

# FINCH THAT MADE A PRESIDENT

## Senator Platt's Own Story of Himself and Roosevelt.

### SECRETS OF 1900 REVEALED.

Declared in Autobiography That Odd Incident Led to the Presidency—"Instead of Shelving the Governor," He Wrote, "I Plead Guilty to Kicking Him Upstairs."

If Frank H. Platt, son of the late United States Senator Thomas C. Platt, had not pinched Theodore Roosevelt on the leg just at the critical moment in a conference of the New York delegation at the Republican national convention in Philadelphia in 1900 Mr. Roosevelt, then governor of New York, would not have been president of the United States, succeeding Mr. McKinley.

"Instead of 'shelving' Roosevelt I must plead guilty to the charge of 'kicking him upstairs.' I believe Roosevelt himself would convict me of this."

So wrote Senator Platt in his autobiography, of which part is published in the June number of McClure's Magazine. The senator, the Republican boss of New York state, dealt with two nominations of Theodore Roosevelt—that for governor of New York state and that for vice president in the Republican national convention of 1900 in Philadelphia. Senator Platt sought to answer the critics who had asserted that in nominating Mr. Roosevelt for vice president Platt sought to send him to the political mortuary chamber in which vice presidents have reposed.

**What a Pinch Did.**  
Senator Platt wrote:  
"A pinch may be said to have made Roosevelt president, for had he executed the threat of declining the nomination for vice president and had it been accepted he would never have reached the White House."

Again:  
"I may be pardoned if I remind my readers that but for my insistence upon his nomination for the vice presidency Roosevelt certainly would not have succeeded McKinley in 1901, and perhaps he never would have been president of the United States."

As to that "pinch," Senator Platt thus described what happened in Philadelphia before the convention:

#### Excited at Plan.

"Governor Roosevelt was in his room, protesting to everybody that he would, if nominated for vice president, arise in the convention and unequivocally decline. I heard about this and asked my son Frank to go to him and say that he would be nominated, that he could not stop that, and I wanted his promise that if he were made McKinley's associate he would run. Roosevelt and my son soon came to my rooms. The governor was in a state of rare excitement even for him."

"I shall go to the New York caucus and tell the delegates that I shall, if nominated for vice president, arise in the convention and decline. I can serve you, Senator Platt, far better as governor than as vice president," said Roosevelt pugnaciously.

"But you cannot be renominated for governor, and you are going to be nominated for vice president," was my report.

"I cannot be renominated?" queried Roosevelt.

"No; your successor is in this room," said I, pointing to Chairman Odell. "Now, I want your promise that if you are endorsed by the New York caucus you will not refuse and that if you are nominated by the convention you will run," I added.

"Roosevelt showed his teeth, paced up and down the room and chafed as a horse does under a tight rein and curbed bit."

#### Gave Word Not to Decline.

"Well, Senator Platt," finally returned Roosevelt reluctantly, "I will pledge myself not to decline formally the New York caucus endorsement. But I shall certainly urge the caucus to name another."

"And remember that I shall pinch you if I see any signs of your getting up and declining," put in my son.

"All right; you may pinch me as hard as you like," answered Roosevelt as he and Frank hurried to the caucus of the New York delegation then in progress on the main floor of the Hotel Walton.

"Senator Depew was presiding, and at length Mr. Roosevelt arose and addressed him. He reiterated in most emphatic terms his statement that he was not a candidate for the vice presidency and his associates from New York must respect his wishes and neither work among the delegates to bring about his nomination nor present his name to the convention for that office."

"Just as Dr. Albert Shaw, Frederick W. Hollis, Nicholas Murray Butler and others of Roosevelt's self-constituted friends clustered about him and whispered audibly, 'Say you'll decline if nominated, governor,' my son pinched Roosevelt in the leg and said, 'Remember your contract with the senator.'"

"Roosevelt kept faith. He ignored the solicitations of Shaw and the others and sat down."

### TALENTED MISS HARRIMAN.

Executive Ability of Financier's Daughter, Who Will Wed C. C. Rumsey.

Miss Mary Harriman, who is to marry Charles Cary Rumsey of Buffalo and New York on Thursday, May 26, is the second daughter of the late Edward H. Harriman, the railway magnate, who died on Sept. 9, 1909, and is one of six children who will fall heir to one of the largest fortunes of the world.

Miss Mary Harriman, who was made an executor of the immense estate left by her father, showed that she had inherited a good deal of his business capability when in the month following his death she and her mother decided that the girl herself had better take personal charge of the operation of the vast estate at Arden, N. Y. She had always been interested in sports and in the natural life of outdoor excitement and pleasure which the American girl, when she has opportunity to do so, usually leads. But now she showed that she possessed a talent of no mean order for executive work on a large scale. On Oct. 23, 1909, she formally took charge of the Arden farms dairy and assumed the management of the 45,000 acres of the Harriman Orange county farms, and since that time she has actually been running them herself.

Outdoor sports, such as tennis, horseback riding and automobilng, have always been of the keenest interest to Miss Harriman. Since she has been old enough to go around without a nurse she has spent days on the roads and hillsides and in the great forests of the vast Arden estate.

Charles Cary Rumsey is a son of Laurence D. Rumsey of Buffalo. The family is wealthy and socially prominent and has lived in Buffalo for a long time. Young Mr. Rumsey is a little less than thirty years old and has shown much promise in modeling and sculpture work. He studied for a time at Harvard and later spent several years in Paris at the Beaux Arts. Following his return to the United States he has continued his work and has had a number of groups in exhibitions which have won praise from critics. He is a splendid horseman, an expert polo player and has won many prizes and trophies of his skill at horse shows.

### NEVER ANY MRS. BURTON.

Ohio Senator Puts Himself Out of Marrying Class.

Strictly speaking, Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio may not be a woman later, but—

Preceding a recent function in Washington the society editor of a Washington paper determined to describe the gowns of all the senators' wives present.

"Mr. Senator," she said as she accosted the Ohio statesman, "will you be kind enough to tell me what sort of gown Mrs. Burton will wear?"

Taking his eyeglasses from his pocket and putting them carefully upon his nose, the senator fixed the girl with a glance that nailed her to the mast and frigidly replied:

"Madam, there is no Mrs. Burton, and if I have anything to say about it there never will be."

### J. W. Folk Boom For Presidency.

At a dinner to be given in St. Louis on June 2 the friends of Joseph W. Folk will launch his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 1912. The former governor of Missouri will not ask the Democracy of the country to place him at the head of the party in the national campaign, but his friends in St. Louis and throughout the state will carry on a fight to that end with his consent. This campaign will be carried on irrespective of all efforts that may be made to get Folk into the race for the senatorship.

### In Memoriam.

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

Born 1841; died May 6, 1910.

At midnight came the majesty of death—

King of the earth abides this king's decree—

Sudden, and kinder so, to seal the breath

And set the spirit free.

And now the peace he held most near his heart,

That peace to which his country's steps he led.

So well for us he played his royal part,

That peace to which his country's steps he led.

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That peace to which his country's steps he led.

Thus passes Britain's crown from king to king.

Yet leaves secure a nation's deathless love.

Dearer than empire—yes, a precious thing

All earthly crowns above.

—Owen Seaman in Punch.

### "KISS NOT" CAMPAIGN.

Cincinnati Woman's Warning of the Danger in Kissing.

Mrs. J. Rechin, wife of a well known business man of Cincinnati, has set out to do away with the bacteria spreading kiss through the World's Health organization, of which she is president. "Kiss not" is the motto of the W. H. O. It is emblazoned in red letters on a white button worn by the members. Hundreds of circulars are being sent through the mails, one part of which reads:

"Why not stop kissing? It is a time honored custom, and one person cannot stop it. It is only in unity that sufficient strength can be gained to convince the world that kissing is pernicious and unhealthful."

Attached to the circular is a pledge, which converts are urged to sign and forward to the president. It is suggested that women wear "kiss not" buttons, to teas and receptions, where indiscriminate kissing is much in order; also that it be attached to the clothing of babies.

### A Stamp Worth \$500.

A postage stamp valued at \$500 was received at Washington recently by Postmaster General Hitchcock from the international postal union headquarters at Berne, Switzerland. It bears the profile of the late King Edward VII. It was issued for the Straits Settlements. It is printed in light orange and lilac. The stamp has been turned over to Stanley I. Slack, curator of the postal museum.

### A SHARK'S EYE.

The Effect It Had on the Skipper When He Was a Boy.

"Ever been mesmerized by a fish?" said the skipper. "No? Well, I have been many a time. It was a shark that did it."

"I don't know the scientific name of this particular variety of shark, but it abounds on the Nantucket shoals. Full grown these sharks are from eight to ten feet long and weigh from 500 to 700 pounds. They have a broad head with the mouth well under it. They have saw teeth, five rows of them, about an inch and a half long, and they can flatten the lot and chew their gums. But for a human being the peril is in the eyes."

"I don't believe in man eating sharks. I believe that if a shark is in bloody water he gets excited and will snap at anything he sees, but let one of those fellows get his eye on you and you don't know where you are at."

"They have a habit of coming up alongside of your live boxes and lying there while you fish. Then when you get anything on your line the shark has it off before you get a chance to pull."

"I remember the first time I saw one of them. I was a boy at the time, and one of these fellows had come up alongside of my live box, and I put my hand out and touched his back. He didn't seem to mind it at all, but a minute later when I stood up I caught sight of his eyes, or one of them. Well, sir, I just tumbled back in the boat and was as helpless as a jellyfish out of water."

"I don't know how to explain it. The eyes of this fish are no bigger than the point of your little finger, but there is something that comes out of them that makes you tumble all in a heap. Many a time after that did I have a similar experience, and I know of a lot of men who have felt the same effect. The only explanation I could suggest is that the shark's eye has some sort of mesmeric power."—New York Sun.

### SENATOR DILLINGHAM.

Member in Upper House From Vermont.



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# 3 Cans for 25c

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### Letter from H. H. Saylor

Editor Times:

I wish to say through your paper, in reply to the tribute of regard and appreciation which I have received from the principal, corps of teachers and students of our Graded school, for the efforts which I have made in my humble way, to improve the now beautiful campus of the school property, that it has touched my feelings in a way which I can hardly find words to express; and I will simply say to them, by this manifestation on their part, I am richly rewarded for all my exertions in that line. I will also treasure this demonstration as one of the sweetest experiences of my life; and while I have heretofore felt that I was on among you, I shall ever hereafter, as a citizen, feel that I am fully identified with you in interest, and that I am now indeed one OF you. I will further add, that I hope you will care for and protect those magnificent trees on the campus, as well as you would do if you had paid thousands of dollars for the grounds on which they stand and waited half a century or more for them to grow. I will also specially compliment the smaller children for the evident care which they have taken of the pretty grass plats which Professor Ivins has so careful and kindly provided in front of the school building.

Henry H. Saylor, Hendersonville, May 28, 1910.

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