

# PARTY RULE SAFE, ASSERTS ROOSEVELT

**Primary Bill, He Tells Buffalo  
Audience, Is Aimed at  
Dishonest Bosses.**

**PLEADS FOR SULZER'S IDEA**

**Colonel Gets More Cheers Than  
Does Measure—He Assails Dead  
Hand of Custom.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

BUFFALO, June 10.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt opened his campaign for direct primaries in this city to-night. His reception was cordial, and he appeared mightily pleased from the time he arrived here late this afternoon until the meeting closed. The meeting had been heralded as non-partisan, but the arrangements were in the hands of Chauncey J. Hamlin, local leader of the Bull Moose clan. He had selected 100 Democrats, Republicans, and Progressives to act as Vice Presidents, and most of them were on the platform.

Active in the night's affair were William J. Conners, formerly Democratic State Chairman, who is using the Sulzer primary campaign as a wedge to re-enter politics, and Henry P. Burgard, who has been put forward by the Sulzer Democrats as the new leader in Erie County.

Col. Roosevelt arrived at 5:15 P. M. He was met by a delegation headed by A. J. Elias. As he alighted from the train, there was hand-clapping. The ex-President saw Patrolman Tony Gavin, who was a Rough Rider in the Colonel's regiment. The Colonel walked by the Reception Committee and said, "Hello, Tony! glad to see you."

Before going to the mass meeting in the Elmwood Music Hall, Col. Roosevelt attended a meeting of the Progressive Club and made a brief talk there. It was about 9:30 when he reached the big hall. Fully 6,000 persons had assembled and the hall was packed. Members of the Bull Moose herd and believers in woman suffrage made a large majority of the hearers, there being an unusually large number of women present. Before Col. Roosevelt arrived, several speakers in turn held the attention of the audience.

References to the Sulzer Primary bill were cheered mildly, but those to Col. Roosevelt usually were the signal for hearty applause. At all times it appeared there was much more enthusiasm for the chief Bull Moose than for the bill he had come to advocate. When James K. Sague of Poughkeepsie referred to the Colonel as "a lifelong Republican," the cheering was unusually protracted.

The platform was filled with leading men of the city, but the really dominant men in Western New York politics were not among them. The strong points in the speech were occasions for outbursts from the audience.

Col. Roosevelt said in part:  
"Some worthy persons who believe in the dead hand of absolute custom are fond of uttering jeremiads at the loss of the State Convention. Why, friends, the State Conventions of the two old parties as at present constituted and managed have almost nothing to do with the people. They are mere devices for registering the decrees of the big and the little bosses. It is true that as there is an election these bosses normally have to consider how the people will vote.

"But they do not always have to consider how the people will vote. For instance, if they come to an agreement among themselves to divide the judicial nominations and to put up two men, one nominally a Democrat and one nominally a Republican, but both satisfactory to the interests, both standing together on behalf of political and business privilege—why, if they make such an agreement, the voters forthwith lose all chance of deciding at all, and have nothing left upon them except to ratify the agreement into which the bosses have entered.

"Again, the course of action followed as regards this very matter of primary reform shows that when the bosses deem the matter of sufficient interest they quit their sham fighting with one another and turn in with real efficiency and genuine, not mock, sincerity, to fight for their own hands in combination against the people.

"It is said that we propose to do away with party organizations. That statement is not correct. We do not propose to do away with party organizations. We believe in party organizations. But we believe that it should be really party and not boss organization, and we propose to make the organization responsible to the rank and file of the men who nominally belong to it. We propose to make the rank and file of the voters the real masters of the organization instead of its slaves.

"The bi-partisan combine of bosses beat the demand for State-wide direct primaries when the Republicans were in power at Albany, and now that same bi-partisan combine is beating the same demand under Democratic rule at Albany. The only way to beat this combine and these bi-partisan bosses is for the decent people—Progressives, Progressive Republicans, and Progressive Democrats alike—to stand shoulder to shoulder for the freedom of the State against the men who stand shoulder to shoulder for the political disenfranchisement of the people of the State."

The meeting closed as soon as Col. Roosevelt finished his address. The Colonel objected to the number of flashlights taken by newspaper photographers and appealed to a policeman to stop the men.

He went to the home of Mr. Hamlin after the meeting. Early to-morrow he

will start in an auto for Rochester, to continue his week's campaign in advocacy of the Sulzer measure.