

**THE BOOK OF TED; OR,
ROOSEVELT AND THE
RAILROADS IN SCRIPTURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649265992

The Book of Ted; Or, Roosevelt and the Railroads in Scripture by Frank Alister Murray

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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THE BOOK OF TED

Theodore Roosevelt.

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Ted is a satirical summary—more or less biblical, but not bilious—of recent large events in the financial world, especially those bearing directly on the railroad problem.

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THE BOOK OF TED



CHAPTER I.

1. It came to pass in those day there sprang out of the West two chiefs of the Tribes of Rail.

2. Now one of them was called E—Double—H., and the other was called Double—J—H.

3. They were not of kin, but their enmity one to the other was very great.

4. In their heat they uttered wild imprecations; their loins were girt ever for battle, which they waged ceaselessly with deadly engines, spikes and other implements of wrought iron.

5. And they did issue edicts one against the other, until the people were distraught; and the tribes were divided within themselves.

6. The people said among themselves: Who is the false prophet? Can both the chiefs be false prophets?

7. And they were sore perplexed.

8. So it came to pass that the King of all the Tribes of Rail (now he was the first of the Teds) called his wise men together into council and spake in this wise:

9. O, judges of the Tribes of Rail! commissioners of traffic, I command thee to tell me why this uprising among my people. There cannot be two masters, though there may be many.

10. Strange things have come unto mine ears from Double—H. and Double—J, each accusing the other of usurping the power of my exalted position.

11. Each claims the gift of prophecy, which is vouchsafed to none but me in my day and generation.

12. The people are despoiled of the fruits of their toil by unjust taxes and their substance is spent in riotous living.

13. Wherefore, I say unto you, these things must cease.

14. No chief can be greater than his King, nor is the King beholden to any chief.

15. Those whose lust for power hath led them into the

path of deceit and treachery and false teaching, ye must cast out utterly.

16. When it came to the ears of the people what King Ted had said they rejoiced and were exceeding glad.

17. For they knew their King, that he was terrible in his strength; and they said among themselves: The judgment has come!

CHAPTER II.

1. Then the judges of Rail gathered in council and summoned Double—H., considered mighty in the South.

2. He told the judges how he gathered tithes from the people, even as Double—J in the North; they two collecting tribute on all things that come from the ground and are used in barter.

3. The judges were amazed at his cunning and his devious ways of waxing fat.

4. He told them how he even went into the inner chambers of the temple of the money-changers and levied upon them that are accounted greatest among their fellows, both Jew and Gentile.

5. The judges marvelled that he could buy and sell the same things at the same time, trading only with himself, and extract continuous and surpassing profit thereby.

6. But that he did that it might be fulfilled as was written: There shall arise among you princes whose eyes shall see things before they appear, who shall do things before they happen, because their right hands will not know what their left hands have seized.

7. And the judges said unto him: How can these things be?

8. He saith: Search your records and find for yourselves. Whereat they marvelled greatly, for no man ever spake as he spake.

9. They indeed accounted him a soothsayer. The records availed them nothing.

10. One thing he did as other men. He quarreled with his neighbors. Aye, and one other thing—he fished.

11. As was his wont, he lifted his voice mightily against Double—J, arguing how he impoverished the land and walked backward in his sleep.

12. But Double—J laughed him to scorn, saying: Hath he dominion also over Time, as well as Place?

13. And it came to pass that Double—H. demanded of the judges that the other chief be summoned also, but they abided their time.

14. On the evening of the sixth day he went to the palace of King Ted and sought an audience of the King.

15. It pleased the King to see him for the wondrous stories he had told.

16. And the King said unto Double—H.: Render unto the people the things that are the people's and unto Ted the things that are Ted's.

17. Whereupon the chief departed wondering.

CHAPTER III.

1. King Ted was moved with a great compassion for his people, for they were drunken with prosperity.

2. He gave unto them new commandments and admonished them.

3. The people did harken unto his words, and they made an idol of the King's scepter, which was a big stick.

4. And out of this came the saying: He that ruleth with a big stick, the same is a big stickler.

5. Now one of the new laws given unto the people was that they should multiply and replenish the earth, the which the people did with unction and without stint.

6. Verily, the stork became a bird of sacred omen and sat in the eagle's nest.

7. And so with the other laws of the King, the people obeyed those it pleased them to obey or those perforce they needs must obey—for the shadow of the scepter was ever about them.

8. Each man besought his neighbor to do the bidding of the King, that the King therein might be glorified.

9. Out of the riot of richesness there sprang a sect of the Pharisees known as Muckrakes.

10. These the king despised with a bitter hatred, even as he did the Sadducees whom he called the Mollycoddles.

11. In those days the chiefs of the Tribes of Rail were possessed of intense virtue and they loved their King, with madness.

12. And one of the greatest of them was Pier Pont, whose tribes were scattered throughout the East and whose fame spread unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

13. He also had dominion over the water, for which the other chiefs held him in much esteem because their vineyards were ever thirsty; and the season was dry.

14. Fearing the approach of the lean years Pier Pont set out upon a long journey into a far country.

CHAPTER IV.

1. Now Pier Pont was in favor with King Ted.

2. In answer to this chief's supplications the King consented to receive the chiefs of the neighboring tribes, namely, Mac, of the Tribe of Pennsy, and another chief whose surname was Melon; likewise Chief Hew-It, whose camp was powerful in the Northwest grain fields.

3. And E—Double—H. was also among those chosen for the pilgrimage to the white palace of the ruler.

4. But not Double—J—H. for he and E—Double—H. were neighbors, and the mission was a mission of peace and good will toward men.

5. The spirit of Double—J was consumed with envy and he would not be comforted.

6. He said in his haste: Behold all tribes are rotten!

7. Whereupon Chief Stick-Knee, of the Great West, clapped his hands with joy and cried: Amen! which being interpreted means, mine too.

8. And they fain would fill their bellies with sour grapes.

9. It amazed the people to hear these words and to see them filling the air with lamentation.

10. There were among the people many stricken with palsy and sinking of the spine; others were infirm of knee, and great multitudes saw as through the bottom of a glass darkly.

11. Those that harkened unto the counsel of the Spirit of Darkness sold all that they had, and were poor.

12. They were led as lambs to the slaughter.

13. Those that deserted the camps fell among bears which devoured them, as they would devour the male-born of their cattle.

14. So the heart of Pier Pont and the hearts of the chosen chiefs were consumed with a great pity for their erring chil-