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Autobiography:

~~Serving the Public~~ *old age*

These experiences on government commissions convinced me that my intuition had been right when I refused the place on the Tariff Commission. I was an observer and not a diplomat. *not a politician - no hands in conference hearing* I could not follow the interest of one political party or a body like the industrial group, to give advantages to another. I suffered grave disillusionments about labor and the employer. For them the general public did not exist, except as a dangerous club which they knew they must dodge. That they owed us anything - no.

The experience on the committee of the West Virginia miners. More than ever I was convinced that if what I did was to be of any use at all it must follow the lines of my profession. Naturally it was my business to write and so far as I could interpret what I saw, pour it into the pot. More and more I was seeing how little of importance a one-man job is and how soon over.

Looking back now on the succession of people that have contributed in the eighty years of my life to making the world a better place, clearing up its problems as they came along, I find that twenty years is a long period for any man's activities. He may go on working but any man who takes first place in the public mind ^{and} makes his first contribution there public accepts him and then puts him aside to let him go on with

[illegible]

his work without asking that the public concentrate on him. The tragedy comes with many with the realization that they are set aside and ^{the public is occupied studying} another figure. What the public expects is that the man that he has received and accepted go on doing his work in his own way and find his place.

Of course Theodore Roosevelt is a tragic example of the man astonished that his place could be filled and willing to go on with his activities without considering what the public says. If they accepted him they expect him to go on with his work. But Theodore could not do that. He wanted to be listened to, followed, considered the authority. And possibly ^{as much as anything else} he died of disappointment - heart-break perhaps, a physical heartbreak. *Concluded*

Every generation that I have lived through produced central figures to be followed by other central figures. Enumerate women writers. Our first George Elliot. Better take American women. / Mrs. Burnett - Willa Cather - Pearl Buck. It was not that Mrs. Burnett was forgotten. There was a new name before the public who is always seeking new names to replace that which they knew must pass away.

Take Henry George or those who followed him. ^{our} in interpreting/economic situation. Take Taylor - he should certainly go in. Perhaps Ford - the present day planned economists. In politics - Cleveland to be succeeded by Roosevelt. Woodrow Wilson.

The question now with me is whether F D R's

good intentions may not be shattered by his methods. When we go into the next depression we will have a country scattered with Rooseveltian ruins - physical and human. Human costs in efficiency - self-reliance - responsibility - threatens to be very great. The ^{physical} ruins are already becoming visible. Abandoned projects like the Florida canal - half built roads which one sees as he goes about - parks put into order and closed because there is no money to keep them going, to care for them. Unfinished jobs everywhere.

Parallel between New Deal weeks
and those of '29.
Same type of mutilating
new summer camps.