

MESSAGES OF PRESIDENTS COMPARED

Roosevelt Holds Record for Number, Volume of Matter and Vocabulary—Messages Outsiders Have Written.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN. (Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, Dec. 8.—The message which President Roosevelt sends to congress today may be the last historic utterance he will make as president of the United States. There is, of course, possibility that he will follow the lead of George Washington and Andrew Jackson, both of whom issued farewell addresses to the country, but barring such a deliverance, today's message will probably be his last that will live in history. Mr. Roosevelt has proved himself to be the champion of the writer in the history of the American presidency. His messages to date are greater in number—almost two to one—than those written during both Cleveland administrations, and far exceed any of the earlier two term presidents. Not only has he eclipsed every other record in the number of messages, but when measured by aggregate length and by range of vocabulary he has even a greater lead over all his predecessors.

In fact, it is asserted that if the vocabularies of all other presidents were balled down into one composite whole and compared with his it would be found that he had employed a greater range of words in expressing his views than all the other presidents together. Being a "literary person" in the strictest sense, Mr. Roosevelt's messages, as a whole, possess a high standard of literary excellence. Bancroft Wrote for Johnson. One message which takes high rank as a state paper of literary merit is that of Andrew Johnson—who had fewer educational advantages than any other man who has been president of the United States. It is his first message. In the library of congress there is an envelope carefully filed away which explains this. It is the original draft of the Johnson message, and Worthington Ford, of the manuscript division, has declared that it is in the handwriting of George Bancroft, the historian. There are a few unimportant additions in the original in the hand of President Johnson, but the body of it is entirely in the Bancroft handwriting. One might believe there was some error about this conclusion but for the presence of a confirmatory letter from Bancroft to Johnson. This letter is dated November 9, and asks a few days' grace for the completion of the work in hand, stating that as no one else knew what he was doing he wrote the document with his own hand. This message was received throughout the country and its literary excellence widely commended by the press. Even the enemies of Johnson thought him an ignorant boor, who robbed of the criticisms.

Other Able Assistants. The presidency seems to carry with it the right of literary merit in its own domain. He who holds it may make or take phrases without let or hindrance. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Cleveland exercised the right more than have any other presidents. It is said that Lincoln Stephens once submitted the proof of an article to President Roosevelt in which he used the passage about the rich man whose son was a fool and whose daughter was the wife of a foreign prince, and that when the next presidential message was read to congress it contained that expression; anticipating Stephens' article, which was still in the hands of the publishers. The literary merit of McKinley's messages improved after John Hay became his ranking adviser, and the messages of Cleveland show that he received some help on them. The literary folk say that even Washington's farewell address shows a good deal of Alexander Hamilton in it. On the other hand, if Plimpton began the original letter written to James Madison by George Washington, asking him to prepare the farewell address, and outlining the proposed paper.

Messages That Have Leaked Out. Great care is taken these days to prevent the premature publication of a presidential message. There has never been a leak through newspapermen betraying a confidence, but there have been leaks at the government printing office. During the Harrison administration one of his messages got into a New York paper in advance of its delivery to congress. A thorough investigation followed. It developed that an employee of the government printing office had access to the messages and had sold its contents to the Washington correspondent of the paper in question. The felon was protected by the correspondent, and he is still in the government service.

Once since then there was a rather serious leak, the offender being a magazine editor, a close friend to Mr. Roosevelt. Some of the advance copies of the magazine containing a synopsis of the message got into Wall Street. Since that message the magazines have had no chance to spring a leak on presidential messages. In that instance Wall Street showed a fluctuating market as a result of the information. Not even the politician awaits a forthcoming message with the anxiety and interest of the Wall street contingent. Wherever there is a stock market, stocks stand a chance to rise or fall because of these presidential utterances, and this applies to London, Paris, Berlin and like commercial centers of other countries as well as it applies to those of our own.

Consults Many; Suits Himself. No other president has so widely consulted others about his messages as has Mr. Roosevelt. He has had a way of addressing informal notes to senators, representatives, and others whom he wished to consult, asking them to come to talk over certain matters with him. He gets the views of all sides on a question and then reaches his conclusion for himself. Men whom he consults think that message is written around proclaiming the fact from the houseposts and the world at large never know of those who consult him. Mr. Roosevelt has always been before handed in the matter of preparing his annual messages. No procrastination could be charged against him. But this year he has been behind his schedule time. Heretofore he has had the message ready for distribution a full month before its delivery to congress. This time he was only two weeks ahead of the release date. Under present arrangements the press associations are given full control of the distribution of the message, and it is said that no editorial change will be made in the single exception of the inaugural addresses, has the wide circulation that is enjoyed by the annual messages to congress.

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Cleveland's Tariff Message. Grover Cleveland is one of the few presidents of the United States who have thought it more important to say what they felt ought to be said than that they should be continued in office. Certainly he was the only president who ever devoted an entire annual message to one subject. In 1887 he decided that he ought to put the tariff question forward as the one great matter which congress should consider. He wrote his single subject message as a result of that decision. Before he sent it to congress Democratic politicians advised him that it would be a mistake, and that he could not be re-elected. He should have been re-elected. He was also the only president who was forced by circumstances to appeal to congress for a reduction of the surplus at another. When he finished his first term there was a big surplus in the treasury. He had sought to have the tariff taxes lowered more for the purpose of reducing the surplus than for abolishing protection. When the Harrison administration finished its work the surplus had been reduced to the point where it needed replenishing, and Mr. Cleveland was forced to issue bonds for the expenses of the government.

Cleveland as Phrase Maker. Mr. Cleveland was the greatest word and phrase maker who ever sat in the presidential chair, up to the time of Mr. Roosevelt. "Innocent desuetude," "pernicious and soul-destroying," "offensive partisan" and "shoultless" are among the terms he added to the political vocabulary. His sister Miss Rose Cleveland, was something of a literary light, and some of the anti-Cleveland papers professed to believe that she was the phrase maker of the administration. When she went so far as to say that she wrote her brother's messages. Women have been accused of many unusual activities in politics, as, for instance, Blaine is declared to have been responsible for the breach between her husband and President Harrison. Later for his retirement from the Harrison cabinet, but this seems to be the only case where it was ever charged that a woman was the author of a presidential message.

James Buchanan was the only president who ever denied the right of congress to call into question the official acts of a president. The house had passed a resolution creating a special committee to investigate some of his acts. He forthwith sent a message to congress denying such a right, and asserting that their action was without the spirit and the letter of the constitution. In answer to this message the house passed a resolution stating that to deny that body the right of investigating a president's official acts would be to deny its constitutional prerogative of impeachment. Mr. Buchanan came back with another message restating his position, but the house was too close to the day of adjournment to take further action in the premises.

Taken as a whole, the messages of the presidents constitute the most important series of state papers in existence. They have been collected and published. James D. Richardson, former Democratic leader of the house, performed this duty. A certain number of sets were distributed at government expense, and Richardson was then presented with duplicate plates. He and his publishers have made a modest fortune out of the sale of the work.

EXAMINER CLOSES BANK IN MISSOURI. (United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Dec. 8.—The National Exchange bank of Springfield, Mo., has been closed by order of Special Examiner Floorback. Frank O. Hicks was appointed receiver. The institution's capital is \$100,000.

Separate Statehood Bills. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Washington, Dec. 8.—Bills have been introduced in the house of representatives providing separate statehood for the territories of New Mexico and Arizona.

DEMOCRATS LOOK FORWARD TO '92

National Conference With Object of Keeping Organizations Busy. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Washington, Dec. 8.—Disappointed but not disheartened by the results of the November election, leading Democrats from various parts of the country are gathering in Washington to take part in a two days' conference called by the National League of Democratic Clubs. Prominent men among the visitors deny that there is any truth in the rumors circulated to the effect that the conference is intended to discuss measures for the elimination of Mr. Bryan from the national politics. The sole purpose of the conference, according to Chairman Lillier and others, is to make the necessary arrangements to keep the Democratic clubs and leagues throughout the country alive and in good running order during the next four years.

BETHEA DECIDES RUSSIA'S WAY. (United Press Leased Wire.) Chicago, Dec. 8.—Martin Jurov, the Russian revolutionist, one of the principal witnesses in the extradition proceedings brought by the Russian government against Christian Rudzicki, has revealed the names of the members of the revolutionary committee in Russia, according to a decision of Federal Judge Bethes. Jurov has been given three days in which to answer the demand of Attorney Rigby, representing Russia's interests, for the names of the revolutionists' executive body. Jurov has refused steadily to reveal the names and has declared that he would give himself to be hanged before their names passed his lips. This statement of Jurov was made before United States Commissioner Foote during the extradition hearings of the last two weeks. Rigby asked a citation of Jurov or of some of the names if he refused to answer the questions of Rigby. If he continues his refusal he may be adjudged in contempt and jailed for any length of time that Judge Bethes may decide. It is intimated that Jurov's refusal to answer may be forwarded to Secretary of State for consideration with the rest of the record of the case which, without his testimony, stands incomplete.

NO NEW CHIEF TILL AFTER THREE MONTHS. (United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Dec. 8.—The board of police commissioners have caused it to be understood that the resignation of late Chief of Police William F. Bigby will be appointed until a period of three months has expired. The members of the board individually concede that Bigby was lost a week ago from the police boat patrol. They wish, however, to defer hasta action until the three month period provided by police regulations has elapsed, before naming a successor to the missing chief. The bay is still being patrolled by the police launch and the time day false reports are turned into the harbor station that Bigby's body has been seen floating in the bay.

Speculation as to the successor of the chief is still going the rounds of the department, but authoritative announcement has not been made. (United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Dec. 8.—That Susan A. Moore, 80 years of age, died in poverty when she was worth \$100,000, was the surprising fact which came to light today when deputies from the coroner's office searched the hotel where the woman's dead body was found yesterday and found bank books and papers which proved that she had a small fortune which she neglected to use to provide comforts for her last days. Just before she was found dead, she was seen begging bread among the poor families in the neighborhood of Franklin and Chestnut streets, and when she was found lifeless she still had a crust in her hands. Susan Moore's life history is obscure. She is said to have arrived in this city in 1862 and to have lived single until the day of her death. She saved her money by the most frugal economy, earning it first through dressmaking and then in keeping a lodging house.

Hogg-Van Dusen Wedding. New York, Dec. 8.—A wedding of note today was that of Miss Elizabeth Hogg, daughter of the late John Hogg, and Mrs. Van Dusen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Van Dusen. (United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Dec. 8.—John Doherty, 41 years of age, died in the Hahnemann hospital, out an artery in his throat with a piece broken from his drinking glass and jumped to his death from a second story window of the building during the absence of his nurse, Miss Claire Feabody. Doherty was suffering from fever, but did not seem delirious when his nurse left him shortly before he committed suicide. The hospital authorities knew nothing of the incident until Motorman George Rheinhardt gave information of the tragedy, which he had brought to light from a newsboy, who found the body. Doherty was taken from his home, 22 Natoma street, last Friday and placed in the hospital.

WILEY STICKS TO IT, SULPHURING IS BAD. (United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Dec. 8.—Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry, with the unofficial title of food expert, acknowledged today that he only was the fruit men of California opposed to him, but that he had aroused the enmity of the molasses and sugar interests by his official opposition to their methods. Wiley declared that the sulphuring of fruits was injurious to those who ate the product. He said his experience had proved to him that sulphur fumes injured the fruit by causing diseases of the stomach, intestines and kidneys. He added that a similar treatment of molasses would have similar effects.

Illinois Fruit Growers. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Chicago, Ill., Dec. 8.—The most ambitious program ever arranged for a convention of the Illinois State Horticultural society was ushered in this morning and will be continued through the next ten days. An exhibition of gardens and orchard products and a course of lectures by horticultural experts have been arranged in connection with the convention this year. The program includes instruction in the propagation of plants by seed, cutting, grafting and spraying; the grading and packing of fruits and the judging of exhibition fruits. The exhibition also will be given to landscape gardening, floriculture and vegetable gardening.

Bovine Tuberculosis. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Utica, N. Y., Dec. 8.—The annual meeting of the New York State Dairyman's association, which began a three days' session in this city today, promises to be the most important in the history of the organization. The meeting will be devoted almost entirely to the consideration of bovine tuberculosis. Prominent among those who are to discuss this subject are Dr. H. L. Russell, dean of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture; R. A. Pearson, state commissioner of agriculture of New York; Dr. Roland G. Freeman, of New York City, and Dr. V. A. Moore of the New York State Veterinary college.

All These Besides Mules. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Trenton, Mo., Dec. 8.—An inspection of the exhibits at the annual show of the Missouri State Poultry association, which opened here today, makes it easy to understand how the poultry raising industry added \$45,000,000 to the wealth of Missouri last year. The exhibition is the largest of its kind ever held in this section and embraces a large display of fancy chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and other varieties of poultry and pet stock.

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