

FROM COWBOY TO PRESIDENT.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
 President Roosevelt much more faithfully represents the ideals and ambitions of his fellow-countrymen than does the hackneyed portrait of Uncle Sam, lank and limb and uncouth of speech. Our cousins prefer a spruce figure, but they insist that none of the sterling qualities of the gentleman with the plug hat and the trousers strapped over his boots shall be sacrificed in the transformation. They have outgrown the frontier spirit which detected in modish garments effeminacy and general "otherness." A happy and instructive blending of Kit Carson and Ward McAllister, with the dash of Meccia-yelli, appeals to them very strongly indeed, and there can be little doubt that this is the impression President Roosevelt makes on the great majority of his fellow-countrymen.

Roosevelt the Strenuous.
 There is about President Roosevelt also a brusqueness that is essential to an American quality. He is a man with whom one would not care to take liberties, and exactly the same thing may be said about the United States in its dealings with foreign powers. The temper of the country is pugnacious. It would not be more quickly, probably, than other large nations in the world, to be very prompt and violent in asserting any personal affront in its favor. All this is pretty well summed up in the word "strenuous," so frequently applied to Mr. Roosevelt and to the age in which he lives. Strenuousness is the idea of the present generation of Americans. From boyhood the President has led a strenuous life. A boxer at college, a cowboy on the plains, a hunter in the mountains, an explorer, a lover of nature in the West, in the East a politician, a superior sort of detective in New York. Under-Secretary of the Navy, a rough rider in the war with Spain, the leader of a "wild" charge up San Juan Hill, Governor of his State, Vice-President and finally President. The record of his superior order. To cap it all, President is still a young man.

In the Maine Woods.
 That all his strenuousness would have raised him to the position he now occupies, unless aided and abetted by large means and influential family connections, may be reasonably doubted. In fact, it was his money which gave him a chance to become strenuous. As a youth he was sickly, and so was comfortably despatched to the Maine woods, there to live in the open and still-hunt for the health that had never been his. The president is fond of telling of an adventure he had in the woods, in which he played quite an heroic part. He

was, in fact, soundly thrashed by a native. It was Roosevelt's first encounter with the strenuous life. He longed to be six feet high and two feet thick. On the scene of his discomfort he vowed to attain as nearly as possible to his ideal, so that he might not again figure as prey for a raw bumpkin. With this resolve burning in his breast, he returned home and re-entered Harvard, where he cultivated gymnastics and the noble art of self-defence.

Roosevelt the Westerner.
 Still his health did not become all that he desired, and young Roosevelt, on completing his course, resolved to go West and become a cattleman.
 Though a man of means he did not attempt to save himself. Fatigue and hardship he courted. He lived not only with cowboys, but as a cowboy. No trail was too long, no weather too rough for the tenderfoot. He became one of three partners in a cattle ranch, and might, had he chosen, have been a rambling king, for he had the money and also the necessary knowledge. But he had not gone West to make a fortune. Health was his primary consideration, and he decided that there were more agreeable ways of establishing and conserving it than in the toil and anxiety which the ownership of vast herds would entail. So he became more and more a hunter and less and less a cow puncher as the time went by. All over Montana, Wyoming and Dakota, he roamed, gathering prairie lore, trophies and increasing vigor wherever he went. He became a Westerner in very spirit, and till this day he has remained one.

As Police Commissioner.
 Having acquired the health he so earnestly sought, Roosevelt's immediate business in the West was at an end, and he returned to the East. Soon after his arrival we find him active in New York politics. His rough sojourn among men "with the hair on" had developed in him a decided gift as a manager, and this, backed by energy, ambition and family influences, made him a leader in State politics. So it came about that at the age of 26 he was elected delegate to a Republican national convention, and became one of the sponsors for Benjamin Harrison. He "furnished" rapidly, and in two years was a candidate for the New York Mayoralty. His defeat was rewarded in two years by an appointment as Civil Service Commissioner, which he held for some years, all the time strengthening his political position. It was his work as Police Commissioner in New York in 1895 that first brought him prominently before the people who, nine years later, were to elect him President of the United States. Theodore Roosevelt was the best official of the sort New York ever had, and what any

one man could do to reform the incorrigible force he did.
Rough Rider, Governor, President.
 His next step was that to Under-Secretary of the Navy, under McKinley, a position he promptly resigned when the Spanish-American War broke out, in order that he might be free to organize a force of rough riders. At the head of this "formidable unit" he saw honorable service in Cuba, and had the good fortune to figure in one or two sensational encounters, so that he came home a national hero. He became Governor of his State, but resigned to accept the nomination for Vice-President. The supreme office became his on McKinley's death. His chief acts as President have been his anti-trust legislation, his intervention in the great anthracite coal strike of 1902, and his really discreditable course with Panama. The Washington post-office scandal was an incident to his administration for which he cannot be held responsible. President Roosevelt has shown courage, audacity and honesty. It remains for him to prove that he has inherited from his illustrious predecessor any of that deep sagacity and wide toleration which made William McKinley one of the great figures of his day.

Skipping as Exercise.
 To ninety-nine persons out of a hundred the mention of skipping as an exercise suggests nothing but an ordinary piece of rope, by aid of which children, either singly or in numbers, compete with one another in their power to score successive "singles" or "doubles," or even, in cases of extreme proficiency, the highly distinguished "trebles," says Francis Bond M. D., in the National Review. One of my correspondents, who permits his evidence in this matter to be quoted, and who has been a systematic skipper all his life, avers that on one occasion at school he piled up a record of 300 consecutive "singles," and on another of 300 "doubles," being stopped on each trip only by the school bell.
 But the hundredth man to whom skipping may be suggested as a pure exercise may be a trained athlete, and as such he will know that skipping holds a high place in the repertoire of exercises which the candidates for honors in athletics of whatever kind practised in order to develop firmness in his muscles generally, capacity of breathing power and the maintenance of sustained effort. It is stated on good authority that a well-known pugilist of the mid-Victorian era (Jem Macco) had so high an opinion of skipping for the purpose of training that he used it largely to get himself into condition for fighting, and specially as a means of promoting agility, in which he was remarkably proficient. Many a footballer and boxing man also has had reason to thank the skipping rope for bringing him into condition for the struggle in which with leg or arm he had prepared himself to engage.

IT WILL PAY YOU, IF YOU ARE IN BUSINESS TO ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES.

TOM WAS VERY EASY.

The Latest Confidence Game Reported from Jersey City.

This story of elaborate enterprise and abuse of confidence comes from Jersey and is vouched for by commentators in the region about Union, says The New York Times.
 A farmer, who may be called for convenience Timothy Hay, was driving along near the railway station when he observed a well-dressed man very busy with his stick poking about in the roadway (which is rocky at that place) turning over a stone here and scratching in the gravel there, and every now and then bending down to look intently at the ground. The man was so absorbed in his singular occupation that he did not appear to observe the farmer, and Mr. Hay's curiosity was aroused. He climbed down from his wagon and asked the stranger if he could render him any assistance. The stranger said at first that he feared not—and kept on prodding with his stick. Mr. Hay, however, continuing to stand by and watch the proceedings, the other presently looked up.
 "The fact is," he said, "I lost a diamond ring somewhere about here, not now. It is a very valuable ring, and I've spent an hour already trying to find it, but I've got to catch a train in ten minutes, and if you will help me look I'll be much obliged."
 The farmer joined in the search. Presently there was the sound of the whistle of an approaching engine. The stranger stopped.
 "That's my train," he said. "I've got to run for it. I'm sure I lost the ring somewhere between this point and about twenty yards back. It's worth \$500, and I'll be glad to pay \$100 reward to anybody who returns it to me. Here's my card with my address. I don't think there's much chance, but if you should happen to find the ring or hear of anybody finding it drop me a line."
 And the stranger made a dash for the train, which was just pulling into the station, a hundred yards away. The farmer saw him swing aboard the last car, and then settled down to look for the ring. He spent the rest of the day at it—it was about noon when he had first seen the stranger—and it was good and dark before he gave over the search. He came next day, and looked again very carefully, and every time he drove that way for a week he got down and looked about more or less. He never found anything like a ring.
 It was three weeks afterward, perhaps (that was only a few days ago), and Hay had pretty much forgotten all about the stranger and his ring, when as he was standing near his barn watering his horses a tramp came up—a particularly disreputable-looking tramp—and asked for some-

thing to eat. Mr. Hay told him gradually to "git out," but the man sidled up to him and whispered: "Say, boss, d'ye know anything er-bout this sort o' truck?"
 He drew a very dirty hand from within his shirt and displayed what appeared to be a diamond ring.
 "What are you doing with that, did'ye steal it?" asked Hay, sharply.
 "I foun' it," said the tramp.
 "Git away with your old glass," said Mr. Hay.
 "Sure, boss, I did fin' it," the tramp insisted, "jus' now down the road a piece not fur from the railroad depot, whar the road's full of rocks. I dunno what it's wuth, but I thought you might give me somethin' fur it."
 At the mention of the road near the station Mr. Hay started, but he concealed his agitation.
 "I don't go in for them kind o' things," he said, "and I don't know much about 'em, but that there ring don't look to me valyble. Most likely 'if you foun' it, which I don't believe, it's jus' plain glass. But I'll chance it to give you dinner for it."
 "Not on yer life yer don't," said the tramp, and made a move to depart.
 "Lemme look at the thing again," said Hay.
 The tramp held out his hand cautiously.
 "I'll give you \$2.50 for it," said Hay.
 The tramp told him roughly that he wasn't throwing diamonds away, and the upshot of the matter after much talking was that the farmer agreed to give \$50 for the ring, reflecting within himself that he would get the credit of honesty and clear \$50, anyway, on the reward the stranger had mentioned.
 He wrote at once to the name and address which had been given him to announce the finding of the ring, and waited with confidence for the result. When, in a couple of days, the letter came back marked "person unknown," Hay got uneasy and went to a local jeweller to have the ring valued. Previously he had said nothing to anybody, cherishing his luck in secret. When the jeweller said that the ring was worth "about 88 cents," the victim broke out into loud lamentations and told his story. His neighbors now get his every appearance with a chorus of hoos and jeers.

THE CZAR'S DREAM.
 (Kansas City Star.)
 The czar is superstitious and often consults fortune-tellers. A young gypsy girl has been making a success in St. Petersburg along this line and the czar, hearing of her, sent word for her to visit him. He told her of a dream that he had had, of seeing three rats, a lean one, a fat one, and a blind one. He wanted the dream interpreted, saying that it troubled him. "Has it a meaning?" he asked. "It has," said the gypsy, who is extremely frank. "The fat rat stands for Russian officialdom—all your various ministers and departmental heads. The lean rat is your people. The blind rat is yourself."

INTERESTING HINTS ON NATURE STUDY.

(Mail and Empire.)
 Most people look upon the study of nature as an ornamental appendix to education as a pursuit adapted to the hour of leisure and appropriate only to those who are comparatively independent and whose time is at their own disposal. Few ever think of taking up the matter seriously unless their profession calls for an acquaintance with its mysteries and even then they are mostly content with such investigations as the necessity of the case demands. Notwithstanding these facts, there are many who profess to have a strong desire to become acquainted with the lessons which nature has to teach but who from various reasons have deferred the study. If we are to judge by the many enquiries made by such persons, one of the principal barriers consists in the difficulty of deciding upon a proper course to pursue and of knowing how and where to begin the study. Many of these enquiries have doubtless been deterred from entering upon the subject because of the apparent confusion which exists amongst the literature relating to natural objects wherein so many systems and methods of study are to be found. The very mention of a subject scientific seems to be a stumbling block to many, while the so-called popular works upon nature with their repetitions and descriptions of well known or abnormal forms seldom satisfy the craving to be able to follow the connection existing between natural phenomena and their relation to natural phenomena.
 A few hints relating to these matters from one who has experienced similar drawbacks may not, therefore, be out of place to those whose desire it is to get acquainted with nature and her numerous and important revelations. These hints must, however, be confined to generalities and be of the briefest, in order to direct attention upon the space allotted to the subject.
 Two sources of information present themselves to the student. The field of nature which surrounds us on every side forms the first and most important of these sources, while observation and comparison of abnormal forms seldom satisfy the craving to be able to follow the connection existing between natural phenomena and their relation to natural phenomena. Hence the advantage of being able to make comparisons with, and of obtaining the guidance, and getting acquainted with the habits and experience has qualified them for the purpose. We do not hold with those who would turn the untutored mind into the arena of nature and leave it to inexperienced and imagination for its means of acquiring knowledge, regarding the way and wherefore of things. An accumulation of ideas so acquired is much more likely to consist of fancy than of facts. Making use of both these sources of information, taking hints and suggestions from the records obtained from personal observation, our deductions should be fairly correct.
 That the study of nature is a task of great magnitude and variety will at once be apparent and it will soon become evident that some systematic arrangement of the multitudinous objects is necessary, and here at the outset is seen the advantage of having the aid of recorded observations and assistance of systematic classification. By such assistance we are enabled to arrange all the objects with which we may come in contact in such a way as to show the affinity that exists between them, and also the points upon which they differ. In such arrangements we will find that the presence or absence of the peculiar force which we call life, separates all natural objects into two great divisions, which are known as the organic and inorganic worlds. Again, we find the organic world subdividing into two kingdoms, because life is manifested in two distinct ways, one being known as the animal, the other as the vegetable kingdom. If we now include the inorganic world as a third kingdom, we produce three groups having the following characteristics:
 (a) Objects that grow and move. The Animal kingdom.
 (b) Objects that grow but do not move. The Vegetable kingdom.
 (c) Objects without life. The inorganic world.
 (d) Objects that neither grow nor move. The Mineral kingdom.
 These divisions, in the character of which there are exceptions, are sufficiently definite for the purpose of nature study and by considering the various objects under the characters thus indicated considerable advance is made in the distinction which exist among natural objects. It may be added that while the power of reproduction exists as a rule amongst organic objects the inorganic do not possess this quality or function.
 (e) Living as the end and aim of such efforts. While we have nothing to say against such collections as collections, and which are useful in their proper place, we would at the same time point out that such work does not constitute nature study, and that as such the same nature study and means are limited a much more scientific, more profitable, and more interesting method is to select some particular line of development, secure specimens illustrative of its nature and progress, and to arrange these in such a method as to show these characteristics to the best advantage, and extend such work, as time and circumstances permit. By this method a knowledge of nature's purposes and appliances is obtained, such as could never be acquired in the usual way of general collection. These are a few suggestions that the intending nature student would do well to consider and, in practice, not very attractive, perhaps, in themselves, but forming a foundation upon which much that will profit and please may be built by any intelligent mind.

REDEMPTION OF COLORADO.

(Chicago Chronicle.)
 Mrs. A. M. Welles of Denver says that Colorado parents "are made to toe the mark" and are held responsible for delinquent children. "That is as it should be. Now, if someone or ones can be made to toe the mark and be responsible for Colorado women who try to cheat at the polls, that particular state will have a far better reputation for integrity than it has at present. Women in Colorado are doing some wonderful things in the way of progress, but occasionally in their zeal to have matters advanced they have defied the laws, stuffed the ballot boxes and done things that even politicians denounce. It is gratifying, however, to learn that the children in Colorado are being brought up right and that there is hope for the next generation of women if not for this."

CALLING HIS BLUFF.

(Baltimore American.)
 An Atlantic Highlands man has been trying to save a bluff there from the encroachment on the sea. He has found out what the wild waves are saying—they are calling his bluff.

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