

ROUGH RIDERS REUNION

Gov. Roosevelt Arrives at Las Vegas Among Comrades.

RECEIVES A GREAT OVATION

Addresses the Men with Whom He Fought Near Santiago—Outlines the Duties of Peace.

LAS VEGAS, N. M., June 24.—Roosevelt's Rough Riders' day opened auspiciously, the clouds having dispersed over night. Business men and residents whose decorations were damaged by the heavy rainfall last evening were busily engaged early in the day in restoring brightness and color to the scene. The bright sun quickly dried up the mud, and by 9 o'clock in the morning the streets were in good condition.

The excursion train from Trinidad, Col., arrived here shortly before 12 o'clock. It consisted of eight coaches, heavily laden with people. Two regular trains from the north and east were also heavily loaded with excursionists, each being furnished with more than its double equipment.

The combined committee of Rough Riders and citizens of New Mexico left here at 7:30 to meet Gov. Roosevelt at some point on the road. It was the original intention to leave at 4 A. M., and meet him at Raton, but, as the trains from the west were delayed, the two coaches containing the committee were attached to a fast freight train.

Gov. Roosevelt telegraphed to-day to the local Committee on Arrangements that he would accept no hotel accommodations, and wanted to camp out with his command. Accordingly a tent was pitched for his accommodation in Camp Cochran.

He arrived here at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, and was greeted, as he stepped off the platform of the rear car, with tremendous cheering from 5,000 people, massed around the station.

The noted New Yorker was clad in his Rough Rider uniform and was easily recognized by the crowd. He was almost lifted bodily from his feet by the press of persons anxious to grasp his hand, and as he and his party made their way slowly to the Castaneda Hotel the crowds surged after him. He looked in excellent health, and seemed to appreciate the hearty enthusiasm of the people who greeted him. As he walked down the station sidewalk a line of Rough Rider veterans saluted and joined in the general ovation.

When Col. Roosevelt came opposite the line of Rough Riders, he commenced shaking hands with the troopers and gave them a most cordial greeting. He remarked: "I am mighty glad to see you, boys, and to be able to be with you. I would not have missed this for anything. If the reunion had been held in Alaska, I would have gone there to see you."

The Rough Riders cheered him continuously, and were apparently equally pleased to greet him. The party of Rough Riders and citizens of New Mexico met Roosevelt and party at Wagon Mound at 11:40 o'clock. There were no speeches made, as had been anticipated.

On the way down Col. Roosevelt remarked: "Capt. Luna was the first man I spotted." As he met his old comrades in arms, he ejaculated, heartily: "I'm glad to see you." "It does me good to shake your paw," "How are you?" and similar expressions evincing his hearty sympathy.

At Raton the citizens turned out en masse. Col. Roosevelt was presented with a floral offering consisting of an archway with a gate swinging open. The design was made up of roses and carnations, with a background of smilax.

Col. Roosevelt made a short address, recounting the deeds of New Mexico's Rough Riders, and complimenting the citizens of the Territory upon the reputation the Rough Riders had conferred upon it.

At Springer the citizens presented the Colonel with a floral wreath.

GOV. ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH.

To-night Gov. Roosevelt addressed the Rough Riders and said in part:

"Just at this time I would not have left New York State for any purpose save to attend the reunion of my old regiment, and for that purpose I would have gone to Alaska, or anywhere else, for the bond that unites us to one another is as close as any bond of human friendship can be. It was our good fortune to be among those accepted when the country called to arms a year ago last Spring, and when ten men volunteered for every one that could be chosen. I think I may say without boasting that the regiment did its duty in every way and that its record is subject for honorable pride, not only to the members themselves, but the country at large. I am proud of you because you never complained and never flinched. When you went to war you knew you would not have an easy time; you expected to encounter hardships, and you took them without a murmur. You were all readiness to learn and to show prompt obedience, which make it possible to turn the American volunteer so soon into a first-class type of fighting man. Of those of our number who landed for the brief campaign in the tropical midsummer against Santiago, one-fourth were killed or wounded and three-fourths of the remainder were at one time or another stricken down by fever.

"Many died, but there is not one among you so poor in spirit that he does not count fever, wounds, and death itself as nothing compared with the honor of having been able to serve with the regiment under the flag of the United States in one of the most righteous wars which this country has seen. This was a typical American regiment. The majority of its members came from the South-west, but not all. We had in our ranks Easterners, Westerners, Northerners, Southerners, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Gentiles—men whose parents were born in Germany or Ireland, and men whose ancestors were born on the banks of the James, the Hudson, and at Plymouth Rock nearly three centuries ago; and all were Americans in heart and soul, in spirit and purpose—Americans, and nothing else. We knew no distinction of creed, birthplace, or residence. All we cared for was that a man should do his duty, should show himself alert, patient, and enduring, good in camp and on the march, and valiant in battle.

"My comrades, the regiment was but a microcosm of our great country, and the principles which enabled us to make so much out of it are those upon which we must act in the Nation itself if we are to stand level to the needs of our mighty destiny. In administering this great country, we must know no North, South, East, or West; we must pay no heed to a man's creed; we must be indifferent as to whether he is rich or poor, provided only he is indeed a good man, a good citizen, a good American. In our political and social life alike, in order to permanently succeed, we must base our conduct on the decalogue and the golden rule. We must put in practice those homely virtues, for the lack of which no intellectual brilliancy, no material prosperity, can ever atone.

"It is a good thing for a nation to be rich, but it is a better thing for a nation to be the mother of men who possess the qualities of honesty, of courage, and of common sense. We have many great problems ahead of us, we Americans, as we stride along the road to national greatness—problems of home administration, and problems that affect our dealings with the outside world. We cannot solve them if we approach them in the spirit of levity or vainglorious boastfulness; still less if we approach them in a spirit of timidity, and, least of all, if in dealing with them we do not insist upon honesty and righteousness, upon the uprightness of character, which is the keystone in the arch of true national greatness. The problems that rise from year to year differ widely and must be met in widely different ways, and not one of them can be properly solved unless we approach it with resolute fearlessness, and with a sincere purpose to do justice to all men, exacting it from others, and exacting it no less from ourselves.

PROUD OF HIS COMRADES.

"I am proud of the way in which you have taken up the broken threads of your lives—in which you have gone back to the ranch, the farm, the mine, and the counting room. In so doing you show yourselves to be typical American citizens, for it has always been the pride of our country that an American, while most earnestly desirous of peace, was every ready to show himself a hard and dangerous fighter if need should rise, and that on the other hand, when once the need had passed, he could prove that war had not hurt him for the work of peace, and that he was all the fitter to do this work for having done the other, too. We may be called to war but once in a generation, and I most earnestly hope that we shall not have to face war again for many years. The duties of peace are always with us, and these we must perform all our lives long, from year's end to year's end, if we are to prove ourselves in very fact good citizens of the Commonwealth. We must work hard for the sake of those dependent upon us; we must see that our children are brought up in a way that will make them worthy of the great inheritance which we, their fathers, have ourselves received

from those that went before us. We must do our duty by the State. We must frown upon dishonesty and corruption, and war for honesty and righteousness.

"I am proud of you, my comrades, not only because you were very brave in battle, but because when once the battle was over you showed yourselves always merciful to the weak. A coward in your ranks would have received short shrift, indeed, but when once the battle was on, I never knew one of you to perform an act of cruelty. I shall ever keep in mind the valor you showed as you fought in the jungles of Las Guasimas, as you charged up the slopes of San Juan Hill, and I shall keep in mind no less the way in which you shared your scanty rations with the poor, miserable refugees at El Caney, the way in which you tried to help the women and children upon whom war had laid its heavy hand. In our regiment the man who flinched from armed foe and the man who wronged a woman or a child would have met with equally quick and grim justice.

ABSENT ONES REMEMBERED.

"Let me say a word of those to whom our thoughts should turn at such a time, both among the living and among the dead, to our absent living comrades, and especially to our former commander, now Major Gen. Leonard Wood, whose administration of the Province of Santiago has reflected such high credit, not merely upon himself, but upon the Nation so fortunate as to have him in her service. We send to them the heartiest and most loyal greeting. With these men we hope in the no distant future to strike hands again, and as long as we live and they live we shall all be bound together by most indissoluble ties.

"But when we come to speak of our dead comrades, of the men who gave their lives in the fierce rush of the jungle fighting or who wasted to death in the fever camps, we can only stand with bared heads and pray that we may so live as at the end to die as worthily as these, our brothers, died. Allyn Capron, in the sunny prime of youth, in his courage, his strength, and his beauty; 'Bucky' O'Neill, than whom in all the army there breathed no more gauntless soul—of these and other gallant comrades, the men who carried the rifles in the ranks, all we can say is that they proved their truth by their endeavor that in the hour of our greatest need these rose level to the need and gallantly and cheerfully gave to their country the utmost that any man can give—their lives—for we read in the Holy Writ 'that greater love hath no man than this, to lay down his life for a friend.' And these men so loved their country that they gallantly gave their lives for her honor and renown and for the uplifting of the human race. Now their work is over, their eyes are closed forever, their bodies molded in the dust, but the spirit that was in them cannot die and it shall live for time everlasting.

"So much for our comrades of the regiment. Let us not forget our comrades who this Summer are facing all that we faced last Summer. Let us not forget the gallant men, the regulars and volunteers, who are upholding the honor of the flag and the interests of the Nation in the Philippines. Surely there is not one of us whose veins have not tingled with pride as he read of the gallantry of those men, and I suppose few of us have not thought at times that we should like ourselves to fight beside Lawton as we fought beside him last July, and to see if the Rough Riders could not do their share of the work with the splendid men who followed Funston, Hale, and other daring leaders, who during the past six months have added so many new pages to the honor roll of American history. To our shame be it said that there are men in this Nation so indifferent to the country's honor, so lukewarm in patriotism and courage that they would let all the work of these men go for naught—let their blood be spilled in vain.

"Where our flag has been raised it shall not be hauled down. If any difficulty seems greater than we expected it merely means that he shall exert a little more strength in overcoming it.

"I read with pride the other day how both Senators from California, those of opposite political parties, joined in assuring the President that California would stand like a rock behind him in seeing that there was no step back in the Philippines, and so I can assure him of the like spirit from the great State of which I have the honor to be the Governor. We stand ready to give him whatever he needs in men or money to put down the savagery to which we are opposed in the Philippines. He shall have all he wishes to put it down quickly; and whether it is put down quickly or not, he shall have our support in ever-increasing measure until the last spark of resistance has been stamped out. We want no peace talk with men who bear arms in their arms. When once they submit they shall be treated with absolute justice and equity, and their rights most carefully guarded; but until they submit they must be taught with rough hands what it is to make war on the American flag. There is no East and no West when we come to deal with questions of this kind. The United States is to be the great power of the Pacific, and we men of the Atlantic Coast are good Westerners and are as resolutely bent upon upbuilding our power in the Pacific as the men on the Pacific Slope themselves.

"We are a great Nation. Our Nation must show itself great not only in the ways of peace, but in that preparedness for war which best insures peace. We must rebuild our navy and army until they correspond to the new needs which the new country will bring. Above all, my comrades and my fellow-countrymen, we must build up in this country that spirit of social and civic honesty and courage which alone can make this Nation reach the highest and most lasting greatness."

ROUGH RIDERS AT DINNER.

The anniversary of the battle of Las Guasimas was celebrated by the Rough Riders in New York by a dinner last night at the Arena. There were present Arthur Fortunatus Cosby, Hallett Allott Borrowe, H. W. Bull, E. Burke, Elliott Cowdin, Douglas Campbell, Sumner Gerard, E. E. Garison, Kenneth Robinson, W. S. Simpson, Richard Stockton, Harry S. Van Schaick, and Lorimer Worden. Mr. Cosby presided.

This telegram was drafted, and with the signatures of all present was sent to Gov. Roosevelt at Las Vegas, N. M.: "We send you greetings. Here's how."

The dinner was informal. There were no set speeches and no toasts. Gen. Leonard Wood, who was colonel of the Rough Riders when they first went into action, was unable to be present.