

Dale Carnegie

5-Minute Biographies

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

He Was Shot In The Breast; But He Kept Right On With His Speech

One afternoon in January, 1919, a detachment of soldiers raised their rifles into the air, and fired a salute. Roosevelt was dead! Theodore Roosevelt, the most colorful and spectacular president that ever wielded a big stick over this nation! He died a comparatively young man.

Almost everything about Teddy Roosevelt was extraordinary. For example, even though he was so nearsighted that, without his glasses, he couldn't recognize his best friend ten feet away, he became an expert rifle shot and

brought down charging lions in Africa.

As a boy, he was pale and sickly and tortured with asthma; so he went west for his health, became a cowboy, slept out under the stars, and developed such a magnificent physique that he boxed with Mike Donovan. He explored the wilderness of South America, climbed such mountains as the Jungfrau and the Matterhorn, and led a mighty charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba in the face of deadly rifle fire.

Roosevelt says in his autobiog-

raphy that as a child he was nervous and timid and afraid of getting hurt; yet he broke his wrist, his arm, his nose, his ribs, and his shoulder, and kept right on taking chances. When he was a cowboy in Dakota, he'd be thrown from his horse, crack a bone, climb into the saddle again and go on rounding up cattle.

He says that he developed courage by doing the things he was afraid to do—by acting as if he were brave even though he were half scared to death. He finally became so courageous he didn't fear even roaring lions or blazing cannon.

During the Bull Moose campaign in 1912, a half-crazy man shot Roosevelt in the breast while he was on his way to make a speech. Roosevelt didn't let anybody know that the bullet had struck him. He went right on to the auditorium and started to speak and kept on speaking until he almost collapsed from loss of blood. Then he was rushed to the hospital.

He never smoked, he never swore, and about the only drink he ever did was to take a teaspoonful of brandy, on rare occasions, in a milkshake at night. He didn't even know there was any brandy in the milkshake until his valet told him about it; yet

he was called a hard drinker so often that he finally had to bring a libel suit to stop the slander.

Busy as he was, he found time to read hundreds and hundreds of books while he was in the White House. He would often have the entire forenoon packed tight with a series of five-minute interviews; but he kept a book by his side to utilize even the few spare seconds that elapsed between his callers. Despite crowded hours, he had many hobbies.

He loved music, but he couldn't carry a tune himself. While he was working alone, he often tried to sing Nearer My God to Thee. Once he rode through the streets of a western town, tipping his hat to the cheering throngs, and all the while he kept singing to himself Nearer My God to Thee.

On a train trip through the West at one time, he was talking to a group of executives in his private car. Suddenly he saw a farmer standing in his corn field beside the tracks, with his hat off. Roosevelt knew the man was paying his respects to the President of the United States; so he jumped up, rushed to the rear platform and waved his hat furiously. He didn't do that as a political stunt.

He did it because deep in his heart he liked people.

During the last year of his life, his health began to fail; and, although he was only sixty, he remarked several times that he was getting old. He wrote a letter to an aged friend saying: "You and I are within reach of the rifle pits, and any moment we may go down into the darkness."

He died peacefully in his sleep, on January 4, 1919. The last words he ever uttered were: "Please put out the lights."

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Ashe Turkeys

The week before Thanksgiving Ashe county farmers shipped approximately 20,000 turkeys to market centers both north and south. The turkeys brought 19 cents a pound on foot but the dressed fowls were higher in price. The birds averaged 11 pounds each but the largest tom to leave weighed 31 pounds.

Since 1492 man has mined about 41,000 tons of gold—enough to make a cube 41 feet along each side.

PRICES DETERMINE TYPE OF FARMING

If Prices Are Low Farmers Forced to Grow Every Acre In Cash Crops

WOULD STABILIZE PRICE

Stabilizing agricultural prices at a "fair level" makes it possible for the farmer to follow a balanced cropping system that conserves the soil.

There is a direct relation between the up and down price of farm commodities and the care that is given the soil, said E. Y. Floyd, of State College.

When prices are ruinously low, he said, farmers tend to grow all the cash they can in an effort to wrest a living from the land. They are virtually forced to keep every possible acre in cash crops.

And under the pinch of low income, few farmers are able to carry out the good practices necessary to enrich the soil and conserve it for future years. Thus low prices work in two

ways to force a type of farming that rapidly depletes the soil, Floyd pointed out.

On the other hand, high prices induce farmers to raise all the cash crops they can in their desire to make money while the making is good. And farmers tend to neglect their soil.

In places, the custom of growing cash crops year after year with few soil-building crops in rotation or as a cover crop has so reduced the fertility of the land that it is impossible to make a decent living farming this land, he continued.

The 1938 agricultural conservation program, he said, is intended to stabilize prices at a level that will encourage farmers to carry out good soil-conserving practices and check the wasteful depletion of the land.

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