

'THEODORE' GRASPS THE HAND OF 'WILL'

**But Roosevelt-Taft Greeting at
Union League Is Only That
and Nothing More.**

COLONEL ASSAILS PRESIDENT

**Follows Americanism Pleas of
Mr. Hughes with a Speech
Calling Wilson Timid.**

POTPOURRI OF POLITICIANS

**All Grades of Republicans and Pro-
gressives Represented—Barnes
Arrives Late.**

In any event, Taft and T. R. shook hands.

The much discussed, long heralded get-together meeting, which was to make the Republican Party great and reunited, took place last night in the carefully censored library and dining hall of the Union League Club. And in all the happenings which involved the heterogeneous mass of political figures—Old Guard, Progressives, progressive Republicans, and others who were not quite sure how they ought to be classified—the one most discussed, the one awaited with the deepest interest was the moment when the chief haters of 1912, Theodore Roosevelt and ex-President William Howard Taft, clasped hands.

The event came at a moment when newspaper reporters were led into a side room, where their eyes could not see and ears were useless to hear what might be said. Immediately afterward there were a dozen versions of what had taken place. There was the Whitman version and the Sheldon version, the Taft version, and the Roosevelt version. Edward E. O'Brien, a member of the Reception Committee, burst into the room where the reporters had been sent and said:

"They shook hands and there was the greatest cordiality. Yes, certainly! The greatest cordiality. I never saw such a smile on Colonel Roosevelt's face, and also upon that of Mr. Taft. Don't forget that; it was most cordial."

But of all the versions this was the only one which had anything to say about cordiality. The so-called Taft version, as relayed to the reporters by a friend who dropped into the room, was that "we shook hands as any gentlemen might do and there was not a word said."

Here's the True Story.

As a large proposition this version was pretty much the same as the others. The true story is this:

There was no reconciliation. Colonel Roosevelt, after shaking hands with eight or ten others who were in a group in the alcove of the library where the reception was held, found himself confronting Mr. Taft. Mr. Taft extended his hand and the Colonel shook it. There was uttered by each some passing triviality—a "how do you do"—and there the conversation ended. As far as could be learned neither mentioned the other by name, and the conversation, if such it might be called, was not taken up again during the evening. Colonel Roosevelt went on shaking hands with a thousand other men, greeting old friends who may have differed with him politically in the past four years with hearty words and broad smiles.

He shook hands with Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, who, by the way, extended his hand first also. He recalled here and there a happy incident of past relations, and laughed and joked about it. The briefest greeting of all was that with Mr. Taft.

On one other occasion Colonel Roosevelt and ex-President Taft shook hands since the rupture which brought them to the bitter fight for the nomination in 1912. That was at the funeral of Professor Lounsbury at New Haven on April 13, 1915. Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Taft were pallbearers. They shook hands and Mr. Taft addressed the Colonel by his first name. Colonel Roosevelt asked after the health of Mr. Taft. The conversation ended there.

Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Taft attended the funeral of Whitelaw Reid in this city on Jan. 4, 1913. They did not shake hands upon that occasion.

William Barnes, another of the haters of 1912, who may have recalled also the drubbing the Colonel gave him at Syracuse when he sued for libel, was late in arriving, reaching the club about 9:45 o'clock. Colonel Roosevelt, it was understood, was ready to shake hands with Barnes if Barnes extended his hand first, but when Barnes got there Colonel Roosevelt was about to deliver an address. The music which reached the ears of Barnes was a great outburst of applause—easily the most spontaneous and enthusiastic of the evening. When he looked up he found before him the smiling face of Colonel Roosevelt, ready with clenched fists to follow up an address by Mr. Hughes with one of his characteristically vigorous appeals to the true spirit of patriotism.

Depew Acts as Buffer.

Except for the brief moment when hands were clasped, Roosevelt and Taft were separated always by at least one person. In the receiving line it was Chauncey M. Depew. At the supper which followed the speaking they were seated at different tables—Colonel Roosevelt at a table labeled No. 2, Mr. Taft at table No. 3. Colonel Roosevelt also was two nearer the head of the receiving line at the reception.

Mr. Taft arrived at the club first, at any rate. There was a big crowd in front as he drove up shortly after 8 o'clock with State Chairman Frederick C. Tanner and Elihu Root, President of the club, and George T. Wilson, and the ex-President was cheered.

Then came William M. Calder, nominee for Senator; W. Murray Crane, Charles D. Hilles, John W. Weeks, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt with Regis H. Post and George W. Perkins; Charles E. Hughes with National Chairman Willcox.

Mr. Hughes arrived just as Colonel Roosevelt was plowing his way through the mass of men in the lower lobby of the club in a fight for a pathway to the elevator to take him to the reception room on the second floor. The crowd

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had been cheering enthusiastically for the Colonel, and when Mr. Hughes appeared the cheers for him mingled with those for Roosevelt.

"Three cheers and a tiger," shouted a club member.

"No, no, no tiger," cautioned another member. "We don't want any Tammany methods in this club." And the tiger wasn't given.

As Colonel Roosevelt plunged into the elevator, his old-time enemy, W. Murray Crane from Massachusetts, slipped a cautious way through the crowd and got in with him. He could be seen talking to the Colonel as the elevator rose. What he said was lost.

George R. Sheldon, former National Republican Treasurer, took Colonel Roosevelt in tow, and they strolled toward the alcove where the gathering of dignitaries was collected. There were perhaps twenty or thirty, and as they extended hands Colonel Roosevelt shook. He shook hands with Governor Whitman, with Mr. Calder, with Robert Bacon, with George Von L. Meyer, once a member of his Cabinet; with Chauncey M. Depew, and with General Horace Porter. And then, or about then, came Mr. Taft.

Sacred Line Bars Intrusion.

After this exchange of greetings they lined up to wait for the anxious horde in the hallways, held in formation by velvet ropes, which had been placed there to see that no newspaperman got by. If a newspaperman ventured even so little past the sacred line there was a loud command which tended to make the situation a trifle ridiculous at times.

The line in the alcove stiffened to meet the assault of the thousand or more. Here is the way they stood: Elihu Root, President of the club; Charles E. Hughes, Theodore Roosevelt, Chauncey M. Depew, William H. Taft, General Porter, Governor Whitman, Senator A. B. Fall of New Mexico, R. Livingston Beekman, Governor of Rhode Island; National Chairman Willcox, Senator Weeks, George Von L. Meyer, Robert Bacon, W. Cameron Forbes, head of the Hughes Alliance.

It took an hour for the long line of men of a thousand shades and convictions in the field of politics to file by. They showed how glad they were to see the Colonel back in the ranks fighting for the success of the party. They were vigorous in their handshakes and in their words, but no more vigorous than the Colonel. He had no enemies that he would admit to be such with the possible exception of Mr. Taft in his efforts to get men working together to beat Mr. Wilson.

As the last man filed by—it was the biggest crowd ever inside the carefully guarded doors of the Union League—there was a rush for the room where speeches were to be heard. They cheered for Mr. Root, they cheered for Mr. Hughes, and heard him tell what he proposed to do if elected, and of the faults of Mr. Wilson. They roared for the Colonel when he stood up and smiled in a way that was almost an open peal of laughter.

Colonel Assails Germany.

Colonel Roosevelt in his address made no reference to Mr. Taft or to the matter of reconciliation. He did attack the German-Americans and refer with bitter words to the sinking of the Lusitania, which he termed "murder on the high sea," a term not employed by Mr. Hughes.

He said that there was a debate now in progress among the shapers of Germany's policy on the question of submarines. There would be no such debate, he said, if the Germans knew that there was in the White House a President who would not tolerate such methods.

President Wilson in his speech delivered on Saturday, Colonel Roosevelt said, had expressed his real convictions, namely, that "he tapped his adversary on the wrist." The Wilson policies, he said, were being upheld by men whose shoulders "sloped like champagne bottles."

Mr. Taft made the nearest thing to an offer of reconciliation with Roosevelt, but it went unanswered. He said: "We are holding one of those exceptional meetings of the ex-Presidents' club. It is not a large membership and the members do not always entertain complete harmony of views. But there is one subject on which we are unanimous to a point which cannot be exaggerated, and that is that we are going to elect in November another member."

How the Guests Were Seated.

At the supper the tables where sat the men who played the most prominent part in the drama were arranged in this manner:

No. 1—Elihu Root, Charles E. Hughes, William R. Willcox, William M. Calder, Governor Whitman, and Mr. Frew.

No. 2—Colonel Roosevelt, George R. Sheldon, Robert Bacon, Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., R. A. C. Smith, and George W. Perkins.

No. 3—William H. Taft, Nicholas Murray Butler, Samuel W. Fairchild, J. Franklin Murphy, and James R. Sheffield.

Grouped about a dozen other tables were most of the leading lights in politics in this section, all trying to make their different views match in a

great love feast. They talked until the air seethed with politics and all that they should do. There was apparent, it seemed, the spirit at least of a fight to become reunited, although it seemed to hurt some of those who were there to do all the things that they did.

At the close of it all Colonel Roosevelt said good night to Mr. Hughes, wished him success and slipped away. Mr. Hughes, it was said, expressed delight at the way the evening had been passed.

SPEECH OF COL. ROOSEVELT.

An Arraignment of President's Recent Public Utterances.

The speech of Colonel Roosevelt in part follows:

Mr. President and fellow-members—We have had the good fortune—now I am measuring my words—we have had the good fortune to listen to the great speech of a great leader. It is the kind of a speech that is eminently proper in this club, a club formed in the dark days of the nation, in the days that tried men's souls, formed by men—I am happy to say that my father was one of the men—formed by men who dearly loved peace, and who loved righteousness more than peace; formed by men who did everything in their power to keep peace, who counseled a course of conduct which, if followed for the twenty years preceding the civil war, would have prevented war, but who, when, through the fault of others war came, did not shrink from the war. No man has a right to claim spiritual kinship with Abraham Lincoln if he is too proud to fight.

Fifty-odd years ago there were men in this country who were too proud to fight, but they were not found in this club, and they did not vote for Abraham Lincoln. Fifty-odd years ago there were men in the nation that were too proud to fight—that is, to fight a foreign foe. I won't say a foreign foe. That was a wrong statement of what occurred. "Too proud to fight" the foe of the nation, but they were perfectly willing to fight the police in the draft riots. And now, in the greatest crisis that this country, that the world, has seen—that we have seen since the civil war—in the greatest crisis for the world as a whole—that the world has seen since the Napoleonic wars—it is our duty and privilege to stand once more for the principles for which the men of the early '60s, who founded this club, stood; to stand for peace, honestly and sincerely by every honorable expedient, but to stand for it in that effective way which means that the man standing for it asks it as a right, in the spirit of justice, and does not cringe for it as a favor to be granted contemptuously by a wrongdoer.

If, after the Gettysburg speech, Abraham Lincoln had appointed a conference of the type now sitting in New London we would not think of the Gettysburg speech except with bitterness or laughter. If, after the second inaugural, Abraham Lincoln had sanctioned the retention of slavery in any form in this nation we should hang our heads whenever we thought of that inaugural or of Abraham Lincoln himself. We have a right now to ask the men of this country to decide in the spirit of the men who, in 1864, returned Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency.

One of Lincoln's then supporters, James Russell Lowell, the poet, spoke of a certain shifty politician of those days, or rather wrote of him as follows:

His greatness lies in genius lies
Than in the power as occasions rise
Lifelong convictions to extemporize.

The breed is not dead.

Mr. Wilson's speech last Saturday was an invitation to foreign powers to do whatever they wished, because if he were in power they need not be afraid. Another thing: In Mr. Lincoln's speech of acceptance—I think it was in that place that he so happily named Shadow Lawn—

Mr. Root—You said "Mr. Lincoln's speech"; you meant Mr. Wilson's speech.

Mr. Roosevelt—Good heavens! That was a verbal inaccuracy with a vengeance. In Mr. Wilson's speech of acceptance two or three—a few weeks ago, whenever it was—there was one sentence among many of which I took note, in which he said "that if all essential rights were invaded by any nation they must be met by prompt challenge and resistance."

Weasel Words Again.

Now! Take the sentence about keeping us out of war at all costs last Saturday, and these sentences about prompt challenge and resistance, together, and one group of sentences is the "weasel" and the other, the "egg." It is open to Mr. Wilson which is the weasel and which the egg. But one of them sucks all the meaning out of the other. If the speech last Saturday expressed his real convictions, then by "prompt challenge and resistance" he means tapping his adversary on the wrist.

And if you can once persuade an adversary that that is all that he has to fear, he grows bold. As Mr. Hughes has pointed out this evening in what Mr. Hughes, I can truthfully call you, noble speech—it was a great speech—Mr. Wilson is praised for the most part by people with shoulders that slope like a champagne bottle, by people with timid hearts and quivering voices who say that he has kept us out of war. Kept us out of war? He has put us in three little wars that I can name. War—now, I am not a lawyer; I think the lawyers among you know that—but I believe that Attell, in "The Law of Nations," defines war as the enforcement of opinions or rights by force of arms.

We are assured officially that we have kept peace with Mexico. During the last three and a half years more Americans have been killed by Mexicans than were killed by Spaniards in the entire Spanish War. Now, if any one cares to say we have been waging peace instead of war, he is welcome to whatever com-

fort he can obtain from the misuse of nomenclature.

We can be certain that with Mr. Hughes as President, in the first place, our people will be protected in their lives, in foreign lands, or on the high seas—that is the primary duty; that is the first duty—and in the next place that our people will be protected in their property in foreign lands, or on the high seas—a secondary duty, but an important duty also. And in the next place we can rest assured that if Mr. Hughes is President the Executive of the nation will be terrorized by no one, whether from abroad or at home. [Laughter and applause.]

Nothing more ominous to the future of America has ever been seen than the passing of this mis-called eight-hour law, which was merely a law to raise wages; than the passing of that law with the legislators looking not to the President, but to the great labor leaders, who sat, watch in hand, to see the law enacted.

Incidentally I want to say that if Mr. Wilson really believed that the principle of an eight-hour law was so sacred that you could not arbitrate it, why doesn't he begin with his chambermaid and butler? I speak quite seriously. If it is a sacred thing, not to be discussed in terms of common sense, then let him say that the housemaid does not come on duty until 8 and goes off at 4 and that any day there is a dinner and the butler has to stay up until 10 or 11, he does not appear at either breakfast or lunch. [Laughter.]

Now, gentlemen, that is not a catch matter of which I am speaking. If what he says is true, as a universal and sacred truth, then let him apply it in his own household first.

I was particularly pleased to hear what Mr. Hughes said about the need of discipline in this nation, discipline in peace and discipline in the tasks and discipline to prepare us for the tasks of war. You know my opinion. You know that I do not believe that any man is fit to be a free man who isn't willing and eager and ready when the call of the country comes to do whatever service is demanded of him in war or in peace.

And I not only stand for preparedness in the shape of a big, first-class, professional navy, and a small, first-class professional army, but I stand for universal military training of every young man in the nation.

And I would not let any immigrant who comes here vote until he had had that training under the flag, so that he should know to which flag it was that he owed full loyalty.

I believe in labor unions—I am an honorary member of one myself—but I believe first of all in the great Union to which all of us belong, the Union of the United States of America.

Well, I have not been able to profit by the good example of quality. I have copied the other example of quantity in your speech, Mr. Hughes.

TAFT LIKENS 1916 TO 1896.

Says This Is the Most Important Election Since Civil War.

In his address at the Union League Club last night, Mr. Taft said in part:

I concur in the view of Mr. Roosevelt that this election is the most important election that we have had in this country since the war. It likens itself in some ways to the campaign of 1896, in that in '96 the question was whether we should preserve the honor and integrity of the country and not reduce our debts by legislation 50 per cent.; but this is even more important than that, in the fact that our adversaries in this election rely on the confidence that the American people have become so steeped in comfort and luxury and the unwillingness to make sacrifices that, by an appeal to that people that we have not been put into war—when it was not necessary for us to go to war at any rate—and that we have now great temporary prosperity—the people should not be fooled into understanding what are the real issues before them and how momentous those issues are.

Now we have been kept out of war. Have we been? Is the treatment that we have given to Mexico one that assures us peace? Had we allowed Mexico to work out her own salvation, as we have been told in the Indianapolis speech we ought to do, then we should not be responsible, as we are now, for the conditions that prevail in Mexico. And therefore when this war is over the policy we have pursued in Mexico is going to follow us, and we may have to answer for our intermeddling, our desire to punish one person, and to say to the Mexicans whom they may have to rule over them and whom they have. I do not consider that keeping us out of war.

Now, I am not going to detain you any longer. We are here to welcome the next President of the United States. And I may say incidentally also we are holding one of those exceptional meetings of the ex-Presidents' club. It is not a large membership. And the members do not always, or perhaps ever, entertain completely harmonious views.

But there is one subject upon which we are unanimous to a point that I can't exaggerate, and that is that we are going to elect in November another member of that club.

HUGHES REPEATS ATTACKS.

Urges Americanism, Assails Our Course Toward Mexico.

In his address Mr. Hughes went over much of the ground he has covered in

his campaign addresses. He made this statement, which was taken as an answer to assertions made by President Wilson in his address on Saturday:

"We have heard in recent days that the alternative of the policy of the present Administration is war. I think the alternative of the policy of the present Administration is peace with honor."

"I am a man devoted to the pursuits of peace. We cherish the ideals of peace. We entertain no thought of aggression, we are not covetous, we are not exploiters, we are Americans, and American rights must be maintained throughout the world. That is the cornerstone of our security; that is the essential basis of our peace. We are not, as I have said, truculent; we are not courting struggle, but I do say with all seriousness that we have been living in a period of national humiliation.

"Our citizens have been murdered, their property destroyed, and our commerce interrupted. The alternative of a weak and vacillating policy is not war; it is a firm insistence upon known rights in a world where all nations desire our friendship, and we desire the friendship of all, and where only the most inexcusable blundering could drag us into strife."

He repeated his charge that the Administration had not done all that it should to advance American commerce abroad.

"When men who are found in a neighboring country engaged in lawful pursuits ask for American protection the inquiry is made of them whether they did not go beyond the borders of this nation in order to make money. If there are any who have forfeited their rights

under international law let them be singled out. If this nation desires to promote American enterprise it must be known of all that American rights with respect to lives, property, and commerce will be safeguarded in every part of the world."