

Tooze's Memorial Day Address

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen: We are assembled here today to commemorate the patriotism and valor of the brave men who died to save the Union. We come here from all sections of the county; people of all religious and political faiths meet here; personal enmities and sectional strifes have been discarded; and with but a common purpose in view, with one united thought, we meet again to pay our tribute to the memory of those who sacrificed their lives upon the altar of freedom; those who fought, bled, and died "that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." We come with flowers to strew upon the graves of those heroes who have gone on before; we come with kind words of gratitude for those who still remain with us and are able to hear us. We come here with patriotism filling our hearts, with sacred and tender memories foremost in our minds, and with words of thankfulness upon our lips. What can man say that would or could do justice to this occasion. The English vocabulary is inadequate to correctly describe all that we owe to those men who offered their lives that the Union, born in a sea of bloodshed and reared in patriotism, should remain intact.

Observance Universal.
Memorial day is a legal holiday in nearly every state in the Union, though in some states other days than May 30th are observed. Today, in nearly every city, town, village, and hamlet in the United States, as well as in our insular possessions, American citizenship is congregating with a common thought; the troubled problems of the present, the uncertain events of the future, have all been forgotten for the time being, and we live again in the tender memories of a glorious past. In this country Declaration day is set aside principally out of respect to the memory of the achievements of those who participated in the Civil war. The observance of such a day is not a new thing, nor is it original with us. For centuries, many of the foreign countries have observed certain days each year for memorial purposes. In this country, the observance of Memorial day originates from the beautiful and inspiring example set by the women of Columbus, Mississippi, who soon after the close of the war, set a day aside for the strewing of flowers upon the graves of the Confederate dead, and while bedecking the graves of their own warriors with wreaths of flowers, they likewise adorned the graves of the many thousands of unknown union dead who were sleeping their last sleep beneath Southern skies. This simple act of love and respect on the part of these noble women of the great South caused a feeling of love and sympathy to spread throughout the North, and in 1868, General Logan ordered that May 30th, 1868, be set aside as a day for strewing flowers upon the graves of those who died in the defense of their country. The idea spread rapidly. Legislature after legislature took the matter up, and as a result, we have Memorial day each year.

On April 12, 1865, at Appomattox, after more than four years of the bloodiest war-fare in all history, the defeated and ragged remnants of the South's once brilliant army, crushed in spirit, and forced at last to realize the inevitable, surrendered to General Grant. The war was over. At the point of the bayonet, by the sacrifice of many thousands of lives, and in a sea of blood, the Union was preserved. Right had prevailed. Freedom again reigned in this glorious republic. Slavery, the indirect cause of this darkest page in American history, had been crushed forever. The principle that in this country of ours, there is no North, no South, no East, nor West, had finally been established, and by a court of last resort; a court from which there was and is no appeal.

Cause One of Humanity.

Brave men and true were those who left their homes and loved ones to go forth to battle in the cause of humanity; to go forth and fight for the principles of unity, of government, for flag, and for country; to take up arms to perpetuate that democracy which their fore-fathers had fought for so valiantly at Yorktown. They went forth to fight an enemy worthy of their mettle. American went to fight American; brother to fight brother; father to fight son. They went forth to fight an enemy who was as firm in his convictions as were they. Their country came first with them. Patriotic; ready to dare and risk all, that future generations might live to enjoy the wonderful heritage of a free and united country, these men of the North went smilingly into the conflict, offering and shedding their blood in the cause of right. Selfishness played no part in their make-up. Fear had no place in their ranks. Hopeful and optimistic in defeat; dignified, just, and merciful in victory; determination marked their conduct, and success finally crowned their efforts; the cause of humanity, of right, and of justice triumphed under their leadership.

The example set by these grand men

who formed the army of the North should prove an inspiration to all of us. It should inspire us to do noble things; it should rouse in us an abiding love of flag and country; it should keep us perfect in our loyalty to our government; it should instill in us patriotism that knows no bounds. All honor to those men who sold their lives so dearly at Shiloh; may the American people never forget the brilliant display of courage at Fredricksburg, and the wonderful achievements of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. Glorious is the memory of every blow struck in the cause of freedom and the union; in the cause of humanity and right. But in a time such as this, we must not forget those who fought upon the other side. They fought for what they believed was right. God did not give them the power to see the right as the North saw it; their environment from cradle to maturity prevented their seeing but one side of the question. They had the courage of their convictions and fought for those convictions. We should admire any man or class of men who have the courage of their convictions. Let us today shed a tear in memory of those brothers of our's who fought under the flag of the Confederacy. Let us not pass his grave by without depositing thereon a flower in memory of him who gave his life just as willingly, who shed his blood as gladly, for what he believed was right, as did our own heroes. Today there is no North nor South. The ravages of the war have passed; the causes of the war practically forgotten. We live together now as one people; in one Union. What little sectional feeling existed a few years after the war, was entirely wiped out in 1898, when both North and South illustrated to the world that there was but one country here, one people, one government, one flag; when soldiers of the North and of the South went gladly forward hand in hand to put down tyranny and slavery; to join hands in the battle for humanity. In the burst of patriotism that flooded the country at the time of the Spanish-American war, and which found its way into every home in the North, the South, the East, and the West, the last vestige of sectional differences was wiped out completely. The Union had finally recovered from the effects of the terrible civil war. Love of country in the face of a foreign enemy manifested itself. Whatever doubt existed as to the ultimate healing of the raw wounds occasioned by the war of the rebellion, and to the ultimate cementing together of the North and South into one grand union of strength and government, was forever dispelled. If the Spanish-American war had served no other purpose than this, it had served a good purpose. There are times when even war serves a good purpose in the solution of internal problems. In long reigns of peace, patriotism is apt to slumber, and when patriotism slumbers anarchy thrives. We American people are a patriotic people; still we do not show our patriotism as much as we should in times of peace. Not enough display is made of our flag; the Stars Spangled Banner and America are not sung enough. We should take steps to correct this fault, for it is a fault.

A Patriotic People.

But when it comes to a matter of war with a foreign enemy, we are as patriotic today as were our ancestors. Just as our fathers and grand-fathers were willing to fight to defend their flag in 1861 to 1865, so are the sons and grand-sons today ready and willing and anxious to fight for their country. A striking example of this is shown right here in our own midst. In 1864, our fellow townsman, H. P. Shriver, enlisted in the Union ranks here in Dallas and served to the end of the war. Just fifty years from that time, his grandson, Charles Woods, enlisted in the local company of the Oregon National Guard in anticipation of being sent to Mexico to uphold the dignity of Uncle Sam.

I would be derelict in my duty here today if I concluded without adding a word of praise to those dear mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts of the days of the Civil war. Their sacrifice was just as great, their heroism as grand, their patriotism as wonderful, as that of the sons, husbands, brothers, and sweethearts who went forth to do actual battle. They sent their loved ones away with a smile of encouragement, though in secret their hearts were breaking. Throughout the whole war, they were patient. Each battle carried its message of sorrow to the homes of those left behind. Their sorrow was great; but it was a sacred sorrow, and one of which they could well feel proud. They scraped lint, and made bandages for their armies on the firing line. They cared for and nursed the sick and wounded. They tilled the soil and harvested the grain in many instances. They showed themselves to be American citizens in every sense of the word. All praise to the women of the North.

Ranks Are Thinning.

The lines of blue are growing thinner. Each year claims its toll of the

survivors of that war. The curly headed boys who went so cheerfully forth to battle, are now grey headed men. It will not be many more years before taps will sound for the last of these heroes; heroes every one of them; it will be but a few years more until we of this generation will follow the path that all mankind must tread. It is the nature of things. But though in flesh they be all gone, their spirit will be ever with us, and with the generations to come; history will never forget their deeds of valor; future generations will ever remember their grand triumph; God will reward them for their courage. We, the people of today, owe these survivors a duty. We must look after them in their old age; protect them when infirm; see that want does not face their loved ones when they have answered the last roll call. God, in his infinite wisdom, gave them the privilege of saving for us a free and united country; God gives us the privilege of showing them our gratitude, and our gratitude should be shown in deeds, not words.

To you, the survivors of that great war, who sit before me today, and represent as you do not only those who fought and still live, but also those 359,000 or more who fought and died for the sake of our beloved country, I want to say a few words in conclusion. We love you for the deeds you so nobly performed; we love you for the sacrifices you so unselfishly made; for each pain you suffered; for each obstacle you overcame; for each drop of blood you shed; for each defeat you took so gallantly; and for each victory you fought so dearly, we owe you a debt of gratitude that we can never repay. Individually, you will probably be forgotten when the waves of time have rolled over our heads, but your deeds will live on forever, and your acts will be the shining star that will ever guide our ship of state onward and upward to the highest pinnacle of honor, patriotism, and fame.

Will Help the West.

The new federal reserve banking system is expected to be of benefit to all sections of the country, but it is anticipated that the west especially will find advantage in the operation of the new plan, says an Eastern exchange. It is being pointed out by some of the leading bankers at Chicago, for instance, that one inevitable tendency of the new system will be to free the west of its previous dependence on New York in financial matters and adjustments. Heretofore New York has been the only place in the country where vast sums in the aggregate could be loaned "on call." The problem for the banker has been to keep spare funds of the dull periods of the year employed at some rate that would be productive without being tied up in business that did not permit of its immediate use when the opportunity for its regular loaning came. The existence of a big call-loan market in New York has supplied the only facility within reach.

With the existence of the rediscount facility of the reserve banks it is pointed out that money can be loaned by a bank on time without shortening up the means available for continuing to care for the needs of customers. The bank will always be in position to rediscount loans with the federal bank and thus secure further funds to provide for additional current demands. It will not run ashore for lack of being able to meet some increase of business when such accommodation is important to clients.

Of course, it is true that many conservative banks have never been in the habit of taking advantage of rediscounting facilities, and perhaps some of them may continue to show reluctance about turning to this resource even under the new banking plan. One of the foremost Chicago bankers, however, Mr. Reynolds, of the Continental and Commercial bank, points out that the rediscounting facility is important and ought to be taken on as a regular practice in the interest of western business. He announces that his bank will pursue the practice, even if it has no other purpose than to support the availability of the facility. He urges that the former policy be conformed to the new system in this way. It is generally felt that it will be to the general advantage not to be so dependent on the New York money market as in the past, although its facilities will naturally be turned to greater or less account still.

The Cost of the Fly.

A Dallas subscriber has handed The Observer the following from the Utica Daily Press with a request to reproduce it, and inasmuch as the fly question is now occupying considerable attention here, as well as elsewhere, the request is complied with:

"The fly is a nuisance: He is filthy; he is dangerous. Anything else? Yes—he is expensive. Expense is always the corollary of filth. Uncleanliness always means economic waste. To be specific, flies cost the United States \$350,000,000 annually, three hundred and fifty million hard round dollars. Perhaps you have never thought of it in that light. Figure up how much it costs to screen Utica. Add to that the amount in wages lost by people sick through the direct agency of flies, also the amount lost by employers through adjustments made necessary by this sickness. Then the doctor's bills, and in too many cases, the undertaker's bill. Are flies expensive? Certainly, for three hundred and fifty millions is not a bagatelle."

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