

1943

Frontiers of the Future Speech

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Frontiers of the Future

A little over a half century ago, the United States government officially declared that there were no more Public Lands for sale. This spelt the end of that period in the annals of America which we call "pioneer days." The inspiring tableau of a rugged pioneer and his sturdy wife riding towards the setting sun on a slow, lumbering wagon now lives only in the frontispiece of history books.

The class of 1943 has chosen for its theme "The Challenge Ahead." It is a fitting one for a high school graduation, for as Vice-President Wallace said in discussing the prospective world situation after the war, "Sharing vitally in this great task of restoring human lives and human values will be the high school students of to-day who are the leaders and builders of to-morrow. Mr. Wallace continues, "We can if we will make the post war world exceed the pre-war world in abundance, jobs and happiness." It is up to us to see that this is done. That is our challenge and remember "We shall not fail."

To-day the frontier and all it stood for in American ideals is gone. To-day there are no terrestrial oceans for us, the youth of America, to explore, no new continents for us to discover, no rich virgin lands for us to colonize, and no fertile Western plain left for us to build great new cities on. But in the field of science there are new oceans to be explored, new continents to be discovered, new fertile lands to be made our own, and new discoveries to be made on which we will build our cities of to-morrow.