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Memorandum: Interview with Mr. Rogers, November 20 1907

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Memorandum of Interview with Mr. Rogers, November 20th, 1907.

The first time I have seen Mr. Rogers in fully three years. Welcomed me very heartily; has changed greatly; grown stouter and less sinewy. Told me quite frankly that he had a stroke of paralysis four years ago on his boat; was brought to town and put in care of osteocephalist; evidently had seen large number of specialists. Explained to me that he was much better; hand had stopped shaking, face twitching, etc., but that he had to stay in and found it very irritating. Wants to be down in the Street. He speaks with great discouragement of the times. Refers to his losses, etc. Wants to talk about the early days of the Oil Region; evidently to keep me away from the subject of the suit. Tells me of his visit to MacClintockville; ride down Church Run. Called on a Miss French that he knew when he lived there. Recalled my father and his having helped him to put up two or three 250 barrel tanks. Evidently has tried to locate father. Surprised by the definiteness of his recollections. Tells me that there is a whole chapter that has not been written 1861-1872. Speaks of the ^{faults} faults in Bonded Oil. Suppose his point is to show the disorganized condition of the business. Cannot bring him back to subject of my article, but succeeded in telling him what I am doing. He says he does not want to talk about the suit. That he has some things which he will say on the witness stand. Speaks with great bitterness of Roosevelt; says they opened all their books to him on the Kansas condition and that he has never published anything referring to it. That he will never forgive him for this. Speaks of the taking off of the motto. ^{in God We Trust} Says it is a capital mistake; that in doing this he has offendd everybody, "your father and my father, your grandfather and my grandfather" is his expression. Thinks the letter of last Monday very boyish. I spoke of Hughes; he says he is a good man but narrow, at which I remarked that we are all more or less narrow. He takes it well and says

yes, I know that I have need of broadening, and I realize that I do broaden from time to time. I talked to him about writing his reminiscences. Says it is out of the question, but that he will talk things over with me. I had already referred to Mr. Dana and having done his War reminiscences. He is evidently interested in this. Tells very good story of Dana; they lived in the same neighborhood and were members of a club. When there was an attempt to put an elevated, perhaps the subway on Fourth Avenue, they fought it. Engaged Judge Peckham to appear before counsel. He talked twenty minutes and sent them bill for \$1000. Mr. Rogers was treasurer, Dana president of the club. Rogers took the bill to Dana and asked what he should do with it. Told him he would do what Dana said. Decided there was nothing to do but to pay it. Some time afterwards Cleveland nominated Peckham for the Supreme Court. Dana attacked him viciously in the Sun. One morning Mr. Rogers coming down in the car said to Dana, "why are you attacking Peckham so?" Dana said, "Mr. Rogers how much was it Judge Peckham charged us?" Mr. Rogers said, "\$1000." Dana said that was too much Mr. Rogers. Peckham was defeated largely through the Sun's efforts. Afterwards Mr. Dana and Mr. Rogers met in the car. Dana said "Don't you think that Peckham realizes now that he charged us too much?" Found him quite philosophical about his condition. Trying not to fret, but not liking to give up. Says it is had to lose money and to be out of the game Seep is announced while I am there. Mr. Rogers is much amused and has him put in the music room, so that he cannot see me when I go down, evidently. It is arranged that I shall see him again in a week or ten days, arranging with Miss Harrison for an interview. No lights in the hall when he goes down to let me out. He laughs and says they are economizing.