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MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

tions among laboring men and farmers, if the combination has any tendency to restrict interstate com-

proved so crude; but it was absolutebusiness use, the enormous aggregations of corporate wealth that are so dustrial world. But the present antitrust law in its construction and going is drawn up in such sweeping form as to become either ineffective or else mischievous.

combinations are absolutely necessary. They are necessary among business men, they are necessary offer the only effective way of meetbooks in its present shape. It has a short statute of limitations should 393. mind, I would suggest merely tenta- committed in any other connection

tively the following changes in the

The substantative part of the Antiamong the several states or with foreign nations All of these combinations, while continue to be declared illegal merce and Labor, it is shown that existing for and engaged in the provided, however, that some proper the exports of wheat flour from the promotion of innocent and proper government authority (such as the United States for the eight months purposes should be recognized as commissioner of corporations acting ending Feb. 29 last, aggregated 9,882legal, as I have repeatedly pointed under the Secretary of Commerce 446 barrels of a value of \$45, 512,293, out. This anti-trust law was a most and Labor) be allowed to pass on while of wheat they were 82,914,315 unwisely drawn statute. It was per- any such contract; probably the best bushels of a value of \$82,818,912. Rehaps inevitable that in feeling after method of providing for this would ducing the flour to wheat, and addthe right remedy the first attempt be to enact that any contract sub- ing it to the wheat, the grand total ject to the prohibition contained in of 127,385,322 bushels. ly imperative that some legislation the Anti-trust law into which it was should be passed to control in the desired to enter might be filed with markets will after this year not be main interest of the public and the the Bureau of Corporations or other glutted with wheat from Argentina, appropriate executive body, this because of the recent adoption there would publicly within say sixty days of the American expedient of selling that there should be such action. marked a feature of the modern in of the filing-which period could be grain on exchanges for later delivery extended by order of the department "futures" that permit delivery when whenever for any reason it did not requirements call for the grain. This working, has exemplified only too give the department sufficient time well the kind of legislation which for a thorough examination the ex- Argentine to improve the grain exunder the guise of being thorough. ecutive department having power port conditions. The only menacing will be a valuable adjunct to our might forbid the contract which then fact affecting foodstuff exports is that whole financial system. would become subject to the provisions of the Anti-trust law. If the In the modern industrial world prohibition was issued the contract would then only be liable to attack on the ground that it constituted an unreasonable restraint of trade. States, a system which has built up of the House of Representatives to among laboring men and they are Whenever the period of filing had exports to the present big total. very, very necessary among farmers, passed without any such prohibition Some of these combinations are the constructing combination could among the most powerful of all in- be disapproved or forbidden only struments for wrong-doing, others after notice and hearing with a reasonable provision for summary reing of actual business needs. It is view on appeal to the courts. Labor michievious and unwholesome to organizations, farmers organizations bushels, of a value of \$27,427,162; of diately after it comes into existence. keep upon the statute books unmodi- and other organizations not organiz- oats 948, 715 bushels, of a value of This could necessitate some action fied laws like the Anti-Trust Law, ed for the purpose of profit would be \$511,376; of rye 1,722,880 bushels, of before the Congress at its present which, while in practice only is par- allowed to register under the law, a value of \$1,566,490 and of barley session, perhaps in the shape of ditialy efective against the vicious com- by a law, by giving the location of 3,638,722 bushels, of a value of \$2, recting the proper committee to binatons, have nevertheless n theory the head office, charter and by-law 638,798. Adding to this the corn gather the necessary information been construed so sweepingly as to and the names and the addresses of meal exported, 502,336 barrels of a both through the committee itself be prohibitive of every organization their principal officers. In the in-value of \$1,556,406, and the oatmeal, and through government agents who for the transaction of modern busi- terest of all the organizations-busi- 11,357,039 pounds, of a value of \$312,- should report to the committee and ness. Some real good has resulted ness, labor and farmers like the 889 the grand total of grain exported should lay before it the facts, which from this law. But the time has present provision permitting recovery for the eight months is the round would permit it to act with prompt come when it is imperative to modify of three fold damages should be sum of \$162,381,331. If the same and intelligent fairness. These govit. Such modification is urgently abolished and as a substitute there- ratio is maintained the remainder of ernment agents, if it is not deemed needed for the sake of the business for the right of recovery allowed for the fiscal year ending June 30, the wise to appoint individuals from out

now be-come uncertain how far this be provided so far as the past is conlaw may involve all labor organiza- cerned, not to exceed a year. Moretions, farmers organizations as well over and even more in the interest commission merchants and bankers as business organizations in con- of labor than of business combina- all over the country to the measures flict or if we secure literal compliance tions all such suits brought for causes with the law it may result in the of action heretofore occurred should prohibiting the buying and selling of destruction of the organizations nec- be brought only if the contract error agricultural products for future deliessary for the transaction of modern complained of was unfair or unrea- very. The memorials and petitions, business as well as of all labor organ-sonable. It may be well to remem-declaring such laws would result in izations and farmers organizations ber that all the suits hitherto brought serious injury to our export trade, and completely check the wise move- by the government under the anti- because they would radically change ment for securing business co-opera- trust law have been the cases where the present system, have reached tion among farmers and put back the combination or contract was in formidable proportions. Should the half a century the progress of the fact unfair, unreasonable and against proposed changes be made, grain movement for the betterment of the public interest. It is important would have to be bought and sold labor. A bill has been presented in that we should encourage trade on a cash basis; future wants could the congress to remedy this situation, agreements between employer and not be supplied by buying for future While such measures as this bill are employee when they are just and fair, delivery in anticipating those wants. needed in the case of all engaged in A strike is a clumsy weapon for As there are other surplus producing the industries which are essential to righting wrongs done to labor and we nations besides our own, Uncle Sam the country's well-being, I do not should extend so far as possible the pretend to say the exact shape the process of conciliation and arbitrabill should take, and the suggestions tion as a substitute for strikes. More chases, and it seems to be plain as a I have to offer are tentative; and my over, violence and disorder and coer-business proposition that we cannot views would apply equally to any cion, when committed in connection other measure which would achieve with strike should be as promptly the desired end and bearing this in and as sternly repressed as when

191,000,000 Bushels.

LARGEST TOTAL SINCE 1902

The Only Menacing Fact Affecting Foodstuff Exports Is That Legislation Has Been Proposed to Abolish the "Future Delivery" System.

WASHINGTON, Mar, 25 .- Uncle Sam's exports this year of flour and wheat will reach the equivalent of Trust Law should remain as at pres- 191,000,000 bushels, the largest total ent; that is, every contract in re- since 1902, if nothing happens to straint of trade or commerce check the gait so far reported. In a report just issued by the bureau of should statistics of the Department of Com-

The prospects are that foreign is expected in all markets as well as legislation has been proposed, and seriously advocated even by representatives of 'producing regions, tariff. This should be, and indeed which would abolish the "future delivery" system here in the United gation. It is peculiarly the province

cent grand total of export of farm the close of this session provision fiscal year. For the eight months, material which will enable the Conmen of the country, for the sake of should only be the damages sustained grand total will be \$243,571,996. For side the public service, might with the wage-worker and for the sake by the plaintiff and the cost of suit the last eight months the value of the advantage be members of the execu of the farmers. The Congress can- in cluding a reasonable attorneys fee. exports of meat and diary products tive departments designated by the not afford to leave it on the statute The law should effect pending suits and food animals has been \$138,679,- President on his own motion or on

> Strenous objection has been made with it. by producers, shippers, exporters, now pending in Congress, literally cannot dictate to foreign buyers how and when they shall make their purwell discourage that trade by the enactment of unwise legislation.

but strikes themselves are and should be recognized to be entirely legal. Combinations of working men have have been introduced. None of them a peculiar reason for their existance. gives the government the right to The very wealthy individual employer make a reasonable charge for valuand still more, the very wealthy cor able privilege granted despite the fact porations stand at an enormous ad- that these water powers are equivavantage when compared to the indi- lent to many thousands of acres of vidual working man; and while there the best coal lands for their producare many cases where it may not be tion of power. Nor is any definite necessary for laborers to form a time limit set, as should always be union, in many other cases it is in- done in such cases. I shall be dispensable for otherwise the thou- obliged hereafter, in accordance with sands of small units the thousands of the policy stated in a recent message, individual workingmen will be left to veto the right of the President or helpless in their dealings with the of the secretary concerned to fix and one big unit, the big individual or collect such a charge as he may find corporation employer.

Twenty-two years ago, by the act case. of June 26, 1886, trades unions were recognized by law and the rights of

nized, this right including combinaion of mutual protection and benefits, the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labor and the protection of the individual rights of Flour and Wheat Will Reach the working men in the prosecution of their trade or trades; and in the act of June 1, 1898, strikes were reccognized as legal in the same provision that forbade participation in or instigation of force or violence against persons or property or the attempt to prevent others from work ing by violence, threat or intimidation. The business men must be protected in person and property, and so must the farmer and the wageworkers; and as regards alike the right of peaceful combination for all lawful purposes should be explicitly recognized. The right of employers to combine and contract with one another and with their employees should be explicitly recognized and MICAWBER AND HIS HAPPY so should the right of the employees to combine and to contract with one another and with the employers and peaceably to persuade others to accept their views and to strike for the purpose of peaceably obtaining from employers satisfactory terms for their labor. Nothing should be done to legalize a blacklist or a boycott that would be illegal at common law; this being the type of boycott defined and considered by the anthracite strike commission.

> The question of financial legislation is now receiving much attention in both Houses and we have a right to expect action before the close of the session. It is urgently necessary Moreover, action should be taken to establish postal savings banks. These postal savings banks are imperatively needed for the benefit of the wageworkers and men of small means and

The time has come when we

should prepare for a revision of the must be, preferred by careful investioriginate a tariff bill and to deter-The record for the same eight mine upon its terms; and this I fully months gives promise of a magnifi- realize, yet it seems to me that before products of over \$451,591,085 for the should be made for collecting full the exports of corn were 43,059,373 gress elected next Fall to act immethe request of the committee, to act

> I am of the opinion, however, that one change in the tariff could with advantage be met forthwith. Our forests need every protection and one method of protecting them would be to put on the free list plup wood, corresponding reduction upon

paper made from wood plup when they come from any country that does not put an export duty on them. Ample provisions should be made for a permanent waterway commission with whatever power it is required to make it effective. The expectations of the people will

not be realized, unless Congress provides at this session for the beginning and prosecution of the actual work of waterway improvement and control. The Congress should realize in fullest fashion the fact that the subject of the conservation of our natural resources with which this commission deals is literally vital for the future of the

Numerous bills granting water power rights on navigable streams

(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT. laboring people to combine for all The White House, March 25, 1908.

to be just and reasonable in each

lawful purposes was formally recog- Astoria Theater

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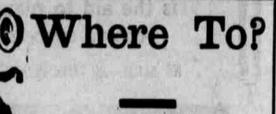
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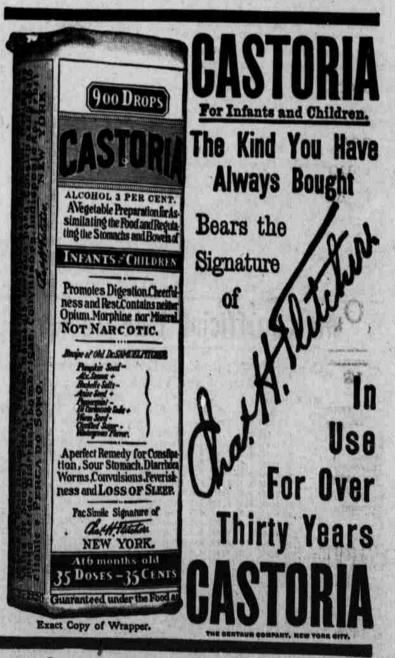
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