

# THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL

## Few People Greet the Chief Executive and His Party in New York.

### HE GOES TO CAMP WIKOFF

Before Starting He Has a Rest at the Manhattan Hotel, Drives in Central Park, and Reviews the Naval Militia.

President William McKinley arrived in this city at noon yesterday on his way from Canton, Ohio, to Camp Wikoff. He stopped at the Manhattan Hotel, where he ate dinner and rested as fully as his callers would permit, and went on to Montauk, L. I., late in the evening.

The President's reception in this city was simple and unostentatious enough to have pleased Thomas Jefferson. Only a small knot of passers-by collected at the Twenty-third Street Ferry to see him, and not more than half a dozen persons, outside of the police and hotel employes, had gathered at the Manhattan to greet him on his arrival there. The reception had been no more enthusiastic in Jersey City, being confined principally to fifteen policemen and about 100 persons who were in the station.

The lack of enthusiasm and the absence of a crowd of welcomers was partly due to the fact that the hour of the President's arrival was not generally known here, although Assistant Secretary Cortelyou said that it had been positively announced the day before. It was only known that he would reach the city some time during the day. As it turned out, therefore, the President passed through part of the city and arrived at one of its great hotels without arousing as much comment or interest as would have greeted the sudden appearance of a naval militia veteran or a stray Rough Rider.

The apparent coldness of the reception was the subject of general remark. Many said it was due to the President's retention of Mr. Alger as Secretary of War, particularly as the sufferings of the soldiers in the late campaign are very much in evidence in and around New York at this time.

"If Mr. McKinley had dropped Alger yesterday," said others, "he would have received to-day the warmest welcome New York ever gave to a President or private citizen; and what is more, he would be re-elected President of the United States."

#### The Police Nonplused.

The twenty-four policemen who had been sent to the hotel to handle the expected crowd were nonplused. There was nothing for them to do, and they stood like statues on the porticoes and on the steps. They were the only attraction to the people who passed. Now and then some one would ask a policeman what was going on, and being told that the President was coming, would stop to await his arrival. In this way a dozen or more persons had gathered in front of the Manhattan when the President's carriage was driven up.

"If we wasn't here," said a giant of the Broadway squad, "I'll be blessed if there would be anybody to see the President at all, at all."

The President's special train, consisting of an engine and four cars, arrived at the station in Jersey City, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, at 11:45 A. M. It had left Canton at 6:30 P. M. the day before. The party was composed of the President and Mrs. McKinley, William McKinley Barber, nephew of the President; Col. and Mrs. Myron T. Herrick of Cleveland, Major and Mrs. Webb C. Hayes, and George B. Cortelyou, the President's assistant secretary. Col. Herrick is the Cleveland banker whom President McKinley visited in that city. Major Hayes is the son of ex-President Hayes. He is one of the officers of the First Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and served in both Cuba and Puerto Rico. There were also with the party Mrs. McKinley's maid and the steward of the White House.

The trip from Canton was uneventful. It was a beautiful moonlight night, and the President said he enjoyed very much the varied scenery along the route.

At Jersey City Vice President and Mrs. Hobart and their son, together with J. Addison Porter, who had arrived in this city the day before, met the Presidential party and accompanied it to New York.

As the President stepped from the car the small knot of sightseers took off their hats and cheered. Mr. McKinley walked up to the engine and thanked the engineer, who had had charge of four other special Presidential trains, for a pleasant and safe trip. Then he bowed to the police guard and to the group of people about him, and went rapidly to the Pennsylvania Ferry to Twenty-third Street. He was dressed in a plain suit of blue serge and a straw hat. The trip across the river was made in the ferryboat St. Louis.

#### An Unostentatious Arrival.

A small squad of mounted police was in waiting at the New York end of the ferry under command of Roundsman Bow. As soon as the party got into the carriage that had been waiting for them the police formed a cordon about the little procession, which swept up the street and out of sight before those present realized fully that it was the President of the United States. The President was driven at once to the Manhattan Hotel, at Forty-second Street and Madison Avenue. He has been in the habit of stopping at the Windsor on his visits here, but on this occasion he is the special guest of Mr. Hawke of the Manhattan.

Despite the somewhat elaborate preparations made to receive him, and to protect him from the press of a curious throng, the streets were empty when the President reached the hotel. The twenty-four policemen, under Sergt. Deevy, formed practically the only "throng." These saluted, and a half-dozen citizens raised their hats and cheered once as Mr. McKinley, with Mrs. McKinley leaning rather heavily upon his arm, walked up the steps. The little ceremony, marked only by its extreme simplicity, was over, and the President disappeared in the interior of the hotel.

Mrs. McKinley looked fatigued and almost ill. She had caught a cold on the way from Canton. Beyond this temporary indisposition, however, her health is much better. She has gained flesh and strength rapidly since she left Washington. She did not accompany the President to Camp Wikoff, but remained in the hotel resting quietly. She will go with Mr. McKinley to visit the Vice President at Paterson, N. J.

The Presidential party was housed in the "State Apartment," a handsome suite of fifteen rooms on the first and second floors of the Manhattan. The rooms had been beautifully decorated with flowers, the gifts of many of the President's and Mrs. McKinley's friends in this city.

Only a few visitors were received yesterday. Among those who called were Ferdinand W. Peck, United States General Commissioner to the Paris Exposition, who will leave for France to-day, and Alexander H. Revell of Chicago.

#### The President in Good Spirits.

The President was in good humor and evidently in good spirits on his arrival. On the way from Jersey City he stood on the upper deck of the ferryboat enjoying the river view and chatting with Vice President Hobart about the plans of his visit. As he passed through the streets he smiled pleasantly and bowed to every one who chanced to look toward his carriage. His exceeding affability remained after he reached the hotel, and he walked from the carriage to the elevator with hat in hand, bowing and smiling at each face in the little group about the doors and passageway.

He soon let it be known, however, that he wanted rest. He said that his absence from Washington was for purposes of recreation, and he did not wish to receive many callers. Whether or not this desire of the President was known in advance, there were very few callers in the earlier afternoon, and he was able to rest and also to refresh himself later with a drive up the avenue and in the Park. While driving he was prevailed upon to go to the Fifth Avenue Hotel and review the parade of the naval militia.

The President was so given up to his purpose to rest as much as possible while here that he declined the request of Augustus W. Peters, President of the Borough of Manhattan, and Robert B. Roosevelt, a subcommittee from the General Committee for the Protection of the Soldier. Messrs. Peters and Roosevelt were appointed by the com-

mittee at its meeting last Wednesday to call on the President during his visit here and appeal to him to create a commission to investigate the charges of negligence on the part of the War Department. Mr. Roosevelt had asked the President for a conference while he was here on his way to Camp Wikoff.

#### Mr. Cortelyou Explains.

The President, according to Assistant Secretary Cortelyou, replied that his stay here would be so short he would not have time to discuss the matter. He now wishes rest and recuperation. As soon as he returned to Washington, however, he said he would look into the matter fully if Messrs. Peters and Roosevelt would submit the request of the committee in writing.

Secretary Cortelyou said that the President was really too fatigued to go into this matter on his limited stay here, and he wanted to confine himself as far as possible to the purposes for which the journey was undertaken. These were, he said, rest and a personal inspection of the camp at Montauk. He would be very glad to consider carefully anything that Mr. Peters and Mr. Roosevelt might wish to submit, but he could not do so until he returned to Washington after next Tuesday.

The Assistant Secretary also explained why the President did not come to this city to see the naval review. According to the Secretary, Mr. McKinley wanted Admirals Sampson and Schley and the other heroes of the Santiago fight to suffer no diminution in popular regard. Had the President been present he might have diverted to himself some of the attention which he felt was deserved in its entirety by the victors of the great naval battle. And it was for these considerations that the President deputed some of the Secretaries of the departments to represent him at the review.

The President's object in visiting Camp Wikoff, it was explained, is not to make an inspection. That would not be possible in so brief a time. He wishes to see in person, and to show by his presence his appreciation of, the heroes who have extended the borders of their country. Mr. Cortelyou said he had long cherished this desire, and that he seized the first opportunity of carrying out his purpose.

#### Drive Through the Park.

After reviewing the sailors of the Yankee from the balcony of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, President McKinley, Vice President Hobart, and J. Addison Porter returned to the Manhattan Hotel, where Mr. Porter got out of the carriage, and Mrs. McKinley and Mrs. Hobart joined the President and Vice President. The party then drove through the Park and Riverside Drive, not returning to the hotel until about 7:30 o'clock, just in time to prepare for dinner, which was served in the state suite at 8 o'clock.

Mr. McKinley then received a few personal friends. A great many called at the hotel and sent in their cards, but the President felt too weary to receive more than a few. Among those who were asked in, were Major General Daniel E. Sickles and ex-Gov. Cornell of this State. Later the President went up several stories to the rooms of the Transportation Club, which occupy an entire upper floor of the building. For an hour he held an informal reception, Chauncey M. Depew, the President of the club, introducing the President.

An early start was made for Long Island City, the President desiring to obtain a good night's rest before arriving at Montauk. Shortly after 10 o'clock the President, Vice President Hobart, and Mr. Porter entered an open carriage. The hotel guests crowded around, and Mr. McKinley bowed and smiled in response to the lifting of hats and murmured comments. The other members of the party followed the carriage of the President at a leisurely interval. Not until the President's carriage reached First Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street was its distinguished occupant recognized. Then a crowd of persons on the streets hastily congregated and gathered in force enough to raise a rousing cheer as the President's carriage clattered aboard the ferryboat. A carriage with Assistant Secretary Cortelyou aboard followed, but the rest of the party were too late to catch the boat.

#### The Trip on the Ferry.

On the ferryboat was Silas F. Johnson, a farrier of Troop D, Tenth United States Cavalry, in a canary uniform. President McKinley noticed him, and beckoned him to his side. He inquired who he was, if he was well, and ended by saying:

"I want to congratulate your regiment on its splendid record."

A bustling mother with a babe in her arms asked Mr. McKinley if she could shake hands with him. Mr. McKinley not only shook hands, but patted the child kindly and remarked:

"What a nice, fat baby."

The mother's face was fairly shining with pleasure. At the Long Island City terminus a crowd of several hundred persons were waiting for the Presidential party. At sight of Mr. McKinley they raised a loud cheer and they pressed him so close that several policemen had to clear a path for him.

Four sleeping cars, a baggage car, and a day coach formed a special train in waiting on a siding. Pending the arrival of the second section of the party from the hotel Mr. McKinley entered his car and began to talk with Vice President Hobart.

#### Joined by Gen. Alger.

He was soon joined by the contingent from Washington and Jersey City, comprising Secretary Russell A. Alger, Mrs. Alger, Commissary General Egan, Quartermaster Luddington, and Senator Proctor from Washington direct, and Attorney General Griggs from Jersey City.

All of the party, except Attorney General Griggs, left Washington at 4 P. M. yesterday, and arrived at Jersey City at 8:50 o'clock. They were met by the Attorney General, and walked to the Adams Express Company's pier, where they embarked on the Government ferryboat General Meigs for Long Island City.

Others to join the party at this junction were Col. F. J. Hecker, Chief of Transportation, and his daughter. Col. Hecker proposed that the President and Secretary Alger make a trip to the Red Cross Auxiliary Soldier's Rest in Front Street, a few steps from the station, and the President, Vice President, Secretary Alger, Mrs. Alger, and several others of the party crossed the street.

After looking over the provisions for the soldiers' comfort, the party started back. Passing under the tunnel at the station, the President met several soldiers being assisted on stretchers and chairs to the Red Cross quarters. The President stopped the bearers and shook hands with one sick man.

"My dear man," said the President, "I hope you will be well soon."

To this the soldier saluted feebly and said, "Thank you, Mr. President."

The party then boarded the train and did not leave it again before the start. Mrs. Alger and Col. Hecker's daughter, who were the only ladies in the party, remained on the platform of their car conversing with friends until the cars drew out. A round of cheering from the crowd, now about 300 strong, behind the iron fence in the station, was the farewell given the party as the train disappeared in the darkness.

An incident known to but few was connected with the departure of the train bearing the President and his party. "Jack" Foley, the engineer of the train, had spent several hours of the afternoon under arrest. On a trip into Long Island City, while just out of Laurel Hill, the locomotive he was driving ran over and killed a man. Foley was arrested as a formality, and gained his freedom later. He has a good record for skill and faithfulness.

Mrs. McKinley and Mrs. Hobart will leave the hotel this afternoon, it is understood, for Paterson, N. J.; where Mrs. McKinley will await her husband's return as a guest of Mrs. Hobart.