

PRESIDENT TAFT TO APPEAR HERE TO ROOSEVELT POLICIES

Speech of Nation's Executive Outlines Plans for Governing of People of United States Along Lines Drawn by the Retiring President.

Legislation to Prevent Expansion of Greed in Corporations--Larger Army and Navy Necessary to Preserve Peace. Fair Play for Foreigners.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The speech of President Taft, following the inauguration was impressive, straightforward talk on conditions in the United States. The president outlined policies similar to those of his predecessor and declared that he would follow in the footsteps of Mr. Roosevelt. The speech in full follows:

My Fellow Citizens: Any one who takes the oath I have just taken must feel a heavy weight of responsibility. If not, he has no conception of the powers and duties of the office upon which he is about to enter, or he is lacking in a proper sense of the obligation which the oath imposes.

The office of an inaugural address is to give a summary outline of the main policies of the new administration, so far as they can be anticipated. I have had the honor to be one of the advisers of my distinguished predecessor, and as such to hold up his hands in the reforms he has initiated. I should be untrue to myself, to my promise and to the declarations of the party platform upon which I was elected to office, if I did not make the maintenance and enforcement of those reforms a most important feature of my administration. They were directed to the suppression of the lawlessness and abuses of power of the great combinations of capital invested in railroads and in industrial enterprises carrying on interstate commerce. The steps which my predecessor took and the legislation passed on his recommendation have accomplished much, have caused a general feeling of alarm, and have brought about, in the business affected, a much higher regard for existing law.

Relative to the Regulation of the Corporations. To render the reforms lasting, however, and to secure at the same time freedom from alarm on the part of those pursuing proper and progressive business methods, further legislative and executive action is needed. Relief of the railroads from certain restrictions of the anti-trust law have been urged by many. On the other hand, the administration is pledged to legislation looking to a proper federal supervision and restriction of the railroads, and to the issue of bonds and stocks by companies owning and operating interstate commerce railroads.

Then, too, a reorganization of the department of justice, of the bureau of corporations in the department of commerce and labor, and of the interstate commerce commission, looking to effective cooperation of these agencies, is needed to secure the most efficient enforcement of the laws affecting interstate railroads and industrial combinations.

I hope to be able to submit, at the first regular session of the incoming congress, in December next, definite suggestions in the form of bills and amendments to the anti-trust and the interstate commerce law, and the changes required in the respective provisions concerning their enforcement. It is believed that with the changes to be recommended American business can be assured of that measure of stability and certainty in respect to those things that are essential to its life and growth of all business. Such a people must be able to rely upon the methods of combining capital and effort deemed necessary to reach the highest degree of economic efficiency, at the same time differentiating between combinations based upon legitimate economic reasons and those formed with the intent of creating monopolies and artificially controlling prices.

The work of the tariff commission, which is to be organized, is to be a practical one, and it is to be a work of the highest order, and requires all the deliberation possible. Amendments to be proposed are just as necessary in the protection of legitimate business as they are in the protection of the public interest. Properly bear the name of my predecessor.

Revision of the Tariff Matter of Importance. A matter of most pressing importance is the revision of the tariff. In accordance with the promise of the platform upon which I was elected, I have called congress into extra session, to meet on the fifteenth day of March, in order that congress may take prompt action upon a bill revising the Dingley act. This should secure an adequate revenue near as to labor, and to all industries in this country, whether of the farm, mine or factory protection tariff, and the difference between the cost of production abroad and the cost of production here, and have a provision which shall put in force, upon executive determination of certain facts, a higher or maximum tariff against those commodities which are produced in this country, and which are not produced in any other country.

The reciprocal tariff is a matter of such an authoritative way as to lead the business community to count upon it necessarily binds all those branches of business directly affected, and as these are most important, it disturbs the whole business of the country. It is imperative that a tariff bill be drawn in good faith in accordance with promises made before the election, and that it be promptly passed as due consideration will permit. It is not that the tariff is more important than the reforms in respect to anti-trust legislation and interstate commerce regulation, and the revision of the tariff has been determined upon, is more immediate to avoid embarrassment of business, and to secure prompt action in the passage of the tariff bill. It would seem wise to attempt no other legislation at this time, and to concentrate this as a suggestion only, for the course to be taken by congress upon the reciprocal tariff, is wholly within its discretion.

In the making of a tariff bill, the securing of a revenue, and the securing of the business depression which followed from the enactment of the Dingley act, has decreased to such an extent that the present tariff is not only a source of revenue, but it is a source of revenue which will exceed the revenue of the tariff bill. It is imperative that such a tariff bill be drawn, and that it be promptly passed as due consideration will permit. It is not that the tariff is more important than the reforms in respect to anti-trust legislation and interstate commerce regulation, and the revision of the tariff has been determined upon, is more immediate to avoid embarrassment of business, and to secure prompt action in the passage of the tariff bill. It would seem wise to attempt no other legislation at this time, and to concentrate this as a suggestion only, for the course to be taken by congress upon the reciprocal tariff, is wholly within its discretion.

Correct in principle and as certain and easy of collection. Taxation Should Be Made Light as Possible. The obligation on the part of those responsible for the expenditures made to carry on the government, to be as economical as possible, and to make the burden of taxation as light as possible, is plain and should be affirmed in every declaration of government policy. This is especially true when we are faced with a heavy deficit. But when the desire to win the popular approval leads to the cutting off of expenditures really needed to make the government effective, and to enable it to accomplish its proper objects, the result is as much to be condemned as the waste of government funds in unnecessary expenditures. The scope of a modern government in what it can and ought to accomplish for its people has been widened far beyond the principles laid down by the old laissez faire school of political writers, and this widening has met popular approval.

In the department of agriculture, the use of scientific experiments on a large scale, and the spread of information derived from them for the improvement of general agriculture, must go on. The importance of supervising business of great railways, industrial combinations, and the necessary investigation and prosecution of unlawful business methods are another necessary part of government which did not exist half a century ago. The putting into force of laws which shall secure the safety of our resources, so far as they may be within the jurisdiction of the federal government, including the most important work of saving and restoring our forests, and the great improvement of our waterways, are all proper government functions which must involve an expenditure if properly performed. While some of them, like the reclamation of arid lands, are of a nature which, in themselves, others are of such an indirect benefit that this cannot be expected of them. The Panama canal, should be treated like a distinct enterprise, and should be paid for by the proceeds of bonds, the issue of which will distribute its cost among the present and future generations. In accordance with the benefits which have been admitted to the serious consideration of the nation, whether the deepening and control of the Ohio or the great river system, like that of the Ohio or the Mississippi, when definite and practical plans for their improvement have been approved and determined upon, they should not be provided for in the same way.

Army and Navy to Uphold Monroe Doctrine. Then, too, there are expenditures of our government absolutely necessary if our country is to maintain its proper place among the nations of the world, and its independence and its traditional American policy of maintaining a proper balance between the nations of the world. In the promotion of peace and in the maintenance of the moral law, the cost of maintaining a proper army and navy, and suitable fortifications upon the mainland of the United States, are of the highest importance. We should have an army so organized and so officered, as to be capable in the event of emergency of cooperating with the national militia, and under the provisions of a proper national volunteer law, to expand into a force sufficient to resist all direct attack from abroad and to furnish a respectable expeditionary force, if necessary, in the maintenance of our traditional American policy which bears the name of President Monroe.

Our fortifications are yet in a state of only partial completeness, and the number of men to man them is insufficient. In a few years, however, the use of modern armaments, both on the coast defenses, both on the mainland and in the dependencies, will make them sufficient to resist all direct attack, and by that time we may hope that the men to man them will be provided for. The distance between our shores from Europe and Asia of course reduces the necessity for maintaining under arms a great army, but it does not remove the requirement of mere prudence, that we should have an army sufficiently large and so constituted as to form a nucleus out of which a suitable force can quickly grow. What has been said of the army may be affirmed in even a more emphatic way of the navy. A modern navy cannot be improvised. It must be built and it does not require the emergency which calls for its use and operation. My distinguished predecessor has in many speeches and messages set out with great force and striking language the necessity for maintaining a strong navy commensurate with the coast line, the governmental resources and the foreign trade of our nation; and I wish to reiterate all the reasons which he has presented in favor of the policy of maintaining a strong navy as the best conservator of our peace with other

TAFT'S POLICIES OUTLINED

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Stability of American business to be assured. Tariff question calls for extra session of congress and question one of most important that country must solve. Taxation should be made as light as possible and government expenditures curtailed, avoiding all unnecessary expense. Public moneys should be wisely protected but not hoarded.

Favors army and navy sufficiently strong to maintain peace and preserve Monroe doctrine, and admits that he has been acting in an advisory capacity in many of the Roosevelt policies. Pledges regulation of the corporations in the matter of issuance of excessive bonds and mortgages.

Country must observe treaty rights of foreigners. Anti-foreign agitators discouraged. Government should settle all such questions by proper legislation, ineffective to other countries. Congress should pass a postal savings bank bill. Panama canal policies of Roosevelt will be continued. Race prejudice may be eliminated by a fifteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States making educational qualifications necessary to obtain the electoral franchise.

monetary commission lately appointed is giving full consideration to existing conditions and to all proposed remedies, and will doubtless suggest one that will meet the requirements of business and of public interest. We may hope that the report will embody neither the narrow view of those who believe that the sole purpose of the new system should be to secure a large return on banking capital, or of those who would have greater expansion of currency and little regard to provisions for its immediate redemption or ultimate security. The subject of economic discussion so intricate and so full of evoked differing views and dogmatic statements as this one. The commission in its general influence on currency on business and of business investigations in European banking and monetary methods. The information that they have derived from such experts as they have found abroad will undoubtedly be found helpful in the solution of the difficult problem they have in hand.

International Policy Is to Promote Peace. Our international policy is always to promote peace. We shall enter into any war with the full knowledge of its consequences that it always entails, whether successful or not, and we, of course, shall make every effort to maintain the honor and the highest national integrity to avoid a resort to arms. We favor every international arbitration and arbitration treaties made with a view to its use in all international controversies, in order to maintain peace and to avoid war. But we should be blind to existing conditions, and should allow ourselves to become foolish idealists, if we did not realize that the nations of the world are armed and prepared for war, we must be ourselves in a similar condition, in order to protect our rights and our interests and to defend our interests and to defend our rights with a strong hand. In the international controversies that are likely to arise in the orient, growing out of the question of the great dardanelles and other interests intact and can secure respect for her just demands. She will not be able to do so, however, if it is understood that she never will be allowed to back up her assertion of right and her defense of her interest by anything but mere verbal protest and diplomatic maneuvering. For these reasons the expenses of the army and navy and of coast defenses should always be considered as something which the government must pay for, and they should not be cut off through mere consideration of economy. Our government should maintain a suitable army and suitable navy. It may maintain them without the slightest danger to the republic, while the United States can afford to bear the cost of additional taxation ought not to change a proper policy in this regard.

The policy of the United States in the Philippine since, has given it a position of influence among the nations that it never had before, and which has been admitted to the serious consideration of the nation, whether the deepening and control of the Ohio or the great river system, like that of the Ohio or the Mississippi, when definite and practical plans for their improvement have been approved and determined upon, they should not be provided for in the same way.

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admission of Asiatic immigrants who cannot be assimilated into our population has been made the subject either of prohibitory clauses in our treaties and statutes, or of strict administrative action in the case of automatic negotiation. I sincerely hope that we may continue to minimize the evils which arise from such a situation, without unnecessary friction and without respecting governments. Meantime, we have by our grant a treaty right to pursue lawful business here and to be protected against lawless assault or injury. This leads me to point out a serious defect in the present federal jurisdiction which ought to be remedied at once. Having assumed to other countries by treaty the protection of our laws for such of their subjects or citizens as we permit to come within our jurisdiction, we now leave to a state or city, not under the control of the federal government, the duty of performing our international obligations in this respect. By proper legislation we may, and ought to, place in the hands of the federal executive the means of enforcing the treaty rights of such aliens in the courts of the federal government. It puts our government in a position to make the lock type of the canal less feasible than it was supposed to be when the reports were made and the policy determined on, led to a visit to the isthmus of a board of competent engineers to examine the Gatun dam and locks which are the key of the lock type. The report of that board shows that nothing has occurred in the nature of newly revealed evidence which should change the views once formed in the original trade between the construction will go on under a most effective organization controlled by Colonel Goetz and his fellow army engineers associated with him, and will certainly be completed early in the next administration, if not before.

Some type of canal has been constructed. The lock type has been selected. We are all in favor of having it built as promptly as possible. We must not now, therefore, keep up a fire in the rear of the agents whom we have authorized to do our work on the isthmus. We must hold up their hands, and, speaking for the incoming

administration, I wish to say that I propose to devote all the energy possible and under my control, to the pushing of this work on the isthmus. It has been adopted, and to stand behind the men who are doing faithful hard work to bring about the speedy completion of this, the greatest constructive enterprise of modern times.

The governments of our dependencies in the Philippine Islands are not all that we could wish them to be, but with the passage of the new tariff bill permitting free trade between the United States and the archipelago, such limitations in sugar and tobacco as shall prevent injury to the domestic interests of those products, we can count on an improvement in business conditions in the Philippines and the development of a mutually profitable trade between this country and the islands. Meantime our government in each dependency is upholding the fundamental principles of civil liberty and increased popular control which might be expected under American auspices. The work which we are doing there redounds to our credit as a nation.

Look forward with hope to increasing the already good feeling between the south and the other sections of the country. My chief purpose is not to effect a change in the electoral vote of the southern states. That is a secondary consideration. What I look forward to is an increase in the tolerance of political views of all kinds and their advocacy throughout the south, and the existence of a respectable political opposition in every state, even more than this to an increased feeling on the part of all the people in the south that this government is their government, and that its officers in their states are their officers.

The consideration of this question cannot, however, be complete and full without reference to the negro race, its progress and its present condition. The thirteenth amendment secured them freedom; the fourteenth amendment due process of law, protection of property and the pursuit of happiness; and the fifteenth amendment attempted to secure the negro against any deprivation of the privilege to vote, because he was a negro. The thirteenth and four-

teenth amendments have been generally enforced and have secured the objects for which they were intended. While the fifteenth amendment has not been generally observed, and the tendency ought to be observed, and the tendency toward the enactment of electoral qualifications which shall square with that amendment. Of course the adoption of the fifteenth amendment has not been in the right direction. It must be fairly and justly enforced as well. In time both will come. Hence it is clear to all that the domination of an ignorant irresponsible element can be prevented. There is no other matter to which I shall refer. It was made the subject of great controversy during the election, and calls for at least a passing reference now. My distinguished predecessor has given much attention to the cause of labor, with whose struggle for better things he has shown the sincerest sympathy. At his instance, congress has passed the bill fixing the liability of interstate carriers for their employees for injury sustained in the course of employment, abolishing the rule of fellow servant and the common law rule of contributory negligence. It has also passed a law fixing the compensation of government employees for injuries sustained in the employment of the government through the negligence of the servant, and has passed a law for the labor law for the District of Columbia. In previous administrations an arbitration law for interstate commerce railroads and their employees, and laws for the application of safety devices to save interstate carriers and employees of interstate railroads had been passed. Additional legislation of this kind was passed by the outgoing congress.

Another labor question has arisen which has awakened the most excited discussion. That is in respect to the power of the federal courts to issue injunctions to restrain strikes in interstate commerce. The proposition that business is not a property or pecuniary right which can be protected by equitable injunction is utterly without foundation in precedent or reason. The proposition is utterly linked with one to make the secondary boycott lawful. Such a proposition is a cruel injustice growing out of it, and they may well have our profound sympathy in their struggle. They are making a noble sacrifice for the sake of making their path as straight as they can. Any recommendation to the effect of an appointment to office from among their number, is properly taken as an encouragement to a worthy member of their progress—and this just policy should be pursued.

But it may well admit of doubt whether in case of any race an appointment of one to a local office in a community in which the feeling is so widespread and acute as to interfere with the ease and facility with which the local government business can be done by the appointee, is of sufficient benefit by way of encouragement to the race to justify the recurrence and increase of race feeling which such an appointment is likely to engender. The favor of the race in recognizing the negro race by appointments, must exercise a careful judgment as to whether to do it more than harm than good.

Personally I have not the slightest race prejudice or feeling, and recognize the fact that the only way to secure the best results is to have my heart & sympathy for those who have to bear it or suffer from it, and I question the wisdom of a policy



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OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND CABINET.



New photograph of President Roosevelt and his cabinet made at the regular semi-weekly meeting, February 19, 1909. From left to right around table: President Roosevelt, Honorable George B. Cortelyou, secretary of the treasury; Honorable Charles J. Bonaparte, attorney general; Honorable T. H. Newberry, secretary of the navy; Honorable James Wilson, secretary of agriculture; Honorable Oscar Straus, secretary of commerce and labor; Honorable James Garfield, secretary of the interior; Honorable George Von L. Meyer, postmaster general; Honorable Luke E. Wright, secretary of war; Honorable Robert Bacon, secretary of state.

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