

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

He Takes the Oath of Office as Successor to the Late President McKinley.

He Declares He Will Continue the Policy of Administration Pursued by His Predecessor—A Pathetic Scene at the Administration of the Oath to the New President—Roosevelt's Night Ride Through the Adirondacks to the Point of Railway Connection with Buffalo—The Present Cabinet Officers Asked to Retain Their Portfolios for the Present—He Issues a Proclamation.

Buffalo, N. Y., September 14.—Theodore Roosevelt, who today was tragically elevated to the chief magistracy of the American Republic by the death of President McKinley, entered this city of mourning this afternoon after a remarkable and perilous journey from the heart of North Woods. He had been president under the constitution and law of the land since the minute the martyred president ceased to live. All the duties of the office had devolved upon him, but he was as powerless as the humblest citizen to exercise one of them until he had complied with the constitutional provision requiring him to take a prescribed oath to support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States. He took that oath at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon in the library of the residence of Ansley Wilcox, a personal friend with whom he stopped earlier in the week when the physicians thought President McKinley would recover from the wound inflicted by the assassin.

The scene was a most affecting one. The new president had just come from the Milburn house where his predecessor lay cold in death. Overcome by the deep personal sorrow he felt, in his chair, practically impulsive way, he had come first to the house of mourning to offer his condolence and sympathy to the broken-hearted widow.

Secretary Root, who twenty years ago had been present at a similar scene when Arthur took the oath after the death of another who fell a victim to an assassin's bullet, almost broke down when he requested Mr. Roosevelt on behalf of the members of the cabinet of the late president to take the prescribed oath. There was not a dry eye in the room. The new president was so shaken but he controlled himself.

With the deep solemnity of the occasion full upon him he announced those present that his aim would be to be William McKinley's successor in deed as well as in name. The great far-reaching significance of this pledge to continue the policy of the dead president, announced at the very threshold of a new government regime, profoundly impressed his hearers, and President Roosevelt's very first step after taking the oath was in line of its redemption. His first act was to ask the members of the cabinet to retain their portfolios in order to aid him to conduct the government on lines laid down by him whose policy he had declared he would uphold. Such an appeal was not to be resisted and every member of the cabinet, including Secretary of the State Hay and Secretary of the Treasury Gage, who were communicated with in Washington, have agreed for the present, at least, to retain their several portfolios.

Washington, September 14.—Secretary Hay spent the morning in consultation with the heads of the various departments. Upon being notified of the president's death in the early morning he telegraphed as follows:

"Department of State, Washington, D. C., Sept. 14. Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, North Creek, N. Y. The president died at 2:15 o'clock this morning."

"JOHN HAY, Secretary of State."

Response came from President Roosevelt as soon as he arrived at North Creek at 5:20 o'clock this morning. He replied with an acknowledgment of the receipt of the message and stating that he could not now express his sorrow in suitable terms. He added that he was starting at once for Buffalo on a special train from North Creek, expecting to arrive at the former city at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The secretary of state, after conferring with Secretary Gage, the only cabinet officer remaining in the city beside himself, concluded that there was no special reason for urgency in the taking of the oath by President Roosevelt. Under the terms of the constitution he became president in fact immediately upon the death of President McKinley and he already had taken the oath of office to serve the United

States when he became vice president, so that after all, the taking of a new oath was not a ceremony that seemed to be absolutely necessary to prevent an interregnum in governmental affairs.

The first outcome of the consultation in the secretary's office was the issuance of the following order: "Department of State, Washington, D. C., Sept. 14. To the Secretary of the Navy: In honor of respect to the memory of the president, the executive departments will be closed today and on the day of the funeral."

The order was communicated to all of the heads and acting heads of the executive departments in Washington. Acting Secretary of the Navy Hackett today sent the following dispatch to every commander in chief, to every navy yard, and every ship acting singly:

"It is with profound sorrow that the department announces to you the death of President McKinley at 2:15, September 14."

The acting secretary also issued the following order to the naval service: "SPECIAL ORDER NO. 12."

Navy Department, Washington, D. C., Sept. 14. The president of the United States died this morning at 2 minutes after 2 o'clock in the city of Buffalo, N. Y. Officers and men of the navy and marine corps need not be reminded of the public and private virtues of their late commander-in-chief. The whole people loved William McKinley, for he loved and trusted them. As soldier, statesman, husband, and as a pure-minded, great-hearted American, his fame now belongs to his country.

Under the constitution Theodore Roosevelt, previously vice president, has become president and commander-in-chief of the navy and marine corps of the United States.

E. W. HACKETT, Acting Secretary.

SEARCH FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT IN THE ADIRONDACKS.

Saratoga, N. Y., September 14.—When Theodore Roosevelt and his guides left Tahawas club yesterday morning in a hunting expedition, the then vice president fully believed that President McKinley was entirely out of danger and on the rapid road to recovery. The hunting party moved in the direction of Mount Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondack region.

They had not been gone over three hours when a mounted courier rode rapidly into Tahawas Club with messages to the vice president stating that President McKinley was in a critical condition. The messages had been telegraphed to North Creek and from there telephoned to a point several miles south of Tahawas Club. Extra guides and runners were at once deployed from the club in the direction of Mount Marcy, with instructions to sound a general alarm in order to find the vice president as soon as possible. The far-reaching megaphone's call and the rifle cracking signals of the mountain climbing guides, as hour after hour passed away, marked the progress of the searching mountaineers as they climbed the slopes of Mount Marcy.

Just as the afternoon began to merge with the shades of early evening and as the searchers were nearing the summit of the lofty mountain the responsive echoes of distant signals were heard and answered and gradually the scouts and the Roosevelt party came within hailing distance of each other.

NIGHT RIDE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.

When Colonel Roosevelt was reached and informed of the critical condition of the president he could scarcely believe the burden of the message personally delivered to him. Startled at the serious nature of the news, the vice president, at 5:45 o'clock immediately started back for the Tahawas Club. In the meantime the Adirondack stage line placed at his disposal relays of horses covering the thirty-five miles to North Creek. A deluging thunderstorm had rendered the roads unusually heavy. Without any delay he moved as rapidly as possible in the direction of North Creek, the northern terminus of the Adirondacks railroad, where his secretary, William Loeb, Jr., and Superintendent C. D. Hammond, of the Delaware and Hudson railway, with a special train, were awaiting his arrival.

INFORMED OF THE DEATH. Soon after Colonel Roosevelt started night came on and rendered the trip exceedingly difficult and dangerous, as mile after mile was traveled in almost impenetrable darkness, but the expert

guides piloted the vice president to his objective point.

Not until he dashed up to the special train at North Creek at 5:22 o'clock this morning, did he learn that President McKinley had passed away at Buffalo at 2:15 o'clock. Mr. Loeb, his secretary, was the first to break the news to him. The new president was visibly affected by the intelligence and expressed a desire to reach Buffalo as soon as possible.

Within one minute after his arrival at North Creek he boarded the special train which at once pulled out in the direction of Buffalo via Saratoga and Albany. He did not complain of fatigue, but looked somewhat pale and careworn.

THE ARRIVAL AT BUFFALO. Buffalo, N. Y., September 14.—President Roosevelt reached Buffalo at 1:40 o'clock this afternoon, accompanied only by his private secretary, William Loeb, Jr. An immense crowd which had been awaiting his arrival for hours was gathered about the station eager to catch a first sight of the president. The train, however, did not enter the station proper, but the president landed at the Terrace. When he left the train an escort of the Fourth signal corps, formed about him and conducted him to an automobile with his friend, Ansley Wilcox, in waiting.

The demonstration which greeted his appearance was in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. Those who saw his did not raise a cheer, but attested their respect by lifting their hats. As soon as he entered the vehicle, the chauffeur turned the lever and the automobile went skimming away to the residence of Mr. Wilcox on Delaware avenue. Twenty mounted police clattered along on either side could with difficulty keep the peace which the automobile set.

President Roosevelt declined to make any statement whatever for publication. The president arrived at the Wilcox home at 1:45 o'clock. His only attendants being Mr. William Loeb, Jr., his secretary and Mr. Ansley Wilcox. With hardly any conversation he retired at once to his room, where he bathed and dressed. At 2:30 o'clock he was ready to leave for the Milburn house, where he desired to make his official call of condolence. He was escorted by a detail from the Fourth signal corps and mounted police. So rapidly did his driver proceed that his escort was left a couple of blocks behind, with the exception of the commanding officers and a lieutenant of police.

The president was attired in a black frock coat and dark striped trousers, and wore a silk hat. He was sombre of countenance and appeared to feel both the solemnity of the occasion and its responsibilities for him. He alighted at the Milburn house at exactly 2:35 o'clock. He was accompanied to the house by his host, Mr. Ansley Wilcox and one of the secret service force. TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE. President Roosevelt came out of the Milburn house at 2:58 o'clock and drove to the Wilcox home, reaching there at 3:15 o'clock. A ten minutes wait for the members of the cabinet ensued and preparations were made for taking the oath of office.

The place selected was the library of Mr. Wilcox's house, a rather small room, but picturesque, the heavy oak trimmings and the massive book cases giving it somewhat the appearance of a legal den. A pretty bay window with stained glass and heavy hangings formed a background and against this the president took his position. Surrounding him were the five members of the cabinet, Secretaries Root, Hitchcock, Long, Wilson and Postmaster General Smith. Nearby, were Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Hight, John Scatherd, Mr. and Mrs. Ansley Wilcox, Miss Wilcox, George P. Sawyer, Doctors Mann, Park and Stockton; Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Sprague, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Milburn, Secretary William M. Loeb, Jr., Secretary George B. Cortelyou, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Carri, R. C. Scatherd, J. D. Sawyer, William Jeffers, official telegrapher of the United States senate, and John R. Hazel judge of the United States district court.

Judge Hazel stood near the president in the bay window, and the latter showed his almost extreme nervousness by plucking at the lapel of his long frock coat and nervously tapping the hardwood floor with his heel. He stepped over once to Secretary Root and for about five minutes they conversed earnestly. The question at issue was whether the president should first sign an oath of office and then swear in or whether he should swear in first and sign the document in the case after.

A PATHETIC SCENE. At precisely 3:32 o'clock Secretary Root ceased his conversation with the president and stepping back, while an absolute hush fell upon every one in the room, said in an almost inaudible voice: "Mr. Vice President, I—" then his voice broke fully two minutes, the tears came down his face and his lips quivered so that he could not continue his utterances. There were sympathetic tears from those about him and two great drops ran down either cheek of

the successor of William McKinley. Mr. Root's chin was on his breast. Suddenly throwing back his head as if with an effort he continued in broken voice:

"I have been requested on behalf of the cabinet of the late president, at least those who are present in Buffalo, all except two, to request that for reasons of weight affecting the affairs of government you should proceed to take the constitutional oath of president of the United States."

Judge Hazel had stepped to the rear of the president and Mr. Roosevelt, coming closed to Secretary Root, said in a voice that at first wavered, but finally came deep and strong, while, as if to control his nervousness he held firmly to the lapel of his coat with his right hand:

"I shall take the oath at once in accordance with your request and in this hour of deep and terrible national bereavement I wish to state that it shall be my aim to continue absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for the peace and prosperity and honor of our beloved country."

The president stepped farther in the bay window and Judge Hazel, taking up the constitutional oath of office, which had been prepared on parchment, asked the president to raise his right hand and repeat it after him. There was a hush like death in the room as the judge read a few words at a time and the president in strong voice and without a tremor and with his raised hand as steady as if carved from marble repeated it after him.

"And thus I swear," he ended it. The hand dropped by the side and the chin for an instant rested on the breast and the silence remained unbroken for a couple of minutes as though the new president of the United States was offering prayer.

Judge Hazel broke the silence, saying, "Mr. President, please attach your signature," and the president, turning to a small table near by, wrote "Theodore Roosevelt" at the bottom of the document in a firm hand.

"I should like to see the members of the cabinet a few moments after the others retire," said the president, and this was the signal for the score of people who had been favored by witnessing the ceremony, to retire. When they turned to go, the president said: "I will shake hands with you people, gladly," and, with something of his old smile returning, he first shook hands with the members of the cabinet present, then with Senator Depew and finally with a few guests and newspaper men.

PRESENT CABINET TO REMAIN FOR THE PRESENT.

Immediately following the dispersing of the spectators after the taking of the oath, the president and the cabinet members present held a conference. When it was finished the president said to the representatives of the Association Press:

"Following out the brief statement I made when taking the oath that I would follow the administrative lines laid down by President McKinley I requested the members of the cabinet who were present to remain in their positions at least for the present. They have assured me that they will, and I may say that I have assurances also from the absent members."

NO EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.

Inquiry was made of the president as to whether an extra session of congress would be called by him and he said in substance that there was no fundamental law requiring the calling of congress together upon the succession of a vice president to the presidency and that after consultation with the cabinet they had decided that no such extra session would be called. The president after the meeting of the cabinet saw a few personal friends and then putting on his hat said to Secretary Root: "Let us take a little walk; it will do us both good."

Secretary Root assented and they walked out on the porch. His host, Mr. Ansley Wilcox, said: "Mr. President, shan't I go with you?" He said: "No, I am going to take a short walk up the street with Secretary Root and I will return again."

WANTS NO BODYGUARD.

When he got down to the foot of the walk a couple of policemen and a couple of detectives in citizens clothing started to follow him. He turned and told his secretary to tell them that he did not desire any protection. "I do not want to establish the precedent of going about guarded."

The policeman and detectives touched their hats, but before he had gone 100 yards two of them were walking just behind him and two of them were following him on the other side of the street.

The two distinguished men attracted but little attention until they got near the police lines on Delaware avenue when the president stopped to shake hands and say good bye to Secretary Root when the crowd recognized him and surrounded him. The police drove the crowd back, and the president, accompanied by Colonel Bingham, who joined him, and watched also by his former military secretary at Albany, Colonel George Curtis Treadwell, walked briskly back to the Wilcox mansion. He announced later that he would not leave the city until Monday morning when the funeral train is to leave.

THE DEAD PRESIDENT

CONTROVERSY ALREADY RAISED AS TO CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

THEORY OF POISONED BULLETS

His Physicians Show on This Point.

The Autopsy Shows Gangrene of the Stomach Wounds and the Kidney Pierced by the Bullet—Programme for the Funeral—Mrs. McKinley Holds Up Well

Buffalo, N. Y., September 14.—The following is the inscription on the casket that will contain the remains of the martyred president:

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, Born January 29th, 1843. Died September 14th, 1901.

It is of red cedar, handsomely carved and covered with the finest black broadcloth. The interior is finished with copper over which is a full tufted satin covering. A French bevel plate glass runs the full length of the top of the casket.

The outside case is made of red cedar, finely finished. The corners are capped with polished copper and the handles are of the same material. On the top of the case is a copper plate board, a duplicate of the inscription on the casket.

Washington, September 14.—Orders have been issued for the assembling of troops in Washington to participate in President McKinley's funeral services. The force will consist of a band and six companies of coast artillery from Fort Monroe; two companies of coast artillery from Fort Washington; one company of engineers from Willet's Point; two troops of cavalry from Fort Myer and one light battery of Washington barracks. The two regiments of the District of Columbia National guard also will participate. General Miles will command the troops if he reaches here in time. Otherwise they will be commanded by Major General Brooke, commanding the department of the east.

THE FUNERAL PROGRAMME.

Buffalo, N. Y., September 14.—The funeral programme provides for a short service of prayer at the Milburn house at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. A quintette will sing "Lead Kindly Light," which was always the president's favorite hymn, and "Nearer My God to Thee," words from which the president murmured as he lay dying last night. Rev. Charles E. Locke, of the Delaware avenue M. E. church, will officiate. After the service the body will be borne to the city hall and there will be in state during the day, guarded by a detachment of New York national guards.

The public will be admitted to the city hall from noon until 5 o'clock, a line being formed for the purpose of allowing the casket to be viewed. It will remain at the city hall until Monday morning and will be escorted thence to the train which will convey the funeral party to Washington.

Arriving there in the evening the body will be taken to the White house, where it will remain over night, and on Tuesday it will be taken formally to the capitol where the state funeral will be held. On Wednesday the remains will be escorted to Canton and on Thursday interment will take place at President McKinley's old home.

THE AUTOPSY.

The following report of the autopsy upon the remains of President McKinley was issued at 5 o'clock: "The bullet which struck over the breastbone did not pass through and did little harm. The other bullet passed through both walls of the stomach near its lower border. Both holes were found to be perfectly closed by the stitches, but the tissue around each hole had become gangrenous. After passing through the stomach the bullet passed into the back walls of the abdomen, hitting and tearing the upper end of the kidney. This portion of the bullet track was also gangrenous, the gangrene involving the pancreas. The bullet has not yet been found."

"There was no sign of peritonitis or disease of other organs. The heart walls were very thin. There was no evidence of any attempt at repair on the part of nature and death resulted from the gangrene which affected the stomach around the bullet wounds as well as the tissues around the further course of the bullet. Death was unavoidable by any surgical or medical treatment and was the direct result of the bullet wound."

- HARVEY D. A. GAYLORD, M. D. HERMAN G. METZINGER, M. D. P. M. RIXEY, M. D. MATTHEW D. MANN. HERMAN MYNTER, M. D. ROSWELL PARK, M. D. EUGENE WASHIN, M. D. CHARLES G. STOCKDAY, M. D. EDWARD G. JANEWAY, M. D. W. P. KENDALL, Sur. U. S. A. CHARLES CARY, M. D. EDWARD L. MUNSON. Assistant Surgeon U. S. A. HERMANUS L. BARR, M. D. W. D. JOHNSON, M. D.

AT THE MILBURN HOUSE.

Milburn House, Buffalo, September 14.—Absolute quiet prevailed in the neighborhood of the Milburn residence through the early hours of the day. The police maintained the lines on Delaware avenue and the streets which intersect it and double picket lines, controlled by fourteenth infantrymen, protected them from any intrusion. Many persons came to the outer police lines and gazed in silence at the house where the body of the dead president reposes.

Pathetic figures in the crowd were scores of old Grand Army men who grieved at the loss of a comrade. Their bitterness at the crime seemed melted in regret. Many of them pleaded with the police for admission to the lines, declaring that it was their right and privilege to guard the body of the man who fought in their ranks and was their comrade. The police gratefully enforced the order against them.

A heavy, damp fog still hung over the city and gave the air a chill that was penetrating. At 8 o'clock a company of the Fourteenth infantry, commanded by Lieutenant James Ware, relieved the guards, who had been on guard duty or twenty-four hours. The formalities of posting the new guards took place at once.

None who came to show their sorrow for the dead president failed to look solicitously for Mrs. McKinley. It was known that she was not strong physically and there was grave fear for the consequences of the suffering and shock she had experienced. The first word of encouragement came from the servants of the household, who said that she was still in her room and had apparently rested well. This report was amply confirmed at 8:45 o'clock by Dr. Washin, who had called at the house to see her. He said that she had not yet rested fairly well, but was showing encouraging strength in her grief.

Mrs. Barber and Miss McKinley, sisters of the dead statesman, drove to the Milburn house at 9:30 o'clock and were at once escorted in. Both showed deep grief.

Abner McKinley, brother of President McKinley, drove to the Milburn house at 10 o'clock, accompanied by Lieutenant James McKinley, Colonel Brown and Mr. Meek of Canton. The police removed the rope lines and the carriage rolled slowly up to the entrance of the house. Mr. McKinley stepped forward in his seat in the carriage and shaded his eyes with his hand. When he alighted he walked slowly up to the door of the house with his eyes downcast and head bent. His face plainly showed the strain and grief of the night.

At 10 o'clock Milburn house, which all through the morning had been silent and to outward appearances deserted, showed its first stir. The relatives of Mr. McKinley began to arrive and the waiting attendants stood at the door to receive them. Mr. Milburn joined the party at 10 o'clock and for a time stood at his door with bare feet and with some of the friends of Mr. McKinley's family. By that time great crowds were banded at the ends of the rope enclosure, but perfect order was observed.

The most painful scene of the morning was caused by camera men. To the number of more than thirty, they gained admission through the police lines, and even the grief of the relatives of the dead president was not satisfied by the flash of the cameras into the tear-stained faces of the relatives and snapped the shutters. The police declined to take the responsibility of rejecting them.

THE CORONER ARRIVES.

The coroner of Buffalo, Mr. Wilson, arrived at the residence at 10 o'clock and officially viewed the body. He stated to an Associated Press correspondent that it had been his duty to preside over a jury, but he had been so finally advised by the district attorney that such a proceeding would be unnecessary. After the autopsy he said he would issue a certificate of death and permit for the removal of the remains. Senator Hanna came to the house at 10:40 o'clock accompanied by Congressman Dawes and Elmer Dwyer, his private secretary. The coroner talked slowly and haltingly and bowed his head as he approached the house that sheltered the remains of his dead friend. Exaggerated reports of the president's illness had been sent out and his appearance on the street could hardly be felled them. He is broken in spirit at the death of President McKinley, but remains strong physically.

AN AFFEETING INCIDENT.

An affecting incident of the evening was the coming of Mrs. Sarah A. Hobart, wife of the former vice president of the United States, and her son, Mr. Hobart was in deep mourning and after her visit to the house came out with her handkerchief to her eyes, weeping.

THE CABINET ASSEMBLES.

The members of President McKinley's cabinet began assembling at 10:30 o'clock. Secretary Root was the first to arrive and after him came Secretaries Long, Wilson and Hitchcock, Attorney General Knox and Postmaster General Smith. The only absentees were Secretaries Gage and Hay. The cabinet members went to a rear parlor of the Milburn house and there began a conference.

THE AUTOPSY.

At the same moment the surgeons selected to perform the autopsy had assembled in the rooms up stairs where the president had died and where his body still rested.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE.

The expressions of condolence began to arrive almost simultaneously with the announcement of the president's death, showing that the people everywhere had waited on through the weary watches of the night for the news that the end had come. After daylight the telegrams began to arrive in a steady stream, thousands reaching the house before noon. Those for the grieving wife were of course laid aside, it not being deemed safe to intrude upon her great sorrow in her feeble condition and no attempt could be made to answer these to Secretary Corteyou as fast as they came.

THE WATCH WITH THE CORPSE.

After the physicians had finished their autopsy on the body of the president it was prepared for burial. The face was shaved and the body was embalmed. The features were pale and

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE)