

20TH

Anniversary

A N N U A L T H O S . E . W I L S O N D A Y
G I V E N F O R T H E 4 - H C L U B B O Y S A N D G I R L S — N O V E M B E R 2 9 , 1 9 3 7

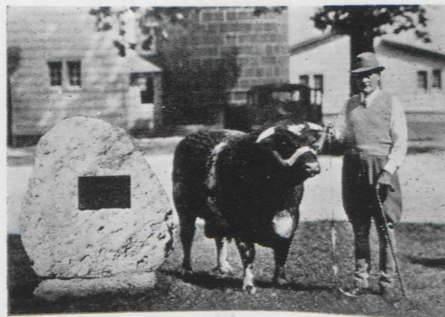


THOS. E. WILSON

For twenty years Mr. Thos. E. Wilson has been host to 4-H boys and girls and their leaders on Thos. E. Wilson Day. Despite the many demands on him, for he is one of the nation's business leaders, he always has time for consideration of the problems of young people, and has helped many of them by good counsel either through personal contact or correspondence. Mr. Wilson looks forward with pleasure to this day on which he entertains 4-H boys and girls and their leaders as his guests.

Chairman of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, Chairman of the Board of Wilson & Co., Mr. Wilson prefers to be known to 4-H boys and girls as "A Friend of Young People."

Mr. Thos. E. Wilson showing Sultan Browndale, grand champion bull 1935, International Live Stock Exposition. The Plaque and Native stone marks the resting place of Browndale Count—who was the world's greatest shorthorn sire.



IN RETROSPECT

MY CONTACT with more than 30,000 4-H boys and girls and their leaders, who have been my guests at Chicago in the past twenty years, has strengthened my conviction that the work being done through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, in cooperation with the Extension Forces and other organizations looking toward the development of American youth, is a distinct contribution to our national well-being. You and the other young people of the nation are the promise of tomorrow. Those qualities of leadership which you are developing today should make you better able to assume the responsibilities which will come to you in the future.

As I look back over the years and contrast the extent of the 4-H Club movement today with its early beginnings, I feel that I must pay a word of tribute to those far-sighted men and women who, by their self-sacrifice and unstinting efforts, laid the foundations upon which the 4-H Movement has been built, and to those present leaders who are enthusiastically carrying on the work today.

The result of their efforts is evident in the splendid contributions to our agricultural and civic life being made by 4-H trained men and women. Any organization such as yours which has as its object the development of character, the maintenance of health, and the training of hand and mind plays an important part in making a better America.

Out of a membership of more than one million, you have been selected to come to Chicago because you have demonstrated outstanding ability in your club activities. We are happy to have you with us. We hope that your contact with other members of your organization and outstanding leaders who are present at your Congress will give you renewed determination to make the most of the opportunities being offered to you in your 4-H Club work. In that way you will be better equipped to make your contribution toward the highest ideals of American citizenship and the perpetuation of our heritage of liberty and opportunity.

Thos. E. Wilson



T H O S . E . W I L S O N D A Y

TWENTY YEARS AGO, in 1918, Mr. Thos. E. Wilson personally invited eleven 4-H Club boys and girls, whom he had met at the International Live Stock Exposition, to be his guests at luncheon. That was the first Thos. E. Wilson Day, although not known by that name until three years later.

From this small start the number of 4-H Club members entertained annually by Mr. Wilson grew to 700 in 1921. The following years brought an ever increasing number of 4-H guests to the Thos. E. Wilson Day Banquet and Entertainment, until in 1929, 2100 boys and girls and their leaders were present. That year the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work decided that attendance at the Congress should be limited to 1400. Each succeeding year has shown an average

of 1400 4-H Club members and leaders attending the Annual Thos. E. Wilson Day Given for 4-H Club Boys and Girls, as it was officially designated in 1921.

Throughout the twenty years, Mr. Wilson has brought to the stage of the Wilson Auditorium not only outstanding entertainers, but nationally-known personalities whose careers and messages are an inspiration to youth. For many years both the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System have carried portions of these programs on their coast-to-coast networks as sustaining features, and these, along with the daily and farm papers, have carried Mr. Wilson's message and the story of 4-H Club work to every community of the United States.

