

How Presidential Candidates Await the Eventful Day

NOW that the bustle and preliminary hubbub of the presidential nominations are over the candidates have nothing to do— theoretically, that is— but fold their arms and wait, having already put themselves in the hands of their friends.

There are, however, many incentives that are calculated to stimulate a presidential candidate's activity—that is, mental activity. Most of them are political and, to a certain extent, personal as well. It would be about as easy for a man of Mr. Roosevelt's temperamental activity to remain passive in the hands of his friends as it would to picture his opponent in an attitude of inert expectancy, his keen perceptive faculties at perfect rest, his store of mental resources unimpaired.

The picturesque Long Island village of Oyster Bay, as for many summers heretofore, gives welcome shelter to the Roosevelts. The president's modest estate, known as Sagamore Hill, so termed from the rather lofty knoll on which the house is built, is about two miles from the postoffice of Oyster Bay, but no one who has business with the proprietor of Sagamore Hill need hesitate to that account; his letters will not be delayed. The residence, though unpretentious and entitled to slight architectural distinction, is modern in its equipment and suggestive of great comfort. It is a rather straggling, many gabled cottage, built of brick and shingles and bearing the evidences of numerous additions. The approach to Sagamore Hill is its redeeming feature—quite sufficient, in fact, to counterbalance all defects. It is over a macadamized roadway along the bay shore and afterward by an easy ascent through a grove of chestnut, oak and dogwood trees. On the facade of the



SAGAMORE HILL, OYSTER BAY, N. Y., ROOSEVELT SUMMER HOME.

porte cochere a pair of branching antlers remind the visitor of the president's passion for the chase, and the big square reception hall is suggestive of the entrance to a prosperous taxidermist's, so lavish is the display of preserved specimens of America's yet

nonextinct fauna. To add to the illustration, the floor is covered with parthenon, and in one corner stands a hut rack made of a set of antlers with twenty-four branches.

There will be games other than political played at Sagamore Hill during



ROSEMOUNT, ESOPUS, N. Y., HOME OF JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER.

the summer. Four rollicking boys and a girl who is not offered to be classed with them for purposes of observation are sufficient to insure that. The Roosevelt youngsters do not belong to that model type of children who "should be seen and not heard." On the

contrary, they are likely to be heard long before they can be seen. As an old fisherman at the village once facetiously remarked: "Then kids is the most permeable young uns I ever see. Ef ye can't see 'em ye kin sure hear 'em." It was the same rural philosopher who

said of the president, "When Teddy's playin' with them political cusses the kids hey to keep shady, but when he's playin' with the kids them fellers don't stand in shew at all."

There is nothing classic about Esopus except the name, and it is not easy to trace an analogy between this sleepy Ulster county hamlet and the tragedian who delighted the Rome of so long ago. It rivals Oyster Bay in its opportunities for cultivating a dolce far niente existence. Until now, when the ubiquity of a worldwide notoriety confronts it, it was the most inconspicuous of the Empire State's hidden byways. For the present, however, its dream of solitude is over; it has been discovered.

After Judge Parker's candidacy became a reasonable probability the outside world began to demand a little information concerning the rural habits of Esopus' chief citizen. Of course the village was still too fast asleep to make much account of its increased importance, but outsiders began to feel an interest in matters Esopian. The railroad authorities, for instance, with thrifty prescience, ordered a new station, and it will be brought in sections from Kingston and put together on the spot. A new hotel—there is an old one—is also contracted for, and that fact indicates more than anything else that Esopus will become a spot for pilgrimages and that there will be pilgrims, plenty of them. Not to indulge in too much casuality, there have already been pilgrims.

Rosemount, Judge Parker's estate in Ulster county, is a veritable farm, so that when the committee comes bearing the official tidings of his nomination he may be surprised in the exact predicament of a Cincinnati, for it is a matter of fact that the judge is rather more than an amateur farmer. According to his daughter, who is the wife of a minister and must be regarded as absolutely correct in her statement, he spends all the forenoons while the fam-

ily is at Rosemount in looking after the workmen, tending the stock and assisting in the fields. He rises at daybreak, too, and takes a plunge off the dock into the Hudson which forms the eastern boundary of his farm. Before he makes his rather hearty breakfast he takes a stiff gallop across country. He does not sit his horse as ordinary riders do, but holds himself upright, buttons his coat and lets his steed go full speed for several miles.

When the Democratic candidate has had enough of farming or when there is a slack time, there are other diversions to which he may resort without sacrificing either time or dignity. If he is inclined to a closer study of nature than his own premises afford he may go to John Burroughs, who is his not far away neighbor, and be made wise concerning the doings and possibly sayings of the great naturalist, creatures that are fearless in the presence of that charming naturalist and philosopher. If he is experiencing a temporary spiritual apathy he may betake himself to the recently dedicated Episcopal Monastery of the Holy Cross, which is close at hand, and be comforted by the kindly ministrations of Father Huntington and his associates. If he prefers to receive such benefit from the hands of the secular clergy he may ride eight miles across country to Kingston and call upon his much respected son-in-law, Rev. Charles Mercer Hall, who when quite a young ecclesiastic had a very pretty taste for asceticism. But the charms of pretty Miss Bertha Parker outweighed those of the cloister.

Both candidates are especially fortunate in the possession of all this vigor and robustness and love for the outdoor life. The American people—among all nations the most determined to choose for themselves what is best—demand that their executive shall be the possessor of a brilliant mental equipment, but it must be supplemented by a sound body.

GEORGE J. JONES.

Alaska Is Now a Land of Cheerful Possibilities

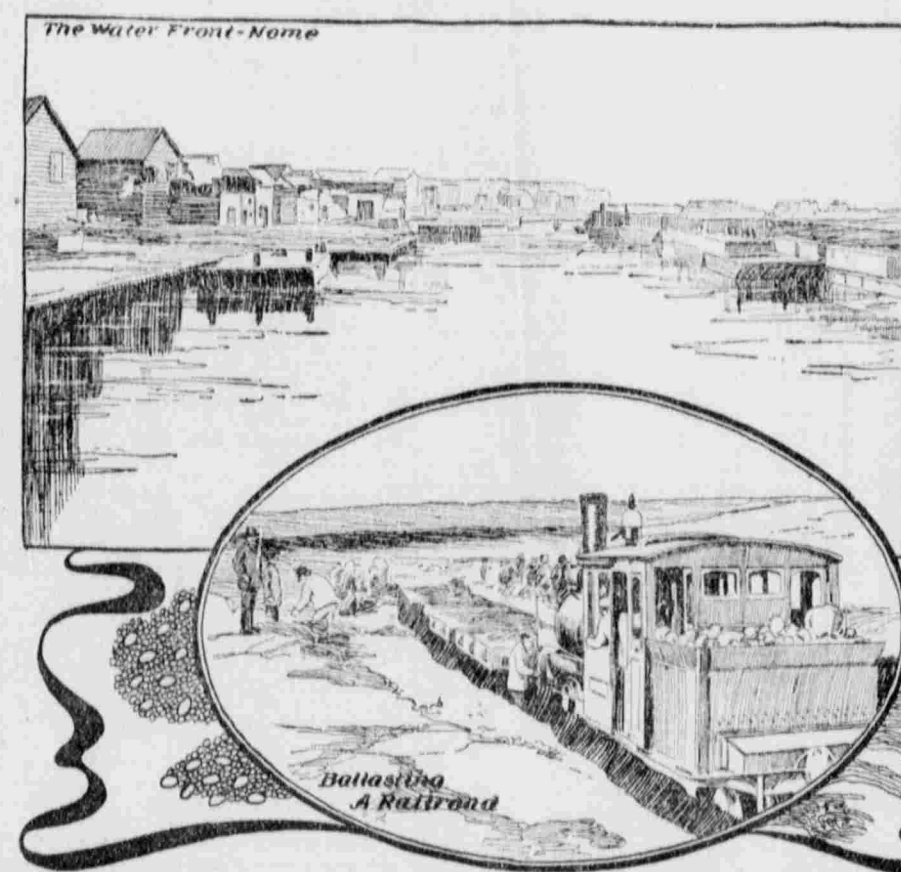
THE region now being opened by the building of the Alaska Central railroad is probably the richest and most fertile undeveloped section of the world. The original survey established the fact that a country of surpassing resources awaited exploitation, and subsequent investigation makes it apparent that half has not been told. This portion of Alaska is not on the same parallel with northern Europe, and there is no part of Norway, Sweden or Denmark that equals it in natural advantages.

An all American railway to the interior of Alaska starting from a harbor on the southern coast open the year round has been the dream of many an American capitalist. It was in the spring of 1902 that the project assumed a substantial character. The success of the White Pass railroad was an encouraging precedent. That road is a narrow gauge only 190 miles long connecting the Pacific at Skagway with the upper Yukon at White Horse. It has the most unique record of financial success ever handed down in railroad annals. It cost \$4,200,000 to build, and it earned \$400,000 the first year. Since then it has paid 60 per cent annually in dividends. With such an example to stimulate them, to which was added the strong belief that the new region would prove richer even than the route of the White Pass, the projectors of the enterprise sent out eight parties of surveyors. By November they had laid out a line 415 miles in length, due north from Resurrection bay. This course is through wide and fertile valleys, with but slight grades.

In April, 1903, the steamship Santa Ana was loaded with construction materials and in due time landed them at the new port in Resurrection bay. On April 23 a force of experienced track layers began to build the road. The

starting point was in the heart of a primeval forest. The name of Seward was at once given to the place in honor of the great secretary who negotiated for the purchase of Alaska by the United States. There were many small settlements scattered along the coast within a hundred miles of the new town, and, attracted by the prospect of living near a railroad, the inhabitants pulled up stakes and annexed themselves to Seward. Thus the place had a considerable population from the beginning. Within a fortnight 1,000 persons had camped there, and it is now asserted that in a short time its population will exceed that of Nome, which has about 30,000. Only a year ago Seward was a wild looking spot covered with big trees, dense underbrush and rocks. Today it is a thriving city subject to such rapid multiplication of its population as to make the efforts of census takers of little avail. Four hundred houses, numerous restaurants and hotels and a good sized theater have been built, and many more buildings are in process of erection. There is an almost frantic demand for building material of all kinds, and enough transportation cannot at present be secured to supply it. The wharfs in Seattle, Portland and Tacoma are piled high with merchandise of every description consigned to Seward, and every outgoing steamer for Resurrection bay is loaded to its utmost capacity with northbound seekers of fortune.

Nor does it appear to be gold alone that is now attracting the remarkable immigration to Uncle Sam's boreal paradise. Besides the gold mines—which are probably only in the earliest stage of their development—immense beds of copper ore have been found about forty miles north of Lake Klamath. More wonderful still, there have been discovered near Resurrection bay extensive deposits of tin. It is the verdict of experts to whom samples of this ore have been submitted that the quality of the metal is not inferior to that of the most noted mines in Europe.



The possession of an unlimited supply of tin of good quality would mean more to the United States than would the discovery of a dozen gold mines. As a further evidence of the utter prodigality of nature displayed in this hitherto forsaken land may be mentioned the discovery of a vast petroleum field in the Kyak region. The Standard Oil company has become convinced of the

value of this natural reservoir and is already on the ground with a large force of men and an abundant supply of machinery. The gold fever is still subject to frequent exacerbations. There is a wild rush to the White Horse placer fields, and more than a thousand men are on the ground, with more arriving daily. The road thitherward is full of teams

of horses, mules and dogs, and a few hydraulic plants are already in operation. Coal is abundant in central Alaska. As soon as the fields are reached by the railroads an unlimited quantity of excellent coal will be mined. One bed discovered near the mouth of the Sushitna river is sixteen feet in thickness. The fuel itself is of a semianthraccite nature, resembling the so-called

canal coal found near Trinidad. Coal most of the coal fields already located are in the hands of Pennsylvania capitalists and will be worked as soon as railroad facilities are available.

The timber resources of southern Alaska are similar to those of Washington. For many miles north of Resurrection bay there is a growth of fir, spruce and cedar precisely like that of

western Oregon. The mountains are covered with this timber to an altitude of 3,000 feet. As one travels inland the trees become smaller, but the least of them is larger than those brought to the mills in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many of the spruce trees around Resurrection bay are three, four and five feet in diameter.

The mention of Alaska used to be accompanied by a chill. It was relegated to the list of warm weather subjects for conversation. Now, however, in the light of actual observation and with a disposition to atone for former injustice, southern Alaska at least is classed as temperate. Its climate is similar to that of Denmark and Scotland, with much less fog than is part and parcel of the "Land of Cakes." In spite of its geographical location the southern portion of Alaska is warmed by the Japan current precisely as the gulf stream moderates the temperature of the countries bordering on the North sea. Besides, the warm winds from the Pacific come up the broad valley of the Sushitna and are diffused over the stretch from the Alaska range on the west to Mount St. Elias on the east. The temperature on the lower Sushitna seldom falls below zero, and for weeks at a time in winter it ranges from 35 to 45 above. The summer season is delightful, being like that of western Washington, but the days are longer.

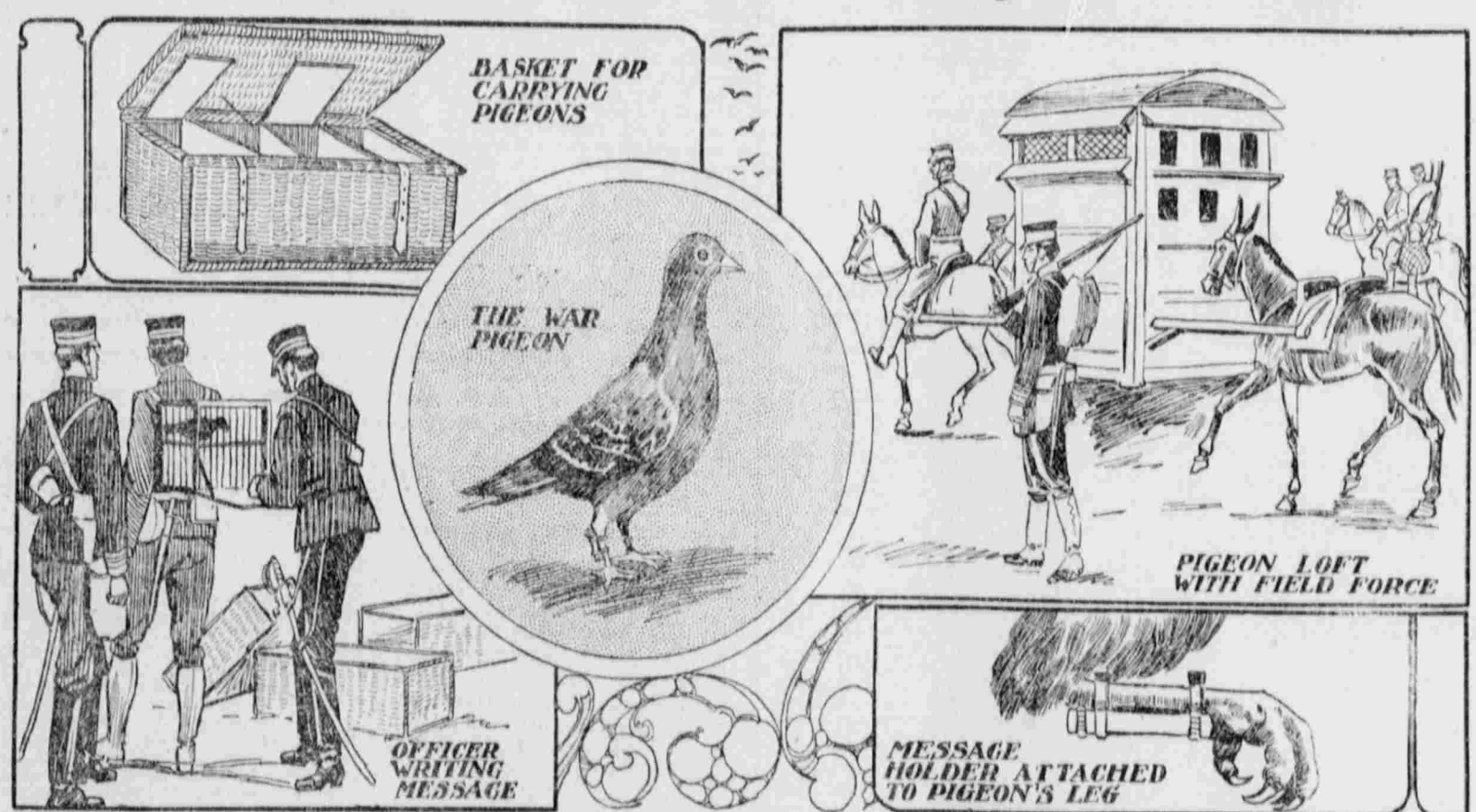
The watershed of the Sushitna river drains a country as large as the states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Agricultural and grazing lands are abundant. The soil is a rich loam. In many places blue grass and redtop grow luxuriantly, sometimes as high as a horse's shoulders. Berries of almost all kinds are to be found everywhere. As is the case in other northern countries, vegetables and small fruits grown in this part of Alaska are of superior quality. Visitors to the Sushitna country have spoken in glowing terms of produce cultivated in a land whose days have eight or ten hours of sunshine.

JOHN L. BROWN.

The Carrier Pigeon as an Adjunct to Modern Warfare

BOTH Russia and Japan are securing satisfactory results from the employment of carrier pigeons. Japan has given much attention to this branch of military news dissemination, a system of intercommunication between the islands having been in active operation for a number of years. This scheme had been brought to a state of great perfection even before the war, both the military and naval departments having well established station lofts. Russia likewise had made great progress in the art of re-queuing the ministrations of these "gentle messengers of peace" to strictly bellicose purposes. In all of the Muscovite stations along the Manchurian littoral lofts were established several years ago, and at the beginning of hostilities the government made a contract with a noted French expert to organize a system in the outlying districts. This has already proved to be of immense service, many messages having been sent from the front in garrison at Port Arthur to the headquarters of the main command.

The birds now used by the Japanese are not the original pigeons bred by the Chinese for centuries and employed by all Asiatics; they were found to be less reliable than the birds trained by the European fanciers, and a supply was ordered from England and France. With this new stock the clever islanders not only secured all the best results which had been obtained abroad, but struck out on lines of their own. Fighting on alien ground, there has been no opportunity to establish cots of old, well trained pigeons in Korea or Manchuria, so they have been obliged to train very young birds. They have found that a bird three months



old can be taught to make a flight of a hundred miles with as fair a prospect of success as an old bird. They have done more than this. In spite of all the efforts made by European experimenters, the difficulties in the way of employing birds as messengers while the army is on the move have not been entirely overcome. In Japan the matter is managed much more successfully. The well devised traveling loft is stocked with birds only just old enough to be taken from the nest, and they are kept confined in it until they are needed. The entire loft is then taken to the military base, and the birds, now sev-

eral months old, are set at liberty for the first time. Never having become accustomed to any other locality, they immediately begin to settle down as if at home. When the base is changed a new loft of birds is employed.

The employment of pigeons as messengers is an ancient practice in the

orient. It first came to the notice of European nations during the crusades. The Saracens had a well organized system of communication by means of carrier pigeons, and the Christian commanders, not to be outdone in cleverness of adaptation, trained falcons to prey upon the message bearing doves.

Several gold and silver objects of his-

torical interest valued at \$9,650 were recently stolen from the archaeological museum at Grosswardein, in Hungary. The longest telephone connection in Germany is the one between Berlin and Paris—742 miles. Next is Berlin and Budapest—612 miles; Berlin and Moscow—593 miles; Berlin and Basel—577 miles.

All newspapers in the world sixty-eight in every hundred are printed in the English language.

An English auctioneer was compelled

to sell the furniture of his own household in lieu of a debt. A vessel drawing forty feet of water rises two inches in passing from fresh water to salt. Most of us are more buoyant at the seaside than inland just now.

In Berlin the number of persons insured against illness was 557,571 in 1901. There were 4,443 deaths, and the number of sick days for members was 5,765,218.

France has kept 200,000 tons of coal

stored in Toulon since 1893, to be ready in case war should break out. At a depth of forty-five feet the tusk and a portion of the skull of a mammoth belonging to the ice age have been dug up at Schaffhausen, in Switzerland.

M. Hellany of Paris owns the most powerful motor car in the world. The engine is 195 horsepower, with eight cylinders and three forward gears, the second speed being geared for eighty miles an hour.

CHARLES W. JOHNSON.

BITS FROM EVERYWHERE.

The only two animals whose brains are heavier than that of a man are the whale and the elephant.

Every person in England consumes on an average twelve and one-half pounds of cheese per annum, and more than half of it is from abroad.

Tibet is larger than France, Germany and Spain combined, but has only a population of 6,000,000.

Attempts at canning beef profitably

In Germany have not proved successful chiefly because of the high cost of the raw material.

During the entire year 1903 only 2,130 persons were admitted to citizenship under the naturalization laws of France.

In consequence of the war with Japan 15,000 Russian laborers at Lodz are already out of employment.

Odessa 20,000 men who usually find

work on the docks in summer are vainly seeking their former jobs.

The city of London includes twenty-nine boroughs or separate towns of from 51,000 to 335,000 inhabitants.

In the course of a century an acre of constantly cultivated land loses no less than 12,000 pounds weight of alkalies.

A bill is to be introduced into the senate offering the sum of \$150,000 to any one who can discover a means of foretelling the weather.

A map of Jerusalem in mosaic over

1,500 years old has been found in Palestine.

A collection of precious nuggets is exhibited in the Alaska building at the St. Louis world's fair. It includes the big nuggets from Anvil creek, the largest found in Alaska.

An officer at Treves was sent to jail last month for a year and nine months because of maltreatment of soldiers. Five hundred cases were specified, and 160 witnesses appeared against him.

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