

A Great Couple

Will Learns How Mrs. Roosevelt Helped the President to Fight Off Dread Paralysis.

BY WILL ROGERS.

WELL, ALL I KNOW is just what I read in the papers. Been an awful lot going on last couple of weeks. Course out here on the Coast couple of weeks ago we were all excited (well the whole Country was) about Mrs. Roosevelt's flying trip, day and night, to the Coast. Its the biggest boost commercial aviation has had since last June when they flew to Chicago for the nomination. Mr. Amon Carter and Mr. Smith of the American Airways who flew out with her from Fort Worth were just floored by the way



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this lady handled all the hundreds of requests and annoyances that come up. She saw everybody, talked to everybody, was photographed by everybody that had a camera. In Los Angeles she stood, it looked like an hour, after making this terribly long trip across the country, before they let her go to her hotel. She was only here one day, and then up at 3 o'clock in the morning to catch

her plane out the next morning. I was at a dinner party given by Mrs. Franklyn Lane Jr., who has been an old friend of the Roosevelts for many years. Well, there was just Mr. and Mrs. Lane Jr., Mrs. Lane Sr., Elliott Roosevelt, Mr. Carter, Smith and myself (Mrs. Rogers was in N. Y.). And of all the interesting things, and all the enthusiasm, that she could relate about her trip, and people she had met.

After the others had left to go to their hotel (as they had to get out early), the elder Mrs. Lane, who has seen much political history made in all her war years in Washington, and who is a very brilliant woman, told me that Mrs. Roosevelt had always been an unusual woman, that her and Mrs. Robinson (Theodore Roosevelt's sister) were two of the outstanding women she had known. She said it was to Mrs. Roosevelt's fighting spirit as well as her husband's that he made such recovery from the infantile paralysis. His mother was for making an invalid out of him, but Mrs. Roosevelt says no he will carry on just as he has been, and they kept fighting and struggling and did it.

ALWAYS LAUGHING, CONFIDENT—

I HAD NEVER before heard the exact story of just how this affliction come on. They were spending their Summer, as they are going to this Summer, at an island in Nova Scotia (it's really out of the U. S.). It was in 1921, just the year after he had run for Vice President (don't you remember that?). It was Sunday morning. He was a very, very big, strong, athaletic fellow and as well as I remember her telling it, he was over on the mainland, or another island, and he just pitched in and swam back to his island. The New York papers were there and he just layed down on the grass on the shore in his wet clothes for a long time. The next morning he was very sore and stiff, then gradually worse and it was several days before they discovered that he really had infantile paralysis. In fact, I think 10 days before they got him to the N. Y. hospital.

Of course they were scared, too, about all the children, for it was thought that it was contagious. He was almost totally paralyzed, and for months after he could hardly do anything with his hands even. But Mrs. Lane said even then he was always laughing and jolly and confident. He just naturally believed in himself and they fought and fought together and now while of course his legs are afflicted, he was never in better physical health, and now they have this swimming pool in the White House where he can take exercise.

He is a regular fish in the water. Its a funny thing but those afflicted can use their legs or arms fine in the water when they are sometimes almost a total loss at any other time. So that's that for these folks that worry about his health, and can he stand up under this strain, yes, you bet your life he can. He has learned through years of hard struggle, experience and advice, just exactly how to take care of himself. There is not a one of us that know what to do to keep ourselves in shape. Well, we know, but we wont deny ourselves, but he will. Its a regular ritual with him.

They will all tell you in Washington that after a long late conference at night, he is the first up and in the best shape the next morning of any of them. He claims that his affliction saves him at least a third of the energy and time of any other man. Everyone coming in, he dont have to get up, go to the door with em, all those stalling things that have creeped into our life like a pest. They know he is afflicted. They get their business over quick and get out. So he brags on it being one of his finest assets. Right there you have a touch of his philosophy and good cheer. Well, I got started in on this and got interested, for after all everything depends on him—but they are a great couple.

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