
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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cial life of the city. The United Italian banquets of other years have gone down in the city's history as events centering about several gathering-points. The banquet of 1916 will be remembered solely for its patriotism. The suggestion of a hyphen was rejected before the diners were seated, for beside each plate was a tiny American flag. Not only this, but American flags alone were shown, and the banquet closed when the diners rose, and with the lights extinguished, save for the powerful searchlight which played upon the large American flag waving in the breeze, and sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Patriotism Underlying Theme. Throughout the speeches, the underlying theme was patriotism, loyalty to the flag. P. A. Tesone, for seven years preceding the toastmaster of the banquets, acted in that position for the eighth time. He is to be the toastmaster for all future banquets so long as he is able, if the motion made by Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, and heartily seconded by all pre-vailla. M. C. Mansollilo, as chairman of the general committee in charge of the banquet, introduced Mr. Tesone and also announced the musical features during the service of the banquet. Miss Katharine Saunders, Umberto LaPenna and M. C. Mansollilo rendered vocal solos which were well received. The Right Rev. Dean Joseph F. Sheahan, pastor of St. Peter's Church offered the invocation.

"This banquet is not pro-Italian," said Mr. Tesone, in opening the speechmaking. "It is a pro-American banquet! We are Italians by birth and we are proud of it, but we were adopted and we adopted this country, and when there is an opportunity to defend it we are ready to do so. The American flag flies over this nation and we will defend it whenever there is need." His assertion was greeted by long applause.

Mayor Wilbur. Mayor Wilbur, who brought the greetings and best wishes of the City of Poughkeepsie to the Italians and their guests, remarked particularly upon the contributions made by the people of the Old World to the progress of the New. "Mr. Tesone has said that the Italians in the United States stand ready to defend our flag whenever the need arises. I believe they do. At the present time when so much has been said about the hyphen, I can't see any danger. If we had gotten into war with any European nation at any time, I believe that it would have been one of the surprises of the ages how few Americans of foreign birth would have forsaken the land of their adoption to fight for the fatherland against it. I hear that some 400 of our substantial Italian residents have left Poughkeepsie since last Columbus Day to fight for their country. I sincerely hope that they may all, or most of them, be able to return before another Columbus Day and rejoin us in our efforts to make Poughkeepsie the Queen City of the Hudson."

In introducing Secretary Roosevelt, Mr. Tesone recalled that he had been present at the first Columbus Day banquet and expressed the pleasure of the Italians that he had returned to them again. Then he made a plea for the teaching of Italian in the public schools of Poughkeepsie and commended it to the Board of Education for its earnest consideration.

Hon. F. D. Roosevelt. Secretary Roosevelt first moved that Mr. Tesone be installed as permanent toastmaster of the Columbus Day banquets and second, that Congressman Platt be directed to secure passage of legislation in Washington making Columbus Day a national holiday. The motions prevailed unanimously. "Congressman Platt can get the legislation, even if he's in the minority," said the secretary. "I haven't decided whether or not I'm going to vote for him or not. I'm non-committal as yet."

"The spirit of Christopher Columbus has fallen like a mantle on this country," the speaker continued. "He was not an inventor, but he put his theory into practice. He had the courage of his convictions, and he lived in an age and came from a country where the courage of her convictions had made Italy the mother of modern civilization. The spirit of Columbus, of Italy at that time, is the spirit of this nation today. It is the spirit which has allowed us to get so far along the road toward the ultimate goal as we have."

"Italy taught us not to theorize but

stone existence, an occasion distinguished by the presence of prominent clergymen of the diocese, noticeable among them Rt. Rev. Patrick J. Hayes, auxiliary Bishop of New York. Others present were:

Mrs. F. H. Wall, D. D., of St. Charles, New York City; Mrs. D. Guidon, D. D., of the Church of the Holy Rosary; Mrs. Thomas Carroll, D. D., secretary to Cardinal Farley; Rev. William Livingston, of St. Gabriel's New York City, formerly of St. Peter's, Poughkeepsie; Rev. Andrew Roache, of New Rochelle; Rev. Dr. Gefell, of Rochester; Rev. Michael A. Reilly, of Woodlawn, formerly of St. Peter's, Poughkeepsie; Rev. J. Campbell, Professor in Cathedral College; Rev. James Aiyward, Beacon; Rev. James Talbot, of Saugerties, formerly of Poughkeepsie; Very Rev. J. J. Hickey, of St. Mary's, Kingston; Rev. Dr. Tracey, of the Chancery office in New York City; Rev. David C. O. Conner, assistant at the Holy Rosary; Rev. James Corridan, of Wappingers Falls; Rev. Robert L. Ross, of Millbrook, and all the local priests.

The presence of Mayor D. W. Wilbur and the Poughkeepsie Board of Education was indicative of the general good will of the city toward the enterprise. The children of the school waving flags joined enthusiastically in their part of the exercises singing patriotic songs and popular hymns.

After the procession around the school by the Bishop, preceded by the cross and acolytes, the Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree in uniform, and the cornerstones blessed and placed in position, the Bishop passed the platform erected in the rear of the convent and draped with American flags, and the congregation to seats on the lawn. The surplus crowd gathered along the sides and rear and in every available place.

Rev. O'Keefe's Address. Rev. Thomas M. O'Keefe, M. A., the main speaker of the occasion, delivered one of the most eloquent addresses that has ever been heard in this vicinity. Every word rang clear and free freighted with an inspiring message. The eloquent visitor began with a justification of the idea of the Catholic school and went on to explain the affiliation between Catholicism and true Americanism.

"We want our children educated in Catholic schools," he said, "because we believe in God and we want Him to have a place in our educational plan. We want our little ones to be given an early opportunity of learning how to love and serve Him. We want our children educated in Catholic schools not

Speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt before the United Italian Society of the City of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., October 12, 1916. (Article in the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Eagle-News, October 13, 1916.)

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