

ROOSEVELT ON THE STUMP

Makes Many Speeches in the First Day of His Campaigning Tour.

VIEWS UPON LABOR PROBLEMS

The State's Relation and Duty to Workingmen Discussed by the Republican Candidate — Great Crowds at Glens Falls.

GLENS FALLS, Oct. 17.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt, after a day of political speech-making from the platforms of a special train which is bearing him through the interior of the State, addressed enthusiastic Republicans here to-night upon the issues involved in the present contest, as seen from his standpoint. He expressed himself as well pleased with the incidents and results of the first day of his campaigning tour, and with its conduct by William J. Youngs. It is estimated that from the time the train left New York until Col. Roosevelt retired to-night, he looked upon 25,000 people.

So large was the number of people that desired to hear Col. Roosevelt speak to-night that the McKinley Republican Club was compelled to engage another hall and have an overflow meeting. The opera house, where the first meeting was held, holds 3,000 people, and was packed to the doors. The other house accommodates 1,800, and was also full. Both meetings were under the direction of State Treasurer Colvin, at whose home the speakers were entertained. At both there were bands of music, glee clubs, and abundant enthusiasm.

At both meetings Col. Roosevelt and Lieut. Gov. Woodruff spoke. The other speakers were John Proctor Clarke of New York and Stewart L. Woodford of Brooklyn. At the large meeting Meredith B. Little, President of the club, presided, and at the other Daniel B. Keefe. Col. Roosevelt was received with a great demonstration at each meeting when he appeared, as were also Gen. Woodford and Lieut. Gov. Woodruff. Col. Roosevelt said, in part, at the larger meeting:

"I realize fully that I have been nominated for Governor because the mass of my fellow-Republicans showed their belief that I should be nominated. And exactly as I know that I owe my nomination to the people, so, if I am elected, I shall feel that I owe my election to the people, and to the people I shall hold myself accountable for the administration of the great office intrusted to my hands. And I shall strive so to administer it as to make each citizen of New York feel a little prouder at the end of my term of office that he is a citizen of New York.

"Now, a word as to what we have grown to call the interests of labor. So far as possible I hope always to treat the interests of every man as I do those of every other man—that is, to treat all alike as Americans. But we have all of us grown to recognize that, in the complex condition of modern life, it is necessary on certain points to consider the interests of men in groups. Workmen who work primarily with their hands form a great body with peculiar and special interests. This being the fact, it is wise to recognize it, for it is always wise to recognize facts.

VALUE OF SELF-HELP.

"During the last fifteen years most of us have, I think, seen a good deal of light upon these labor problems. I know that fifteen years ago I shrunk from taking part in or steps for the resolution which I now believe to be wise and proper. It took me some time to realize that it was wise to abolish the convict contract labor system and to regulate the hours of labor under certain conditions. I still hold as strongly as I held then that self-help is the first requisite, and that a man must always rely chiefly upon his own energy, perseverance, skill, and thrift. But I recognize now, as I did not recognize, and as few people recognized then, the very great good that can be accomplished by men acting in combination with each other in the form of trades unions or otherwise.

"But furthermore, the aid of the State can often with wisdom be invoked. The State should never be called upon to interfere unless we are certain that the end is good and that it cannot be as well attained without State interference, but if these three facts are established, then it becomes our duty to see that the State does interfere; and no general law can be laid down that will apply to all cases. Each must be judged on its merits, and we must follow neither the doctrinaire who would have the State do everything, or that other doctrinaire who would have the State do nothing.

"We have the right to establish a system of factory inspection. We have the right to make and enforce laws against sweat shops in tenement houses. It is right to take such steps, for the same reason as it is right to establish a police and fire system, when the growth of the community reaches a point when it is no longer desirable to leave to each man the protection of his own property.

"My attention was first vividly drawn to these questions fifteen years ago, when in the New York Legislature. It was in connection with the bill prohibiting the manufacture of cigars in tenement houses. Like many other young men, I had been trained in what was styled the Manchester school of political economy, and I started in my investigations with the theory that the State should not interfere with what either landlord or tenant did in the building. After thorough investigation I became convinced the tenement house cigar factory system was productive of great evils both to those who were its immediate victims and to their competitors outside, and I took the lead in working for its abolition.

STATE INTERFERENCE.

"It was this that first set me to study the labor problems, and the problems of life in the quarters of our big cities from which certain bodies of our laboring men are chiefly drawn. I have not studied them from the standpoint either of the theorist or the political demagogue. I have been over them at first hand, and with various leaders and organizers of the different trades unions. I became convinced that it was necessary to have the State interfere, along certain lines, to benefit all workingmen's positions. I am happy to say that the great bulk of the legislation beneficial to the interests of the workingmen has been put on our statute books during the last four years, while Mr. Morton and Mr. Black have been Governors, and while the State has been controlled by the party to which I belong.

"The hours of labor have been wisely limited; the workingmen have been given a preferred claim for their wages over all debtors; the safety of workingmen employed in dangerous trades like those which involve the use of scaffolding has been secured; the competition of the convict has been guarded against; rigid provisions have been made to lessen the evils of work in sweatshops, and to protect the health and comfort of those who work in their own rooms in tenement houses; similar laws have been established for the benefit of those employed in bakeries and mines. It has also been provided, since the Republicans came into power, that the State should not directly or indirectly pay a less rate of wages than the current rate.

"There were many of these laws about which I should have felt very doubtful fifteen years ago. I have paid some attention to their workings now, and I am convinced that they do good. The State should be a model employer to its own employees. It should insist upon getting the very best quality of work, but it should give the workman good wages and see that while at his work his well-being is guarded. Moreover, it must see that the laws affecting the laboring man outside of his relations with the State are carried out in spirit and letter. In some municipalities these laws have been violated with impunity, and this cannot be prevented where the municipality authorities refuse to enforce them; but so far as

the State has power it must and shall see that these laws are enforced.

POINTS TO HIS RECORD.

"There is now less need of further legislation than there is of giving a fair trial to the laws already on the statute books by seeing that they are enforced. Here, again, I ask merely that you should gauge my present promise on my past performance. I was for two years on the New York Health Board, and if you examine our record for these two years you will see that never before or since was such good work done by the Health Board for the people who dwell in the congested districts, the tenement house districts. Our greatest work was done in tearing down the old rookeries, the tenement houses in which men and women were crowded like swine, and where the death rate among the children reached hideous figures. When we did this we did it against very powerful and wealthy interests, and yet we were helping the poor and the weak who had no power. We were threatened in every way, but we did our duty. We stopped gross wrongs and abuses. Just as we did then, we will do in the future in the defense of the right.

"If I am elected Governor I shall feel to the full the weight of responsibility resting upon me. I shall apply to every question of legislation or administration that comes before me the test: 'Does it or does it not serve the interests of the State.' I shall consider it from that standpoint, and from that standpoint only. And when I come to deal with any public servant, with any man under me responsible in any way for my administration, I shall uphold him if he does his duty well, but if he does his duty ill and, above all, if he shows moral turpitude, if he is not rigidly honest, I shall assuredly punish him, and from that punishment he will not be able to escape by any exertion whatsoever of personal or political influence. That is my creed.

"I am asked not to forget the National Guard. I was for three years a member of the National Guard, and I served last year as a volunteer in Cuba. I think I know what the Guard needs and wants. If I am elected Governor I will put the Guard at the highest point of soldierly efficiency."

Lieut. Gov. Woodruff said:

"As I was deprived on account of my official obligations of the privilege of participation in the war which has added so much lustre to the previous brilliant civic record of the man who is to-day so gallantly bearing aloft the standard of Republicanism in this contest, and who is certainly leading the Republican hosts to victory with that same earnestness with which he led his Rough Riders up San Juan Hill, and as I have never been called upon to take part in National affairs, it seems indeed appropriate that I should confine myself to-night to a consideration of State issues."

Mr. Woodruff then took up the canal question, discussing it at some length. He was followed by Gen. Woodford, who appealed to the audience to support the President's Administration by rolling up a great Republican majority.

The dense crowd outside the two meeting places that could not obtain admission was later in the evening appeased by an eloquent speech by William J. Youngs of Queens County, who, with Senator Stranahan, held the crowd's attention until Col. Roosevelt appeared and said a few words.