

The Evening News

November 1, 1900

SPEECH OF GOV. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Address Was Only Fifteen Minutes Duration But Many Important Things Were Told in That Time

Workingmen were out and cheered Governor Heartedly

Platform from Which Governor Roosevelt Spoke Was Finely Decorated With Flags and Bunting—Crowd Estimated Between 5000 and 7000 People—Tally-Ho with Thirty Young Ladies Was Very Conspicuous Near Platform—Full text of His Speech Given—One Interruption Caused Laughter

One of the largest and most representative crowds that ever congregated at one place in the Tonawandas heard Gov. Theodore Roosevelt speak yesterday. The news made the statement yesterday that there were 7000 people present. Some have since placed the figure much higher.

The business men and laboring men were out alike and many of the fair men turned out to see and hear the Governor. The crowd extended out fully 200 feet in every direction. The ladies gathered on the south side expecting Roosevelt to speak in their direction, but as soon as he made his bows to the vast audience after being introduced by George S. Dalley, he turned to the north side where the laboring men were mostly all gathered. It was to the voter and the laboring man that Roosevelt addressed his e=short speech. He was frequently interrupted by applause.

The platform was finely decorated and loaded with thirty young ladies waving small flags, was very conspicuous near the platform. Governor Roosevelt's speech was quite short owing to his late arrival and the fact he was due in Buffalo at four o'clock.

The full text of his address as follows:

My fellow citizens, I am glad to have the chance of meeting you and making just a word this afternoon. In this contest I feel that we have a right to appeal to you. I was to appeal to you in the first place on the grounds of [untranscribable] and interest. I do not want you to take any word of mine, I simply want you to look at the facts as they are, so [untranscribable] conditions as they were four years ago and the conditions of today, and to compare Mr. Bryan's prophecy of four years ago with everything that has not happened since.

Mr. Bryan said four years ago, that unless we had free silver and himself we would have four years of harder times; four years during which business would be at a stand still and wage-workers be idle, saving bank deposits decrease and mortgages go up. In every single particular Mr. Bryan has been in error, not one thing that he foretold has come to pass. There has been more work for the wage-worker with increased wages than ever before. In the business world failures have decreased by over two-thirds, savings bank deposits have gone up 40 percent, and the number of mortgages have down 40 percent.

Now, gentleman, if in private life you are dealing with a man and he misleads you, the first time he fools you, it is his fault and the next time it is your fault (laughter and applause). Now, if our people go wrong they have themselves to thank for it, for they have had the experience of the last eight years to guide them. Recollect, that in 1892 he argument was made that we should open the existing policy because

the capitalist had prospered over-much, because the capitalist was too prosperous, and we were told to ruin him and we did. We adopted the advice. By 1893 we had the capitalist down and the rest of us were down too (applause). That was where the hitch came to.

And now, gentlemen, Mr. Bryan appeared with his patent remedy and told us we were destined to utter ruin unless we adopted it. We have not adopted it, and we are all right. And now he wants us to trust him again.

Here he was interrupted by a cry of "put him out." Roosevelt turned to the place whence the voice came and said: "No, let him in, he won't do any harm. He may learn something. Almost any change in him would be a change for the better."

We read in the Bible that among the ancient Hebrews false prophets had a hard time. But we have advanced since those days. They used to stone them; we run them for the presidency on the Democratic ticket. We ask you then to trust to deeds not words. We ask you to compare the promises we made four years ago, with the performance, and to compare Mr. Bryan's prophecies with the fact that not a single one ever has come to pass.

Here in this city, you have built up great industries under the financial and economic policy of our party. I appeal not merely to Republicans, I appeal to every man who [untranscribable] no matter what may have been his political antecedents in the past, to stand with us because we stand for the rudimentary principle of prosperity and decent citizenship. I ask you to stand with us on the ground of civic interest. Mr. Bryan is fond of quoting Thomas Jefferson. Well, Jefferson said that the whole art of government consists in being honest; and Mr. Croker says he is in politics for his pocket every time. I am not slandering Mr. Croker, I am only quoting him. Mr. Bryan pays up loyalty to Jefferson, but he associates with Mr. Croker.

Mr. Bryan, has been in some doubt as to what was the paramount issue. Well, I will tell you. The paramount issue for the nation is Bryanism, and for the State Crokerism; and Mr. Bryan asks us to give up our prosperity, to give up our civic interest, and why? Because [untranscribable] he asks us to be afraid of militarism. Afraid of the regular army. Gentlemen, there are 65,000 regular soldiers and 76,000,000 million of us. There are eighty-six one-hundredths of the regular soldier for every one thousand of us. About one and one-half ounces of the regular soldier for each man here present. And if Mr. Bryan is nervous about his share I want to reassure him that the Republicans will protect him.

I appeal to you then to the name of our material well-being and I appeal to you also in the name of the old doctrine of keeping our flag flying in honor where it has been hosted in honor.