

IMPATIENT OVER THE ATTITUDE OF COL. ROOSEVELT.

Col. Roosevelt has the happy faculty of which the world has heard before. He knows how to please both sides, even in a case of "war to the knife and the knife to the hilt," as the ardent friends and sympathizers of Mr. Pinchot described the present engagement. Up to the present writing both insurgents and reactionaries have been fairly well pleased with the whispers that have been blown into their ears, by the loud man of all loud men from whom nobody expected any such cautious whispering. But here and there, one hears or reads the ominous words of a suspicious admirer who is not wholly pleased with the cautiously chosen generalities and the commonplace with all the meaning squeezed out of it which the heroic Colonel has been putting in quotation marks.

Even Mr. Judson C. Welliver, who is said to be a "worshipper of the Col.," and who is another originator of the "progressive movement," seems to be rather in the air over the present Roosevelt attitude. Of Mr. Welliver an esteemed contemporary allows that "there is no writer in the country who has had more intimate relations with the progressive movement from the very beginning. He has not merely been close to it. He has been a part of it. He is thoroughly permeated with its spirit and inspired with its hopes. There are but few men who could have expressed with the same authority the insurgent view of Roosevelt." Yet it is Mr. Welliver who now speaks of the man who might be set down as a straddler if he were not so great, as follows:

Expert at nothing, a dilettante at everything, he demolishes the notion that success must be reached by specializing and concentrating. * * * Radical enough to command the anti-monopoly sentiment, he was devious enough to call on E. H. Harriman to raise him an emergency campaign fund—and skillful enough when exposed to get out of it without a scratch. Parrying a snub from the Pope, and an invitation from the Methodists, he captures Catholics and Protestants alike. * * * His love of novelty is comparable only to that of a child. A new idea commands his instant interest, and just enough attention to enable his alert mind to decide whether it is good. If approved, it becomes part of his scheme of things—one of "my policies." * * *

After duly crediting Col. Roosevelt with many elements of greatness and with noble purpose, Mr. Welliver adds:

But, after all, Roosevelt, as we have known him thus far, is essentially an agitator. Perhaps, with his limitless versatility, he will presently appear in a new phase as a constructor, but his genius for construction will be doubted until he shall have given more demonstration than has been had thus far. If the country needs more agitation, it needs more Roosevelt; if it wants constructive statesmanship, it wants a leader of proved capacity for constructive statesmanship.

Even many of the good friends of Col. Roosevelt will appreciate the truth that runs through these lines. He is not the first agitator who has won a reputation for doing things which he actually left undone. This, however, should not weaken his reputation as an agitator or as a "progressive" or even as an insurgent, if he will hurry up and say just where he really intends to land.

Now that we have saved the country, let us go ahead and save another cutting of hay. We shall need it next winter, when the weather and politics have both grown cold.

Anyway, there are a lot of favorite sons in Texas who have been authorized to stay at home with the old folks.

The revolution reported from Honduras proved untrue to name. It was only a local disturbance, something like a dogfight or a cat concert.

If Plunger Patten continues to close out his holdings in the cotton market and retire every month or two he may actually quit by the time he is as old as Mme. Patti.

If all the money that was won by the loud sports in the Texas election were deposited in one postal savings bank, the postmaster would probably have to move his tobacco to make room for it in his hip pocket.

As we understand it down here in Texas, Mr. Taft plays golf in the morning and goes yachting in the afternoon.

And yet he is in record as having said
he wanted only one Presidential term.
Some folks never could stand prosperity.

Those candidates who complained
that they were not getting enough at-
tention from the daily press are going
to get still less of that sort of thing
NOW.
