those waters. This leaf was found wholly different from the seed growths of Havana tobacco grown in this country for many years.

After these growths were increased from resprouting and expansive planting until a crop of large proportions was reached the first cutting was made and stored for curing. After three years of natural curing, its ripe, delicious flavor was found perfect for use in highest priced goods. But the saving of heavy duty and the continually increased supply of this tobacco at last prompted Bondy & Lederer to put this same stock into a five cent cigar; the old brand of the house known as the Tom Keene was selected for its benefit. This is why you find the exquisite flavor in the Tom Keene, never before known in a five cent cigar in this country. Try it, it will be plainly apparent to you.

Small farms with extensive pasturage are what the early Siberian settler needs to make his work remunerative and his future position in the new country secure. Road making will follow the construction of railways as the natural outcome of successful farming. Desirable material for fences is obtainable almost everywhere and in less than ten years the traveler passing over the arable lands will find neat farms and large meadows and pastures inclosed by substantial fences for the protection of the crops and the safekeeping of live stock.

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