

PRESIDENT GREETS OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Tells American Team Their Performance Has Never Been Duplicated in History of Athletics.

CALLS HAYES 'TOP-NOTCHER'

Sheppard and Flanagan Present Mr. Roosevelt with Trophies Won in the Games.

The closing scene of the celebration in honor of the American athletes whose prowess placed them above those of every other nation at the recent Olympic Games in London took place yesterday at Oyster Bay, where President Roosevelt, at his Sagamore Hill home, personally congratulated each member of the team presented to him.

At 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning the Long Island Railroad boat Sagamore started from the East Thirty-first Street dock with the members of the team, the Executive Committee of the athletes' parade, and a few invited guests for Oyster Bay. They did not land at the village, but went on to Sagamore Hill, three miles beyond, intending to land at the launch landing of W. Emlen Roosevelt's estate, adjoining the President's Summer home. The water, however, was too shallow for the steamer to go in close enough, and a small fleet of launches and rowboats volunteered to carry the Olympic victors ashore.

When the party was safely landed, President P. J. Conway of the Irish-American Athletic Club and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the athletes' parade, together with James E. Sullivan, United States Commissioner of the Olympic Games, formed the men into double file and marched up to the President's Summer home whistling "There'll be a hot time in the old town to-night."

The arrival of the athletes had been long expected, as they were nearly an hour behind the appointed time. President Roosevelt stood inside the front doorway with Mrs. Roosevelt. The President wore a white duck suit, and his wife was also in white. On the side porch was Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Representative Nicholas Longworth, Miss Ethel Roosevelt, and Kermit and Archie Roose-

to be introduced. I am mighty glad to see you. He is an American institution, and we are all glad to meet Mike."

Dan J. Kelly, the long jumper, lingered long enough as he shook hands with the President to thank the latter when Mr. Roosevelt said: "Oh! yes; you boys did splendidly, but, by the way, our riflemen did well, didn't they?"

One by one the athletes filed past the President, and to all Mr. Roosevelt spoke words of welcome and congratulation. Then the athletes were passed along to Mrs. Roosevelt, who also greeted the visitors with a smile and handshake. When the last man filed past, the President, taking the arm of James E. Sullivan, led the way to his library.

"These are some of my trophies," said the President with a sweep of his hand about the walls of the room where hung bear and deer heads, antlers, and skins and guns. Then turning to the athletes who filled the library, the President made a short address.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I want to say one word of greeting to you. I am sure you feel that every one in America is proud of you. I think it is the literal truth, Mr. Sullivan, to say that the feat that this team has performed has never been duplicated in the history of athletics. I think it is the biggest feat that has ever been performed by any team of any nation, and I congratulate all of you. There is not a man on the team who does not deserve his share of the total credit. It is not only the men who won the first, but it is every man on the team who did his duty, as they all did, who deserves his share of the credit. I congratulate you all and I thank you all. I want to say, Mr. Sullivan, a word of special thanks and acknowledgment to you. Without you we could never have got together and sent over such a team, and our gratitude, gentlemen, is due not to those who were so glad to see you come back victors—we have plenty of those—but to those who in any way contributed to send you abroad in such shape that you could be victors. I think I could come pretty near passing a competitive examination on your records and feats. Now that we are here we must not forget how proud we are of the American riflemen and revolver men. You know I believe in straight shooting for the battleship or private citizen, either one."

Would Drop Talk of Foul.

As the President started for the dining room with Mr. Sullivan, one of the members of the team proposed three cheers "for the greatest President the country ever had," and the yell that went up almost raised the roof.

The President with difficulty worked his way through the crowd to the dining room, where a large bowl of punch and cake, cigars, and cigarettes were served to the men. Pulling Mr. Sullivan to a seat in a recess in front of the window, the President had a long talk with the commissioner while the others crowded around to hear what he would say.

When Mr. Sullivan referred to the cries of fraud and foul which the British made, the President said:

"Well, we've won and the less talking we do the better. We don't need to talk, we've won. There never has been a team like this one. You fellows have won a place for all time. I feel like giving you the advice I gave my regiment when it disbanded.

"Remember," I said, "that you're heroes for ten days, but when that time is up drop the hero business and go to work."