Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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1913 May 26

Raleigh, NC
Notes for:
Commencement Address at North Carolina College
of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, Raleigh, N.C.,
May 26, 1913

Complete text in Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer,
May 27, 1913 (clippings in Group 1) (Scrapbook 1,
page 100).

Dec. 23, 1948

RLJ

(0021)
May seem incongruous one devoting attention Naval affairs. But on thinking it over, realized eminently fitting for Navy greatest college of Arts - Chief topic among officers raising chickens.

Further than this am farmer I have reared myself. Proud of it.

It is with real personal pleasure find myself in this distinguished gathering. Especially glad because Raleigh is home of man whom I have learned to respect for wise ability, his clear judgment, to love for himself. Proud to call my "chief"

Today, Mr. President, eyes of more people in this country than even you may dream of.
Interest Fact - 2 or 3 yrs ago - Eastern State
made tabulation abandoned farms
Reached appalling total nearly 5,000
Campaign to resettle. Training success

Most interest Fact - more than \( \frac{1}{2} \)
In many cases the children of these
Also interesting fact that Making good -
Finding profitable till voice of ancestors

A body of scientists engaged investigating
Effect on human race of living in great
cities
No final report. Been later
But another day dawned. Time that leader arose

new cry: "Young

stay East"

I have in mind Township Cen. N. Y.

60 or 70 yrs. ago - filled with farms

Pop. over 2,000

But call of West heard - gradually young

men - the best of the stock - taking our

Old people left - 7 weak things

People don't move take place. Schools

Then farm abandoned - then another

Beginning of situation all knew

All that remained - cattle. R.P. Staten Island.
Probably many you know figures food production this country. Fact total output 10 principal crops stations last 10 years. While pop. increased 21%. Not surprised if we consider new land in W. taken up. Rural area remained about same. Great bulk increase pop. in cities. Is situation gives food for thought. Said eyes more people in college instead. Not very long ago — to West. It was a good slogan — needed incentive for slavel. Great resources — virgin lands, unexplored mines & forests.
For thinking men, quiet citizens, beginning to realize
that change is progress, exhibit from little beginnings
of today — destined work out great problems in future
lives of grandchildren.

The economics of life of a people seem academic; guess
when study looks — But seem like life or death
when they feed hungry family.

Question of production food supply academic? If

Poor People 20 yrs ago.

Today becoming 7 of bread a butter.

Broadly speaking, this nation 20 yrs ago expected
while today consumes all food it produces.
Somewhere out in Kansas another picture
Great prairie - Indians - Taken up by Cattlemen
Yield to Turn to Homesteaders - perhaps some
They have obtained land for nothing -
As others join them prosperous Community
Churches rise - Schools
Devol of Es. West is becoming accomplished fact
We have been Rounding Out the Nation

But have you ever stopped to consider - In
rounding out Nation - Robbing Peter to pay Paul
Isn't it time to repay Peter?
Before Paying back with the last next gen.
Whole nation knows level N.C. past few year.

Do proud of men who have left to become

great in other places.

More proud of you who have stayed at

home, who have also made good and

are making State leader in March of Progress.

Stay East Young Men.

Here set our feet in opportunity.

Let us be as Pres. of U.S. has said

"Forward Looking Men", workers

for the common good.
Average family dies out {3, 950 of 40,000}

You in this State essentially country bred. Aught Thank God. I am thankful even as regret out of 10,000,000 - 6 large cities. I say perhaps only large cities for existence of cities essential to progress.

Cities can do the work good as long as think of man as well as of
Burge the Alt., the care though of the man. I should hate to have people of Raleigh believe look advance at level of this very delightful place.
For from what I knew of Raleigh before came from contact with many splendid citizens of the city whom had honor & pleasure of knowing. I believe you are developing right & solid in permanent lines for benefit of whole people.

State of No. Bar. working out complex problems in intelligent way or another. Reminds me of

[Diagram of train cars]
Notations
Speech before North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College.
May 1913
Personnel
SALES IS HAYSEEDER

SAY'S HE WOULD STOP ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

Assistant Secretary of Navy

STAY EAST YOUNG MAN" THE COUNSEL FROM ROOSEVELT

(Continued from Page One)

In New York. They have obtained the land for nothing and they are doing nothing, and as others join them a prosperous community is forming and the churches go up, the schools are opened and the development of the great west is becoming an accomplished fact. We have been rounding out the nation.

"Robbying Peter."

But have you ever stopped to consider that in the round trip - the one hundred miles we have been robbing Peter quite a lot in order to pay Paul? Is it not true for us too top give Peter a helping hand? I believe this will be the history of the next generation. It is an interesting fact that two or three years ago one of these farms had been sold for nearly twice as much.

But the meaning has been to add to the value of those farms, and with increasing success. If the result is that over half of those who have taken up this land are farmers from the west—in many cases the children of the very men who lost those farms long ago. It is also interesting that they are making good, that they are finding it profitable under the better and less wasteful methods of agriculture to till the soil of their ancestors.

A body of efficient men in investigating the effect on the family life of living in cities and schools. No final report has yet been made, but Mr. Roosevelt told the other day by one of the investigators that it seems certain that the big city is educational in that there is a larger capacity for better education in city schools.

"A Country People"

You in this State are essentially country people. You might hardly be called for it, as an American, and as a New Yorker, and as an American. You are not a country people. You are not so large as to have the great new opportunities, the great new industries, the great new mechanical arts and schools and many millions of people. Many millions of people are worse than twenty years on those farms. Mr. Roosevelt was present, and he declared that he had great pleasure in introducing a man who has distinguished himself at such an early age.

"Nothing Incongruous"

Mr. Roosevelt declared in the opening remarks that there is nothing incongruous in the naval reserve coming to school. The training of the student is of the same kind as that of a great mechanical arts and schools. These men who are more instructive than many children that may raise on that farm after they have been here. He says he is a countryman, and he says he is a countryman.

"The Farmer"

Today, Mr. President, the eyes of more people in this country than ever before are turned to Washington, and the public are more interested in the work that is being done for the farmers of this country than ever before. In the work that is being done for the farmers of this country than ever before. Mr. Roosevelt declared in the opening remarks that there is nothing incongruous in the naval reserve coming to school. The training of the student is of the same kind as that of a great mechanical arts and schools. These men, who have been instructed in the same kind as that of a great mechanical arts and schools. These men who are more instructive than many children can ever be.

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