

# ROOSEVELT TO OLD ALLIES

## He Addresses the Men Who Sent Him Thrice to the Assembly.

### TOUCHES UPON CANAL SCANDAL

#### If Any Are Found Guilty They Shall Be Punished, He Says—Woodruff Speaks.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt made his first stump speech last night. He had been put on the programme for a set speech at the Republican ratification meeting of the Twenty-seventh Assembly District at Lyric Hall, but when he had finished what he had prepared for the occasion he made another speech which was suggested by the presence on the platform of several of his Santiago comrades. This speech was totally unexpected and was a surprise to the presiding officers, but it pleased the audience far more than the other, and almost every phrase of it was interrupted by a loud burst of applause and cheering.

Long before the hour set for the meeting in Lyric Hall the crowd began gathering in front of the building, and by 7:30 o'clock the hall had been packed except the first rows of seats, which were reserved, apparently, for expected guests. By 8 o'clock the room and the two adjoining halls were filled to their utmost, and the single gallery was overflowing with spectators. A great number could not find room inside and turned away from the doors.

The audience was a well-dressed one, well behaved, and enthusiastic. It was especially prodigal of its applause for Col. Roosevelt. Before the speaking began it was interested by the appearance on the stage of three Rough Riders, who sat on one side of the platform. Two were in the uniforms that have been worn ever since the campaign of Santiago de Cuba ended. The other wore the regulation blue shirt of the army, with rough overalls and leggings. They were stalwart fellows and occupied the stage for a half-hour before any one else appeared on it.

There were many women present, a large proportion of them fashionably dressed. They constituted perhaps one-fourth of the whole audience, which numbered probably 800. They were among the most liberal givers of applause.

Hoffman Miller, President of the Twenty-seventh Assembly District Club, presided at the meeting, and introduced the speakers. He made a brief introductory speech, in which he said:

To be asked to preside at such a representative gathering of Republicans is an honor which I esteem. You and I are here to-night to greet our candidates and assure those candidates of our support, both now and hereafter. There are two reasons why such support from every Republican of the Twenty-seventh Assembly District should be especially hearty. The first is because this district is the cradle of Theodore Roosevelt's political life. [Applause.] The second is because Theodore Roosevelt stands for good government. [Applause.] In his speech last Wednesday night the very first words he uttered were:

"First and foremost this campaign is a campaign for good government; for good government both in the Nation and the State. If I am elected Governor I shall try to make good the promises both expressed and implied made on behalf of my candidacy. I shall try to administer the affairs of the State so as to make each citizen a little prouder of the State, and I shall try to serve my party by helping it serve the people."

That statement is an indorsement of the great sentiment held by Republicans of this district. We assert that as a safeguard of the people there must be good government in the Nation, good government in the State, good government in the city.

Mr. Miller then introduced Timothy L. Woodruff as "an official who has served the people so well that the people are going to make him serve them again." Mr. Woodruff said that he would confine himself to State issues, as they had been challenged by the Democrats. He said:

The Republican platform adopted at Saratoga challenged the Democrats upon every issue, but the Syracuse platform ignored National issues and challenged the Republican Party on State issues alone. I ask you to contrast the administration of the State Government by Gov. Black [cheers] and the administration of Gov. Levi P. Morton with the administration of the State Government for the ten years preceding by Hill and Flower. Can you call to mind a single measure for the public good or which advanced any great public interest that was enacted between 1884 and 1894?

He then spoke of the lowering of the tax rate, which, he said, was the lowest last year that it has ever been, with the exception of a few hundredths of a cent some years ago, when it was reduced by a special act. He said that five years ago only 2,152 corporations had been called upon to pay taxes by the Democrats, while last year 4,560 corporations had paid taxes. As to the Raines law, he said that it had brought into the treasuries of the State and counties more than \$33,000,000 in three years. He then added:

I saw in a Democratic paper this morning that the Democratic candidate for Governor, if elected, will have this excise law repealed. I do not believe that any Democrat will ever be bold enough to introduce into the Legislature a bill to have that law repealed. If so, I should like to ask him where he will get for the State the revenue that he would thus cut off from it? I am not afraid to defend that law. In the rural districts it has done more to elevate the citizenship of this Commonwealth than any other law ever put upon its statute books, even than those that have been devised for moral purposes alone.

Mr. Woodruff also spoke of the part played by the Republicans in the creation of the Greater New York, and the action of the party in enacting what he called the pure primary law, which, he said, was largely due to the efforts of William Brookfield and Paul D. Cravath. As to the canal charges, he said:

If you, as a business man, were suddenly called upon to do ten times the business you are now doing you would doubtless find out after awhile that there were some things that you could have done better and at less expense. The investigation of the canal improvement proved that we had spent \$9,000,000 for what we could probably have had done for \$8,000,000, but I repeat what I have already said, that there is not in the entire report of the investigation a single charge or insinuation that any one was guilty of fraud or dishonesty. (Applause.)

Another thing the Democrats make great objection to is what they call the "Force bill." The objection to this bill, which will insure honest elections in November, comes from those who wish to prostitute the ballot, and who see that their efforts will be thwarted. [Applause.]

John R. Von Wormer followed Mr. Woodruff. He spoke with great warmth and evoked frequent applause. He said in part:

We find ourselves face to face with a very formidable and perplexing proposition, and that is—what does the Democratic Party mean by its platform?

We say that the leopard never changes its spots, but that is not true of the Tammany tiger, and you know it. Two years ago the tiger had on an ass's skin, and I believe it fitted all requirements better than the stripes. [Laughter.]

The Democratic Party says it is against territorial expansion, and that it is devoted to Jeffersonian principles. Why, Jefferson was the worst sort of an expansionist. He bought all the Louisiana territory, which was a mighty empire in itself. [Laughter and applause.]

Just as Mr. Van Wormer closed his speech a loud cheer was heard in the street, and up through the stairway came the sound of "Three cheers for 'Teddy' Roosevelt!" The audience got on its feet to greet the candidate, but he did not come into sight of the audience in the hall until he reached the platform. Then a great shout greeted him, and over and over again the crowd shouted "Three cheers for Roosevelt!" The demonstration lasted for several minutes. During this time Mr. Roosevelt was standing at the speaker's table, waiting to be heard. As soon as the cheering ceased Mr. Miller said:

"Col. Roosevelt needs no introduction to his old friends."

Again three cheers were given for the candidate, and then Mr. Roosevelt spoke as follows:

I wish to speak to you to-night because your association covers most of the ground of my old district, and many of you worked with me and knew me well during the three years I represented this district in the Legislature. I do not have to tell you what I intend to do if I am elected. (Cheers.) You know I never made you a promise on the stump that I failed to keep afterward, (applause,) and you know also that whatever of merit my career as your representative had lay in the fact that so far as I could I insisted upon the observance in public life of the same principles of rigid honesty that are indispensable for every honorable man in private life. (Long applause and cheers.)

In our public servants it is a good thing to have brilliancy, and it is a better thing to have honesty. (Cheers.) When I was your legislative representative there might be times when you differed from me on questions of judgment, but you always knew that you could have no possible doubt as to my attitude on any question of principle, and that no consideration of seeming political expediency could make me alter my attitude if it seemed to me that a question of right or wrong was involved. (Cheers.)

To you, my old friends, who have known not only what I promised but what I did, I do not have to say that I shall follow the same course if I am elected Governor. [Applause.] The one indispensable requisite in every public servant with whom I may have to deal will be honesty. Much has been said as to the mismanagement of the canals. I would, in no manner, prejudge the case, but if, upon investigation, I shall find that either the system or the methods of administration are wrong, then they shall be changed; and if it shall prove that any man has been dishonest he shall most assuredly be punished. (Cheers.) So it shall be with every other office that comes under me.

As for the rest, in dealing with our fellow-citizens I shall try to see that the rights of each are preserved, and that he is not allowed

to wrong any other, in short, that every man is given fair play. [Long applause and cheering.]

Col. Roosevelt here made a considerable pause, and turned half away from the table and audience; then, as if recollecting something he wanted to say, he turned back, and walked around the table and got closer to the front. He then spoke as follows, in a much more rapid and enthusiastic manner:

So much for what I came here intending to say. Now, as you are old friends, I want to talk to you for about three minutes on something that was suggested by the last sentence of my speech and by seeing some of the comrades of my regiment here. [Applause.] I think that the rule of conduct that applies to dealing with a small body of men will also apply in dealing with a larger body. Now, I spoke of fair play for all. That was the distinguishing mark of our regiment. [Applause.] In it a man had to work—had to fight. [Applause.] If he shirked his work or finched from the fighting, he knew that when he came back I would "cinch" him. [Laughter.] If he did his work, showed himself brave in action, he needed not that any man should speak for him. I would do all that I could to see that he was judged according to his merits. [Applause.] Every man was treated, so far as we could bring it about, for just what he was. [Applause.]

Our regiment was typically American in the fact that the men who composed it came from every section of the country: came out of every walk of life, represented every form of religious belief, and every race ancestry that we have in this country. [Applause.] And whether it was gallant Capt. Capron, the fifth in generations from father to son, who had served in the armies of the United States; whether it was equally gallant "Bucky" O'Neill, the man whose father fought in Meagher's brigade; whether it was Capt. Muller, who had come from Germany, or Capt. Luna, whose people had settled on the banks of the Rio Grande before our ancestors had come to the banks of the Hudson, or to the James, or to Plymouth; whether it was our fellow-New Yorkers who gave their lives for their country—young Fish or young Tiffany; [applause.] whether it was Hayes from the Indian Territory, or Grenwald from Arizona; whether the man was born here or in Germany; whether descended from a Puritan or the son of parents who had come from Ireland; whether Protestant or Catholic, Jew or Gentile—he was treated on his merits, as a man. [Long applause and cheers.]

He stood on his merits for what he could show himself to be. He must march well, fight well, and perform well the commonplace duties of camp life, which are not brilliant, and have none of the pomp and circumstance of war, but which are absolutely necessary. I remember when I asked eight young and valiant recruits who thirsted for the glory of battle to bury a dead horse. (Laughter.) The burial of a dead horse did not fill their souls with satisfaction. (Laughter.) I did not ask them if they considered it a great action. I merely asked them to bury the dead horse. (Laughter and applause.)

My men will tell you that I never coddled them. [Laughter.] I expected them to have a hard time, but I had the hard times with them. [Cheers.] I expected them to get into danger, but I went into danger with them. [Cheers.] But if they did their duty they were treated on their merits as men. Each was given a fair show; each was required to make it evident that he was an American citizen and an American soldier, and so far as was possible, each was rewarded according to his deserts. [Cheers.]

Now that was only one regiment, but that is a pretty safe principle to apply to the people at large, and just so far as lies in me that principle will be applied in dealing with you and with all my fellow-citizens of this great State, should you, in the exercise of your judgment, think fit to put me in the Governor's chair. [Long applause and cheering, and "Three cheers for 'Teddy' Roosevelt!"]

John Proctor Clarke followed Col. Roosevelt in a short speech. He spoke of Col. Roosevelt's public services, and said that in 1897 he had appointed George Dewey to the command of the Pacific Squadron. [Long applause.]

Paul D. Cravath offered the following resolution, which was unanimously passed:

Resolved, That we commend the wisdom of the party in nominating as our candidate for Governor the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, who, on the field of battle and in his conspicuous career in the public service has given such manifold proof of his courage, patriotism, high character, and great ability. The Republicans of the Twenty-seventh Assembly District refer with pride to the fact that it was as their representative in the New York Legislature that Col. Roosevelt began his brilliant public career as a Republican statesman;

Further Resolved, That we pledge to Col. Roosevelt and to Hon. Timothy L. Woodruff, Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and to the entire Republican State ticket, and to Nathaniel A. Elsberg, Republican candidate for Senator for the Fifteenth Senatorial District, and to Gherardi Davis, Republican candidate for Assemblyman for the Twenty-seventh Assembly District our earnest and enthusiastic support.

After the speaking, Col. Roosevelt held an informal reception. There was a rush to the platform, and the police had to assist in keeping the audience from crushing the candidate in its efforts to shake his hand.

A number of Rough Riders passed by their old commander and were greeted with a warm "Good evening, comrades; glad to see you here." The Colonel was especially courteous to the women, bowing low, with a pleasant remark for each.

Nearly half an hour elapsed before the hall was cleared and Col. Roosevelt was able to greet some old acquaintances.

Mr. Odell said that he had received and had on file, ready for use in case it should be decided to test the legality of the independent nominations, a number of letters from men who declared that they had signed the petitions under a misapprehension and that they would never have signed if they had not expected that Col. Roosevelt would remain at the head of the ticket.

Had the wishes of the Republican managers been consulted, Col. Roosevelt would not have agreed to file his declination until the last day allowed him by law, which would have been Oct. 19. It was against the advice of Chairman Odell that he promised to sign it to-day.