

THE COLONEL GIVES A 'READINESS' DAY

Entertains Two Detachments of Boy Scouts and Bible Class at Sagamore Hill.

PRAISES NEW YORK PARADE

Roosevelt Asserts Big Demon- stration Proves Country De- spises the Weakling.

Special to The New York Times.

OYSTER BAY, L. I., May 13.—While the great preparedness parade in which Mrs. Roosevelt marched was in progress in New York, this afternoon, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt had a preparedness demonstration of his own at Sagamore Hill which attracted fully as much interest here as the other demonstration did in Manhattan.

The demonstration here was staged by detachments of Boy Scouts from Irvington-on-Hudson and Glen Cove and 150 members of the men's Bible class of the Oyster Bay Methodist Church. The scouts tramped along the dusty roads to the Roosevelt home, while the others used a cavalcade of fifty automobiles, many of them gaily decorated with flags.

The climax of the affair came in the great north room of Sagamore Hill, where the members of the Bible class applauded the patriotic utterances of the Colonel and concluded their visit by giving their host three rousing cheers as "our next President."

In the enthusiasm of the moment—and Oyster Bay did pretty well in its effort to display its patriotism—the Colonel did not forget the men and women who were marching in New York because they believed this country should prepare. Concerning the parade he said:

"Mrs. Roosevelt felt she must go and march because we both regard it the prime duty of this country at this moment to prepare. Unless a nation is true to itself it will be false to every one else. No nation can help any other nation if it can't protect its own national honor and its sons and daughters wherever they are. This it can never do without preparation, and I believe that the significance of 150,000 marching means that our country is waking up to understand that the weakling never earns anything but contempt, for contempt is all he deserves.

"A nation like ours, with our wealth and our population, is weak only because it isn't willing to prepare in advance to be strong, and I believe that Congress misrepresents the attitude of the American people toward preparedness."

Then the Colonel turned back to the Boy Scouts who were going through manoeuvres on the lawns of his estate and joined in the applause of other on-lookers.

Day of Enjoyment for Colonel.

The scene enacted at Sagamore Hill this afternoon was picturesque, entirely Rooseveltian and not without its impressive features. The Colonel jumped into the day's doings with all his heart and soul from the moment the detachment of Boy Scouts from Glen Cove, headed by Scout Master Bennam, buglers, and a drum corps, began the steep climb up the hill leading to his home.

Speeding by the scouts in a long trail of dusty automobiles, came the men from the Bible class, with their pastor, Dr. George W. Roesch. The Colonel held a reception for them first in the north room while he awaited the scouts.

First came a description of many of the Colonel's trophies, and the Colonel's audience looked on with ears and eyes open as the ex-President related how he had come by this or that trophy which he prized. The first cheering came when, in talking of one of his hunts, he inserted the statement:

"I have as little use for the man who fights without cause as for the man who won't fight when he has cause."

The Colonel smiled broadly. The members of the Bible class forgot restraint.

"I hope we will be able to cheer like this for you next November," said a man, and there was redoubled applause. The Colonel smiled at the expectant faces and thanked the men, but side-stepped politics. Instead he pointed to a huge set of elephant tusks presented to him by King Menelik of Abyssinia.

"You see there can't possibly be any political motive in this," he said. "There are the elephant tusks and right above them are the antlers of a bull moose, not the American kind but one found in Canada."

The Colonel looked in another corner of the room. "And over there," he

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added with a broad grin. "Is the skin of a striped zebra, which looks something like a wild donkey."

He turned suddenly on his guests. "Have any of you ever been in the West?" he asked. Silence followed. Finally a man spoke up. "I have been in Indiana," he said.

Colonel Roosevelt laughed heartily. "Why, I consider that the effete East. I mean the cow country, where the grass grows long."

Apparently nobody had, so the Colonel with a "Well, that don't matter anyhow," went on to tell stories of his life on the Western prairies.

Counts John L. Sullivan a Friend.

"You know I've met pretty nearly every type of man," he said, "and I don't know whether I ought to say it here before a Bible class, but my acquaintance included prizefighters."

"John L. Sullivan, I bet," retorted one of the more sophisticated.

"Right," replied the Colonel. "He was one of them, and I carried a gold-mounted rabbit foot he gave me while I was in Africa."

"One of the things I value most is that statue of a bronco buster given to me by the men of my regiment. There is another we value perhaps quite as much. It's that silver loving cup over there which was given to Mrs. Roosevelt by the enlisted men of the Louisiana on which we went to Panama. You know, I was instrumental in obtaining the Panama Canal. Some objected, but I don't believe they have given it back yet."

The Colonel laughed. The crowd applauded.

"Well, I guess that is about all," concluded the Colonel, "except that just outside the window there is an old cannon my regiment captured in the Spanish-American war. I made up my mind that when we came back I would have that as my share." It was then that the visitors started to go and were interrupted by the high-pitched voice of one of their number:

"Three cheers for the next President of the United States."

Again the Bible class forgot all sense of decorum.

The bugles of the Boy Scouts from Glen Cove were sounding on the lawn and the Colonel hurried out to greet them. Half a dozen moving picture men, who had been taking films of the patriotic scene, insisted that the Colonel pose. He stood on the front porch of his home while the bugles blared and the drums rattled their inspiring strains and saluted Donald Cahill, three years old, mascot of the Scouts, who saluted gravely in return. The Colonel took the child's hand and walked with him to the broad rear porch which overlooked the broad lawns.

"By George, this is fine; this is really inspiring," he exclaimed.

The Boy Scouts drilled while the Colonel now earnestly looking at their exercises, now saluting, now smiling and gesticulating, enthusiastically was caught in every imaginable pose by the moving-picture men.

"Here, you," he shouted. "take more pictures of the boys and not of me. That's a splendid thing you see there. They are real American citizens. I'm proud of every one of them."

Speech Pleases Boy Scouts.

Back to the Trophy Room marched the Colonel, and the Boy Scouts were treated to one of his inimitable talks. He got a hearty cheer on more than one occasion; the loudest came when he pointed to a chair and said:

"That was the chair I had when I was President. It was the chair in which I sat during Cabinet meetings, when we kept order and were respected abroad."

There was another, prolonged cheer outside, and Colonel Roosevelt, glancing from the broad window, saw the second detachment of Boy Scouts at attention on his lawn. He went out to greet them and watched them closely in their drills. They were well trained by Scout Master Frederick Trevor Hill, and the Colonel was enthusiastic in his congratulations.

"How did you get here from Irvington?" the Colonel shouted to Mr. Hill.

"We marched. Started at 10 o'clock this morning. Fifty minutes' hike, ten minutes' rest. Just like the army. We just got here."

It was then after 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The Colonel looked on silently for a moment as the boys went through their vigorous, tiring manoeuvres with a force and precision that stirred him.

"By George, I'm proud of you!" he said. "Did you hear that?" He turned to several friends near by him. "They marched from Irvington, these boys. This illustrates exactly what I have said. The real democracy comes from the democracy of the dog tent. When you get all the boys together in a hike like that you can tell who has got the stuff in him. It does me good to see this type of boy. You've all got the stuff in you."

The Colonel was told that the Irvington Scouts were the first to offer their services to the Government after the sinking of the Arabic, and he reiterated his congratulations. He also found much to be deplored in the fact that Oyster Bay has no Boy Scouts.

"I don't know who is to blame," he said, "but we will have to tell them about this."

Children from the Cove school also were greeted by the Colonel, and it was well toward 6 o'clock when the big day on Sagamore Hill was ended. The Colonel seemed to have gained new strength and cheer from what he had witnessed. One of the members of the Bible class whom Colonel Roosevelt met was introduced as "Henry Ford." The Colonel smiled.

"I am certainly very glad to meet you at last," was his reply.