
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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Raleigh, NC

May 26, 1913

[Raleigh, NC]

FDR Speech File

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

RLJ

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

(0021)

May seem incongruous one devoting attention Naval Affairs.

But on thinking it over, realized eminently fitting -
for Navy greatest collage of Mech. Arts - & Chief topic
among officers raising chickens

Further than this am farmer & hayseed 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 wide ability & his clear judgment & to
love for himself. Proud to call my "chief"

Today, Mr. President, eyes of more people in this
country than ever you may dream of + on work

Interest Fact - 2 or 3 yrs ago - Eastern State
made tabulation abandoned farms

Reached appalling total nearly 5,000

Campaign to resettle. Growing success

Most interest Fact. more than $\frac{1}{2}$

In many cases the children or gr. ch. of those
Also interest fact that Making good -
finding profitable till some of ancestors.

A body of scientists engaged investigating
effect on human race of living in great
cities.

No final report. Been told

But another day dawned. Time that leaders arose
new cry "Young Mr. Stay East"

I have in mind Township Cent. N. Y.
60 or 70 yrs. ago - filled with Germans
Pop. Over 2,000

But call of West heard & gradually young
men - the best of the stock - setting sail

Old people left - & weaklings
People died - none take place - Schools

Then farm abandoned - then another
Beginning of situation all known -
all that remained - cluster R.R. Station. Ithaca.

Probably many you know figures food production this country - Fact total output 10 principal crops stationary last 10 years. While Pop. increased 21%.

We Not surprised if we consider new land in W. taken up, & Rural pop. remained about same

Great bulk increase pop. in Cities

Is situation gives food for thought.

I. ∴ said eyes more people in college & instit.

Not very long ago - So West

It was a good slogan - needed incentives for level. great resources - virgin lands, unexplored mines & forests

For thinking men, quiet citizens, beginning realize that change is progress, which from little beginnings of today - destined work out great problems & control lives of grandchildren.

The economics of life of a people seem academic quest, when study looks - But seem like life or death when try feed hungry family.

Question of production food supply academic? to Am. People 20 yrs ago.

Today becoming ? of bread & butter.

Broadly speaking, this nation 20 yrs ago exported - while today consumes all food it produces.

Somewhere out in Kansas another picture
Great prairie - Indians - Taken up cattlemen
Yield in turn to homesteaders - perhaps some
They have obtained land for nothing -
As others join them prosperous communities.
Churches rise - Schools
Devel. of Es. West is becoming accomplished Fast
We have been Rounding Out the Nation

But have you ever stopped to consid - /n
rounding out Nation. Robbing Peter to pay Paul
Isn't it time to repay Peter?
Believe paying back with the hist. next gen.

Whole nation knows devel N.C. past few years.
Is proud of men who have left & become
great in other places.
More proud of you who have stayed at
home, who have also made good &
are making State leader in March of Progress.

Stay East Young Men.

Here at our feet is opportunity.

Let us be as Pres. of U.S. has said
"Forward Looking Men", workers
for the common good.

average family ^{in large city} live out \$3.90 if no inflax

You in this State essentially country bred.
Ought Thank God - I as Amer. am Thankful
even as regret out of 10,000,000 - 6 large cities

I say purposely large cities. for existence
of cities essential to progress -

Cities can & do work good so long as think
of men as well as \$.

Enlarge the city, the less thought of the man

I should hate to have people of Raleigh
believe look a-hance at devel. of this
very delightful place

For from what I knew of Raleigh before came &
from contact with many splendid citizens
of this city whom had honor & pleas. of knowing
I believe you are develop right kind city on
permanent lines for benefit of whole people

State of No. Car. working out complex
problems in intell. way & human way.

Reminds me of



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Noted
Speech before
North Carolina
Agricultural & Mechanic
-al College -

May 1913

Personnel - N

**"STAY EAST YOUNG
MAN" THE COUNSEL
FROM ROOSEVELT**

Assistant Secretary of Navy Would Stop Robbing Peter to Pay Paul

SAYS HE IS HAYSEEDER

**Editor Niven Makes Alumni
Address and Dr. W. A.
Christian Preaches Com-
mencement Sermon.**

Hon. Franklin Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, last night upset the dictum of a fellow New Yorker, Horace Greeley, and speaking to the graduates of the A. and M. College, said, "Stay East, Young Man."

And that's just about as good a text as he could have selected he he tried a long time and called it this after he got on his feet. The naval man didn't say he had any real object, but he preached the gospel of the farm man. The fact that food products have stood stationary during the past dec-

Mr. Roosevelt was the closing speaker of the evening that had followed a lively day, which had been the predecessor of a delightful reception at which he and Mrs. Roosevelt were guests of honor. The young man, for he is just now thirty-one, came here with a short, business-like message. He spoke less than twenty-five minutes and had a splendid audience.

Judge Hoke, a gentleman of ever-youthful mind and heart, presented him. The jurist 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 officer's speaking to the boys of a school like this that the navy is the great mechanical arts school and that men learn how many chickens they may raise on "that ideal farm after they have gone into retirement." And besides, he said, he is a hayseed, and a crowd of it.

Continuing, he said:

"Further than this I am a hayseed myself and proud of it. It is therefore with real personal pleasure that I find myself in this distinguished gathering, and I am especially glad because Raleigh is the home of a man whom I have learned to respect for his wide ability and for his clear judgment, and to love for himself—a man whom I am proud to call my chief."

Today, Mr. President, the eyes of more people in this country than ever before in this country than even you may dream of are resting on this college, and on the work you are doing and on the graduates you are sending forth. For thinking men, quiet citizens, are beginning to realize all through the land that a change is in progress which from the little beginnings of today is destined to work out great problems and to control the lives of the people.

**"STAY EAST YOUNG
MAN;" COUNSEL
FROM ROOSEVELT**

(Continued from Page One.)

in New York. They have obtained the land for nothing or for next to nothing, and as others join them a prosperous community is formed; 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.

[illegible]

A body of scientists is engaged in investigating the effect on the human race of living in cities and schools. No final report has yet been made. It was told the other day by one of the investigators that it seems to be established that the average family will die out in three generations of city life unless country blood is brought in.

[illegible]

"Stay East, young man." Here a
out feet is opportunity. Let us be
as the President of the United States
has said, "forward looking men,
workers for the common good."

"Thought-I-Could."

"You see the big engine hitched up to a long string of cars and start for the grade. Have you not noticed that the exhaust is something like this: 'think-I-see—I-think-I-can I-think-I-can'—and the engine goes on up the

And the engine goes on up the
And then when it starts
on the other side
goes on in this: "Thought-
could, I-thought-I-could." He could
not have made it so well had he
left his notes and described it.

No Yards For Raleigh.
After making the boys promise to stay at home, he thanked the people for inviting him here. His chief, he said, is not in Washington today and the calls upon the assistant are great. "I am coming here again if you will let me," he said.

"When I left the chief in Washington he whispered to me, and I am telling you confidentially, that he did not think he could conscientiously promise Raleigh a navy yard, but he told me I might do it." (Laughter.) But he didn't. He went over and enjoyed the reception.

The appearance of Mr. Roosevelt which was delayed until nine o'clock did not interrupt the exercises.

The program began at eight o'clock with a splendid presentation of Editor L. A. Niven, an alumnus of the A. M. College. John A. Park, publisher of the Raleigh Daily Times, made a very handsome speechlet introducing him to a splendid audience.