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

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FDR Speech File

With Gen. John Z. Pershing, attended by his aid, Col. Quirkman, U. S. A., and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, a guests of honor, fully 3,000 persons—members of Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, F. A. A. M., and their wives—gathered at Colorado and Georgia avenues, beginning at 10 o'clock. The ceremony was the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple that is to be erected at the Temple that is to be known as the "Temple of the Future." J. P. Freyman, champion of the United States, presided over the ceremonies with prayer. The "Eminent Master" had been played by the Troitsa Band, Henry C. Stein presided. The members of Stansbury Lodge, delivered the introductory address.

Exercises Impressive.
The impressive exercises of laying the stone were conducted by Joseph H. Miller, Grand Master of the District of Columbia, assisted by all of the members of Stansbury Lodge. In the metal box that was contained in the stone were placed the following articles: The Holy Bible, mallet of the mason, American flag, forty-cent coin in cotton, microscope of the mason, the grand secretary, the master of Stansbury Lodge, the mason and Mrs. C. Stein; all bulletins of Stansbury Lodge, history of the lodge, program of the corner-stone laying, the Constitution and copies of the four Washington newspapers.

By word heads the crowd listened to Grand Master Miller as he performed the ancient ritual of Masonry after the distribution of loaves, wine and oil by the master of ceremonies being most impressive.

Mr. Roosevelt Speaks.
The head of the Star Spangled Banner, and after benediction had been pronounced by Rev. Charles A. Cook, pastor of Stansbury, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was introduced by Secretary C. Stein.
Mr. Roosevelt congratulated the members of the lodge for the impressive ceremony they had shown and assured them that he was feeling honored with pleasure to the completion of the building, when he would avail himself of the opportunity of making a call.

Quotes President Roosevelt.
"It has gotten so now that no Masonic temple can be erected unless there is some member of the Roosevelt clan near the laying of the corner stone," said the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, "and I am proud to say that no family in the country as a whole is more closely identified with Masonry than the Roosevelt family. This occasion brings to my mind a speech that was delivered in 1847 in this city at the laying of a corner stone by Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States. That speech was declared by many as the most radical ever delivered by a President and I think if you would read it today and then look around it would appear to be most sane."

Mr. Roosevelt predicted a great future for the country and said this was no time to be hinging on the "good old days." "They're long old days are dead and gone. There is a golden age ahead for this country, a progressive age; an age when just such men as you will leave no stone unturned that might make for a clearer, brighter future and a closer brotherhood for the betterment of mankind."

Amusing Incident.

An amusing incident occurred just after Secretary Roosevelt had thrown a crowd of mortar on the base of the stone. Gen. Pershing, who had previously performed the same duty, whispered to Mr. Roosevelt in a joking vein, he returned to him and said: "Mr. Secretary, from the way you aimed that mortar I think you could do better at bricklaying than helping run the Navy."

To which Mr. Roosevelt replied: "There is no doubt about that, general. I am sure I could make much more money, at least."

After the corner stone ceremonies the members of Stansbury Lodge and their friends gathered in Harvey, where a banquet was served.

Past Grand Master of the District Charles Baldwin, Mrs. Arnes Leonard, most worthy grand treasurer of the General Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, and Mrs. Cora Mayberry, grand matron of the General Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, attended the ceremonies.

V. M. C. A. HUT IDEA RETENTION URGED

Secretary Daniels Among Speakers Today at Convention at Detroit.

By the Associated Press.
DETROIT, Mich., November 21.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Maj. Gen. C. P. Summerall, U. S. A., and Dr. John R. Mott, general executive secretary of the International committee and national war work council, Y. M. C. A., were the principal speakers on the program of the last biennial convention of the period, the convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of North America today.
At the morning session the report of the commission on the conservation of war values was read by Joseph H. Alling of Rochester. One of the recommendations was that the war-time buildings be used "not as a model of expediency and informality and simplicity as a means of extending service to localities not otherwise accessible." The commission also recommended payment of adequate salaries to hold men of large ability in the service.

Would Not Continue Canteen.
Commercial features, such as the canteen service, which proved of great value during the war, was not favored in normal times.

The report of permanent commission of vocational training recommended that the colleges for training Y. M. C. A. secretaries be increased from two to three, the third college to be located at Nashville, Tenn. It was further recommended that the night summer training schools be increased by five, for the Pacific coast, and at Rochester, N. Y., for the middle west.

Tonight Secretary Daniels, Gen. Summerall, Maj. Shearck of the Marine Corps and official representatives of the British, French, American and Chinese governments will present a number of "Y" war workers for display. Five of them are to receive the Maudesville Medal. They are: Rev. J. D. Lytle, North Brookfield, Mass.; Rev. M. G. Johnson, Baltimore; W. J. Farmer, Pittsburgh, and Richard G. Shreve, Rochester, N. Y.

Pension Plan Approved.

Approval of the plan advanced by the board of trustees of the Empire wide pensions for retired young men of the Christian Association secretary was given by the convention. The plan proposes retirement on an average of half pay for secretaries who have had thirty-three years' service and after the age of thirty years.
The convention also adopted the report of the commission on the retention of the Y. M. C. A. to the churches.

FRENCH AND BRITISH EXCHANGE RATIFICATIONS

PARIS, November 21.—Stephen Pichon, French foreign minister, and Sir Eyre Crowe, assistant under secretary for foreign affairs of Great Britain, last night exchanged ratification of the treaty guaranteeing British aid to France, if without provocation she is attacked by Germany.

Sir Eyre is the representative of Great Britain in the supreme council during the absence of Premier Lloyd George.

The announcement today of the ratification of the treaty caused considerable surprise because it had been generally understood that Great Britain would not ratify the treaty before the United States did. Although the treaty was ratified last night it does not come into force until the similar treaty with the United States has been ratified.

FBI' speech at the laying of a cornerstone for the new Masonic Temple, Colorado and Georgia Avenues, Washington, D.C., Nov. 21, 1919.

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