

# T. R. OFF TO WASHINGTON.

Ends Fishing Trip and Will Take Active Part at Capital.

*Special to The New York Times.*

TAMPA, Fla., April 1. — Theodore Roosevelt left Punta Gorda today for Washington, where he expects to take an active part in the developments of the next few days.

"The sinking of the Lusitania was a clear case of murder. We have been at actual war with Germany for two months," he told more than 1,000 Punta Gordans who gathered at the station to see him leave, after a week's fishing trip in adjacent waters which netted him three develfish and a thorough coat of tan.

"There are only two classes in this country now," he declared, launching into an attack on the pacifists. "There are Americans and there are anti-Americans. I care not what a man's religion or politics is, if I know he is a red-blooded American.

"That the Germans have made war on defenseless men and women only makes it a more despicable war, and one to which we must rise the more quickly. Germany has proposed to dismember us. If these things are not acts of war, then Bunker Hill and Lexington were not acts of war. The thing we have got to decide now is whether we will take it standing up or lying down. I will be standing up.

"Don't hit a man unless you have to, but when a man hits me I'm going to hit him back, and hit him hard. I love peace so well I am willing to fight for it, and the harder we hit, the sooner we get peace. Mere parrying blows only delay the end.

"We have got to handle this situation right now, and to do it right we have got to send an army to France. If the Government accepts my offer of a division, I want some Florida crackers in it, some like these I've been associating with the past week."

Here the Colonel was interrupted by a prolonged outburst and shouts of "You can get 'em," and the like.

Colonel Roosevelt had a twenty-minute wait at Lakeland and was greeted by more than 3,000 persons, to whom he spoke along similar lines. He said he had formulated no plans as to his line of action when he reaches to capitol.

"You know my position," he replied to queries, "and I'll be governed by circumstances in what I do in behalf of what I believe is necessary for this country."

He will reach Washington Tuesday morning.

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