

# ROOSEVELT ASSAILS THE MILITIA MUSTER

In a Fourth of July Speech He  
Terms Calling of Married  
Men an Outrage.

SAYS HE WOULD GO TO WAR

Breaking Self-Imposed Silence at  
Oyster Bay Celebration, He Refers  
to His Own Recruiting Plans.

Special to The New York Times.

OYSTER BAY, L. I., July 4.—Colonel Roosevelt today broke the rule of silence which he had imposed upon himself ever since the Chicago convention, and, from the platform where he had come to review the Fourth of July celebration and parade here, he made his first speech since the pre-convention days.

Politics was not mentioned once by the Colonel, but he declared his intention to organize a force for service in Mexico in the event of war with that country. He said he would pick no one to do anything that he and his sons would not do, and he promised "a chance" to any unmarried young man of Oyster Bay.

More than 5,000 persons who heard him, including a force of sailors from the U. S. S. Baltimore, at anchor in the harbor, broke into wild applause at these words. So prolonged were the cheers, interpolated with such shouts as "Bully for you, Colonel!" and "Take me with you!" that the speaker had to pause and stand still, smiling, for nearly five minutes.

The Colonel's decision to speak came as a surprise to the townspeople and their guests. He had been asked to come down and review the parade and to listen to the speech on Americanism which his neighbor, Frederic R. Coudert, would make, and he had consented, with the express proviso that no words would be demanded from him.

But after he had seen the parade, the floats, the red, white, and blue-clad marchers, boys and girls, the pupils of his old school at Cove Neck, and had seen the 116 bluejackets of the Baltimore swing past, the Colonel's enthusiastic countenance plainly showed that he would not restrain himself. Accordingly, after Mr. Coudert had finished speaking, Howard C. Smith, master of the ceremonies, said:

"Now we promised not to ask the Colonel to speak, but we may plead with him to greet his fellow-townsmen." The spectators nearly went wild as they saw the well-known figure rise and step forward to the edge of the platform.

## Colonel Roosevelt's Speech.

Mr. Chairman, men and women of Oyster Bay, I have only a word to say to you, but to my fellow townsmen I cannot let the day go by without one word of greeting of the heartiest type and a word to reinforce what has been said.

You listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence, but if the men who wrote and signed that document, and after having promulgated it, had gone home and let it execute itself, we should not be here today. The Declaration of Independence was not worth the paper it was written on except so far as it was made good by the sword of Washington and the swords of the men who fought with him through the six years of the war. Lincoln's great speech at Gettysburg and his two inaugural addresses would have been remembered only as matters for scorn and derision if the hundreds of thousands, the men of the North, had not sprung forward to prove the truth by their endeavor. And so it is with us here today.

If you only come to Fourth of July celebrations to applaud the fine sentiments and say how glad you are that, in the past, the people did not put safety first ahead of the nation's honor and interest, you might just as well go on home. Go home, if you are only concerned about your rights, and not about duties. Where there is equality there must be equality of duty, and no man is fit to be a free man unless he is prepared to do his best.

No nation is either fit to be free, or will permanently be permitted to be free, unless it is able to protect all of its own rights with all of its own power. It is with a nation as with an individual.

You mothers and fathers here, if you bring up your children to think that all you ought to be concerned with is a good time in life, you will make them unfit to be fellow-citizens of self-respecting people. When the father or mother brings up a boy or a girl, feeling that nothing else counts except the movies and enjoying themselves, the boy and the girl won't be fit to be man and woman. You all know that it is just the same thing in the life of a nation. If we bring up ourselves or our sons to feel that all we have to do is to sit back and say how smart our Yankee nation is and how fortunate we are to be on this side of the ocean, and have no sense of duty, the nation won't last long, because it doesn't deserve to last.

## Wants Universal Service.

I do not care how much you come to Fourth of July celebrations. I don't care how much you are dominated by what you hear at church if, when a man comes home from church to his wife and children, they wished he had stayed away. Oratory and elocution are simply curses to the nation, unless every word uttered is meant and unless every word can be translated into a deed when the need calls for it.

The way to begin to be a decent citizen is not by going out applauding fine sentiments or by going to church and resisting the impression made upon him by the preacher. His business in the first place is to do his duty by his wife and children, to support them, and then be a middling pleasant citizen inside his own home. You ladies enthusiastically applauded that. It applies to you also. The duties are just as much the woman's as they are the man's.

Some time or other I shall speak to my own people in this town and say to them with all my heart how I believe in universal military training in time of peace and universal service in time of war. I want to see every young man trained, in the first place, to help him in all his relations in peaceful pursuits, training him so that when you tell him to do something he does not turn around and say, "Why?" Such training will teach habits of obedience and self-reliance and the doing of one's duty.

I believe in the Democratic training where the multi-millionaire and the son of the bricklayer will live in the same dog tent, and then have the best one of the bunch, whether the multi-

millionaire or the bricklayer's son, made the officer.

## Assails the Guard Muster.

Mr. Coudert said that it is possible we may be involved in something in Mexico.

I say involved in something, for if what has happened in the last three years in Mexico is peace, I should prefer war as more peaceful. If there is war I shall go, and if there are any unmarried men between the ages of 20 and 30 of Oyster Bay who are prepared to do their duty they shall go, too. I won't take any married man with a family dependent on him.

It really is an outrage that such a system should be permitted under this system illustrated by the movement of the National Guard to the Mexican border; a man whose wife and children are dependent on him is obliged to go down and leave his family behind. The system is radically wrong.

You have known me for a great many years. I have never said anything in my life that I did not try to make good, and if we have any trouble such as Mr. Coudert has spoken of, I will give the young men of Oyster Bay and Nassau County a chance to make good, and I won't ask them to do anything that I and my sons won't do.

## Mr. Coudert's Address.

Mr. Coudert, who preceded the Colonel, spoke of the need for duty on the part of every citizen of this country.

The celebration of the Fourth of July has changed from firecrackers to oratory. A trifle hard on the small boy, perhaps, but then we adults have decided that it is better to be bored than burned up.

We are in a very dangerous situation. Our neutrality is no guarantee of safety. At any moment we may be involved in the great world conflict, and we shall certainly become involved in a minor war.

In our policy as regards our southern neighbor we must not adopt a dog-in-the-manger policy. We say in the Monroe Doctrine that other nations must keep their hands off this Continent. Now, after the present European struggle is over, the great nations over there are not going to permit their citizens to be murdered at will by Mexican bandits, and we shall have to fight one of them for the Monroe Doctrine, unless we do our duty now. I hope we do not fail in the crisis to follow the path we should take.

The Colonel's speech followed Mr. Coudert's, and after he had finished, and while the throngs were still wildly cheering him, the Colonel pushed his way to the other side of the reviewing stand, where the United States sailors were.

"Boys," he said, "I have received permission from the Lieutenant in command, Lieutenant Hewlett, to say to you that if you get the opportunity this afternoon, and Captain Balknap will not object—to whom, Lieutenant Hewlett, I hope you will pay my warmest respects—I should like you to come up to my house.

There are two or three things I should like to show you. One of the things I prize the most is a silver vase given to Mrs. Roosevelt by the enlisted men of the battleship Louisiana, entirely by themselves, no officer contributing. It is one of the two things in my house of which we are most proud, and so, Lieutenant, it will be a great pleasure to me, if some of the men can be brought up to the house."

## Colonel in Martial Mood.

During the ceremonies Colonel Roosevelt frequently appealed to Walter Hayes, military secretary, who is handling enrollment for the Roosevelt volunteer division.

"By George! Hayes," he would say, "that's a fine-looking man! What a soldier he would make for us," or "Look at those jackies march. Our soldiers must be disciplined and trained as those men are."

The Colonel learned from Mr. Hayes that many of the marchers had already volunteered for service in the division, Oyster Bay volunteers being headed by big John McKenny, former Giant pitcher.

While the Colonel was seated in the reviewing stand he was continually approached by people who begged to go with him to Mexico. His invariable answer to all such was: "That's fine. Now, in case of need I shall certainly take you if you are prepared to go with me."

The parade was also in celebration of the 263d anniversary of the founding of Oyster Bay in 1653. Leading it was the

Oyster Bay Band, conducted by Julius Blum, who has led the band in every Roosevelt demonstration since the Spanish war. There were floats, representing the thirteen original States, with young women dressed in white, with red, white, and blue sashes, in the midst of which group was the impersonation of the Spirit of '76. In an automobile in the parade was Maurice E. Townsend, representative of the oldest Democrat, and Charles S. Bayles, the oldest Republican on Long Island.

The unit of the procession which received the greatest applause was the detachment of sailors from the Baltimore. The Baltimore, formerly a crack cruiser in the navy, which Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, sent to Dewey just in time for the battle of Manila Bay, and now a mine ship under the command of Commander F. H. Clark, came down from Newport News last night. She sent more than 100 sailors, under Lieutenant G. W. Hewlett and Ensigns A. W. Ashbrook and C. L. Lein.

## Sailors at Sagamore Hill.

The Colonel's invitation having been accepted, the men of the Baltimore, headed by their officers, marched to the Roosevelt home after the ceremonies.

At Sagamore Hill, the sailors were led by Colonel Roosevelt into his trophy room. They were shown the giant elephant tusks, given to the Colonel by King Menelik in Africa; the bronze figure of a bronco buster, a present from the Rough Riders, and hunting trophies of every sort. Each man received a cigar from Colonel Roosevelt, but not a cigar was lighted.

"Smoke this up?" said one. "Not on your life! It was given me by the greatest man in the world and I'm going to hang on to it."

To the sailors at his home Colonel Roosevelt made a brief allusion to Mexico.

"Peace is now raging with violence in Mexico," he said. "You will, if called on, acquit yourself with gallantry. I yield to no man in my admiration for the character, courage, and intelligence of the officers and enlisted men in the American Navy, and I want to tell you that I am proud to have you as my guests today."

The jackies answered Colonel Roosevelt with three cheers and a tiger.

Colonel Roosevelt will motor to New York tomorrow, where it is expected he will take up many of the details connected with his volunteer division.