

DIPLIOMASS

Following is a summary of the main points of President Taft's message to the Sixty-first congress, which convened Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1909.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives—The relations between the United States with all foreign governments have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding and are very generally satisfactory.

Pursuant to the provisions of the general treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and Great Britain, April 4, 1908, a special agreement was entered into between the two countries in January, 1909, for the submission of questions relating to fisheries on the North Atlantic Coast to a tribunal to be formed from members of the permanent court of arbitration. The Hague.

In accordance with the provisions of the special agreement, printed cases of the government were submitted to the tribunal on October 1, 1909, and on the other side to the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, and the counter cases of the United States are now being prepared.

Negotiations for an international conference to consider and reach an arrangement for the protection of the seal fisheries of the fur seals in the North Pacific are in progress with the governments of Great Britain, Canada and Russia. The conference has been attended by interested leaders from the United States and the outcome of this question is the ultimate outcome of the seal fisheries.

The question arising out of the Belgian annexation of the independent state of the Congo, which has recently occupied the attention of our best citizens and enlisted the sympathy of our best citizens and is now open, but satisfactory. This Government was among the foremost in the great work of uplifting the uncivilized regions of Africa and the extension of the benefits of civilization, education and fruitful open commerce to that vast domain and in the participation of the United States in the great work of humanity.

A convention between the United States and Germany, under which the nonworking provisions of the German patent law are made inapplicable to the patents of American citizens, was concluded on February 23, 1909, and is now in force. Negotiations for similar conventions looking to the extension of the same to other nations are being conducted.

Under an appropriation made at the last session of Congress, a mission was sent to Liberia to investigate the interests of the United States and its citizens in Liberia. The mission was enthusiastically received and during its stay in Liberia everywhere met with the best of feeling and the hope was repeatedly expressed on all sides that something to relieve the critical position of the republic, arising in a measure from external as well as internal financial conditions.

The Liberian government afforded every facility to the commission. The commission also had conferences with representative citizens, interested foreigners and the representative government of Liberia. Visits were made to various parts of the republic and to the neighboring British colonies. The commission received and conferred with the Governor.

It will be remembered that the Republic of Liberia is a republic of African race, in an American citizenry and African race. In an American citizenry and African race. In an American citizenry and African race. In an American citizenry and African race.

The Norwegian government, by a note addressed on January 26, 1909, to the Department of State, invited the United States to take part in a conference which is to be held in London, March 1910, for the purpose of devising means to remedy existing conditions in the Spitzbergen islands.

His Majesty Sultan V. Sultan of Turkey, in a message to this country, a special embassy to announce his accession. The transition of the government from a monarch to a constitutional government, with a parliament and a public improvement, is one of the important phenomena of our times. Consistent with the principles of justice and equity, the Government has also to make further advances in Persia.

These events have turned the eyes of the world upon the peaceful influence of American schools. There is every reason why we should obtain a greater share of the commerce of the near East, since the conditions are more favorable now than ever before.

Today more than ever before American capital is seeking investment in foreign countries and American products are being marketed in all parts of the world. As a consequence there are American citizens and American interests in all parts of the world.

The results of this investigation impose upon this Government vast increased responsibilities. This Administration, through the Department of Commerce, is endeavoring to lead all proper support to legitimate and beneficial American enterprise in foreign countries, the degree of such support being measured by the national advantages to be expected.

A citizen himself cannot by contract or otherwise escape the obligations of his protection in his personal and property rights when he voluntarily enters a foreign country. To avoid ceaseless vexations it is proper that in considering whether American enterprise should be encouraged or discouraged in a particular country, the governments should give full weight, not only to the national as well as to the individual benefits to be derived, but also to the fact whether or not the government of the country in question is in its administration, in its policy and in its administration, in its policy and in its administration.

The Pan-American policy of this Government has long been fixed in principle and remains unchanged. It is the policy of the United States and of the republics to the south of us, most of which have great and honorable governments and progressive ideals, the apprehension of which gave rise to the Monroe Doctrine.

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My meeting with President Diaz and the greeting, exchange of both American and Mexican soil. I hope, to signalize the close and cordial relations which will bind together the Republic of Mexico and the United States to the south, between which there is so vast a network of material interest.

I am happy to meet that all but one of the cases which for so long vexed our relations with Venezuela have been settled within the past few months and that under the enlightened regime now directing the government of Venezuela, provision has been made for arbitration of the remaining cases before the Hague tribunal.

On July 30, 1909, the government of Panama agreed after considerable negotiation to indemnify the relatives of the American officers and sailors who were brutally treated, and of them having been killed by the Panama police this year.

The sincere desire of the Panama government to do away with a situation where such an accident could occur is manifest in the recent request, in compliance with which this Government has lent the services of an officer of the Army to be employed by the government of Panama as instructor of police.

The sanitary improvements and public works undertaken in Cuba prior to the present administration of the United States are of such a nature that the United States is interested under the treaty, are reported to be making good progress and that the reciprocal commercial arrangement between Cuba and the United States has been maintained and that no negotiations injuriously affecting the situation will be undertaken without consultation with the United States.

settle it. There had been two abortive attempts to do so through arbitration, which failed through lack of jurisdiction. Now, happily, as the result of the recent diplomatic negotiations, the government of the United States and Chile, actuated by the sincere desire to free from any strain those cordial and friendly relations upon which both countries have agreed by treaty to submit the controversy to definitive settlement by His Britannic Majesty Edward VII.

In this Government preserves unchanged its policy of supporting the principle of equality of opportunity for the Chinese people, to which policy it has pledged the interests and powers of both East and West. By the treaty of 1903 China has undertaken the abolition of the like, with a moderate and proportionate raising of the tariff on Chinese goods, and in return is endeavoring to facilitate these measures and the needful sequelae of the treaty.

When it appeared that China's like revenues were to be hypothecated to foreign bankers in connection with the great railway project, it was obvious that the governments whose bankers hold this loan would have a certain direct interest in the question of the railway. Because this railway loan represented a practical and through operation with China by interested powers, as well as because of its relations to the foreign investment in the administration of the railway, it was deemed American participation to be of great national interest. Happily, when this opportunity should not be lost, the indispensable instrumentality presented itself, when the Imperial Chinese government, in pursuance of its decision to devote funds from the portion of the indemnity remitted to the United States, authorized the American government to carry out this purpose, and a considerable body of our citizens, including the work in our schools and universities.

No one can doubt the happy effect in the present naval observatory the most significant in the world. It is being used for certain naval purposes which might be easily and adequately secured by a small division connected with the Navy Department at only a fraction of the cost of the present observatory. The observatory should be an eminent astronomer appointed by the President and with the advice of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, by a tenure at least as permanent as that of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

The platform of the successful party in the present election is the platform of the Republican party. The Republican party will uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the Federal courts with respect to the issuance of writs of habeas corpus, and will not support any measure which would interfere with the Federal courts with respect to the issuance of writs of habeas corpus.

The second subject worthy of mention in the Postoffice Department is the real necessity of the establishment of a postal savings bank. The postal savings bank is a measure which will be of great benefit to the people. The postal savings bank is a measure which will be of great benefit to the people.

Under a provision of the act of August 5, 1906, I have appointed three officials to assist the officers of the Bureau of Customs in collecting information necessary to a wise administration of the tariff act of August 5, 1906. The officials are co-operating with the officials of the Treasury Department and the Department of Commerce and Labor in its study of foreign commerce.

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and many of the well-conducted railways of this country are coming to the conclusion that a system of pensions for old employees, and a system of insurance for younger and more energetic servants, promotes both economy and efficiency of administration.

I am aware that there is a strong feeling in both houses of Congress, and also in the country, against the establishment of a civil pension and that this has naturally grown out of the heavy burden of military pensions, which has always been the policy of our Government to assume, but I am strongly convinced that no other practical solution of the difficulties presented by the superannuation of civil servants can be found than that of a system of civil pensions.

The business and expenditures of the Government have expanded enormously since the Spanish War, but as the revenues have not increased in proportion, the attention of the public and of those responsible for the Government has not been fastened upon the question of reducing the cost of administration. We cannot, in view of the advancing prices of living, hope to save money by a reduction in the standard of salaries paid. Indeed, if any change is made in that regard, an increase rather than a decrease will be necessary; and the only way to save money is by increasing the number of employees and in obtaining a greater average of efficiency from those retained.

Two features of the new tariff act call for special reference. By virtue of the clause in the bill providing for "most favored nation" clause, it is the duty of the Executive to consider the laws and practices of other nations in the light of the principles of reciprocity and to see that the duties levied on the products and merchandise of the United States are not unduly discriminatory against the United States. The minimum duties provided in the bill are 25 per centum, unless the President makes such a finding. Then the maximum duties provided in the bill are 10 per centum, and the minimum duties—25 per centum—are to be in force.

It has been expressed that this power conferred and duty imposed on the Executive is likely to lead to a tariff war. I beg to express the hope and belief that such a result need be anticipated. The distinction between the "most favored nation" clause and the "most favored nation" clause is wide. In order that the maximum duty shall be levied on the products and merchandise of the United States, it is necessary that the bill and on the part of the country not only discriminate against the products and merchandise of other nations, but that the discriminations found shall be such that, without good and fair reason, the products and merchandise of other nations shall be admitted at a lower rate of duty.

The generosity of Congress has provided in the present naval observatory the most significant in the world. It is being used for certain naval purposes which might be easily and adequately secured by a small division connected with the Navy Department at only a fraction of the cost of the present observatory. The observatory should be an eminent astronomer appointed by the President and with the advice of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, by a tenure at least as permanent as that of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

STOCK RATES FIXED.

Commission Prepares Shipping Contract and Fixes Valuation.

Salem—After investigations and deliberations that have extended back for a period of about 12 months, the railroad commission issued an order requiring the railroad companies operating in Oregon to adopt a uniform contract for shipping livestock. A complete contract has been prepared by the railroad commission, which the railroad will hereafter be required to use, and which the commission contends is much more fair and reasonable than the ones now used.

The commission has found that both the railroad companies and the shippers have been disposed to be fair and have given the commission every assistance. The principal features of the new contract are as follows:—

1.—If the shipment is over more than one line, the contract will serve as a through bill of lading, its provisions inuring to the benefit of and being binding upon all connecting carriers. This will do away with the present practice of requiring shippers to sign a new contract every time the shipment passes to a connecting carrier.

2.—The carrier is held liable for loss or injury caused by its own negligence.

3.—The carrier is not liable for loss or damage due to act of God, the public enemy, authority of law, or acts or defaults of the shipper.

4.—Shipper agrees not to load a car if he finds defects which make it unsafe or unserviceable and agrees to notify agent and demand necessary repairs before loading.

5.—Shipper agrees to load and unload his stock and to see that the shipment is accompanied by attendants to look after it. He must see the doors are fastened and kept fastened. The company is liable for loss or damage in loading or unloading only when same is caused by its own negligence.

6.—If shipper neglects to send attendants and railroad employes act as attendants it is done at shipper's risk.

7.—Shipper assumes risk of loss or injury to stock when caused by any of them being wild, unruly or weak or from ill effect of being crowded in cars.

8.—Shipper agrees to protect the carrier if his stock is infected with any disease.

9.—Lien of carrier for freight charges is not affected by removal of stock from train or yards.

10.—In event of loss or injury, shipper agrees to notify agent of carrier before removing the stock.

11.—It provides that all suits or actions for the recovery of claims for loss or damage must be commenced within 60 days after the shipper has received notice that his claim is refused.

The valuations covering ordinary livestock have been fixed by the commission.

The following table shows these valuations compared with those which are now found on the S. P. Company's contracts:

	S. P. Com. Val.	Com. Val.
Each stallion or breeding jack	\$50.00	\$100.00
Each horse, mule or ass	20.00	75.00
Each bull, ox or beef	20.00	40.00
Each steer	10.00	25.00
Each stock or range	10.00	25.00
Each sheep	2.00	4.00
Each range or stock	1.00	2.00
Each goat	2.00	2.00

Warehouses Planned.

Hot Lake—The farmers union is planning to build a large warehouse here early next spring to handle the grain crop of its members. This will be the first warehouse to be erected by the new organization in this part of Union county.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.15; club, \$1.04; red Russian, \$1.01½; valley, \$1.02; Turkey red, \$1.04; 40-fold, \$1.04. Barley—Feed and brewing, \$2.50@2.90 per ton. Corn—Whole, \$3.50; cracked, \$3.50 per ton. Oats—No. 1 white, \$31.50@32.50 per ton. Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$15@19 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18@21; alfalfa, \$16@16.50; clover, \$15@16; chaff, \$15@16; grain hay, \$15@16. Butter—City creamery extras, 39¢; fancy outside creamery, 33¢@37¢ per lb.; store, 22½¢@24¢. (Butter fat prices average 1½¢ per pound under regular butter prices.) Eggs—Fresh Oregon extras, 43¢@45¢ per dozen; Eastern, 31¢@38¢ per doz. Poultry—Hens, 15¢@16½¢; springs, 15¢@16¢; roosters, 9¢@10¢; ducks, 15¢@16¢; geese, 11¢@12¢; turkeys, live, 20¢; dressed, 25¢. Pork—Fancy, 10½¢@11¢ per pound. Veal—Extras, 11¢@11½¢ per pound. Fresh Fruits—Apples, \$1@3 per box; pears, \$1@1.50 per box; cranberries, \$2@3 per barrel. Potatoes—Oregon, 50¢@70¢ per sack; sweet potatoes, 1¼¢ per pound. Vegetables—Cabbage, 1¼¢ per pound; celery, \$3.75@4 per crate; hot-house lettuce, \$1.50 per box; garlic, 10¢ per pound; horseradish, \$1.50 per box; pumpkins, 1¼¢@1½¢; sprouts, 8¢ per pound; squash, 1¢@1¼¢; tomatoes, 75¢@81¢. Sack Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 per sack, carrots, \$1; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1.50. Onions—Oregon, \$1.50 per sack. Cattle—Best steers, \$4.50@4.75; fair to good, \$4.45; medium and feeders, \$3.50@3.75; best cows, \$3.50@3.75; medium, \$3.375; common to medium, \$2.50@3.75; bulls, \$2@2.50; stags, \$2.50@3.50; calves, light, \$5.25@6.50; heavy, \$4@4.75. Hogs—Best, \$8@8.25; medium, \$7.50@7.85; stockers, \$4@4.75. Sheep—Best wethers, \$4.25@4.75; fair to good, \$3.75@4; best ewes, \$2.75@4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; lambs, \$5@5.35. Hops—1909 crop, 18¢@22¢; 1908 crop, nominal; 1907 crop, 12¢; 1906 crop, 8¢. Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16¢@23¢ per pound; mohair, choice, 25¢ per pound. Cascaer Bark—4½¢ per pound. Hides—Dry hides, 18¢@19¢ per pound; dry kip, 17¢@18¢ per pound; dry calfskin, 19¢@21¢ per pound; salted hides, 10½¢@11¢; salted calfskin, 15¢@16¢ per pound; green, 1¢ less.

Schools Get More Money.

Ashland—Taxpayers of Ashland, at a special school meeting, voted to raise over \$20,000 by special tax for the support of the free public schools of the city for the ensuing year. This is in addition to nearly \$10,000 estimated receipts from the state and county fund, and includes a provision for the installation of departments of manual training and domestic science in the schools for the coming year. The total taxable property of the district is nearly \$3,000,000. One additional grade and one more high school teacher are provided for in the estimates for next year.

King's Condition Grave.

Madrid, Dec. 8.—King Alfonso's physician is causing extreme anxiety at court. The king is suffering from a tubercular affection of the inner ear. Surrounding sections results in the fact that not to exceed one-fourth of the acreage has been plowed, and not all of that has been seeded. Most of the acreage is in cheat hay, and little fall wheat is sown. Last year at this time there was an unusually large acreage of fall grain put in, and as a result the amount of grain harvested last fall was the largest in many years, and was a source of great profit.

Divide Cove Farms.

Cove, Or.—The Shoemaker ranch of 220 acres and the Matt Mitchell ranch have been sold to Wenatchee parties, who will cut the farms into small tracts and sell them. Wenatchee buyers say there is no better farm land anywhere than in the Grand Ronde valley, and land prices are lower than elsewhere.

Wheat Land at \$117.50 An Acre.

Athens—Henry Keopke has purchased 40 acres of valuable wheat land from Miss Mary Le Brache at the consideration of \$117.50 per acre. The land joins Mr. Keopke's ranch on the east, and makes a valuable addition to his present place.

New Telephone Line to Interior.

Ontario—The independent telephone line connecting Ontario with Burns, Drewsey and Harney, a distance of 150 miles, is completed. This new line now gives direct communication between Ontario, Vale, Westfall, Beulah, Drewsey, Harney and Burns.

SEARCH FOR OIL KEEPS UP.

Malheur County May Be Largest Oil Field in West.

Union—J. P. Wilbur, director of the Union National bank of Union, stated that he is quite certain that oil will be discovered in paying quantities in Malheur county, where he has just been to look into the oil prospecting going on there.

"Seven out of 22 incorporated oil and gas companies in Malheur county," stated Mr. Wilbur, "are drilling steadily day and night at depths varying from 500 to 1700 feet. After a recent thorough examination by Chester Washburn, United States oil geologist, he stated positively that, in his estimation, Malheur county would in time be the largest oil-producing field in the West."

If oil is found in the quantities expected by Mr. Wilbur, he thinks it will be piped to Portland, and will thus aid in developing this part of the state, as well as the place where it is discovered. The discovery of oil, Mr. Wilbur declares, will aid in the reclamation of much arid land in Eastern Oregon and Idaho, as cheap fuel for pumping the necessary water will then be available.

FAMOUS ROAD SPOILED.

Expensive Highway Almost Ruined by Excessive Traffic.

Salem—The fact that road districts near corporate limits have roads that are used extensively by people in outlying districts, while those same outlying districts have roads which are never used by the people who reside in the close vicinity of corporate limits, is the bone of contention which called a large delegation to the city today to appear before the county court in behalf of the government road, which was constructed here a few years ago by the department of agriculture.

The delegation contended that teamsters from the mountain timber districts, carrying heavy loads of wood, had materially injured the experimental road of the government north of Salem, and that repairs are now necessary because of extraordinary usage.

The county court is in a quandary as to how to settle the difficulty, but has offered the district a rock-crusher and sufficient help to operate it so that the government road may be placed back in good condition.

Albany Club Women Elect.

Albany—The ladies' auxiliary of the Albany Commercial club, which is now one of the most active organizations in this city, held its annual election and re-elected Mrs. J. K. Weatherford president; Mrs. E. W. Cooper, vice-president; and Mrs. D. D. Woodworth, treasurer. Mrs. J. C. Irvine, who has served the club most capably as secretary, refused a re-election, and Miss Flora Mason was chosen for that position.

MINE VERDICT REFUSED.

Officials Scored for Laxity in Search for Witnesses.

Cherry, Ill., Dec. 10.—The inquiry of the coroner's jury into the St. Paul mine disaster, in which 300 men were killed, came to an abrupt close today without a verdict being reached.

The jury announced it would not consider returning a verdict until Alexander Rosenjack and Robert Deane, missing witnesses, either had been found or county officials showed evidence of a genuine desire to find them. The hearing adjourned to December 20 to give officials an opportunity to search for witnesses.

John Hand, a miner, who was among the first to enter the mine the day following the disaster, testified that he heard signals from outcumb miners, but that he could get no help from officials or experts to whom he told his story.

The miner said he was standing at the top of the shaft when he heard repeated tappings that could have been caused by nothing but the picks of the entombed men.

Long Walk Safely Made.

Denver, Dec. 10.—Miss Arizona Owens, who completed her 435-mile walk from Shoshone, Wyo., to Denver last night at 7:30 o'clock, appears little the worse this morning for her experience with an almost continuous blizzard during her 16-day trip. "To make a living," is Miss Owens' explanation for the unusual journey, which she says was made on a wager that she could accomplish the feat in 17 days. Miss Owens, who is small and almost frail, has walked long distances before.

Goodwin Back to Stage.

Los Angeles, Dec. 10.—Nat Goodwin and his bride, who was Edna Goodrich, today announced that they would return to the stage in three months, but would appear in different plays. Unostentatiously Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin slipped into Los Angeles a few days ago and betook themselves to their winter home in Santa Monica. Goodwin will appear in "An Old New Yorker" three months hence. Mrs. Goodwin's appearance will be made at about the same time.

Mrs. Nation Wields Grip.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Mrs. Carrie Nation, who came here to keep her eye on congress, went into the buffet of the Union station this afternoon, and, with her satchel, smashed about \$50 worth of bottled whisky. She was at once arrested, charged with destroying private property.

Patent Brings \$300,000.

Alton, Ill., Dec. 9.—Alvin J. Hoskins was notified today by the United States government that it had purchased his patent range-finder and distance praiser for \$300,000. The invention praiser for the firing of big guns in the simplifies the firing of big guns and its waters last week.

Recent Storm Is Costly.

St. Joseph, N. F., Dec. 10.—Fifteen lives and \$500,000 worth of property both on land and sea is the total now known to have been taken by the storm that swept New Foundland and its waters last week.

MOVING PICTURE OF MURDER

Film 500 Feet Long Depicts Tragedy of Ito at Harbin.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 10.—A moving picture of the assassination of Prince Ito at Harbin is to be used in the trial of the Korean assassin, according