The antics of the colonel’s wild westerners sometimes concerned and disappointed the vice-president (Roosevelt). But he was not surprised, and he was quick to point out that the majority of the Rough Riders were doing well in civilian life. In one amusing letter he recounted the news of those in the territories who were not doing well:

* As Edith says at times we fell as if we were the parents of a thousand very large very bad children. Many of them have strong homicidal proclivities and are always shooting someone or getting shot…. Corporal Jackson has been killed in a shooting scrape…. He was an excellent soldier and a valuable man in the regiment, but he was also a professional gambler, and after payday he was one of the few men into whose pockets the money of the rest of the men tended to gravitate. In yesterday’s mail came a letter from an ex-Captain in the regiment who has been made District Attorney in New Mexico and who is prosecuting another member of the regiment for murder. The latter had himself written to me, his letter running: “Dear Colonel: I write to you because I am in trouble. I have shot a lady in the eye. But Colonel I did not mean to shoot that lady. It was all an accident, *for I was shooting at my wife.*”… In Arizona the last I heard of one of my men was that he was heading a posse which was following a band of train robbers which I regret to say also numbered in its ranks another ex-Rough Rider….