

the interests of the public—these formed a notable achievement.

“Speak softly and carry a big stick,” was the keynote of his foreign policy. When Germany in 1903 refused to arbitrate certain financial claims on Venezuela, and threatened to land troops to occupy Venezuelan territory, she was informed that such action would be contrary to the Monroe Doctrine and that the American navy would forcibly prevent it. As a result the Kaiser wisely consented to arbitrate.

Arrangements for the construction of the Panama Canal were obstructed in 1903 by the government of Colombia, with the result that the inhabitants of the isthmus revolted and the republic of Panama was formed. Roosevelt immediately recognized the new republic and negotiated with it the treaty under which the canal was built.

Roosevelt's mediation and his strong personal influence helped to bring the Russo-Japanese war to an end in 1905, and for this service he received the Nobel Prize. In 1908 he demonstrated the naval power of the United States by sending the American fleet on a tour round the world.

He refused a third term of office, but practically nominated his successor, William Howard Taft, and then sailed for Africa to hunt big game. On his return he found himself so much at variance with Taft that he became the candidate for the new Progressive wing of the Republican party for the presidential nomination. Though he was unsuccessful, he routed Taft, and, Woodrow Wilson having become president, he found an outlet for his energies in an expedition to a practically unknown part of Brazil.

His Attitude in the World War

Shortly after Roosevelt's return the World War broke out. He was thoroughly out of sympathy with President Wilson's policy, himself believing that the invasion of Belgium made Germany an outcast among nations, and wishing the United States at once to enter the war. When, in 1917, the United States at length entered the war, Roosevelt offered to raise and command a division of volunteers, and was

greatly disappointed at the President's refusal to accept his services. His four sons all entered the army, and the youngest was killed in service.

In his Brazilian expedition Roosevelt underwent great hardships, from which he never recovered. During the next five years his health gradually failed, and on January 5, 1919, he died quietly in his sleep. He was a voluminous writer on history, politics, travel, and natural history.

ROOT. The two most important functions of

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



Rancher, hunter, explorer, author, soldier, statesman, 26th President of the United States, he accomplished in each of his chosen fields of activity as much as many distinguished men accomplish in only one.

roots are to anchor and support the plant and to absorb water and minerals from the soil. A plant possesses a “tap-root” system when it has one stout prominent root extending for some distance into the soil. The “fibrous-root” system is very different, with slender roots, much branched, as in the bean, etc. Thickened or fleshy roots developed in clusters, as in the dahlia, are called “fascicled” roots. Roots are classified as soil, air, or water roots according to the medium in which they grow.

Each root is generally capped by a blunt root-cap of firm cells, which protect the delicate growing tip. Behind this cap are usually many

slender root-hairs, which are devoted to the absorption of liquid foods and are constantly dying off and being renewed. It is popularly believed that the roots “nourish” the plant with minerals drawn from the soil. This is a mistake. The water and dissolved minerals taken up with it by the roots are essential to the building of the plant cells, but by far the largest proportion of the plant's food is derived from the carbon dioxide absorbed by the leaves. (See Leaves.)

The force exerted by growing roots is remarkable. In rocky places it is a common thing to see small crevices in the rock where the slender roots of trees enter and split the rock apart as they grow. (See Plant Life.)

ROPE AND TWINE. Man's earliest cords or lines for fishing, tying animals, etc., were mere fibrous roots, strips of bark, or hide thongs, such as certain savage tribes still use. Ancient Egyptian inscriptions are believed to portray a form of rope-making.