
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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ROOSEVELT FAVORS INCREASED PAY FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Secretary of Navy Stirs Anti- Tam Day Crowd With Appeal for Public Servants.

The Nation has paid too little attention to the temper and indignation of the public servants, said Assistant Secretary of the Navy Frank D. Roosevelt, addressing a large crowd at the Music Grove of Prospect Park yesterday afternoon immediately after the parade, the 50th anniversary of the battle of Antietam. In looking for the judges for the public servants of the city and nation Roosevelt referred to the recent strike among public employees, saying the time had come for a recognition of their work. An increase in pay, he said, should be granted. "If the people would take as much interest in the servants of peace as they do in the servants of war there would be no starvation in that domain."

The celebration carried on under the auspices of the War Veterans and Sons Association, 1-28 N. Y. is one that has taken place every year since the final termination of the Civil War. Veterans were present. Always it has been attended by the heroes of the Civil War, but this year the audience differed a bit from those of the past in their accounts of the World War. Young men in khaki still became the white-haired, stooped-shouldered men in blue, with decorated coats and military caps. They bore the battles of '65 recalled by the name William B. Hickey, who served under Grant. He compared his fight with that of the Americans in Europe, declaring that in both combat it was the common soldier that won the war and not the generals. To help give the spirit of democracy and the patriotic fervor that has prevailed for years, he urged loyalty to the flag, to the country and to God.

Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic James D. Bell, the next veteran to address the audience, declared that a nation is headed toward destruction that does not honor its past. He reviewed the accomplishments of the war of '65 and spoke briefly of the significance of the World War. "It was the men who struggled at Antietam," said he, "who made the country what it is today."

"The greatest thing for democracy was the draft that took rich and poor to fight our battles on the other side," said Gen. George W. Wingate, who described the bloody battle at Antietam. He explained how much better the present generation's system of getting soldiers was than that of half a century ago when a rich man's son might be exempted from service on the payment of \$300. "But don't let us think we have whipped the world and that it is going to stay whipped," he cautioned, "we must continue to train our young men. Children must be taught to obey orders so that when they become men they may be of service in the great world of business."

He cited his own business experiences to show how men trained to obey without question are promoted in life.

Brigadier Gen. A. Wingate told of the lessons learned by the men who participated in the World War, declaring that one of the paramount results was the spirit of fraternity it had engendered.

"We who are met here to commemorate the valor of those splendid comrades who gave up their lives in this and other wars of these United States that our Nation might live," he said, "can find no better way to express our appreciation of their sacrifice than to show by our individual and our united action that we are for the right, for the sort of patriotic action that work for the good of our country at all times—even when the band isn't playing—and that we have no patience with the sort of man, whatever his station in life, who plays fast and loose with the country's welfare."

"And so I urge you that at all times you use your influence and exert your efforts to create a feeling in those about you of loyalty, patriotism and love of country, not only in the big crises, but in the small every-day things of the business of life."

Millie O'Reilly brought the exercises to a close with a brief eulogy of the veterans of yesterday and today and a tribute to the flag.

Officers of the association who presided included: Arthur Arnow, president; William Lovel, secretary; George A. Andrie, first vice president; Terrence McArdle, second vice president; William A. Stuhner, collector; Charles L. Cummins, sergeant-at-arms; and Joseph E. Clark, chairman of the executive committee. Capt. Emile of the Harbor Squad Reserves acknowledged the receipt of \$2,000, a gift from the association to that body to aid them in their volunteer work.

May 1, 1950,

by FDR

Speech before the War Veterans and Sons' Association on the fifty-seventh anniversary of the battle of Antietam, at the Music Grove Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N.Y., September 20, 1919.

ROOSEVELT FAVORS INCREASED PAY FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Secretary of Navy Stirs Anti- Tam Day Crowd With Appeal for Public Servants.

"The Nation has paid too little attention to the needs and legitimate needs of its public servants," said Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, addressing a large audience in the Music Box of Prospect Park yesterday afternoon assembled there to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the battle of Antietam. In taking up the subject of the public servants of the city and nation Mr. Roosevelt referred to the recent strikes among public employees, saying the time had come for a recognition of their work. An increase in pay was the immediate objective, he thought, and it should be granted. "If the people would take as much interest in the servants of peace as they do in the servants of war there would be less agitation in that domain."

The celebration, carried on under the auspices of the War Veterans and Sons Association, I. S. A., is one that has taken place every year since the local organization of the Civil War veterans was formed. Always it has been attended by the heroes of the Civil War, but this year the audience differed a bit from those of the past in that veterans of the World War were present. Young men in khaki sat beside the white-haired, stoop-shouldered men in blue, with decorated coats and military caps. They heard the battles of '45 recalled by ex-Judge William D. Dickey, who served under Grant. He compared the fight with that of the Americans in France, declaring that in both conflicts it was the common soldier that won the war and not the generals. To keep alive the spirit of democracy and the patriotic fervor that has prevailed for years, he urged loyalty to the flag, to the country and to God.

Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, James D. Bell, the next veteran to address the audience, declared that a nation is headed toward destruction that does not honor its past. He reviewed the accomplishments of the war of '45 and spoke briefly of the significance of the World War. "It was the men who struggled at Antietam," said he, "who made the country what it is today."

"The greatest thing for democracy was the draft that took rich and poor to fight our battles on the other side," said Gen. George W. Wingate, who described the bloody battle at Antietam. He explained how much better the present generation's system of getting soldiers was than that of half a century ago when a rich man's son might be exempted from service on the payment of \$200. "But don't let us think we have whipped the world and that it is going to stay whipped," he cautioned, "we must continue to train our young men. Children must be taught to obey orders so that when they become men they may be of service in the great world of business." He cited his own business experiences to show how men trained to obey without question are promoted in life.

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