

ROOSEVELT PRAISES ARMY AND NAVY MEN

Tells the Cove School Children
They Deserve the Best
of the Country.

LAUDS THE BOY SCOUTS

Hopes to See the Time When Every
Boy and Girl Will Drill
in School.

Special to The New York Times.

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., May 5.—At the Cove School this afternoon, where he delivered the Arbor Day address and presented the children with a composite carving and picture made by one of the sailors who went around the world with the fleet, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt took the rôle of teacher of preparedness. Among other statements he asserted that he hoped the day soon would come when all the children in all the schools would be trained so that they would be able to uphold the honor and safety of the Nation in time of war, and be better citizens in time of peace.

The Cove School is the school where all of the Roosevelt children have studied and where Colonel Roosevelt each Christmas eve appears as Santa Claus and hands out the presents from a tree which he supplies. His appearance is the event of the year in the lives of the youngsters. Today they responded with ringing cheers to his words and when he concluded a Boy-Scout yell was given: "A-M-E-R-I-C-A—Boy Scouts, Boy Scouts, U. S. A. Roosevelt."

The Colonel arrived at the little schoolhouse at 2 o'clock and was greeted by the pupils, who sang patriotic songs, and by a detachment of the Boy Scouts from the Cold Spring school, who drilled on the pebble-coated roadway leading up the little hill to the school building. The Colonel stood at attention with hat off and a broad smile on his face.

Praises the Boy Scouts.

Colonel Roosevelt first told the pupils about his own children, who had gone from this school, and of his Christmas parties there and of how he could never forget the thrill he felt when one of his youngsters recited "Darius Green and His Flying Machine." Then he plunged into preparedness. Turning to the Boy Scouts, he said:

"I hope that not very long hence in every school in the country we will see the kind of drill you Boy Scouts have given. I hope that all the boys and all the girls will drill and all be trained as the Boy Scouts are being trained to fit themselves to do their duty to their country in time of peace and in time of war."

A woman walked into the room, and one of the Boy Scouts got up from his seat and escorted her to it. The Colonel, smiling, turned to him:

"That's exactly it," he exclaimed. "This training teaches you to be courteous as well as manly. Now, I have no use for the bully or the brawler, and I have no use for the sissy or the mollycoddle, either one."

The Colonel's youthful audience applauded madly.

Colonel Roosevelt then talked to the children about their lives at home, saying that "no one is worth anything outside the home if he is not worth while having in the home."

"The whole Boy Scout movement," he exclaimed, "is part of a movement to make us happier and more useful."

He talked about tidiness and carefulness also, saying that he wished some of the people living on the Cove Road who permitted their places to become littered with papers and cans could hear his message.

"For instance," he said, "I like people to come to my own place and have picnics if they behave themselves, but if they behave like pigs I treat them like pigs and keep them off."

Tells of the Fleet's Trip.

Abruptly the Colonel turned to the subject of the picture he had presented. "The Army and Navy," he said, "and the enlisted men are on the whole the citizens who deserve the best of the country. When I was President I thought the peace which the people wanted was the kind of peace you got when you were able to hold up your own end, and I sent the fleet around the world. There were civilians who expressed the belief that I couldn't do it, but our Admirals said I could send the fleet all right, but not the torpedo boat destroyer flotilla."

"I was going to see the target practice on the Mayflower about six weeks before the time set for the fleet to start. Two torpedo boat destroyers came alongside and I had the Lieutenants in for dinner. They were fine young fellows—just game cocks—the kind you could put against any one in the world and know that the United States was safe. They said to me: 'Mr. President, let us go. We can take the torpedo boat flotilla around the world.' One of them added: 'The term of enlistment of about all the men on my boat will expire shortly. They are waiting until they know whether we can go. If we do they will re-enlist.'"

"And I said, 'By George, you shall go.' The torpedo boat destroyers made the trip."

"A certain hour was set for the return of the fleet, and as the time arrived we could just see the great hulls lifted over the horizon. They got back just fifty-three minutes late after a trip of sixteen months. I think they did pretty well."

Colonel Roosevelt said that there were not more than twenty cases of absence among the 14,000 men.

"Every man in that fleet," he said, "felt that the honor of the nation was in his keeping."

Lauds the Marines' Work.

Then the Colonel told of the service done by marines in policing the devastated districts at the time of the Messina earthquake in Sicily.

"Those stalwart jackies," he said, "were as fine a type of fighting men as there are in the world. It must be a cause of pride to the people that the army and navy are the finest fighters in the world, and yet are incapable of the brutalities we have seen practised within the last two years. If they are given half a chance by the men above them they will always take care of the women and children and see that no harm comes to noncombatants. And so I hope that every man in this country in the army and navy and in private life will do the best there is in him for this country. I guess that is about all I have to say."

PERKINS WANTS NO OFFICE.

Says Progressives Wouldn't Bother
T. R. in White House.

In an open letter to S. A. Perkins of Tacoma, Wash., a member of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee, George W. Perkins, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Progressive Party, has made statements concerning his own attitude and that of the Progressives, in the event of the nomination and election of Colonel Roosevelt by the Republican and Progressive Parties. Mr. Perkins asserts that his own efforts are entirely

disinterested, and that he would not take the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury. He says he would in no way endeavor to embarrass Colonel Roosevelt in his administration or appointments. There have been reports that some Republican leaders felt that the followers of Roosevelt in the Progressive Party would expect many offices if the Colonel was elected on a ticket representing the united parties. Mr. Perkins's letter follows:

May 3, 1916.

Mr. S. A. Perkins, Member of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee, Tacoma, Wash.

My Dear Mr. Perkins:

Pursuant to the promise I made you as you were leaving for the West the other day, I am going to summarize in this letter the views I expressed in our several conversations.

As to the Progressives, I said to you in our conversations, and I want to repeat it with all earnestness and sincerity in this letter, that I know whereof I speak when I say that there is no ground for the belief that the Progressive organization would even attempt to embarrass Mr. Roosevelt in any way in his administration or his appointments were he again President. Do not overlook the fact that we Progressives are openly pledged to a patriotic course. We have, times without number, pronounced our disinterestedness in the policy we have been pursuing, and I am satisfied that the men who today are representing the party are working in an unselfish spirit and are not going to do anything in the future to stultify their record.

Now as to myself, I am familiar with some of the rumors regarding my motives in the work I have been and am doing. It is embarrassing to speak of one's self, but in view of what you said and the nature of the situation, I want to reiterate in this letter what I said to you in conversation, viz., that I have absolutely no ambition for office, nor do I desire reward of any kind for the work I have been doing. I cannot and do not think of myself as being in politics. I have been working as I have because for a long time I have felt very deeply that the country was drifting in the wrong direction, both industrially and internationally, and that national inefficiency and unpreparedness are millstones around our necks.

My business life has thrown me, as you know, into contact with international and industrial affairs. I have, therefore, had an unusual opportunity to study and observe the changing conditions of the world in politics, in business, and in industrial relations. For ten years or more I have on many occasions publicly spoken and used such influence as I could command for a broader nationalism and internationalism in our business and political life.

I am not looking for office in connection with any of the work I am doing. I have no desire for office. Mr. Roosevelt absolutely understands this.

I believe that as goes the next four years at Washington so goes the next forty years for our country; that this is the year of fate for the United States. I believe that a vast deal depends on the experience, tact, wisdom, and strength of our next Chief Executive. For many years I have been fortunate in knowing quite well practically all of the prominent men in the political life of our nation. Taking into consideration the character and variety of the problems confronting us, it has for several years been my judgment that Mr. Roosevelt is the best equipped man in this country to assist as our national leader in solving existing problems and leading us on to better things. It is solely for this reason that I have been and am so earnestly and actively supporting him. If he should be chosen the joint standard bearer and elected President, some people seem to think that my ambition is to be Secretary of the Treasury. This rumor is false, for under no circumstances would I accept that high office, even assuming that it would be offered. Others have said that I am ambitious to be Chairman of the National Committee of a reunited party. This is absolutely false. I do not want it and would not take it. In addition, I realize that there are men in the Republican Party qualified by experience for that position.

When I left the banking business I publicly announced that I did so for the purpose of having more time to devote to public and semi-public affairs, and I meant every word I said. I have tried to live up to that statement and shall continue to do so. In a country like ours, where the problems pressing for solution are so many and at present so vital, there is abundant scope for any man to render public service without feeling that of necessity he must hold public office.

Let me also repeat another thing I said in our conversations, viz., that if, in readjusting the differences between the parties and bringing about some of the accomplishments the country so sorely needs, my complete elimination in every respect from the situation would be helpful, I would eliminate myself instantly.

You and I have known each other for a good many years. Although we are unrelated by ties of blood, even though our names are the same, we have been akin in our belief that business men should not be so absorbed in their business that they cannot give a certain amount of time to public service.

I hope this letter will be helpful, as you thought it might be, in removing some of the erroneous impressions that seem to exist.

GEORGE W. PERKINS,
Chairman Executive Committee, Progressive Party.

NONPARTISAN LEAGUE.

Boston and Newark Have Branches
—Large Advisory Committee.

Lewis K. Brown, Executive Secretary of the Roosevelt Nonpartisan League, at 12 Vanderbilt Avenue, announced yesterday the appointment of a large Advisory Committee. In the list are Henry B. Joy, manufacturer, of Detroit; William A. Lord, Newark, N. J.; John C. Greenway, Bisbeen, Ariz.; General S. V. S. Murray, Paterson, N. J.; General Luke B. Wright, former Secretary of War, of Tennessee; James M. Seymour, Jr., Newark, N. J.; George von L. Meyer, former Secretary of the Navy, of Boston; William MacDonald, Providence; G. Bacon, Boston; Frank S. Butterworth, New Haven; Truman H. Newberry, former Secretary of the Navy, of Detroit; Hamlin Garland, the writer, of Chicago; Henry Reuterdahl, the artist and writer, and J. Randolph Coolidge, architect, of Boston.

Branches of the league have been formed in Newark and Boston. A branch is to be formed in the Middle West. A statement issued by the league said in part:

"There can be no possible doubt that the issue of Americanism, with Colonel Roosevelt as the leader, has, at the present time, a deep and definite appeal to Republicans, Democrats, Progressives, and Independents who are consequently joining this league with no idea of leaving their parties, but because they feel that the great issue before the country today is not a political issue, but rather a national issue, upon which loyal men of all parties must, for the time being, unite."