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TAFT'S MESSAGE.

(Continued from page one)

tion of the rights of American citizens in Korea under the changed conditions.

Latin America.

Under this head the president refers to the centennial anniversary of Mexican independence; the fourth pan-American conference at Buenos Ayres and the work of the international bureau of American republics. He continues.

During the past year the republic of Nicaragua has been the scene of intense struggles. General Zelaya was throughout his career the disturber of Central America and opposed every plan for the promotion of peace and friendly relations between the five republics. When the people of Nicaragua were finally driven into rebellion by his lawless actions he violated the laws of war by unwarranted execution of two American citizens. This and other offenses made it the duty of the American government to take measures with a view of ultimate reparation and for the safeguarding of its interests. American forces were sent to both coasts of Nicaragua to be in readiness should occasion arise to protect Americans and their interests and remained there until the war was over. These events, together with Zelaya's

continued actions brought him so clearly to the bar of public opinion that he was forced to resign and to take refuge abroad. Since then, complete overthrow of the Madriz government and the occupation of the capital by the forces of the revolution all factions have united to maintain order and as a result of discussion with an agent of this government sent to Managua at the request of the provisional government, comprehensive plans are being made for the future welfare of Nicaragua including the rehabilitation of public credit.

It gratifies me exceedingly to announce that the Argentine republic some months ago placed with American manufacturers a contract for the construction of two battleships and certain additional naval equipment.

Tariff Negotiations.

The new tariff law in section 2, respecting the maximum and minimum tariffs of the United States, which provisions came into effect on April 1, 1910, imposed upon the president the responsibility of determining prior to that date whether or not any undue discrimination existed against the United States and its products in any country in the world with which we sustained commercial relations.

In the case of several countries of apparent undue discrimination against American commerce were found to exist. These discriminations were removed by negotiation. Prior to April 1, 1910 when the maximum tariff was to come into operation with respect to importations from all those countries in whose favor no proclamation applying the minimum tariff should be issued by the president, one hundred and thirty-four such proclamation was issued.

This series of proclamations embraced the entire commercial world and hence the maximum tariff of the United States, could be given universal application, thus testifying to the satisfactory condition of our trade relations with foreign countries.

Marked advantages to the commerce of the United States were obtained through these tariff settlements. In its general operation this section of the tariff law has thus far proved a guarantee of continued commercial peace.

The policy of broader and closer trade relations with the dominion of Canada, which was initiated in the adjustment of the maximum and minimum provisions of the tariff act of August, 1909, has proved mutually beneficial. It justifies further efforts for the readjustment of the commercial relations of the two countries. The reciprocation on the part of the Dominion government of the sentiment which was expressed by this government was followed in October by the suggestion that it would be glad to have negotiations resumed. In accordance with this suggestion the secretary of state, by my direction, dispatched two representatives of the

department of State, as special commissioners, to Ottawa to confer with representatives of the Dominion government.

The negotiations were conducted on both sides in a spirit of mutual accommodation. The conferences were adjourned to be resumed in Washington in January, when it is hoped that the aspiration of both governments for a mutually advantageous measure of reciprocity will be realized.

All these tariff negotiations so essential to our commerce and industry revolve on the department of state.

The Argentine battleship contracts like the subsequent important one for Argentine railway equipment and those for Cuban government vessels were secured for our manufacturers largely through the good offices of the department of state.

The efforts of that department to secure for citizens of the United States equal opportunity in the markets of the world and to expand American commerce has been most successful.

Congress is urged to continue to support the state department in its endeavors to further trade relations.

I cannot leave this subject without emphasizing the necessity of such legislation as will make possible and convenient the establishment of American banks and branches of American banks in foreign countries. Only by such means can our foreign trade be favorably financed.

Another instrumentality indispensable to the unhampered and natural development of American commerce is merchant marine. All maritime and commercial nations recognize the importance of this factor. The greatest commercial nations, our competitors jealously foster their merchant marine. Perhaps no where is the need for rapid and direct mail, passenger and freight communication quite so urgent as between the United States and Latin America. We can secure in no other quarter of the world such immediate benefits in friendship and commerce as would flow from the establishment of direct lines of communication with the countries of South America.

I allude to this most important subject in my last annual message; it has often been before you and I need not recapitulate the reasons for its recommendations. Unless prompt action be taken for the completion of the Panama will find this the only great commercial nation unable to avail in international maritime business of this great contribution to the means of the world's commercial intercourse.

Quite aside from the commercial aspect, unless we create a merchant marine, where can we find the sea faring population necessary as a natural naval reserve and where could we find in case of war the transports and sub-

diary vessels without which a naval fleet is arms without a body. For many reasons I cannot too strongly urge upon congress the passage of a measure by mail subsidy or other subvention adequate to guarantee the establishment and rapid development of an American merchant marine, the restoration of the American flag to its ancient place upon the seas.

I strongly recommend to the favorable action of the congress the enactment of a law applying to civil service to the diplomatic and consular service.

The excellent results which have attended the partial application of civil service principles to the diplomatic and consular service are an earnest object of the benefit to be wrought by a wider and more permanent extension of these principles to both

(Continued on Page Three.)

To the Public

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