

THE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—President Taft in his message to Congress says:

During the past year foreign relations of the United States have continued upon a basis of friendship and good understanding. The year has been notable as witnessing the peaceful settlement of two important international controversies before the permanent court of the Hague.

The arbitration of the fisheries dispute between the United States and Great Britain which has been the source of nearly continuous diplomatic correspondence since the late summer of 1908, and which has been settled by a decision of the permanent court of the Hague, is a landmark in the history of international law.

The Argentine battleship contracts, like the subsequent important Argentine railway equipment and those for Cuban government vessels, were secured through the entire length of the good offices of the Department of State.

The effects of that department to secure for the United States equal opportunities in the markets of the world and to expand American commerce in the Orient are of the highest importance.

The volume of business obtained in new fields of competition and the maintenance of our position in the Orient are of the highest importance.

The treatment accorded by them to the products of the United States is not such as to give us the full measure of reciprocity which we are entitled to.

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SUMMARY OF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PRESIDENT TAFT'S MESSAGE.

Foreign relations are peaceful; fisheries arbitration satisfactory to all concerned; moves for international prize court is making progress. Continuity with Latin-America accounted by successful mediation between Peru and Ecuador; Nicaragua is being restored to order; Argentina buying naval equipment in United States.

Philippine trade growing; Porto Rico progressing industrially and politically. Panama Canal making satisfactory progress; should be prohibited from owning ships in canal trade. Recommendation for amplification of litigation is renewed; courts of appeals now overburdened; one review by higher court all to which litigant is entitled as right; regulations of equity injunctions important as measure to check demand for unwise and more radical legislation.

Public Building Methods Wrong. Commission of Experts Should Supervise Construction. In public buildings which have been so much criticized in connection with our own government, the method of construction should be improved.

Trade in Philippines is Growing. Porto Rico Progressing; Reforms of Government Are Discussed. The Philippines are tranquil, the message says. Rapid trade increase is shown by the following table of exports and imports, exclusive of gold and silver.

Canal Progress is Satisfactory. Sides in Culabra, but Not Serious—Early Completion Assured. Completion of the Panama Canal within the time set, January 1, 1912, and within the estimated cost of \$40,000,000, is assured.

POSTAL DEFICIT IS DISAPPEARING.

Postal Deficit Should Be Extended to Every Rural Delivery System. The postal savings system will be extended gradually. The application of business principles has resulted in the return of \$11,000,000 of the \$17,000,000 appropriated to cover the estimated deficit.

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COLUMBIA IN LAND CASES IS RECOMMENDED.

Columbia in land cases is recommended, with the observation: "This change finds complete analogy in the present provision for appeals from the decision of the Commissioner of Patents. The judgments of the court in such cases would be of decisive value and would, I believe, be a great benefit to the public."

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