

Talks With T. R.

Following is the fourth of The Bee's series of accounts of John J. Leary, jr., of his intimate talks with the late Theodore Roosevelt. In some respects, this is the most interesting chapter of all. Leary tells of Colonel Roosevelt's real attitude towards his possible candidacy for presidency in 1916 and 1920.

By JOHN J. LEARY, JR.

Roosevelt and 1920

"All that is near to me in the male line is in France. If they do not come back, what is the presidency to me?"

"If they do come back, and the republican party wants me, and I can see where, by accepting the nomination, I can advance the ideals for which I stand, will be a candidate. But I will not lift my finger to secure the nomination."

That was Col. Theodore Roosevelt's position as expressed to me in June of 1918, when it began to appear that nothing could prevent his nomination. It was his position in December, when, convalescing from rheumatism, he talked politics with me in Roosevelt hospital. I had remarked that it had begun to look as though he would be nominated by acclamation.

A Duty to People.

"That may be," said he, "but if I am, I will accept only because I see where as president I can do things, can advance those ideals for which all right-thinking Americans stand. And if I accept, it will be because the platform is 100 per cent American. Nothing less would induce me to consider the nomination for a single minute."

"To be president is an honorable and commendable ambition in any man. I have been president. For me it would mean nothing to me to be president again. Its only value would be in what I could do, what I could accomplish."

This was substantially his position in 1916 when, it will be remembered, the issue at the republican convention in Chicago was Roosevelt or Hughes, and the republican convention deadlocked with the progressives on this point; a deadlock broken by Colonel Roosevelt's declaration that he believed it his duty and the duty of all Americans, who felt as he did, to support Justice Hughes.

Planned Retirement.

With Judge Hughes' nomination, Colonel Roosevelt abandoned, temporarily at least, any thought of again running for the presidency. Two days before the decision of the voters for Mr. Wilson over Mr. Hughes, my notebook says, he declared he would be out of it in four years.

"We can," I remarked, after he had bemoaned the probable re-election of Mr. Wilson, "look forward to 1920. There will be nothing to it then but Roosevelt. No one can stop it."

"You are wrong there," he answered. "This was my year—1916 was my high twelve. In four years I will be out of it. This was my year to run. I did not want to run in 1912. Circumstances compelled me to run then. This year it was different. This was my year."

My Year.

"Colonel," said I, "I know that many things may happen in four years, but I also know that everywhere I go it is the one thing—'If they had only in a Roosevelt.'" "True," he countered, "but don't you see that you are merely proving what I say—this was my year to run. I have no doubt the mass of the people wanted me to run. The gang did not. To beat me they had to take Hughes—less than they hated me."

Following the defeat of Judge Hughes he made no effort toward securing the 1920 nomination, for himself or any other man. His efforts were directed first, last and all of the time to bringing the republican party and its leaders around to what he believed to be the real American ideals and needs of the hour, and to make the party the instrument through which the real will of the American people might be registered and the ancient landmarks defended.

If, in doing this, the party should nominate him, well and good. If the nomination went to another, well and good, provided that other was 100 per cent American and dependable in his Americanism.

Another Crisis.

"It was," he said to me early in 1916, "the necessity of saving the union that called the republican party into being. It accomplished that purpose, and for many years governed the country wisely and well. Then it became fat, and soft, and lazy. It ceased to be the party of all of the people and it has been punished for its sins."

"Now another crisis is at hand. The danger to our institutions is as great today as it was 1861. Then we faced disunion. Now we face disgrace and worse. The party now in power is the same party the people, acting through the republican party, hurried from power in 1860. It is as unfit to govern this country now as it was then; it is just as sectional and it is just as inefficient. The only difference is this: In 1860 the country was facing war and the democrats deliberately and criminally did their best to so arrange matters that it would not be ready for war, while now, with the country facing war, it is doing nothing to prepare for war."

Congenital Inefficiency.

"In the one case it was criminal intent, in the other it is congenital inefficiency. In one instance they were crooked, in the present case they are foolish. The results to the country will be the same."

"The democratic party cannot wreck the country, but it can do damage that a generation won't be able to repair. Under Mr. Wilson's leadership it is backing us into war stern foremost. There are men in his party that see the danger, that feel as we do, but they are helpless. There is no hope for the country in that party."

Democrats in War.

"If, when we finally get into war, formally and officially as we now are unofficially, and the democratic party happens to be in power, it will be just as inefficient in war as it is in peace."

The hope of the country is in the republican party.

Through it, the mass of the people will express their real opinions. The mass of the people are all

right. Just now they are suffering from a false sense of security into which they have been lulled by sweet words and beautiful phrases. They will be, they must be awakened. And when they are awake they must turn to the republican party for leadership, for there is none in the other party. They will turn to it when they realize the needs of real preparedness and the plight they face through false leadership.

"For that reason, and that reason only, I am interested in party politics. I would not give a snap of my finger for the nomination. I would take the nomination only because of the chance to do things, were I again president, that must be done."

With this background it is easy to see why, following the defeat of Justice Hughes in 1916 he began a campaign to bring all wings of the republican party together.

He Sought Harmony.

This campaign began the last Saturday of the 1916 campaign. It began in Bridgeport where the colonel closed his speaking tour, with a whole-hearted appeal for the election of Mr. Hughes. Incidentally it is worth noting here that it was Bridgeport's big vote (Bridgeport is the chief city of Fairfield county) which saved Connecticut to the republicans and made California's vote so all-important.

After this meeting Col. Roosevelt went to the Stratfield hotel where John T. King, the republican national committeeman, had a light supper waiting. King had been anti-Roosevelt, but had come around to Mr. Roosevelt's way of thinking, and between bursts of supper the two talked organization.

"I am not against the organization and never have been against it because it was a party organization," he declared, "but I have been against it because it was an organization for private plunder. That is what I am against."

Justice for All.

"You have the right idea here—taking the working men into the organization and making it a popular institution in which the idea of social justice for all is uppermost. It is a splendid idea, that of insisting that the man who takes a place in the organization must quit drinking and start a savings-bank account."

"I want to see that sort of an organization everywhere—an organization where the workers and the small farmers sit in and really belong. That sort of an organization will not stand for plunder. It will stand for what is right and decent in public life. You can call such an organization a machine if you will and I'll still approve of it. Calling it a machine will not make it offensive to me. A machine is just as necessary for successful party work, for a party to serve the public, as organization is in the army or in a bank."

Old Quarrels Forgotten.

"I have no quarrel with any man who has been in the organization for what he has done in the past if he's straight now. There are a good many things everybody sees are improper now that only a few thought were improper a short time back. It's like the lottery—Harvard college and many of your old churches about here were financed

Street Car Steps Too High For This 75-Pound Dwarf



Willard L. Lloyd, 20, has no rivals as the shortest student in Boyles Business college. He stands 42 inches in his sock and weighs 75 pounds.

"Lincoln said that a man's legs should be long enough to reach to the ground," said Lloyd. "Mine do that, so I'm not worrying."

Although Lloyd is lacking in height and he doesn't weigh enough to make even the flyweight limit in the ring, he has a powerful chest, a normal-sized head and his grip is that of a strong man.

Lloyd was a teacher in school affairs at the Nebraska City High school, which he left after finishing the eleventh grade to come to Omaha

Taking Sides



place, the colonel advised him to keep out.

"The place is not worth a fight," he advised, "especially where there is so much at stake."

This was his last political act before the serious operations which brought him to the doors of death that winter. He was semi-conscious when he was told of Hays' election and insisted on wiring him immediately. He saw Hays before he was out of bed and he was much impressed with him.

"Hays," he told me before leaving the hospital, "is a trump. He is all right. He may make mistakes, but he won't make many. The party seems to be united on him and that's something well worth while. Now

we've got to back him up. With Hays at work and on the job, I think we'll get results. For one thing, there's only one party now. Most of the progressives have come back. Those that won't return would sooner or later have quit even the progressive party—they're just natural born Mavericks who won't stay long in any herd, and won't stay branded."

The Drink Story

Few things in Colonel Roosevelt's later life are fresher in the public memory than his suit against a Michigan editor who accused him of drunkenness. The unfortunate editor, unable to produce a scintilla of

proof, admitted his fault, and so far as the records go, the matter was disposed of. There was nothing developed, however, to show where the tale started or what foundation, if any, it might have had.

Colonel Roosevelt had an explanation. "Now it so happens that the Lord in His infinite wisdom elected to create some persons with whom it is never safe to joke—solemn asses who lack a sense of humor. I am very fond of that story of Sidney Smith's, who, playing with his children, stopped suddenly, saying, 'Children, we must now be serious—here comes a fool.' You know the kind he meant—those poor unfortunate men who must take everything said to them literally.

That remark said, 'Roosevelt, I hear, drinks hard.' The other fool replied, 'Yes, that's true. He told me so himself.'

"And so the story went on its travels. 'That is all there ever was to the talk of my drinking. From that start, it spread and spread until, in self-defence, I was compelled to take action to stop it. Some folks have said I went out of my way to find a little editor of small means and few sources of evidence who could not well defend himself. The fact was, he was the one editor I could hold to account. There were and are editors nearer New York I gladly would have sued under like circumstances, but they knew better than to print what they knew was untrue. Had any of them done so,

I would have hauled them up short and with much more glee than I did the Michigan man, for the men I have in mind have real malice toward me and he, I am satisfied, had none.

"We parted good friends. I certainly had nothing against him. In his zeal to do things, he put in print what shrewder and really malicious men who would harm if they could, dare not print. I believe he was honestly sorry when he found his error. "However, the thing had its value. We're never too old to learn and I learned to be careful with whom I cracked the simplest joke. Thank God, there are many you can joke with in safety. If we couldn't laugh once in a while, what a world this would be! It wouldn't be a world untrite. Had any of them done so,

HOW TO DARKEN GRAY HAIR

A Cincinnati Barber Tells How to Make a Remedy for Gray Hair.

A well known resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has been a barber for more than forty years, recently made the following statement: "Anyone can prepare a simple mixture at home, at very little cost, that will darken gray hair, and make it soft and glossy. To a half-pint of water add 1 ounce bay rum, a small box of Barbo Compound and 1/4 ounce glycerine. These ingredients can be bought at any drug store at very little cost. Apply to the hair twice a week until the desired shade is obtained. This will make a gray-haired person look twenty years younger. It is easy to use, does not color the most delicate scalp, is not sticky or greasy and does not rub off."

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Eye Specialist and Medical Author Report on Wonderful Remedy To Strengthen Eyesight

Say It Strengthens Eyesight 50% in One Week's Time in Many Instances. New York—Dr. Smith, a well known eye specialist, and Dr. Judkins, a Massachusetts physician and medical author, make the following reports after a thorough test of a popular remedy for the eyes: Says Dr. Smith: "When my attention was first called to it I was inclined to be skeptical. But it is a rule of mine to give every new treatment a chance to prove its value. Having specialized in eye work for many years I feel qualified to express an intelligent opinion on remedies for the eyes. Since this one has created such a sensation I welcomed the opportunity to test it. I began to use it in my practice a little over a year ago and I am frank to say that some of the results I have accomplished with Bon-Opto not only astound myself, but also other physicians with whom I have talked about it, and I advise every thoughtful physician to give Bon-Opto the same careful trial I have and there is no doubt in my mind that he will come to the conclusion I have. That it opens the door to the cure of many eye troubles which have heretofore been difficult to cope with, I have had decided, according to my father, that in order to save the sight of her right eye, the left must be removed. While awaiting an opportunity for operation and while undressed as to his vision, her father

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