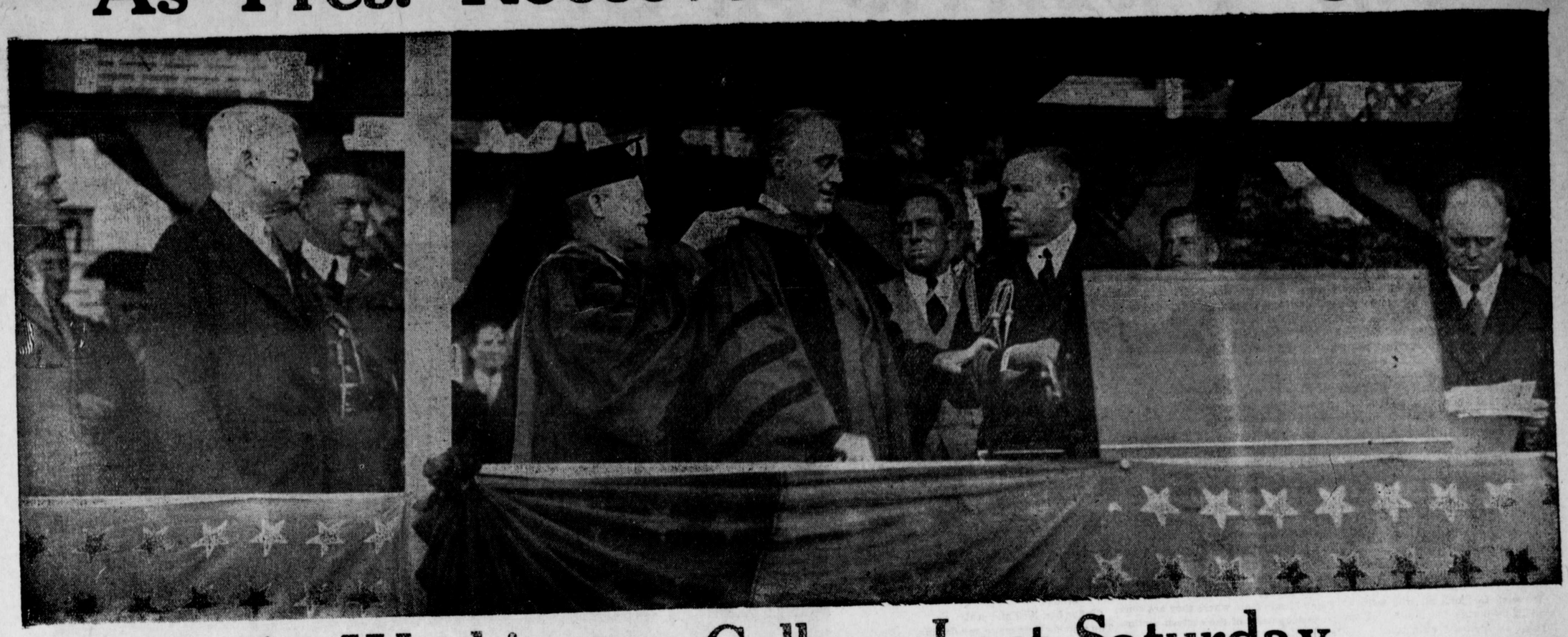
As Pres. Roosevelt Received Degree



At Washington College Last Saturday

Speeches of Hiram Staunton Brown



CONFERRING THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS UPON PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

As most of you already know, Washington College and this community have been honored only once before in the history of the United States by a visit from the President of the Republic.

On the first occasion, the honor was bestowed upon us by the first President of the United States. Today we are similarly honored by a visit of his illustrious successor, the 32nd President of the United States, who occupies a chair on this platform which belonged to George Washington and stood in Mount Vernon.

Just as today many of our roads and buildings in this community are marked with signs recording the travels and visits of George Washington—so in future years will similar markings record this present visit of our distinguished guest of honor.

In 1789 Washington College conferred upon George Washington the degree of Doctor of Laws and the diploma conferring that honor is now on exhibition in the Congressional Library at Washington. Today we will confer a similar degree upon our guest and the diploma conferring that honor will be accompanied by a face-smile of George Washington's diploma.

On accasions such as this it is customary to recite the record of accomplishment of the recipient of the honorary degree. The record of our distinguished guest is too well known to necessitate such a recital.

It is sufficient to state that Washington College desires not only to make public recognition in permanent fashion of the outstanding services already rendered our nation by our guest, but also to evidence to him at this time our sincere appreciation of the honor he has bestowed upon us by his visit. We also desire him to know that to the extent of our limited ability and in our modest way he has our support and our most heartfelt wishes for the complete success of his leadership during this very difficult period in the history of our Republic.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested by the State of Maryland in the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College and by them delegated to me, I hereby confer upon you, FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.

INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT GILBERT WILCOX MEAD

On behalf of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College I extend a hearty welcome to our distinguished guests who have honored us today by their presence at this ceremony, including particularly the President of the United States and Mrs. Roosevelt and the Governor of the State of Maryland.

Also I want to make especial mention of the fact that we welcome today the representatives of nearly 75 universities, colleges and learned societies who are here to participate in these exercises. We have with us on this rostrum Dr. Pearson, President of the University of Maryland, Dr. Robertson, President of Goucher College, and President Hullihen of the University of Delaware. Messages of greeting have been received from nearly a hundred colleges and universities who were unable to send representatives. A personal message of congratulation has come from President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University.

In the 150 years of its existence Washington College has had 18 presidents. We have met here today to formally induct into office our 19th president.

Just a year ago when Dr. Titsworth informed us that, after ten years of service as our 18th president, he had accepted a call to the presidency of his Alma Mater, Alfred University, the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College faced the task of selecting a new president, who, by birth, education and experience, was qualified to lead this institution along the path blazed by its founders over a century and a half ago.

After investigating the records of over thirty different prospects in the educational field, and after having interviewed a large number of them, we have found a man who we believe possesses the necessary qualifications.

This man was born in Pittsburg, Pa., 44 years ago.

After graduating from the public schools and the Pennsylvania State Normal School he attended Allegany College at Meadville, Pa., where he graduated with honors in 1911. Thereafter he took up graduate work at Columbia University, from which he received his M. A. degree. He then studied and traveled in England and France.

As to his educational experience, he served for four years as Supervisor of the Public School of Bergenfield, N. J.; he was a member of the faculty of Columbia University in the Department of English and Comparative Literature for eight years. During this same period he was a special lecturer at Hunter College in New York. He served as head of the Department of English and as Assistant to the President of Westminster College in Pennsylvania for two years. He served as Dean of Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama, for eight years and during the current year was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by that institution.

As evidence of his capacity for and experience in leadership, I may mention that his record indicates that he has always been active in civic and public affairs in the communities in which he has lived. In the State of Alabama he served as President of the College Association of that State; also he served as Secretary of the Association of College Deans of the Southern States; as Vice-President of the Southern Intercolegiate Athletic Association and as President of the Dixie Athletic Conference.

These are the qualifications which the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College considered and acted upon favorably in choosing the 19th president of this institution.

It now becomes my pleasant privilege to formally install him as president of this college.

Gilbert Wilcox Mead, I now as Chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College declare in this public and formal way that by the action of that Board you have become the 19th President of Washington College with all the powers and duties pertaining to that office, and in that capacity I present you to the faculty and students of Washington College and to our honored guests.



President Roosevelt's Speech -

THIS SPEECH WAS TAKEN FROM RECORD RECORDED AT SHORE RADIO SERVICE

Chairman Brown, President Mead, Friends of Washington College: I do not think either that it would be appropriate or that I could say anything tha would be adequate, after the very splendid words that you have heard from the new President of Washington College. He has spoken as the new head of a living college, to living men and women. He has spoken of today, and he has spoken of today, and he has spoken of tomorrow; and in coming here, I cannot help but feel the past. I cannot help but feel the close relationship with the early days of the republic, as I stand here, the second President of the United States to come to Washington College after a lapse of nearly a century and a half.

President Mead has spoken to you of the spirit of the pioneers. It is true that the pioneer was an individualist; but at the same time, there was a spirit of cooperation and understanding of the need of building up, not a class, but a whole community. It was that spirit that made possible these United States themselves, and it is the understanding of that spirit which made our first President's name revered above that of any other American in all our history. You young men and young women who are attending this College, like the young men and young women who are attending all the Colleges throughout the land, have a duty to your community.

I often think of the words of a very elderly gentleman, President Eliot or Harvard, who in many ways was a revolutionist in educational circles. We were talking about the value of the educated people of the country to the country, and he made this remark, which I have always remembered: "If the ballot of the United States were limited to the holders of College degrees, the country would probably last about two years." And then he went on, making the obvious point that if the governing of the United States were confined to one particular class of the community, whether they have the privilege of wealth or of education, something is bound to go wrong, because of the very simple fact that there would be representation only of a minority of the people. The wider we can have a distribution of wealth in the proper sense of that term, the more we can make it possible to every man, woman and child throughout the land to have the necessities; and when they find themselves in such shape that they do not have to lie awake nights wondering where the food for the morrow is coming from, then we will have the kind of security that means so much to the progress and spirit of the country. In the same way, if we could provide in the nation for an adequate education for everybody, the spirit of the country would be vastly safeguarded. It is in this spirit that we encourage and foster the institutions of this nation; and throughout the land, it is this spirit that we are seeking, in times of depression, to prevent further attack on our educational system, which is the building up of the possibilities of this education to every boy and girl. In the last analysis we need people who have had a chance to look not just at the history of things in the past, but to look also into the application of that history to the problems of the moment and future. It is that thought which leads us to an ideal of education.

I remember when I was a boy in school in Massachusetts, Bishop Phillips Brooks made to my class a remark I shall never forget. He said, "You boys will be good citizens just as long as you remember your boyhood ideals." Those young ideals are just as true today as they were then. The ideals of young people are, on the whole, pretty fine; and the ideals of young people are sound from the point of view of principle. Today they are making many changes in the methods, and many changes in the machinery of life, not just of government but of all human relationships, and just as they will continue to make them; for a great many changes or government and human relationships are perfectly proper. But at the same time, the old-fashioned boyhood ideals, the old fashioned principles are going to keep this country going. There is a tendency, of course, to lose sight of the forest for the trees.

Every man and woman with an education has a two-fold duty to perform. The first is to apply that education intelligently to problems of the moment; and the second is to obtain and maintain contact with an understanding of the average citizen of their own coutnry. We have accomplished much, my friends, I think a great deal, in the last few months; but at the same time, we cannot attain the goal within a few monhs. Some countries who have dictators have laid down four, five and ten year programs. I believe that in this country, which has not a dictatorship, we can move further toward our goal in a shorter space of time without giving it a definite number of years.

And so, in the years come, not just through the life of this immediate program, but all my life, I shall continue to watch Washington College, the President, the faculty, its students, its graduates, with a feeling that I am one of them, that I have been very greatly honored in being made an alumnus of the College; and I breath the same prayer that George Washington made to the College nearly a century and a half ago, that the Creator of the Universe will look down on the College, and give it his benediction.

Let me tell you simply and fro bottom of my heart that I am to have come, proud of the hon I wish you all God speed in t to come.

President



Dr. Gilbert Wilcox Mead's Inaugural Address

In assuming the duties of leadership in this venerable seat of learning, it is fitting that I recall certain words spoken of the College by our first great patron. In a letter, written shortly after he had received from the College the degree of Doctor of Laws, General Washington wrote:

> "Among the numerous blessings which are attendant upon Peace and as one whose consequences are of the most important and extensive kind, may be reckoned the prosperity of Colleges and Seminaries of Learning.
>
> "As, in civilized societies, the welfare of the state and happiness of the people are advanced or retarded, in proportion as the morals and education of the youth are attended to; I cannot forbear, on the occasion, to express the satisfaction which I feel on seeing the increase of our seminaries of learning through this extensive country, and the general wish which seems to prevail for establishing and maintaining these valuable institutions.
>
> "It affords me peculiar pleasure to know that the Seat of Learning under your direction hath attained to such proficiency in the Sciences since the Peace; and I sincerely pray the great Author of the Universe may smile upon the Institution, and make it an extensive blessing to this country."

Most of you are acquainted with the origin of our College I scarcely need call to mind the significance of colonial history in this place, and the identification of the founding of the College with the first Chief Executive of the nation. In the halls of the original buildings on this hill sat General George Washington, fresh from the fields of his victorious conflicts, while he joined in the deliberations of the Board of Visitors and Governors, of which he was a member. He had given the College his name; he had given it an endowment; he gave it his services and advice. And when, a few years later, he assumed the dignities of first President of our newly united states, he immediately thereafter accepted the honorary doctorate of Laws from the College, and wrote the Board and Faculty the letter from which I have quoted.

Evidences of our links with him are about us daily. Before us, here on this campus, grows a seedling from the Washington Elm at Cambridge. The ivy on this building came from Mount Vernon.

But the recurrent shocks of daily adventure warn us to dwell not too long in the aura of history-haunted reminiscence. Were General Washington sitting today with his successors at the council table of our Board of Visitors and Governors, it is certain that his eyes would be turned to the future—as ours must be. The victories of one campaign are strengthened by the planning of another. That was his way. It must be ours.

I cannot dare now to lay down in detail any new educational theory, nor explain extensively what dreams we have for the broadening and deepening of the service of Washington College to Maryland and the nation. It must serve as enough to say with all the emphasis I possess, that our training of youth must be not alone for the present as we know it, nor yet merely for their generation; but more largely for the future—even in th far distance—as we have reason to believe it will then be. "Th masterful administration of the unforeseen" must be the measur of our greatest success.

(Continued on page three)

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