

# FROM PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

## Roosevelt's First Message For Congressional Attention

**Publicity is Best Remedy For Unsafe Combines—Exclude Chinese and Guard All Immigration—Develop Our Islands and Let Cuba Come to Stand Alone—Increase the Navy, Improve the Army and Remain the World's Leading Nation**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—President Roosevelt's message to Congress follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives: (Read.)

The Congress assembled this year under the shadow of a great calamity. On the 6th of September, President McKinley was shot by an anarchist while attending the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, and died in that city on the 14th of that month.

**Grief of the People.** The shock, the grief of the country are bitter in the minds of all who saw the dark days while the President yet hovered between life and death.

It has been the man to the Nation who has done so much to benefit our people, and whose death has caused our deepest grief and our most earnest desire for his return. His death was a profound misfortune, and it has been the cause of the deepest grief and our most earnest desire for his return. His death was a profound misfortune, and it has been the cause of the deepest grief and our most earnest desire for his return.

**The Anarchist is a Malefactor.** The Federal Courts should be given jurisdiction over any man who kills or attempts to kill the President of any man who, by the constitution of the law, is in line of succession for the Presidency, while the punishment for an unprovoked attempt should be proportioned to the enormity of the offense against our institutions.

**Better Immigration Laws Needed.** Our present immigration laws are unworkable. Every year a large number of persons enter our country as immigrants, and it is our duty to see that they are not a burden upon our people. We should have a more intelligent and more effective system of immigration.

**Value of the Forests.** Public opinion throughout the United States has moved steadily toward a just appreciation of the value of forests, whether planted or of natural growth. The forests are the lungs of the Nation, and their preservation is essential to the health and well-being of our people.

**Protection of Reserves.** At present the protection of the forest reserves rests with the General Land Office, the mapping and description of their timber, and the preparation of plans for their conservative use with the Bureau of Forestry. It is our duty to see that these reserves are properly protected and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Forests Are Reservoirs.** The forests are natural reservoirs. By retaining the streams in flood and regulating the flow, they prevent the soil from washing away and the water from being lost. They are the life-giving arteries of the Nation, and their preservation is essential to the health and well-being of our people.

**Reclaiming Arid Lands.** The reclamation and settlement of the arid lands will enrich every portion of our country. It is our duty to see that these lands are properly reclaimed and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Condition of the Merchant Marine.** The condition of the American merchant marine is such as to call for immediate remedial action by the Congress. It is our duty to see that the merchant marine is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Financial Matters.** The act of March 14, 1909, intended unequivocally to establish gold as the standard money and to maintain at a parity therewith all forms of the money medium in use with us. It is our duty to see that this act is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Regulation of Corporations.** There is a widespread conviction in the minds of the American people that the great corporations known as trusts are in certain respects a menace to the general welfare. It is our duty to see that these corporations are properly regulated and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Surplus in the Treasury.** The collections from duties on imports and internal taxes continue to exceed the ordinary expenditures of the Government, and it is our duty to see that this surplus is properly used and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Extension of Irrigation.** Whatever the Nation does for the extension of irrigation should harmonize with, and tend to improve, the condition of the living on irrigated land. It is our duty to see that this extension is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

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## REVIEW OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

- Preserve forests.
- Increase the navy.
- Exclude the Chinese.
- Enforce eight hour laws.
- Build Pacific cable at once.
- Build the Nicaragua canal.
- Extend and foster reciprocity.
- Eulogy of President McKinley.
- Keep out uneducated foreigners.
- Advise no change in tariff laws.
- Government irrigation of arid lands.
- Sweeping condemnation of anarchy.
- Labor unions are wise and necessary.
- Remember the nation's soldiers in all wars.
- Insist upon merit system in civil service.
- Improve, but not greatly enlarge, the army.
- Publicity in dealing with combines of every form.
- Develop new islands on traditional American lines.
- Abandon treating Indians as tribes, and deal with them as individuals.
- Develop merchant marine and carry American goods in American vessels.

be just to and upon all shippers alike. The Government should see to it that within its jurisdiction this is so, and should provide a speedy, inexpensive and effective remedy to that end.

**Department of Agriculture.** The Department of Agriculture, during the past few years, has steadily broadened its work on economic lines and has accomplished results of real value in upbuilding domestic and foreign trade. It has gone into new fields which it is now in touch with all sections of our country and with all the nations of the world.

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struction of irrigation works, and many million acres of arid land reclaimed. A high degree of enterprise and ability has been shown in the work done, but it cannot be said in reference to the laws relating thereto. The security and value of the bonded investment depend largely on the stability of the Government. It is our duty to see that this stability is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Nation's Aid Justified.** The Nation's aid has followed the unaided development of the past. It is our duty to see that this aid is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**INSULAR MATTERS.** In Hawaii our aim must be to develop the territory on the traditional American lines. We do not wish a region of large estates filled by cheap labor; we wish a healthy American community of small farmers and stock raisers.

**What Must Be Done to Develop Hawaii.** In Hawaii our aim must be to develop the territory on the traditional American lines. We do not wish a region of large estates filled by cheap labor; we wish a healthy American community of small farmers and stock raisers.

**Porto Rico.** It is a pleasure to say that it is hardly more necessary to report as to Porto Rico than as to any state or territory within our continental limits. The island is being developed on the traditional American lines.

**The Philippines.** In the Philippines our problem is larger. They are very rich tropical islands, containing many different stages of progress toward civilization. Our earnest effort is to help these people upward along the stony and difficult path that leads to self-government.

**Troubles Still Ahead.** There are still troubles ahead in the Philippines. It is our duty to see that these troubles are properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Additional Legislation Needed.** The time has come when there should be additional legislation for the Philippines. It is our duty to see that this legislation is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Pacific Cable.** I call your attention most earnestly to the crying need of a cable to Hawaii and the Philippines, to be continued from the Philippines to points in Asia. We should have a direct line of communication between the East and the West.

**Nicaragua Canal.** The reclamation and settlement of the arid lands will enrich every portion of our country. It is our duty to see that these lands are properly reclaimed and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Work of the Greatest Importance to the American People.** No single great material work which is to be undertaken in this country is of such consequence to the American people as the building of a canal across the isthmus connecting North and South America. Its importance to the Nation is by no means limited merely to its material effects upon our business property; and yet with view to these effects alone it would be to the last degree important for us immediately to begin it.

**Monroe Doctrine.** The Monroe Doctrine should be the cardinal feature of the foreign policy of all the nations of the two Americas, as it is of the United States. Just 75 years have passed since President Monroe in his annual message announced that the American continents are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power.

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was intended as hostile to any nation in the Old World. It is our duty to see that this intention is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**NAVY DEPARTMENT.** Work of Upbuilding It Must Be Steadily Continued. The work of upbuilding the Navy must be steadily continued. No one point of our policy, foreign or domestic, is more important than this to the honor and independence of our Nation in the future.

**Should Be No Cessation.** There should be no cessation in the work of upbuilding the Navy. No far-reaching plan has been wholly unable to develop a navy which will be able to protect our commerce and our people.

**The Naval Militia.** The naval militia forces are state organizations, and are trained for service in war, and in event of war they will constitute the main body of our defense.

**WAR DEPARTMENT.** Army is Large Enough at Present Time. It is not necessary to increase our Army beyond its present size at this time. It is our duty to see that this size is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Field Exercises.** Our Army is so small and so much scattered that it is very difficult to give the higher officers as well as the lower officers and the enlisted men a chance to practice their arms in mass and in a comparatively large scale.

**Reorganizing the Army.** Much good has already come from the reorganizing of the Army, passed early in the present year. The three prime reforms, all of them of literally incalculable value, are: first, the substitution of four-year details from the line for permanent appointments in the so-called staff divisions; second, the establishment of a corps of artillery with a chief at the head; third, the establishment of a maximum and minimum limit for the Army.

**Volunteer Forces.** Action should be taken in reference to the militia and to the raising of volunteer forces. Our militia law is obsolete and worthless. The organization and armament of the National Guard of the several States, which are treated as militia in the appropriations by the Congress, should be made identical with those provided for the regular forces.

**Chinese Situation.** Owing to the rapid growth of our power and our interests on the Pacific, whatever happens in China will be of the keenest National concern to us. The general terms of the settlement of the questions growing out of the anti-foreign uprisings in China of 1900, having been for the most part addressed to China by the representatives of the injured powers in December last, were promptly accepted by the Chinese Government.

**Permanent Census Bureau.** For the sake of good administration, sound economy and the advancement of science, the Census Office, as now constituted, should be made a permanent Government bureau. This would insure better, cheaper and more satisfactory work, in the interest not only of our business, but of statistic, economic and social science.

**Library of Congress.** Perhaps the most characteristic educational movement of the past 50 years is that which has created the modern public library and developed it into broad and active service. There are now over 5000 public libraries in the United States, the product of this period.

**Postal Service.** The remarkable growth of the postal service is shown in the fact that its revenues have nearly doubled within 12 years. Its progress, however, is not a constant and increasing outlay, but in this period of business energy and prosperity its receipts grow so much faster than its expenses that the annual deficit has been steadily reduced from \$1,411,773 in 1897 to \$222,727 in 1909.

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## Debt Due to the Veterans Who Saved the Union.

No other citizens deserve so well of the Republic as the veterans, the survivors of those who saved the Union. They are the ones who have done the most for our country, and it is our duty to see that they are properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Civil Service.** I recommend the passage of a law which will extend the classified service to the District of Columbia, or will at least extend it to the District of Columbia. It is our duty to see that this law is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Consular Service.** The consular service is now organized under the provisions of a law passed in 1856, which is entirely inadequate to existing conditions. It is our duty to see that this service is properly maintained and that the public interest is always maintained.

**Treatment of Indians.** In my judgment the time has arrived when we should do our best to make up our minds to recognize the Indians as individuals and not as a member of a tribe. The general allotment act is a mighty pulverizing engine to break up the tribal mass. It is our duty to see that this act is properly maintained and that