

SCANT PATIENCE, STUPENDOUS MENDACITY



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
AND DIPLOMACY
IN THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
(1904-1905)**

**Dr. William J. Hansard
Outreach Coordinator
Public Historian**

**THEODORE
Roosevelt
CENTER**

AT DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY



EXPOSED TO THE WORLD'S CONTEMPT.

WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON.

Personal.

Tacoma, Washington,
May 22, 1903.

Dear John:

I think that the Dickey outcome is entirely satisfactory. I have notified Frye, sending to him your official letter.

As for China, I do not see that there is anything we can say, even by way of suggestion. The mendacity of the Russians is something appalling. The bad feature of the situation from our standpoint is that ~~as yet~~ ^{we have} ~~concluded~~ ^{concluded} that we cannot fight to keep Manchuria open. I hate being in the position of seeming to bluster without backing it up. When I get back I shall have to go over the whole China situation with you. That you have handled it in a most masterly manner I need hardly say; now I would like to try to get some idea of what we are to do in the future.

I have suggested to Moody that we send a first-class battleship from our squadron from the Azores to go up with the old cruisers of the European squadron to Kiel. As you say, the attitude of the German government is puerile, but if

[The Papers, Hay Collection]

we can save nice Speck's head by giving a battleship a voyage I shall be delighted to do so.

Ever yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Hon. John Hay,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Personal - - Be very careful that no one gets a chance to see this.

June 13, 1905.

Dear Cecil:

Like everyone else I, of course, continue to be immensely interested in the war in the East. Do you recollect some of the letters I have written you in the past about Russia? I never anticipated in the least such a rise as this of Japan's, but I have never been able to make myself afraid of Russia in the present. I like the Russian people and believe in them. I earnestly hope that after the fiery ordeal through which they are now passing they will come forth faced in the right way for doing well in the future. But I see nothing of permanent good that can come to Russia, either for herself or for the rest of the world, until her people begin to tread the path of orderly freedom, of civil liberty, and of a measure of self-government. Whatever may be the theoretical advantages of a despotism, they are incompatible with the average growth of intelligence and individuality in a civilized people. Either there must be stagnation in the people, or there must be what I should hope would be a gradual but a very real growth of governmental institutions to meet the growth and the capacity and need for liberty.

The other day the Japanese Minister here and Baron Kaneko, a Harvard graduate, lunched with me and I had a most interesting talk. I told them that I thought their chief danger was lest Japan might

-2-

get the "big head" and enter into a general career of insolence and aggression; that such a career would undoubtedly be temporarily very unpleasant to the rest of the world, but that it would in the end be still more unpleasant for Japan. I also added that though I felt there was a possibility of this happening, I did not think it probable, because I was a firm believer in the Japanese people, and that I most earnestly hoped as well as believed that Japan would simply take her place from now on among the great civilized nations, with, like each of these nations, something to teach others as well as something to learn from them; with, of course, a paramount interest in what surrounds the Yellow Sea, just as the United States has a paramount interest in what surrounds the Caribbean; but with, I hoped, no more desire for conquest of the weak than we had shown ourselves to have in the case of Cuba, and no more desire for a truculent attitude toward the strong than we had shown with reference to the English and French West Indies. Both of them, I found, took exactly my view, excepting that they did not believe there was any danger of Japan's becoming intoxicated with the victory, because they were convinced that the upper and influential class would not let them, and would show the same caution and decision which has made them so formidable in this war. They then both proceeded, evidently with much feeling, against the talk about the Yellow Terror, explaining that in the 13th century they had had to dread

Confidential

February 9, 1904.

My dear Mr. Straus:-

Unfortunately, Japan has notified us that she would regard any attempt at mediation as unfriendly because she insists that Russia is simply striving for delay and intends to take advantage of every delay to perfect her preparations, so that Japan's interests imperatively demand either an immediate agreement or else war. Russia, meanwhile, has given us to understand that if we have anything to propose it must be to Japan and not to her. We sounded France and found she would not help in any way toward mediation. At present we have been endeavoring to secure the guaranty of China's neutrality. I think to try to secure what we know to be impossible at this time would merely do damage. Secretary Hay strongly thinks so too.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Hon. Oscar S. Straus,
42 Warren Street,
New York.

GENERAL ORDER }

No. 154.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, March 11, 1904.

The following Executive Order is published for the information and guidance of the naval service:

WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 1904.

All officials of the Government, civil, military, and naval, are hereby directed not only to observe the President's proclamation of neutrality in the pending war between Russia and Japan, but also to abstain from either action or speech which can legitimately cause irritation to either of the combatants. The Government of the United States represents the people of the United States not only in the sincerity with which it is endeavoring to keep the scales of neutrality exact and even, but in the sincerity with which it deprecates the breaking out of the present war, and hopes that it will end at the earliest possible moment and with the smallest possible loss to those engaged. Such a war inevitably increases and influences the susceptibilities of the combatants to anything in the nature of an injury or slight by outsiders. Too often combatants make conflicting claims as to the duties and obligations of neutrals, so that even when discharging these duties and obligations with scrupulous care it is difficult to avoid giving offense to one or the other party. To such unavoidable causes of offense, due to the performance of national duty, there must not be added any avoidable causes. It is always unfortunate to bring Old World antipathies and jealousies into our life, or by speech or conduct to excite anger and resentment toward our nation in friendly foreign lands; but in a Government employee, whose official position makes him in some sense the representative of the people, the mischief of such actions is greatly increased. A strong and self-confident nation should be peculiarly careful not only of the rights but of the susceptibilities of its neighbors; and nowadays all of the nations of the world are neighbors one to the other. Courtesy, moderation, and self-restraint should mark international, no less than private, intercourse.

All the officials of the Government, civil, military, and naval, are expected so to carry themselves both in act and in deed as to give no cause of just offense to the people of any foreign and friendly power—and with all mankind we are now in friendship.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

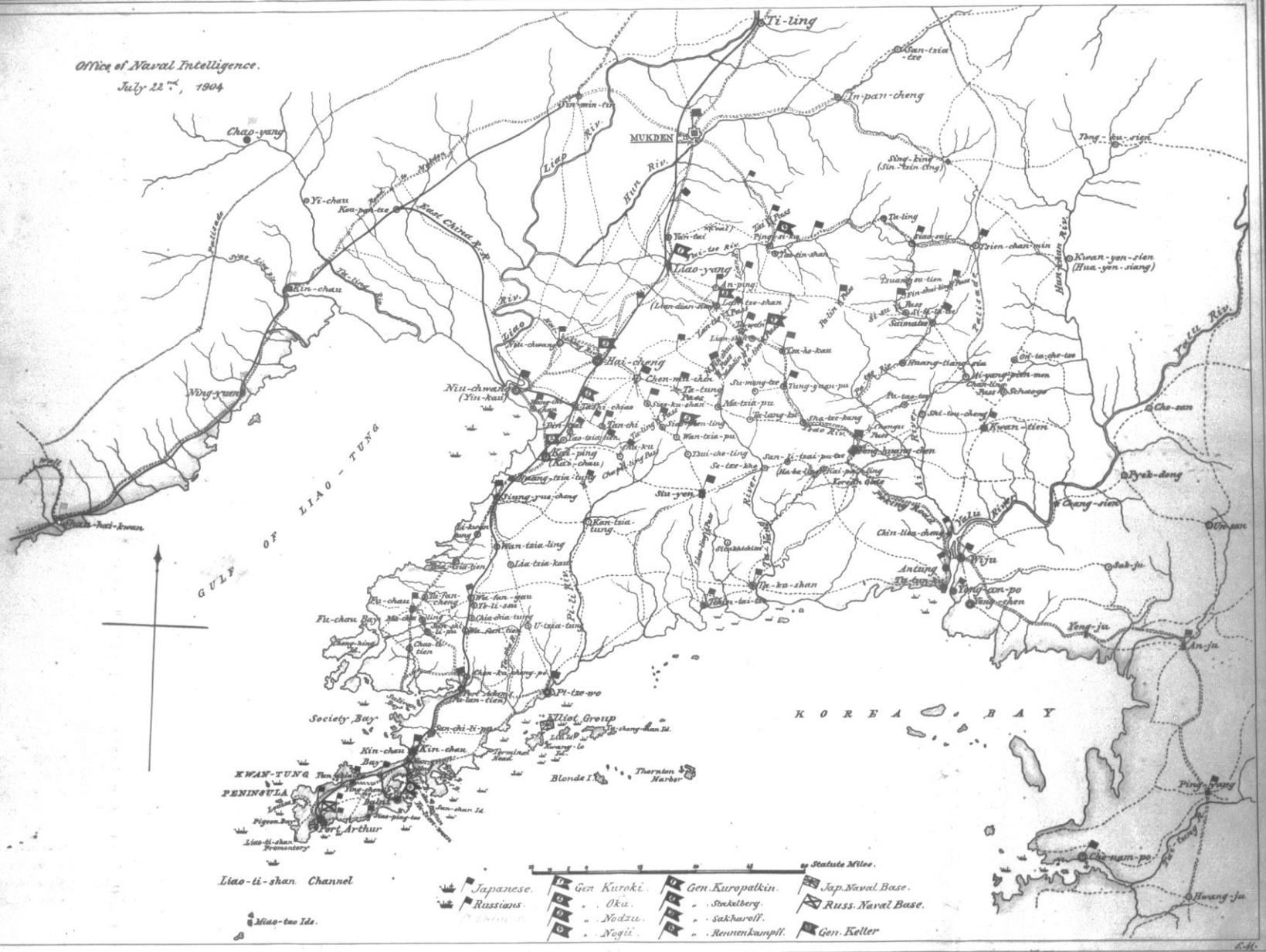
CHAS. H. DARLING,
Acting Secretary.



"THE YELLOW PERIL."

Keppler

Office of Naval Intelligence.
July 22nd, 1904



March 29 1905

Dear Mr. Roosevelt

Please thank the President for his letter. Our official information was the same - what I repeated turned out to be sailors' gossip.

These things go their course which is a sad one. It is quite true that anarchy is growing and incidents abound. It would be difficult to give an idea of the disintegration which is taking place. It is like a great animal dead & rotting with jackals tearing at its tough hide. The peasants are going round in bands destroying & sometimes killing. "I can't let my wife go to the country this year" - one hears on all sides.

The former landlords characteristically have armed themselves & their servants and say complacently - "come on if you like". and the peasants don't come on after the second time. In South Russia the landlords fly to the towns & call for the police who hide themselves. Then comes a regiment and the peasant movement disappears - to reappear elsewhere. It is all done with system. A bonfire is lighted to call the peasants together. They systematically loot everything and go away.

As for the police they are trying to persuade the workmen and peasants that the anarchy is their real friend. Indeed both strikes & peasant

[ca 6-8-05]

On June 8th the following dispatch was sent by the President, through diplomatic channels, to the Japanese and Russian Governments:

"The President feels that the time has come when in the interest of all mankind he must endeavor to see if it is not possible to bring to an end the terrible and lamentable conflict now being waged. With both Russia and Japan the United States has inherited ties of friendship and good will. It hopes for the prosperity and welfare of each, and it feels that the progress of the world is set back by the war between these two great nations. The President accordingly urges the Russian and Japanese governments not only for their own sakes, but in the interest of the whole civilized world, to open direct negotiations for peace with one another. The President suggests that these peace negotiations be conducted directly and exclusively between the belligerents; in other words that there may be a meeting of Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries or delegates without any intermediary, in order to see if it is not possible for these representatives of the two powers to agree to terms of peace. The President earnestly asks that the ^(Russian) ~~(Japanese)~~ Government do now agree to such meeting, and is asking the ^(Japanese) ~~(Russian)~~ Government likewise to agree. While the President does not feel that any intermediary should be called in in respect to the peace negotiations themselves he is entirely willing to do what he properly can if the two powers concerned feel that his services will be of aid in arranging the preliminaries as to the time and place of meeting. But if even these preliminaries can be arranged directly between the two powers, or in any other way, the President will be glad, as his sole purpose is to bring about a meeting which the whole civilized world will pray may result in peace."

TELEGRAM.

RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

White House,
Washington.

ST-PETERSBURG, (Received June 12, 1905, 1:53 p.m.)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

The following note is just received from the foreign office, which I transmit in full:

I did not fail to place before my August Majesty the telegraphic communication which your excellency has been pleased to transmit to me under instructions of your government. His Majesty, much moved by the sentiments expressed by the President, is glad to find in it a new proof of the traditional friendship which unites Russia to the United States of America, as well as an evidence of the high value which Mr. Roosevelt attaches even as His Imperial Majesty does to that universal peace so essential to the welfare and progress of all humanity.

With regard to the eventual meeting of Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries, "In order to see if it is not possible for the two powers to agree to terms of peace", the Imperial Government has no objection in principle to this endeavor if the Japanese Government expresses a like desire. *Camadorff.*

Meyer.

-21-

Received June 14th

You will say to the President that the Japanese Government understood his ultimate object to be definitive conclusion of peace and with a view to attain that object the Japanese Government intend to clothe their plenipotentiaries with full powers to negotiate and conclude terms of peace. But the peculiar wording of the Russian reply justifies suspicion that Russia only intends to grant to her plenipotentiaries authority to receive Japan's conditions of peace or in other words that she intends to take advantage of President's invitation in order simply to sound Japan out fully. The meeting of the bona fide plenipotentiaries

plenipotentiaries of Japan with the plenipotentiaries of Russia would be absolutely futile and would not in the least contribute towards realization of the President's object. Japanese Government sincerely hope that the President will have the goodness to ascertain whether or not it is intention of Russia to confer on her plenipotentiaries full powers to negotiate and conclude terms of peace. The question is not difficult, it is thought, to answer categorically if Russia is so disposed.

Regarding the place of meeting you will inform the President that Japanese Government would be unwilling to go to Europe. They prefer Washington, because it was due

due to good offices of the President that the meeting was made possible. Selection of Washington would compel plenipotentiaries of Japan to go more than half way to meet Russian plenipotentiaries and certainly nothing more than that can be asked or expected of Japan. If Washington is too hot, New York or some other place in United States may be selected.

WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON.

Oyster Bay, N. Y.,
July 7, 1905.

Dear George:

Your letter of the 18th of June, and also your exceedingly interesting note concerning your interview with the Czar have just come. ^{They are} ~~It is~~ admirable in every way. You may be interested in knowing that one of the last things poor John Hay said to me was to express his pleasure at how well you were doing. Eddy has been writing him a letter of wild enthusiasm contrasting you with McCormick. Hay's death is to me a severe personal loss, and no one in America can quite fill the gap he makes, because of his extraordinary literary and personal charm as well as his abilities as a public man. Root, however, will make in my judgment at least as good a Secretary of State as we have ever had.

I did my best to get the Japanese to consent to an armistice, but they have refused, as I feared they would. Lamsdorff's trickiness has recoiled upon the Russian Gov-

ernment. The Japanese are entirely confident that they can win whatever they wish by force of arms, whereas they are deeply distrustful ^{of} ~~that~~ Russia's sincerity of purpose in these peace negotiations. Russia cannot expect peace unless she makes substantial concessions, for the Japanese triumph is absolute and Russia's position critical in the extreme. I earnestly hope the Czar will see that he must at all hazards and all cost make peace with Japan now and turn his attention to internal affairs. If he does not I believe that the disaster to Russia will be so great that she will cease to count among the great powers for a generation to come - unless indeed, as foreshadowed in your last letter, there is a revolution which makes her count as the French did after their revolution.

Always yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Hon. George V. L. Meyer,
American Ambassador,
St. Petersburg, Russia.



Let the control of Massachusetts be decided by a swimming race.



THE LITTLE STICK.



The question of indemnity might be settled on the tennis court.



J. A. GARDNER



A lumberman at tree chopping might determine the fate of China.

TO THE TROOP-POTENTIARIES.
Why stand at the Capital,
Or ponder on Pootam's shore,
When comfort dwells within the dells
And luxury grows at Niagara?

Here on the lettuce patch of Ted,
Within the olive branches' shade,
With Lark to pass the working glass,
A treaty might be quickly made.



Why not give Vladivostok to the nation telling the yellow fish story?

WHY NOT SETTLE IT SOCIALLY AT OYSTER BAY?

RECEIVED AT POSTOFFICE
 NEW YORK
 JAN 28 1904
 67625



A HOUSE OF CARDS.



THE EX-SCARECROW OF EUROPE.

VOL. LV. No. 1493

PUCK BUILDING, New York, March 2, 1904.
Copyright, 1904, by Knicker & Schenck.

PRICE TEN CENTS

MADE IN
NEW YORK
BY
HAROLD
KNOX
1904
Copyright
1904
By
HAROLD
KNOX

Puck

Entered at N. Y. P. O. as Second-Class Mail Matter.



THE OLD SALT SALUTES.

VOL. LVII. No. 1494

PUCK BUILDING, New York, May 17, 1904.

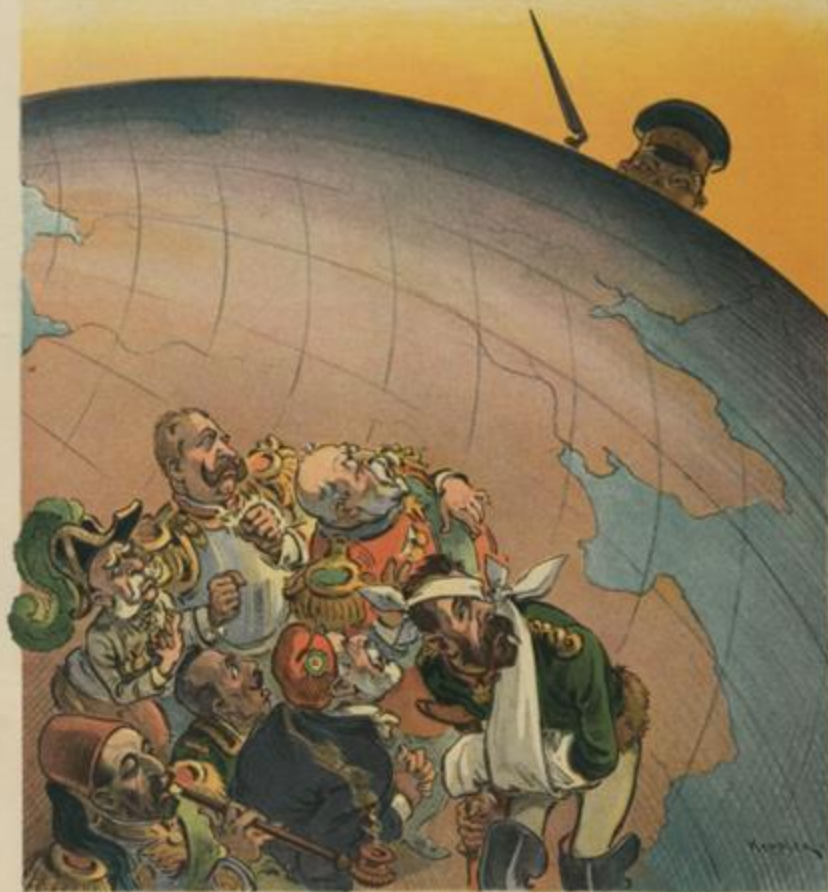
PRICE TEN CENTS

MADE IN
NEW YORK
BY
HAROLD
KNOX
1904
Copyright
1904
By
HAROLD
KNOX

Puck

Copyright, 1904, by Knicker & Schenck.

Entered at N. Y. P. O. as Second-Class Mail Matter.



WHEN?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT UNDER WATER THREE HOURS IN PLUNGER

In Submarine Boat He Tests
Its Marvelous Per-
formances.

SENSATIONS ENJOYABLE.

Clad Like One of the Crew, the
President Worked Levers
of Wonderful Craft.

SUBMARINE SENSATIONS ENJOYED BY ROOSEVELT.

Here are some of the "stunts"
Lieut. Nelson performed with
the Plunger for the edification of
his distinguished guest:

Dived forty feet to the bottom
of Long Island Sound and re-
mained there half an hour while
President Roosevelt examined the
boat's mechanism.

Exhibition of "porpoise diving,"
consisting of dashing through the
water at high speed, alternately
appearing and disappearing along
the surface after the manner of a
porpoise.

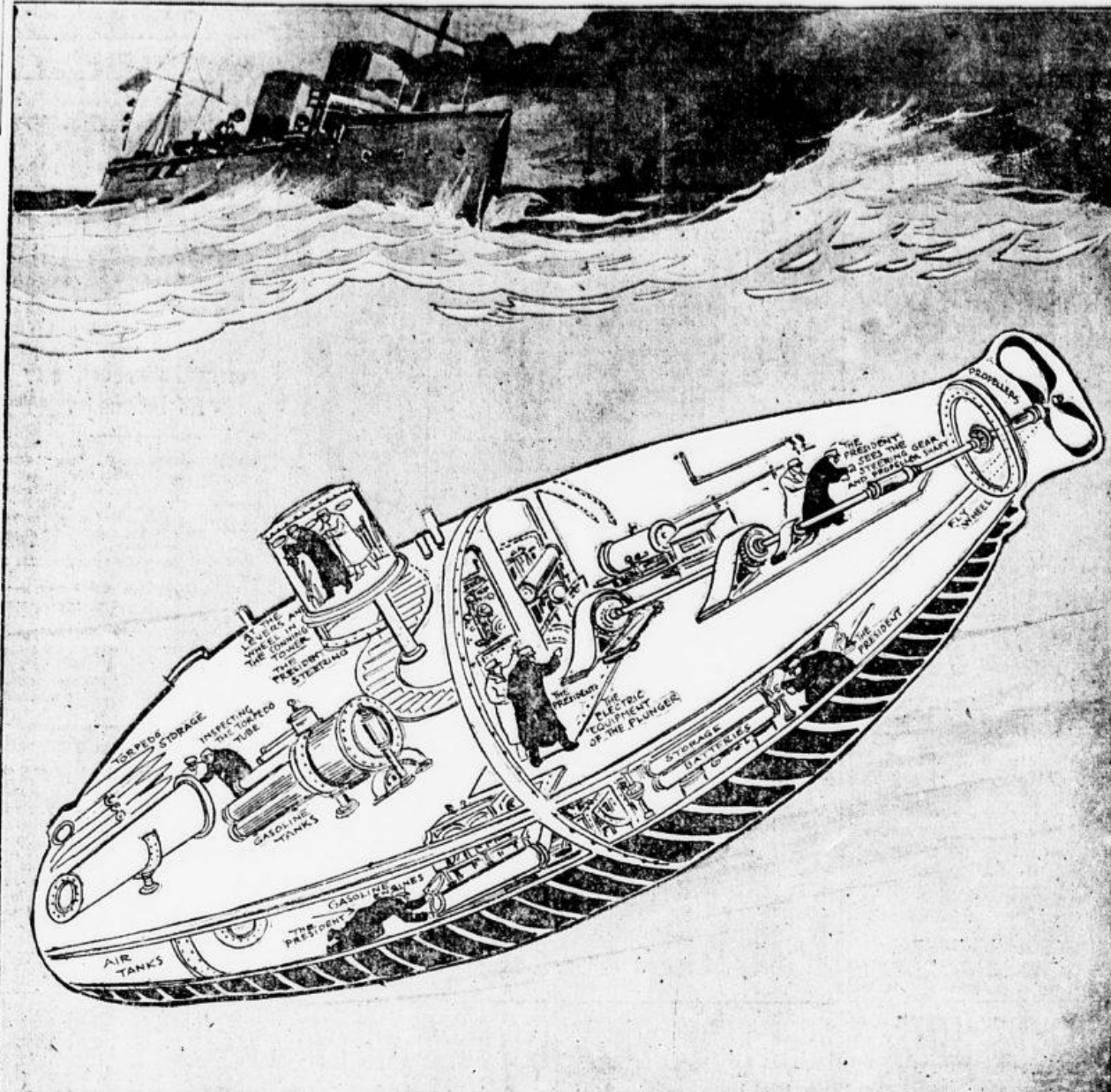
Dive of twenty feet below sur-
face at an angle of forty-five de-
grees stopped, engines reversed
and craft shoots back to the sur-
face.

Boat sinks to bottom of the sea,
turns completely around and re-
verses her course in one minute.

Craft sinks to depth of twenty
feet, rests motionless with heavy
storm raging at the surface.

All lights in Plunger exting-
uished and crew of nine men
work the boat perfectly in total
darkness.

President Roosevelt witnessed the
official trial trip of the submarine tor-
pedo-boat Plunger off Oyster Bay to-
day and, though he appeared enthu-
siastic, he was thinking all the time
what stale fun the occasion was to the
onlookers compared with the keen en-
joyment of those who were putting the
ugly mechanical fish through its evolu-
tion.



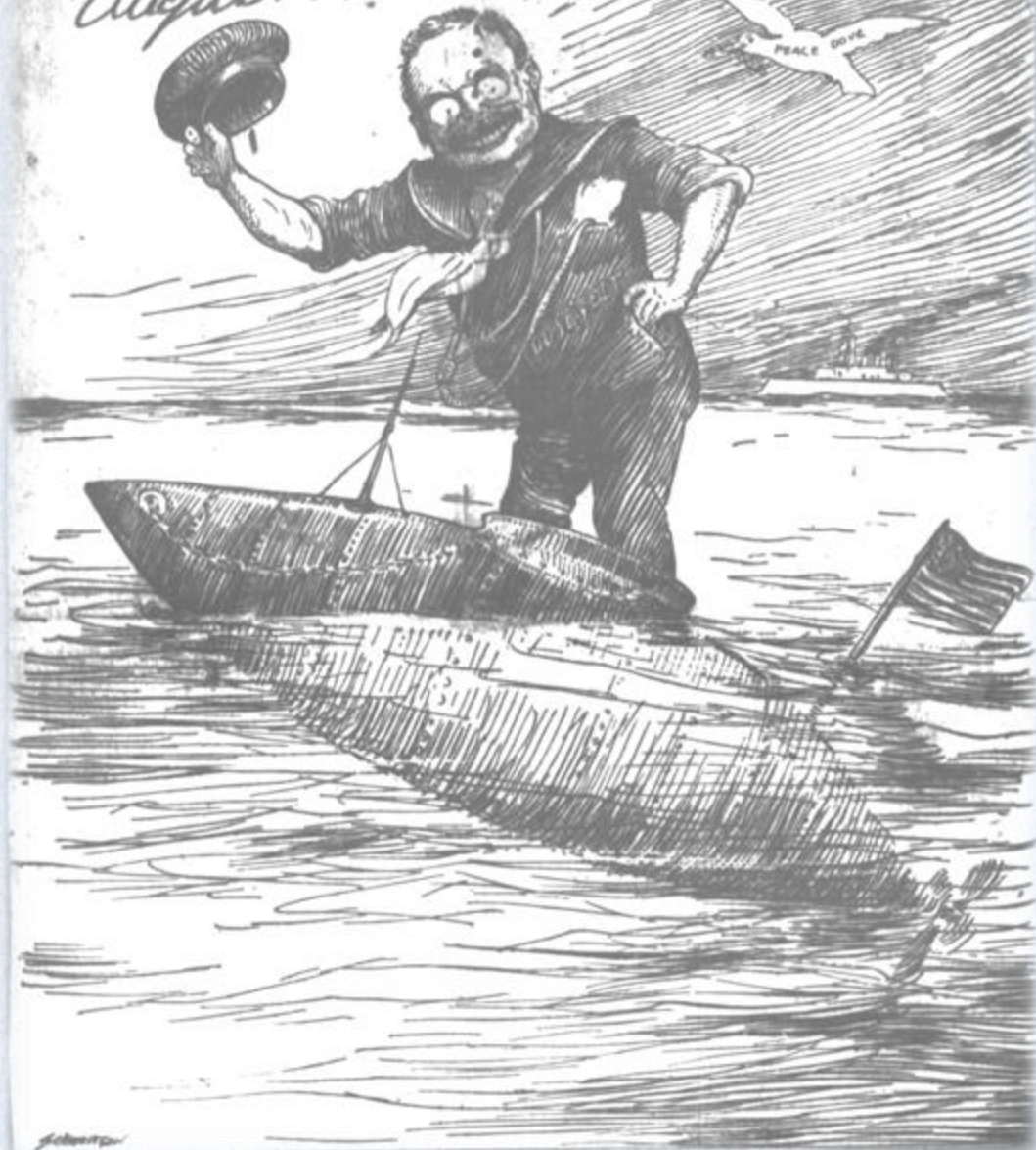
World NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1906.



THE LATEST EFFORT.

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN—VERY LONG.

Chicago Record Herald
August 27-06







Det Norske Stortings Nobelkomite

har i Henhold til Reglerne i det af

ALFRED NOBEL

den 27^{de} November 1895 oprettede Testamente tildelt

Theodore Roosevelt

Nobels Fredspris for 1906

Kristiania den 10^{de} December 1906.

H. Holstad *H. Holstad*
Gj. M. Njøs
H. H. L. L. L.



PATRIOTICALLY DEDICATED TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The PEACEMAKER

MARCH



by
FRANK STURTEVANT.
Price, FIFTY CENTS.

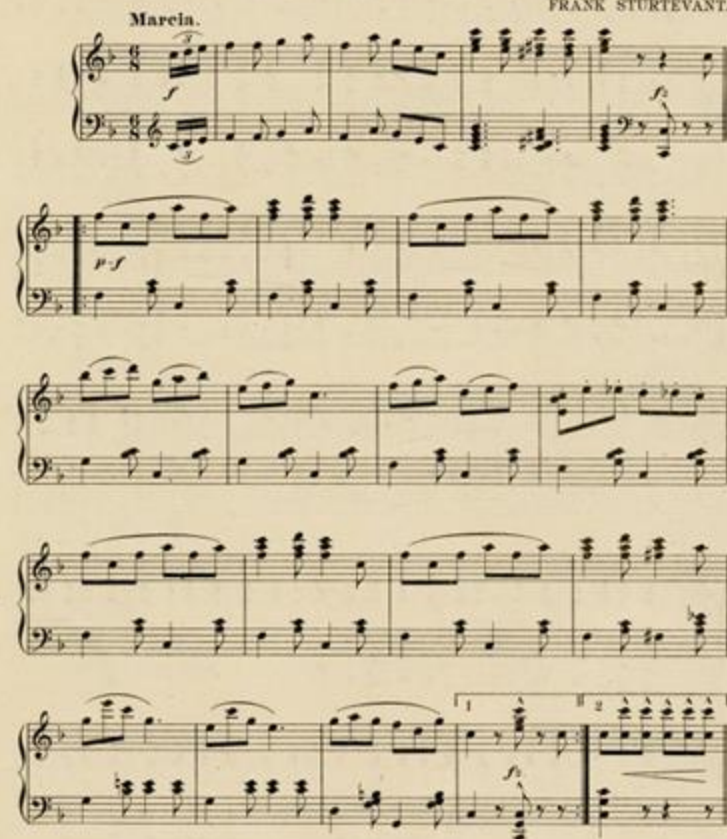
Conservatory
Publication
Society.
Founding, 1879. New York, U.S.A.

Patriotically dedicated to His Excellency
Theodore Roosevelt
President of the United States of America.

The Peacemaker

MARCH.

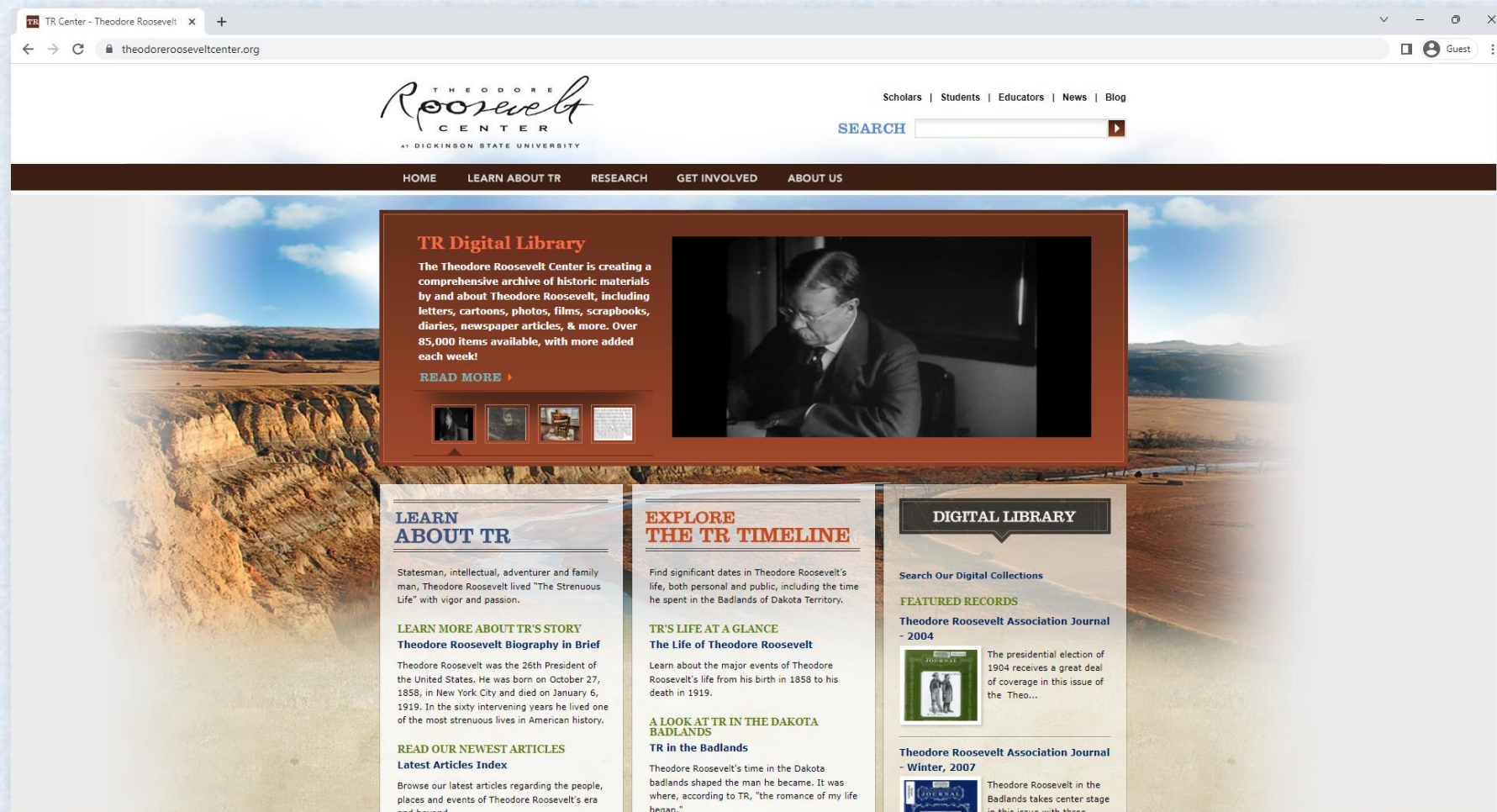
FRANK STURTEVANT.



Copyright MCMV by Conservatory Publication Society, Broadway & 27th St. N.Y.
British Copyright secured and reserved.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT CENTER DIGITAL LIBRARY



THANK YOU!



www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org



www.dickinsonstate.edu

Dr. William J. Hansard

Outreach Coordinator

&

Public Historian

Direct Phone Number: [701-502-4366](tel:7015024366)

william.hansard@dickinsonstate.edu