

ROOSEVELT'S MEMPHIS SPEECH

After eulogizing at some length the river Mississippi, its valley and the lake region as the most prolific agricultural district in the whole world, the president in his Memphis speech today continued:

The people who live in the country districts and who till the small or medium-sized farms on which they live, make up what is on the whole the most valuable asset in our national life.

And proceeded to metaphorically pat the "dear Western Peop" on the back in this manner:

The west has determined our national political development, and the fundamental principles of present American politics, political equality, was originally a western idea.

And this: And have developed a standard of self-respecting self-reliant manhood, which are of good augury for the future of the entire republic. No man can foresee the limit of the possibility of development in the Mississippi Valley.

The rivers, in the president's opinion, are calculated to act as a deterrent on the avaricious railroads:

Wherever a navigable river runs beside railroads the problem of regulating the rates on the railroads becomes far easier, because river regulation is rate regulation. When the water rate sinks, the land rate can't be kept at an excessive height. Therefore it is of national importance to develop these streams as highways to the fullest extent which is genuinely profitable.

But the president recommends a systematic method be applied and united action by the federal and state authorities interested.

It is altogether unlikely that better results will be obtained so long as the method is followed of making partial appropriations at irregular intervals for works which should never be undertaken until it is certain that they can be carried to completion within a definite and reasonable time. Planned and orderly development is essential to the best use of every natural resource, and to none more than to the best use of our inland waterways.

The speaker went on to lighten the trusts to a counterfeiter and advised drastic measures to try to secure the conviction of the thief, but if he had escaped the jurisdiction of the law, it would nevertheless be impossible to let his innocent victims continue to pass his by no means innocent counterfeit money.

There are other rivers besides the Mississippi worthy of attention:

Plans for the improvement of our inland navigation may fairly begin with our greatest river and its chief tributaries but they can not end there. The lands which the Columbia drains include a vast area of rich grain fields and fruit lands, much of which is not easily reached by railroads. The removal of obstructions in the Columbia and its chief tributaries would open to navigation and inexpensive freight transportation fully 2,000 miles of channel. The Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers with their tidal openings into San Francisco Bay are partly navigable now. Their navigation should be maintained and improved, so as to open the marvellously rich valley of California to inexpensive traffic, in order to facilitate both rate regulation and the control of the waters for other purposes. And many other rivers of the United States demand improvement.

The matter of water power going to waste over government dams is also mentioned and other waste of natural resources.

Accordingly, I have asked the waterways commission to take account of the orderly development and conservation, not alone of the waters, but also of the soil, the forests, the mines and all the other natural resources of our country.

Shall we continue the waste and destruction of our natural resources, or shall we conserve them? There is no other question of equal gravity now before the nation.

The Panama canal as an adjunct

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Children One-quarter to One-half Teaspoonful After Meals. This prescription can be filled at any good Drug Store, or, better still, the ingredients can be purchased separately and mixed at home simply by shaking in a bottle. If not in need of it now, we would advise our readers to cut this out and save it.

to the scheme was touched on in much the same words as on Tuesday last, also again impressing on his audience the necessity of a strong navy for defense not offense.

But the pith of the speech comes in conclusion:

Before closing let me say a word upon the subject of the regulation of the railroads by congress under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution. In my judgment the old days of happy-go-lucky indifference on the part of the public to the conduct of the corporations have passed. The American people has made up its mind that the conditions of modern industrialism are such as imperatively to demand supervision in the interest of the people as a whole over these great corporations. Most emphatically we should do full justice to them; but in return we should exact justice from them to the public. Some of them have become so habituated to disregarding everything but their own wishes and interests that the effort to establish a proper supervision over them has aroused on their part a curiosity unreasonable antagonism. Their spokesmen do not seem to be aware that in what we have been trying to do we have not been improperly radical; using the word in its right sense, we have been conservative. We have merely taken the first steps in a policy which must be permanent if our democratic institutions are to endure; while as a matter of course, we must also keep ever in mind that it is exactly as injurious to true democracy to inflict, as tamely to suffer wrong. We can no more tolerate injustice to the railroads than injustice by them; one course is as immoral and as fundamentally mischievous and injurious to the people as the other.

In the matter of supervision of the great railway corporations we are acting as all civilized governments have already acted or are on the point of acting. The unrestricted issue of railway securities without any supervision, and under circumstances which often result in the gravest scandal, should not be permitted, and only by governmental action can it be prevented. It is already thus prevented in England and Germany, for instance. In England the first royal commission of railways and popular leader, William Ewart Gladstone, was chairman, set forth as fundamental the very principles which here have at last been enacted into law, or which, as I firmly believe, will speedily be enacted.

The speaker went on to lighten the trusts to a counterfeiter and advised drastic measures to try to secure the conviction of the thief, but if he had escaped the jurisdiction of the law, it would nevertheless be impossible to let his innocent victims continue to pass his by no means innocent counterfeit money. Well, just the same thing is true when it comes to enforcing the law against business men of great wealth who have violated it. People are always beseeching me not to enforce it against them because innocent outsiders may be hurt, or, only to enforce it with a gentleness that would prevent anybody, good or bad, from being hurt. It is not possible to comply with such requests, even when they are made in good faith. This is a government of law, a law which applies to great and small alike. I am sorry indeed when it happens that big men who do wrong have involved smaller men with no bad intentions to such an extent that they suffer when we force the undoing of the wrong. But we can not hold our hands for such a consideration. The responsibility for the suffering of those innocent outsiders lies, not with us who put a stop to the wrong and punish the wrongdoers, but with those wrongdoers who mislead their victims.

The winding up is:

In the great civil war our armies, northern and southern alike won their high position forever and all time in the undying regard and admiration of their fellow-citizens, because the average man in the ranks, the average man who carried saber or rifle, had this high standard of personal quality. Just as it was in time of war, so it is now in time of peace. If a man has not got the right stuff in him then no law can possibly get it out of him, because

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it is not there to get out. All that the law can do is to punish evil, to encourage what is good, and to secure, so far as is possible, an equality of opportunity for all men to show their strength of body, mind, and soul in the hard struggle of life.

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Hoax: Her maiden aim seems to have been to marry Goldrox, and she proved an unusually good shot for a woman.—Tid-Bits.

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