
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 103

1919 September 13

Dayton, OH - Good Citizenship

September 13, 1919

[Dayton, Ohio]

FDR Speech File

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Speech of
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dayton, Ohio
Sept. 13, 1919

[from: Dayton (Ohio) Evening Herald, Sept. 13, 1919]

HIGH OFFICIAL OF NAVY PAYS VISIT TO CITY

Assistant secretary Roosevelt, speaker on Americanization Day

Assistant secretary Roosevelt came to this city Saturday for the purpose of talking on "good citizenship" at the fairgrounds. In this connection, his principal idea is that all foreign language newspapers be abolished within a period of five years.

The high navy official declared that "Americans must be Americans and that foreign residents of this country must become Americans if they continue to live here."

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Speech of
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dayton, Ohio
Sept. 13, 1919

[from: Dayton (Ohio) Journal, Sept. 14, 1919]

"... Franklin K. Roosevelt, Assistant secretary of the navy, left Dayton immediately following his address at the fairgrounds, a home-coming festival at Utica having called upon him for a speech at that place. He spoke of the necessity of intelligent voting, deplored blind partisanship and winning applause when he said that the man who boasted he had never scratched a ticket was lacking in the elements of good citizenship. He said that within a year and a half he had dealt with 80,000 federal employes and had never had labor troubles. "They always knew they could talk things over across the table," he asserted.

Mr. Roosevelt said he had once told his colleagues in the Democratic party that he had not voted a straight ticket in 16 years. They were shocked, he said. "If a party does not put up good candidates, it is not good citizenship to vote the party ticket," was his assertion. "The man who does that is just as un-American as the man who does not vote at all because it is a good day for golf."

John P. Frye, of Cincinnati, editor of the McLeans' Journal, was the other speaker of the afternoon, appearing just before Mr. Roosevelt. Mayor J.M. Switzer introduced both speakers.

Dayton (Ohio)

Sunday News

Sept. 14, 1919.

(FDR speech of Sept. 13, 1919)

**62 PAGES
TODAY**

News and Automobile
Sports and Fashion Notes
Music and Theaters

MOST COMPLETE TELEGRAPH AND CABLE NEWS

DAYTON SUI

VOL. V. No. 25.

DAYTON, OHIO, SUNDAY

SENATORS ENCOURA

CITIZENSHIP IS THEME OF PROGRAM

Foreign Born and Natives Join in Americanization Day Celebration—Roosevelt Speaks.

Fair weather brought an attendance of over 4000 people to the fair grounds, Saturday afternoon to witness the big Americanization celebration, staged under the auspices of the Americanization committee of Dayton, as a feature of "better citizenship day."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, sounded the keynote for the entire afternoon, when in his address, he made a

THEMES TO HAVE PLACE IN SERMONS

The theme of Americanization and better citizenship is to be taken up again Sunday in the churches.

Realizing the value of the movement, and the feeling created by the tangent at the fair grounds yesterday, all persons throughout the city will take up the subject Sunday morning from their pulpits. Practically all of the sermons, if not dealing completely with this subject, will touch upon it, in some manner.

It is believed by many church men in this city that the theme of this year will furnish a great good about the home and the result of the session in the next of most Dayton ministers to discuss the subject at church services Sunday.

plea for the realization of the true meaning of American citizenship—the duties, and its privileges—the spirit of neighborliness and fellowship that it carries.

The crowd began to arrive before 1 o'clock. Before 1:45 the grand stand, and the grounds adjacent thereto, were crowded and

When Dayton Celebrated "An



SINN FEINERS ARE
OPENLY DEFIAINT;
STRIKE IN
BOSTON 16

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 1919

THE DAY TO

WOMAN SUCCUMBS TWO DAYS AFTER DRINKING POISON

After lingering for three days after being poisoned by muriatic acid she drank in an effort to end her life, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, 50, 21 Quitman street, died Saturday afternoon at Miami Valley hospital. Despondent on account of ill health, the woman drank a quantity of the acid last Thursday and physicians at the hospital have been battling for her life since. Coroner E. O. Willoughby who viewed the body and pronounced her dead by her own act said that suffering has been great. According to Dr. Willoughby, the acid closed her throat, making nourishment almost impossible.

It was thought when she was first admitted to the institution, Mrs. Fisher might recover, but her condition grew more serious. Although muriatic acid is regarded a deadly poison and its effect rapid, the small quantity the woman drank, influenced by her illness, killed her by degrees.

CITIZENSHIP IS THEME OF BIG PROGRAM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

voices. The crowd stood at attention during the pledge.

At the conclusion of the "pledge to the flag", the children returned to their seats in time to "The National Emblem", Sousa's favorite march, played by the Great Lakes naval band.

Immediately after, the speakers moved from the platform, in front of the grandstand, to a place in the stand, at the foot of the tier of seats and looking up at the audience. This was done in order that no one in the audience might miss a part of the talk.

foreign born owe as high, or a higher, allegiance to the United States, as they do to their native lands.

"We must teach them," he said, "that they are servants of the United States and that the United States expects them to do their duty—not only to the country in war, but in peace. If duties are fulfilled in peace, we can rest assured that the children, when they become parents and grandparents, will look forward to leaving to their children a government of the United States of America, as founded under the constitution of 1779."

Following his address, Secretary Roosevelt was besieged by people who wanted to shake hands with him, and thank him for his talk.

The pageant proper, which began immediately after the secretary left the grounds, and which was allegorical in nature, depicted the escape of people from the oppression of the old world, and the protection and opportunity to gain happiness in the new world. It consisted of a prologue and five episodes.

The prologue began with the prologue, enacted by Miss Eulalie Chapin as the "Spirit of Freedom" and Earl Cooper as the "Demon of Oppression," in which Freedom proclaims her gifts to all who live under her banner, and is defied by Oppression.

The first episode opened with the folk dances of the Hungarians, Bohemians, Lithuanians, Italians, Greeks, and the Polish group. Following the brilliantly costumed, and oddly postured dances, to music strange and foreign to American ears, the struggle between Freedom and Oppression was renewed, until America came to the rescue offering a haven to the oppressed races.

In the second episode, the "spirit of Migration" represented the spirit that brings the foreign born to America to find a home. The third episode symbolized the passage of the immigrants across the ocean to their new homes.

The fourth episode brought forth the arrival of the immi-

RETURNED SOLDIER OBTAINS DIVORCE

Albert E. Ritter, who lives on R. R. No. 4, was granted a decree of divorce from his wife, Mabel A. Ritter, in the court of domestic relations Saturday. Ritter accused his wife of gross neglect of duty, declaring that she was seen in the company of married men while he was away fighting for his country. Ritter was discharged from the army last May, he said.

STRIKE IN BOSTON IS NEAR END

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

from the force originated in the strike, that they had been dismissed from the police department. Included in the 19 are all the officials of the union. They were found guilty of violation of a rule

of the department prohibiting members of the force from joining an organization which is affiliated with an outside body.

Today saw two names added to the growing casualty list of week. In the part of the city of Tremont and Boylston streets man was shot to death and a man seriously injured by a guardsmen. The man was identified as Gustave Gaist, 20, of Chester, and the woman as Mary Jacques, 42, a cashier.

The shooting was most spectacular. The streets were thronged with people, when suddenly a man gout and there were screams. People scattered right and left.

An infantryman had ordered a crowd of men to move on. Among them were Gaist and his brother. They protested and the soldier brought his gun down from his shoulder. Gaist seized the muzzle and a scuffle ensued. Then another guardsmen rushed up, leveling his gun, fired.

FACTS A

At the present time prices on all furniture are where you get one dollar's worth of quality service — variety unequalled — goods that are the best and cheapest —

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greatest occupancy," he declared. "To consider just the usual sort of problem, let us take the broader question—the welfare of all. An interest in every citizen in the welfare of all within the cities' boundaries—that is Americanism."

That Americanism cannot be defined or analyzed, but it is a method and incentive to enable people to achieve more than has been accomplished before, was the declaration of the speaker, who closed by saying, "We are all to be good Americans; must carry our traditions to the foreign lands who come to America."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, after being introduced by Mayor Switzer, said: "I am here to tell you that he might command his audience to bring advantage, and that they might hear him more easily." "I am not up out of our feathers, and stop criticizing," said Roosevelt, "but in a strong talk on "Good Citizenship" he can no longer be accused, however, of not wanting to criticize, unless we are to share in making things better."

The speaker asserted that it is the duty of American citizens to "call it out" and criticize, but not to help. He pointed out that all must help, and that it is the duty of American citizens to vote, no matter how, but to vote, and compared the voter's right with the Bolsheviks who did not.

"I believe the voters that the women are going to get, will help the men to better citizenship," Secretary Roosevelt declared.

The speaker asserted that a lot of people were looking for fun and were afraid of kicking. They were something different, but they don't know what," he said.

In speaking of the critics who do nothing but criticize, Secretary Roosevelt said from a portion of President Wilson's speech of November 1917: "The men who want to cure the wrongs of governments by destroying governments are going to be destroyed; those who are destroyed, I mean, by the chaos which they have created because, remove the foundations of society, and, even if you are strong enough to take anything that you want, you are not smart enough to keep it. The new strength which will take it away from you is the most dangerous group amongst you will make slaves and tools of you. That is the truth."

The secretary called attention to the fact that talk he heard on the "good old times" in America is no such thing as the "good old times," he declared, "today is better, and tomorrow will be still better." "I believe in progress," Secretary Roosevelt said, "but that doesn't mean atomism, and perfect men and women."

"Your form of government guarantees you progress if you want it."

The speaker asserted that the

prosperity Miss Mary State Education, Miss Carmel Weekessee Music Miss Juanita Silver History Miss Luetta Lovell Folklore Miss Angela Bryan Labor Mr. Leonard Schroeder.

\$5,000,000 IS LOSS IN GOTHAM FIRE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The oil company's twenty新
tanks, some holding 1,000 barrels each, contained from 1,000 to 2,000 barrels of gasoline and kerosene, near the blaze, were demolished in an effort to prevent the fire spreading. Several tanks took fire and with tankers and other fuel oil, gasoline, they ran into the flames. Fire fighters at great risk kept heads of water running over the nearby Nautilus and gasoline tanks, so as to keep them cool and to combat the flames.

Within two hours after the first engine reached the plant, twelve big tanks, filled with petroleum of various grades were afire, and at 6 o'clock 20 others were burning.

When it was seen that the firemen could not cope with the situation, two fire boats were called and they threw thousands of tons of water upon the flames from the East River. From New York, the city's last word in fire fighting equipment, was called a short time afterwards. Great crowds of people rushed to witness the spectacle and pressed far beyond the safety line until it became known that two more tanks, which with gasoline were liable to blow up any minute. Six hundred police men charged with drawn clubs and pushed the spectators two blocks beyond the enclosure that surrounds the plant.

Two more tanks of oil exploded at 9:30 o'clock and flames shot 1,000 feet in the air.

It was reported that the fire was getting beyond control of the fighters in a general conflagration over the entire area.

The explosions were accompanied by muffled roar that caused many other stampedes to get away from the scene in which many persons were trapped.

The flames cast a lurid glow over Manhattan.

THREE LOCAL MEN BACK IN STATES

Three Dayton men were among the soldiers arrivals at Hoboken Sunday, following periods of overseas service. They were Lieut. Horace J. Turvane, 126th Head, gunners detachment, motor supply 238. Motor engineer, Otto L. Sifford, Repair Unit No. 323, 131 South Philadelphia street, and Corporal Clemmie Dillman, 642 South Main street.

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