

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

PART TWO

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FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR

## Is Theodore Roosevelt a Great Man or a Sham?

Is Theodore Roosevelt a great man or a sham? These are the questions which the Herald today submits to its readers for their answer.

There is a cloud of witnesses to either characteriza-

tion. Mr. James Bryce has praised him as the greatest president since Washington. Mr. Edward Harriman has denounced him as the most dangerous man that ever occupied the presidential chair. Between these two extremes all sorts of intermediate shades of opinion have been expressed by friends and foes.

What verbal compromise, if any, would succinctly sum up his virtues and his failings?

Mr. Roosevelt's three most characteristic sayings are "the strenuous life," "the square deal" and "the big stick." His admirers hold that he has embodied all three before the world. Are they right or wrong?

Conceming his strenuousness there can be no question. He is the most active, the most energetic, the most forceful, of all our present-day statesmen. But are his activities always directed into proper channels? Is his energy utilized or wasted? Is his force always or usually exerted on the right side?

Has he given a square deal to his foes as well as to his friends, given it alike to the businessman, the politician, the private individual, the general public?

Has he wielded the big stick to the benefit of the countries and the peoples under our patronage?

Of his personal popularity there can be no more doubt than of his strenuousness. But is the good feeling which he creates born of unqualified admiration and respect?

Or is there a burlesque side to his character which appeals gratefully to our sense of humor? In other words, is he the nation's darling a spoiled child?

Or is he a massive, many-sided, full-grown man who imposes himself upon us by sheer force of his intellect, his virtue, and his dominating personality?

JAMES WALTER CROOK, Professor of Political Economy, Amherst College—"I am inclined to think that Roosevelt's place in history is that of being one of the reconstructors of our American democracy."

"In the system of competition in business the Anglo-Saxons are allowed more freedom than is best,

and Roosevelt's function has been to call attention to the social interests. It sometimes has been forgotten.

"Posterity will forget his weaknesses, which perhaps are common with his strengths, but will forget all that will remain of his straightforward and honest dealing with the whole people and award him a place among the larger minded men of the republic. I do not mean by this that he will be looked upon as greater than Washington or Lincoln, but that he will be reckoned with any of the others."

GEORGE HARRIS, D. D., President of Amherst College—"I am an admirer of President Roosevelt—a great admirer of him—and if I were going to answer either of these questions I would wish to do the subject full justice. Both are questions that would entail considerable thought. The president is a great executive. There can be no doubt of that. I look upon myself as being enthusiastic concerning what he has accomplished. His place in history—well, it will be high, I am sure. How will posterity view him? That I cannot say. I believe posterity will do him full justice at least."

FREDERICK LINCOLN THOMPSON, Professor of History at Amherst—"I cannot answer either of the questions. The fact is I try to teach my students history and never attempt to indulge in prophecy. Therefore I hesitate, in fact will not attempt to place Roosevelt in history or venture an opinion as to how he may be regarded in future years."

THOMAS NIXON CARVER, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Political Economy of Harvard University—"I should regard President Roosevelt as the noisiest president we have ever had. I am somewhat different from others in my ideas regarding just what place in history he will hold. In fact, I don't think that I could be able to answer that question at all. I will say that I think him to be one of the greatest presidents. I do not, however, think him the greatest—no, he is not that. To my mind he will be given in posterity something about the same place as Andrew Jackson. Jackson and Roosevelt are somewhat similar. Beyond what I have said, I do not think I could make any further prophecy."

PROFESSOR H. J. FORD, of the Politics Department of Princeton—"Roosevelt did a great deal to facilitate the development of the presidential office as the chief representative of the people. He did not facilitate the conception of the presidency as a representative institution. That was a question at issue between the Whigs and the Democrats, and President Taft was the first executive to distinctly announce the doctrine that the president represented the nation as a whole, and is the only branch of the government that does. Congress represents localities and special interests."

President Roosevelt has done more to give beneficial power to this doctrine than any of his predecessors, however. His administration will undoubtedly be accredited with great constitutional importance and will shine in history as the most powerful movement ever made up in his time to infuse a democratic character into the working of government and to bring the cause of legislation under the control of public opinion. Although it is hard to predict what place posterity will assign him, there is no doubt in my mind that the president is a great man in every sense of the word. His rudeness of speech and action are characteristic of great men and one might almost say that they are a necessary contingent upon greatness in the field of politics. The petty, selfish actions of the Congress, whose successors have already been elected and which is in reality no longer entitled to office, are more than reprehensible, and merely the mean, narrow revenge of a body whose corruption has been revealed."

R. H. McELROY, Professor of History in Princeton—"There is no denying the foremost rank that Roosevelt's administration will attain in history, but whether this is due to the president's ability or merely to favor of circumstances is not to the excellence of his advisers. Hay and Root is a question in my mind. We are not in a position at present to censure Roosevelt. It will probably be many years before the public will be in possession of the true facts of the case in the recent unpleasantness, and not until then can he be assigned to his proper place in history. His administration is conspicuous because of the number of affairs of worldwide interest and importance that have been consummated in the last seven years, but any prophecy as to the enduring greatness of Roosevelt the man is likely to be contradicted by the verdict of the next generation. Too many men conspicuous in their time have been relegated to oblivion in 40 or 50 years for us to venture a prediction as to Roosevelt's lasting greatness."

W. M. DANIELS, Professor of Political Economy in Princeton—"Roosevelt will probably be known best in American history as one who magnified the powers and activities of the presidential office, perhaps as one who began what seems to be a salutary movement in the direction of organizing the political chaos which our irresponsible system of dark lantern legislation has created in state and nation. Perhaps next in importance is his inauguration of an economic policy which has brought large corporate interests to feel themselves subject to the law of the land. For these reforms an important place in history is assured him."

DR. PAUL B. VAN DYKE, Professor of History in Princeton—"No man's place in history can be estimated until a sufficient time has elapsed to give perspective."

PROFESSOR IRVING FISHER, of Yale—"I believe that President Roosevelt will go down in history as one of our great presidents. Undoubtedly he has his faults, and they are uppermost in the minds of a great many people, and undoubtedly he has made mistakes which he probably will be the first to recognize. But one of the very reasons I admire him is because he is not deterred from going ahead because of the mistakes he may make. This is a time when rapid action is needed and a policy of overcaution dealing in the trust question is far wiser than the Roosevelt policy, which has been more or less justly accused of being hasty."



THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

and his forcefulness of character and honesty of purpose will be universally conceded.

"It will be noted, however, that in his efforts to accomplish what he regarded as necessary for the public welfare he did not always show the consideration due to the collateral branches of the federal government and that he left the legacy of expensive methods in the administration of the government to surround his successors. It will be regretted that he did not in this show a greater interest in the dealing with individuals. Like the present German emperor he will be remembered in history as one of the striking figures of our time."

THE reason Mr. Roosevelt appeals so to the average American is his honest vitality and his willingness and his desire to do his work in plain English. He has principles and has utilized justice more than any previous president in the maintenance of a sound public system. He has been criticized for doing things with so bold a noise, but usually that is the only way—especially in politics—to do things effectively. For instance, he could not have cleared up the slumbers houses of Chicago in the quiet way which many people believe he should have tried. Instead he brought the packing house houses to terms by forcing them in their one vulnerable point, the public demand for their products. In no other way could he do this. The president, in no other way, could he get the public to support him.

"During the latter part of that time he has had as political opponent W. J. Bryan. The greatest popular orator the world has yet seen. Roosevelt has substituted honesty for dishonesty in politics, direction for indecision in diplomacy. He has ended the trusts and reformed industry; he has actually accomplished more than ever before in the way of raising the general moral tone."

"He has disappointed all the prophets of evil; he has not involved us in war, but given us a voice among nations. He has earned the title of Col. Harvey and of all those who are the heating Aristides called 'The Just.'

"A slender, delicate boy, his doctrine of energetic has shown that a still unhampered by squeamishness and fear can make the sound and body strong and rule the world."

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"It seems to me that the harm President Roosevelt

may have done is very much less than that which he has been accused of doing. For instance, the panic of last year was ascribed to Mr. Roosevelt by many persons who do not understand the financial and monetary causes which made it the worst disaster of later times.

"We all ought to admire President Roosevelt for the possession of these simple and yet rare qualities of courage and integrity of purpose. These alone prove a man of a multitude of sins. The ordinary politician is bound and destined to be more or less warped and controlled by selfish and underground influences."

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frequent and shocking, and he has been apparently entirely oblivious to the fact that his policies constitute a disastrous departure of the government, and are not within his province. He undermines the confidence of the people in the durability of one of the most dangerous and reprehensible elements of society which can do, and again and again he has insulted the judiciary, and without reason. He despises and is my opinion will receive no service of history for his lack of respect for the court of this country.

"While he deserves credit for some things, I think that when history carefully sums up the results of his administration it will not give him a place among the really great presidents of the United States. That is an remarkable man, it is not to be denied. We have had no president like him, and probably will not have for a hundred years to come."

DAVID STARN JORDAN, President of the Stanford University—"Roosevelt will have a very high place in American history. Most, if not all, Americans, its animals and its products, second, from the high moral standards he has exhibited and carried into practice; third, because he has been particularly immune to all questions of fear and favor; fourth, he has actually done things and set a high standard of integrity; fifth, he has made mistakes, plenty of them, and corrected most of them; while other men usually have been hesitating for fear of being rebuked. His influence on posterity will be large and clearly marked. He is a man who sees no political and social life in terms of action, and he has done just as much as many could to set us in thinking right as a nation, and to think right is to act right. Roosevelt is certainly one of the great men of our time."

BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, President of the University of California—"You ask whether Theodore Roosevelt is really a great president? The range of his intelligence and of his intelligent interests certainly surpasses that of any of his predecessors. His mind is quick, impulsive, singularly receptive and accurate. As an intellectual man he ranks along with Jefferson. In the application of moral discriminations to public life and the inspiration of moral enthusiasm regarding public duty he may well prove to be the greatest preacher and doer of political righteousness that America has ever had. National legislation, the Panama canal, the husbanding of national resources, the Russo-Japanese peace all are progressive works that look toward greatness, while the setting of government aside, a coalition to block the path of government, the advancement of his party into a kingdom where he could combat social revolution have made him in the larger perspective the greatest conservative force of his day. In a measure that is really great he serves his country and is not afraid."

PROFESSOR JEREMIAH W. JENKS, Professor of Political Economy at Cornell University—"It is never safe to predict a man's place in history, but there can be little question that President Roosevelt will rank among American statesmen will be a high one. He came to the presidency at a time ripe for a leader of the people. He has understood truly, feelings, their aspirations, their prejudices even better than any man in consequence he has been able to advance reform. He has contributed more than any other man to the moral awakening of the American people in matters of business and of politics. Even in international politics with the wide extension of Secretaries Hay and Root he has made this moral influence felt. This moral spirit given by the first citizen of the republic to his nation, especially to young men, is a greater social and political service than any specific political act, but his policies will also prove fruitful. The control of corporations, the building of the Panama canal, the establishment of future peace by arbitration treaties, as well as by a strong navy, the uplift of the farming population, the advancement of the civil service, the nomination of young energetic men on merit, are all policies that work for good to posterity."

### ROOSEVELT'S CAREER IN A NUTSHELL.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT was born in New York City, Oct. 27, 1858, the second son of Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., a merchant and philanthropist, prepared for college under a tutor and was graduated from Harvard college in 1880. In the same year he married and made a trip to Europe.

In 1881 he published his first book, "The Naval War of 1812," which was well received.

Meanwhile he was studying law, but he abandoned it for politics, and in the autumn of 1881 was elected to the New York legislature as a Republican and a champion of civil service reform, serving continuously until 1884.

In the session of 1884 he was Republican candidate for speaker, assuming a Democratic majority, and in 1884 was chairman of the committee on cities and of the special committee which investigated abuses in the municipal administration of New York.

In 1884 he attended the national Republican convention at Chicago, as chairman of the New York delegation. He supported Senator Edmunds for the presidential nomination, but when Blaine was nominated entered actively in the campaign in his behalf.

For two years 1884-5 he lived on a ranch he had purchased in North Dakota, studying the people and writing. In 1885 he published "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman."

In 1886 he ran for mayor of New York as an independent Republican, but was defeated by the Democratic candidate, Abraham S. Hewitt.

In May, 1889, President Harrison appointed him a member of the United States civil service commission. After making a record for strenuous devotion to the principles to which he had early pledged himself he resigned April 8, 1897, to become assistant secretary of the navy.

On the declaration of war with Spain he left the navy department to negotiate with Dr. Leonard Wood, a young army officer, the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, popularly known as Roosevelt's Rough Riders. Dr. Wood became colonel and Mr. Roosevelt lieutenant-colonel. For gallantry in the service at San Juan he was promoted to command of the regiment.

In November, 1898, he was elected governor of the state of New York by a plurality of 1,000. He initiated an investigation into alleged frauds in the civil service system and favored the enforcement of the Pendleton law, providing for the election of civil service franchises, and the further extension of the service system.

His course as governor has caused a division in his party and enthusiasm, as there has been a more pronounced opposition to him than to his predecessor, Dr. Roscoe Conkling, who was elected in 1895. In November of 1899 he was succeeded by Dr. Charles E. Smith, who was elected after the nomination against him was rejected in the Senate of the state.

Mr. Roosevelt's administration was not popular in the house, and soon after his arrival, he was subject to a vote of no confidence. He was compelled to resign in January, 1901, and was succeeded by Dr. Roscoe Conkling.

In the Bipartisan National Association of Bill in 1901, Roosevelt was nominated and in the ensuing campaign defeated Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate. In the campaign he made a speech in which he pronounced both sides to submit their differences to arbitration.

On June 2, 1901, President Roosevelt offered his services to promote peace between the warring nations of Russia and Japan. As a result representatives of both nations met at Portsmouth, N. H., on June 3, 1901. On Aug. 29, the treaty of peace was signed. By this international service, Mr. Roosevelt received the Nobel peace prize in 1904.