

---

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

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

---

**File No. 307**

**1929 February 27**

**State Forestry Association**

**ADDRESSES IN EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**

The Conservationist published an outline of the addresses in the Executive Chamber on the occasion of the State Forestry Convention. Here is the text of each, copies having been furnished for all members in pamphlet form through the liberality of Congressman John D. Clarke:

**Address of Secretary-Forester J. R. Simmons.**  
Introducing Association Members to the Governor.

Your Excellency—  
We have come at this time in acknowledgement of your kind invitation extended to the members of the New York State Forestry Association on the occasion of its 17th Annual Meeting. We confess to a feeling of honest pride in the thought that, out of the ranks of this Association, devoted as it is to the study and intelligent use of a great natural resource, a man should come forward to be the Chief Executive of the Empire State at this particular period in its development.

Our annual meeting is for the purpose of discussion of forestry problems, with a view to extending our usefulness to the state, and with a view to extending knowledge of the general principles of forestry among the people. In relation to legislation we seek to carry to the people an accurate understanding of what is proposed, and the enforcement of conservation measures by the Association indicates that an opinion has been formed by a representative cross section of the forestry-thinking citizens, drawn from all walks of life and from all sections of the state.

We have accepted your invitation, not for the purpose of requesting you to enunciate a policy nor to answer specific questions regarding any forest project. Rather, we have come to express our confidence in your guidance as our Executive and to request that you speak to us as frankly and informally as you would do as an officer of the Association.

**Address of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt.**

My Friends—  
I am not speaking to you as Governor, but as an officer and a member of the Forestry Association. A good many of you know my personal interest in conservation because I came to Albany as a baby senator in 1910 and was made chairman of the Forest, Fish and Game Committee in 1911. The fact that this baby senator was made chairman of this particular committee meant that forestry had not progressed far in the State. One of the first things I did was to discover that I had a lot of land at Hyde Park that needed reforesting, so between 5,000 and 10,000 trees were planted every year on that land, and forestry was further promoted by the clearing up of 500 acres of woodlot.

We have advanced a long way since that time, and now the general subject of forestry is being studied and understood in every section of the state.

We are facing within the next few years a fairly definite State Forest policy. I am open-minded in regard to the details of that program because frankly I think we have not yet arrived in our quest after the best method of carrying

forestry to the highest point of perfection. There is some talk, as you know, about legislation that would make it possible, as I understand it, to start, under town or county auspices, forests that would not exceed 500 acres and an Executive I am a little appalled at the thought of some 960 forests in the State of New York so small, many of them—probably a good majority of them—that there would be a great overhead expense in taking care of them, so that finally we might find ourselves staggering under the burden. My own personal feeling is that we ought, in going into the question, to take a leaf out of the notebook of European experience and get larger forest areas at work so that the state would not be impeded by multiplicity of detail and an awkward load.

There is one other point that I think Forestry Associations might stress, and that is, that the planting of trees is a crop proposition and can be made to pay. I think most of us agree that under proper management, and given a proper price for the land, forestry can be made a commercially profitable operation, and it seems to me that the Forestry Association could do an excellent piece of work by encouraging the richer business citizens to take up forestry on a large scale, with two purposes in view—(1) education of the people to the most adequate use of the forest areas, and (2) education of the people to the truth that support of this work is not a charity but an investment.

We need a lot of publicity on this subject. The majority of people do not even know of the present progress of forestry, the output of our state nurseries, establishment of new nurseries and the remarkably low price which forest land, for forestry purposes can be had from the state.

Of course, one thing that we have to face in this whole proposition is that we people with grey hair who start in to plant trees now will be under the ground a good many years, in all probability, before those trees are grown to maturity or to marketable size. But on the other hand, the same thing has been going on for centuries in other countries, and they realize that what they plant now is bound to bring back a good many dollars for their children and grandchildren.

I, therefore, hope that you can, by the educational means you employ convince the citizens to go into forestry as a commercial enterprise and I assure you that the State will assist in any way possible. If there is anything that I can do to help the Association in its work I hope you will call upon me.

Thanks very much for coming!

**PROF. HOSMER'S FORTH-COMING BOOK**

Prof. Ralph S. Hosmer of the Forestry Department, Cornell University, is on sabbatical leave, but is improving his vacation by writing a book on Forestry. He does not confide in the title, but those who know him are sure it will prove a welcome and helpful addition to the world's store of knowledge on this important subject.

**Suthers Brothers**

**Men's Furnishings**  
109 MAIN STREET  
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

This popular firm now located in NEW QUARTERS. Giving the same old satisfaction. Goods of QUALITY. Service for satisfaction of customers.

CLOTHING FOR TOURISTS AND SPORTSMEN.

MEN'S WEAR FOR ANY OCCASION.

**KNOX HATS**



**For Dog Foods**  
**Dog Medicine, Dog Supplies,**

Stop at  
**James O. Rignel Co., Inc.**  
Lockport

Three Good Stores:  
Locust St., near Main,  
Caledonia at Lock,  
Also Store, Main, Medina

**GLOBE PLASTER CO.**

210 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.

DEALERS IN

**Builders' Supplies**

**Face Brick**

**Sewer Pipe**

"The Best Food Products of Lake and Ocean"

**HAYES FISH COMPANY, Incorporated**

L. S. JAUS, PRESIDENT

Dealers in all kinds of Sea Foods  
Lake and Ocean Fish, OYSTERS

DELICIOUS GAME AND POULTRY

46 Niagara Street

Buffalo, N. Y.

Tel. Seneca 0512-0513

A Progressive Firm that appreciates what Conservationists are doing to maintain the supply and improve the quality of mankind's most wholesome food, the products of marine and inland waters.

**Make these Specialists Your Guarantee of Satisfaction**

Clubhouse — Industrial — Institutional  
Kitchen and Restaurant Equipment,  
Refrigerators and Automatic Refrigeration,  
Soda Fountains, Beverage Drawing Apparatus,  
Tables and Chairs, Humidors, etc.

LET us save you money, insure completion on time, mechanical perfection, each fixture harmonizing with the rest, etc. Phone or write for details.

**A. F. MEYER & SONS CO., Inc.,**  
Established in 1882

404-408 Broadway Buffalo, N. Y.

Also Mfrs. of Fixtures for Every Business