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### The Ancient Irish Sagas

The busiest man in the executive branch of the Government is the President himself. He demands faithful, intelligent, and industrious service from his subordinates, but he sets them a good example. A large majority of the Government clerks, who reach the office at nine, are out on the street a moment after 4:30 o'clock. Until the present administration, these same clerks labored only until four o'clock; but it was discovered that they were not giving the service required by law.

The President puts in much more time for the Government. He is at his desk in the Executive Office at 9:30 a. m. There he remains, with every moment occupied, until, at 1:30 p. m., he tears himself away from admiring countrymen, many of whom ask only the privilege of shaking his hand.

As a rule, there are guests at luncheon, and then there is a range of discussion which would tire the mind of any ordinary man, were he the master of ceremonies. At 2:45 Mr. Roosevelt is again at his desk, where he remains, hard at work, until he leaves at four to enjoy some form of health-giving exercise out-of-doors. He returns to his office soon after six, and there is more government work until 7:45, when he hurries away to dress for dinner.

The preparation of state papers, including messages to Congress and executive memoranda, and public addresses, is done entirely after 9:30 p. m. It is at this time, moreover, that he must do his exhaustive reading, and must practice the avocation which he has always loved,—that of a literary craftsman.

It is to creative literary work that the President turns for relaxation, and for a respite from the responsibilities and worries of his great office; of these the general public can form no appreciation. Some notion of the militant forces with

which he has to contend was furnished at the close of the President's great fight to secure justice to all shippers alike, and to the traveling public, on the great highways of commerce. The Railroad Rate Bill was ready for passage in the upper house of Congress, when Senator Tillman disclosed the fact that the President, through ex-Senator Chandler, had been carrying on secret negotiations with the Democrats of the Senate. Charges were made, and promptly denied from the White House, that the President had turned his back on certain Republicans of the Senate. A merry shindy seemed imminent, but, after issuing his temperate statement, the President remained silent.

Senators Tillman and Bailey, and particularly the trouble-making ex-Senator from New Hampshire, had a great deal to say, but soon the "tumult and the shouting died." The people lost interest in the controversy, mainly because the President was a silent party to it. Why he was able to keep still is now known.

Having made public his statement, the President said to his secretary, Mr. Loeb: "We are now in for a week's ghost dance. Chandler and Tillman and Bailey must have their fling. If I read what is said it will make me angry. So I'm going to interest myself in an absorbing task. I shall write that article on the ancient Irish sagas."

The "ancient Irish sagas"—how many people know anything about them? How many could compare the Erse with the Norse sagas? Truly remarkable is the article in the January Number of "The Century Magazine," entitled "The Ancient Irish Sagas," and signed, Theodore Roosevelt. It is remarkable for the high quality of the writer's literary style, and yet more particularly for the deep study and comprehensive insight into an unusual subject.—Success.

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