

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S FIRST MESSAGE

Plain Business Address to the People of the United States With Recommendations For Our National Welfare.

GET AT FACTS IN DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL CONSOLIDATIONS

Develop Our Islands, Guard Immigration, Increase the Navy, Improve the Army, and Extend Reciprocity.

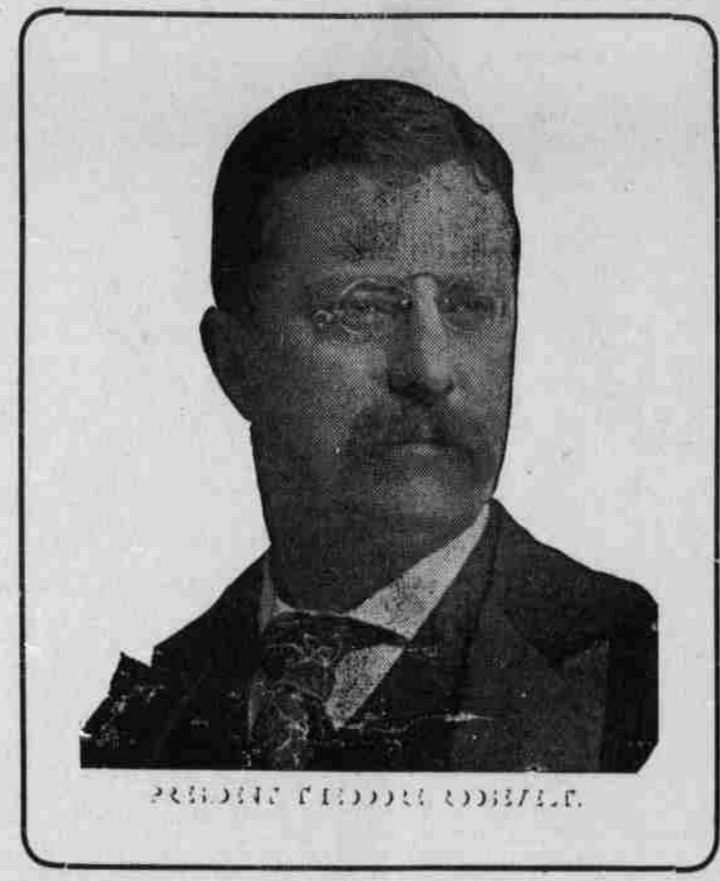
CIVIL SERVICE REFORM SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING MORE

Affectionate Eulogy of William McKinley and Strong Arraignment of Anarchy in All Its Forms and Misdeds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—President Roosevelt's message to Congress follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives: The Congress assembled this year under the shadow of a great calamity. On the 6th of September President McKinley was shot by an anarchist, while attending the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, and died in that city on the 14th of that month. Of the last seven elected Presidents he is the third who has been murdered, and the bare recital of his name is enough to justify grave alarm among all loyal American citizens. Moreover, the circumstances of this, the third assassination of an American President, have a peculiarly sinister significance. Both President Lincoln and President Garfield were killed by assassins of types unfortunately not uncommon in history; President Lincoln falling a victim to the terrible passions aroused by four years of civil war, and President Garfield to the revengeful vanity of a disappointed office-seeker. President McKinley was killed by an utterly depraved criminal belonging to that class of criminals who object to all governments, good and bad alike, who are against any form of popular liberty if it is guaranteed by even the most just and liberal laws and who are as hostile to the upright exponent of a free people's sober will as to the tyrannical and irresponsible despot.

our right and our duty to see that they work in harmony with these institutions. Necessity of Publicity. The first essential in determining how to deal with the great industrial combinations is knowledge of facts—publicity. In the interest of the public, the Government should have the right to inspect and examine the workings of the great corporations engaged in interstate business. Publicity is the only sure remedy which we can now invoke. What further remedies are needed in the way of government regulation or taxation can only be determined after publicity has been obtained by process of law, and in the course of administration. The first requisite is knowledge full and complete—knowledge which may be made public to the people.

ward, they wish to turn out a perfect job. This is the great secret of our success in competition with the labor of foreign countries. Trades Unions. The most vital problem with which this country, and for that matter the whole civilized world, has to deal, is the problem which has for one side the betterment of social conditions, moral and physical, in large cities, and for another side the effort to deal with that tangle of far-reaching question which we group together when we speak of "labor." The chief factor in the success of each man—wage-worker, farmer and capitalist alike—must ever be the sum total of his own individual qualities and abilities. Second only to this comes the power of acting in combination or association with others. Very great good has been and will be accomplished by associations or unions of wage-workers, when managed with foresight and when they combine insistently upon their own rights with law-abiding respect for the rights of others. The display of these qualities in such bodies is a duty to the Nation no less than to the associations themselves. Finally there must also in many cases be action by the Government in order to safeguard the rights and interests of all. Under our Constitution there is much more scope for such action by the state and the municipality than by the Nation. But on points such as those touched on above, the National Government can act. When all is said and done, the rule of brotherhood remains as the indispensable prerequisite to success in the kind of Nation for which we strive. Each man must work for himself, and unless he so works, no outside help can avail him; but each man must remember also that he is, indeed, his brother's keeper, and that while no man who refuses to walk can be carried with advantage to himself, no man who refuses to help another in his time of need can expect to be helped himself; and we can all best help ourselves by joining together in the work that is of common interest to all.



PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

whole, wages are higher today in the United States than ever before in our history and far higher than in any other country. The standard of living is also higher than ever before. Every effort of legislator and administrator should be directed to the securing of this standard of living for all our people, and to the improvement wherever possible. Chinese Exclusion. Not only must our labor be protected by the tariff, but it should also be protected, so far as it is possible, from the presence in this country of any laborers brought over by contract, or of those who, coming freely, yet represent a standard of living so low that they can undersell our men in the labor market and drag them to a lower level. I regard it as necessary, with this end in view, to re-enact immediately the law excluding Chinese laborers, and to strengthen it whenever necessary in order to make its enforcement entirely effective. The National Government should demand the highest quality of service from its employees, and in return it should be a good employer. If possible, legislation should be passed in connection with the interstate commerce law which will render effective the efforts of different states to do away with the competition of convict contract labor in the open labor market. So far as practicable under the conditions of Government work, provision should be made to render the enforcement of the eight-hour law easy and certain. In all industries carried on directly or indirectly for the United States Government, women and children should be protected from excessive hours of labor, from night work and from work under unsanitary conditions. The Government should provide in its contracts that all work should be done under "fair" conditions, and in addition to setting a high standard should uphold it by proper inspection, extending to the subcontractors. The Government should forbid all night work for women and children, as well as excessive overtime. For the District of Columbia, a good factory law should be passed; and as a powerful indirect aid to such laws, provisions should be made to turn the inhabitants of the city of Washington into minor streets, where the inhabitants can live under conditions favorable to health and morals. American wage-workers work with their hands as well as their heads. Moreover, they take a keen pride in what they are doing; so that, independent of the re-