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MESSAGE IN BRIEF

Important Points of President's Communication to Congress

The main points brought out by the president in his annual message to congress, delivered December 4, follow:

I again recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party. Such a bill has already passed one house of congress. Let individuals contribute as they desire; but let us prohibit in effective fashion all corporations from making contributions for any political purpose, directly or indirectly.

Another bill which has just passed one house of congress and which it is urgently necessary should be enacted into law is that conferring upon the government the right of appeal in criminal cases on questions of law. This right exists in many of the states; it exists in the District of Columbia by act of the congress. It is of course not proposed that in any case a verdict for the defendant on the merits should be set aside. A failure to pass it will result in seriously hampering the government in its effort to obtain justice, especially against wealthy individuals or corporations who do wrong; and may also prevent the government from obtaining justice for wage-workers who are not themselves able effectively to contest a case where the judgment of an inferior court has been against them.

In connection with this matter I would like to call attention to the very unsatisfactory state of our criminal law, resulting in large part from the habit of setting aside the judgments of inferior courts on technicalities absolutely unconnected with the merits of the case, and where there is no attempt to show that there has been any failure of substantial justice.

In my last message I suggested the enactment of a law in connection with the issuance of injunctions, attention having been sharply drawn to the matter by the demand that the right of applying injunctions in labor cases should be wholly abolished. It is at least doubtful whether a law abolishing altogether the use of the injunctions in such cases would stand the test of the courts; in which case of course the legislation would be ineffective. Moreover, I believe it would be wrong altogether to prohibit the use of injunctions. But so far as possible the abuse of the power should be provided against by some such law as I advocated last year.

Lawlessness grows by what it feeds upon; and when mobs begin to lynch for rape they speedily extend the sphere of their operations and lynch for many other kinds of crimes, so that two-thirds of the lynchings are not for rape at all; while a considerable proportion of the individuals lynched are innocent of all crime. In my judgment, the crime of rape should always be punished with death, as in the case with murder; assault with intent to commit rape should be made a capital crime, at least in the discretion of the court; and provision should be made by which the punishment may follow immediately upon the heels of the offense; while the trial should be so conducted that the victim need not be wantonly shamed while giving testimony, and that the least possible publicity shall be given to the details.

I call your attention to the need of passing the bill limiting the number of hours of employment of railroad employes. The measure is a very moderate one and I can conceive of no serious objection to it. Indeed, so far as it is in our power, it should be our aim steadily to reduce the number of hours of labor, with as a goal the general introduction of an eight-hour day.

The horrors incident to the employment of young children in factories or at work anywhere are a blot on our civilization. It is true that each state must ultimately settle the question in its own way; but a thorough official investigation of the matter, with the results published broadcast, would greatly help toward arousing the public conscience and securing unity of state action in the matter.

Among the excellent laws which the congress passed at the last session was an employers' liability law. It was a marked step in advance to get the recognition of employers' liability on the statute books; but the law did not go far enough. In spite of all precautions exercised by employers there are unavoidable accidents and even deaths involved in nearly every line of business connected with the mechanic arts. If the entire trade risk is placed upon the employer he will promptly and properly add it to the legitimate cost of production and assess it proportionately upon the consumers of his commodity. It is therefore clear to my mind that the law should place this entire "risk of a trade" upon the employer. Neither the federal law nor, as far as I am informed, the state laws dealing with the question of employers' liability are sufficiently thoroughgoing. The federal law should of course include employes in navy-yards, arsenals and the like.

It is not wise that the nation should alienate its remaining coal lands. I have temporarily withdrawn from settlement all the lands which the geological survey has indicated as containing, or in all probability containing coal. The question, however, can be properly settled only by legislation, which in my judgment should provide for the withdrawal of these lands from sale or from entry, save in certain especial circumstances. The ownership would then remain in the United States, which should not, however, attempt to work them, but permit them to be worked by private individuals under a royalty system, the government keeping such control as to permit it to see that no excessive price was charged consumers. It would, of course, be as necessary to supervise the rates charged by the common carriers to transport the product as the rates charged by those who mine it; and the supervision must extend to the conduct of the common carriers, so that they shall in no way favor one competitor at the expense of another. The withdrawal of these coal lands would constitute a policy analogous to that which has been followed in withdrawing the forest lands from ordinary settlement. The coal, like the forests, should be treated as the property of the public, and its disposal should be under conditions which would inure to the benefit of the public as a whole.

The passage of the railway rate bill, and only to a less degree the passage of the pure-food bill, and the provision for increasing and rendering more effective the national control over the beef-packing industry, mark an important advance in the proper direction. In my judgment it will in the end be advisable in connection with the packing-house inspection law to provide for putting a date on the label and for charging the cost of inspection to the packers.

The question of taxation is difficult in any country, but it is especially difficult in ours, with its Federal system of government. Some taxes should on every ground be levied in a small district for use in that district. Thus the taxation of real estate is peculiarly one for the immediate locality in which the real estate is found. But there are many kinds of taxes which can only be levied by the general government so as to produce the best results, because, among other reasons, the attempt to impose them in one particular state too often results merely in driving the corporation or individual affected to some other locality or other state. The national government has long derived its chief revenue from a tariff on imports and from an internal or excise tax. In addition to these there is every reason why, when next our system of taxation is revised, the national government should impose a graduated inheritance tax, and, if possible, a graduated income tax.

The industrial and agricultural classes must work together, capitalists and wageworkers must work together, if the best work of which the country is capable is to be done. It is probable that a thoroughly efficient system of education comes next to the influence of patriotism in bringing about national success of this kind. Our federal form of government, so fruitful of advantage to our people in certain ways, in other ways undoubtedly limits our national effectiveness. It is not possible, for instance, for the national government to take the lead in technical industrial education, to see that the public school system of this country develops on all its technical, industrial, scientific and commercial sides. This must be left primarily to the several states, effort is to give the governmental assistance in the most effective way; that is, through associations of farmers rather than to or through individual farmers. It is also striving to coordinate its work with the agricultural departments of the several states, and so far as its own work is educational, to co-ordinate it with the work of other educational authorities.

Great progress has already been made among farmers by the creation of farmers' institutes, of dairy associations, of breeders' associations, horticultural associations and the like. The department can and will co-operate with all such associations, and it must have their help if its own work is to be done in the most efficient style.

Much is now being done for the states of the Rocky mountains and the great plains through the development of the national policy of irrigation and forest preservation; no government policy for the betterment of our internal conditions has been more fruitful of good than this. The forests of the White mountains and Southern Appalachian regions should also be preserved; and they can not be unless the people of the states in which they lie, through their representatives in the congress, secure vigorous action by the national government.

I am well aware of how difficult it is to pass a constitutional amendment. Nevertheless, in my judgment the whole question of marriage and divorce should be relegated to the authority of the national congress. At present the wide differences in the laws of the different states on this subject result in scandals and abuses; and surely there is nothing so vitally essential to the welfare of the nation, nothing around which the nation should so bend itself to throw every safeguard, as the home life of the average citizen. The change would be good from every standpoint. In particular it would be good because it would confer on the congress the power at once to deal radically and efficiently with polygamy; and this should be done whether or not marriage and divorce are dealt with. It is neither safe nor proper to leave the question of polygamy to be dealt with by the several states. Power to deal with it should be conferred on the national government.

Let me once again call the attention of the congress to two subjects concerning which I have frequently before communicated with them. One is the question of developing American shipping. I trust that a law embodying in substance the views, or a major part of the views, expressed in the report on this subject laid before the house at its last session will be passed. I am well aware that in former years objectionable measures have been proposed in reference to the encouragement of American shipping; but it seems to me that the proposed measure is as nearly unobjectionable as any can be.

I especially call your attention to the second subject, the condition of our currency laws. The national bank act has ably served a great purpose in aiding the enormous business development of the country, and within ten years there has been an increase in circulation per capita from $21.41 to $33.08. For several years evidence has been accumulating that additional legislation is needed. The recurrence of each crop season emphasizes the defects of the present laws.

I do not press any especial plan. Various plans have recently been proposed by expert committees of bankers.

I most earnestly hope that the bill to provide a lower tariff for or else absolute free trade in Philippine products will become a law. No harm will come to any American industry; and while there will be some small but real material benefit to the Filipinos, the main benefit will come by the showing made as to our purpose to do all in our power for their welfare. So far our action in the Philippines has been abundantly justified, not mainly and indeed not primarily because of the added dignity it has given us as a nation by proving that we are capable honestly and efficiently to bear the international burdens which a mighty people should bear, but even more because of the immense benefit that has come to the people of the Philippine Islands.

American citizenship should be conferred on the citizens of Porto Rico. The harbor of San Juan in Porto Rico should be dredged and improved. The expense of the federal court of Porto Rico should be met from the federal treasury. The administration of the affairs of Porto Rico, together with those of the Philippines, Hawaii and our other insular possessions, should all be directed under one executive department; by preference, the department of state or the department of war.

The needs of Hawaii are peculiar; every aid should be given the islands; and our efforts should be unceasing to develop them along the lines of a community of small freeholders, not of great planters with coolie-tilled estates. Situated as this territory is, in the middle of the Pacific, there are duties imposed upon this small community which do not fall in like degree or manner upon any other American community. This warrants our treating it differently from the way in which we treat territories contiguous to or surrounded by sister territories or other states, and justifies the setting aside of a portion of our revenues to be expended for educational and internal improvements therein.

Alaska's needs have been partially met, but there must be a complete reorganization of the governmental system, as I have before indicated to you. I ask your especial attention to this. Our fellow citizens who dwell on the shores of Puget sound with characteristic energy are arranging to hold in Seattle the Alaska Yukon Pacific exposition. Its special aims include the upbuilding of Alaska and the development of American commerce on the Pacific ocean. This exposition, in its purposes and scope, should appeal not only to the people of the Pacific slope, but to the people of the United States at large. Alaska since it was bought has yielded to the government $11,000,000 of revenue, and has produced nearly $300,000,000 in gold, furs and fish. When properly developed it will become in large degree a land of homes. The countries bordering the Pacific ocean have a population more numerous than that of all the countries of Europe; their annual foreign commerce amounts to over $2,000,000,000, of which the share of the United States is some $700,000,000. If this trade were thoroughly understood and pushed by our manufacturers and producers, the industries not only of the Pacific slope, but of all our country, and particularly of our cotton-growing states, would be greatly benefited. Of course, in order to get these benefits, we must treat fairly the countries with which we trade.

Especially do we need to remember our duty to the stranger within our gates. It is the sure mark of a low civilization, a low morality, to abuse or discriminate against or in any way humiliate such stranger who has come here lawfully and who is conducting himself properly. To remember this is incumbent on every American citizen, and it is of course peculiarly incumbent on every government official, whether of the nation or of the several states.

I am prompted to say this by the attitude of hostility here and there assumed toward the Japanese in this country. This hostility is sporadic and is limited to a very few places. Nevertheless, it is most discreditable to us as a people, and it may be fraught with the gravest consequences to the nation. To no other country has there been such an increasing number of visitors from this land as to Japan. In return, Japanese have come here in great numbers. They are welcome, socially and intellectually, in all our colleges and institutions of higher learning, in all our professional and social bodies. The overwhelming mass of our people cherish a lively regard and respect for the people of Japan, and in almost every quarter of the union the stranger from Japan is treated as he deserves; that is, he is treated as the stranger from any part of civilized Europe is and deserves to be treated. But here and there a most unworthy feeling has manifested itself toward the Japanese—the feeling that has been shown in shutting them out from the common schools in San Francisco, and in mutterings against them in one or two other places, because of their efficiency as workers. To shut them out from the public schools is a wicked absurdity, when there are no first-class colleges in the land, including the universities and colleges of California, which do not gladly welcome Japanese students and on which Japanese students do not reflect credit. I ask fair treatment for the Japanese as I would ask fair treatment for Germans or Englishmen, Frenchmen, Russians, or Italians. I ask it as due to humanity and civilization. I ask it as due to ourselves because we must act uprightly toward all men.

Last August an insurrection broke out in Cuba which it speedily grew evident that the existing Cuban government was powerless to quell. This government was repeatedly asked if boys and girls are trained merely in literary accomplishments, to the total exclusion of industrial, manual and technical training, the tendency is to unfit them for industrial work and to make them reluctant to go into it, or unfitted to do well if they do go into it. This is a tendency which should be strenuously combated. Our industrial development depends largely upon technical education, including in this term all industrial education, from that which fits a man to be a good mechanic, a good carpenter, or blacksmith, to that which fits a man to do the greatest engineering feat. The skilled mechanic, the skilled workman, can best become such by technical industrial education.

The department of agriculture has broken new ground in many directions, and year by year it finds how it can improve its methods and develop fresh usefulness. Its constant by the then Cuban government to intervene, and finally was notified by the president of Cuba that he intended to resign; that none of the other constitutional officers would consent to carry on the government, and that he was powerless to maintain order. It was evident that chaos was impending. Thanks to the preparedness of our navy, I was able immediately to send enough ships to Cuba to prevent the situation from becoming hopeless.

In accordance with the so-called Platt amendment, which was embodied in the constitution of Cuba, I proclaimed a provisional government for the island, the secretary of war acting as provisional governor until he could be replaced by Mr. Magoon; troops were sent to support them and to relieve the navy, the expedition being handled with most satisfactory speed and efficiency. The provisional government has left the personnel of the old government and the old laws, so far as might be, unchanged, and will thus administer the island for a few months until tranquility can be restored, a new election properly held, and a new government inaugurated. Peace has come in the island; and the harvesting of the sugar-cane crop, the great crop of the island, is about to proceed.

The United States wishes nothing of Cuba except that it shall prosper morally and materially, and wishes nothing of the Cubans save that they shall be able to preserve order among themselves and therefore to preserve their independence. If the elections become a farce, and if the insurrectionary habit becomes confirmed in the island, it is absolutely out of the question that the island should continue independent; and the United States, which has assumed the sponsorship before the civilized world for Cuba's career as a nation, would again have to intervene and to see that the government was managed in such orderly fashion as to secure the safety of life and property.

In many parts of South America there has been much misunderstanding of the attitude and purposes of the United States toward the other American republics. An idea had become prevalent that our assertion of the Monroe doctrine implied or carried with it an assumption of superiority and of a right to exercise some kind of protectorate over the countries to whose territory that doctrine applies. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Yet that impression continued to be a serious barrier to good understanding, to friendly intercourse, to the introduction of American capital and the extension of American trade. The impression was so widespread that apparently it could not be reached by any ordinary means.

It was part of Secretary Root's mission to dispel this unfounded impression, and there is just cause to believe that he has succeeded.

I have just returned from a trip to Panama and shall report to you at length later on the whole subject of the Panama canal.

The destruction of the Pribilof islands for seals by pelagic sealing still continues. The regulations have proved plainly inadequate to accomplish the object of protection and preservation of the fur seals, and for a long time this government has been trying in vain to secure from Great Britain such revision and modification of the regulations as were contemplated and provided for by the award of the Tribunal of Paris.

The process of destruction has been accelerated during recent years by the appearance of a number of Japanese vessels engaged in pelagic sealing. As these vessels have not been bound even by the inadequate limitations prescribed by the Tribunal of Paris, they have paid no attention either to the close season or to the sixty-mile limit imposed upon the Canadians, and have prosecuted their work up to the very islands themselves.

We have not relaxed our efforts to secure an agreement with Great Britain for adequate protection of the seal herd, and negotiations with Japan for the same purpose are in progress.

In case we are compelled to abandon the hope of making arrangements with other governments to put an end to the hideous cruelty now incident to pelagic sealing, it will be a question for your serious consideration how far we should continue to protect and maintain the seal herd on land with the result of continuing such a practice, and whether it is not better to end the practice by exterminating the herd ourselves in the most humane way possible.

The United States navy is the surest guarantor of peace which this country possesses. It is earnestly to be wished that we would profit by the teachings of history in this matter. A strong and wise people will study its own failures no less than its triumphs, for there is wisdom to be learned from the study of both, of the mistake as well as of the success.

I do not ask that we continue to increase our navy. I ask merely that it be maintained at its present strength; and this can be done only if we replace the obsolete and outworn ships by new and good ones, the equals of any afloat in any navy. To stop building ships for one year means that for that year the navy goes back instead of forward. The old battleship Texas, for instance, would now be of little service in a stand-up fight with a powerful adversary. The old double-turret monitors have outworn their usefulness, while it was a waste of money to build the modern single-turret monitors. All these ships should be replaced by others; and this can be done by a well-settled program of providing for the building each year of at least one first-class battleship equal in size and speed to any that any nation is at the same time building.

School teachers of San Francisco have formed a union.

New York bank reserves are far below the legal limit.

Harriman plans to secure control of Chicago's electrical appliances.

The St. Paul railroad has made official announcement of its route to the Pacific coast.

Bellamy Storer has written an angry letter to President Roosevelt about his dismissal as ambassador to Austria.

Many rich men of San Francisco are coming to the front with money to help Mayor Schmitz out of his troubles.

Ex-Senator Brown, of Utah, has been shot and seriously wounded at Washington by a woman he wronged and refused to marry.

Conditions are being slowly improved at Clifton, Ariz., one of the towns recently flooded. Searchers have just recovered six bodies from the mud.

Attorney General Moody's work against the trusts have resulted in fines of over $400,000 being imposed and many cases are still pending. He says the passage of a bill against immunity is needed.

Dr. Lapponi, physician to the pope, is dead.

The czar recently granted Witte a three-hours' audience.

Secretary Metcalf proposes a national license to corporations.

Opening of bids for Panama canal work has been postponed.

Hughes may be supported by Roosevelt for senator from New York.

The president and all officials deny that a new treaty with Japan is being considered.

Labor is so scarce in Germany that farmers are talking seriously of importing Chinese coolies.

The attorney general of Texas has produced proof that Senator Bailey was hired by the oil trust.

Many of the losers in the San Francisco fire and earthquake are receiving their money and present indications are that 80 per cent of the losses will be paid.

The house committee on appropriations has given Roosevelt's simplified spelling a slap by ordering all government printing to be spelled according to Webster.

The National Rivers and Harbors congress has asked the president to work with them to secure an annual appropriation of $50,000,000 for the rivers and harbors of the United States.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

CONGRESS RESUMES.

Short Meeting of Fifty-Ninth Session at Work.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The 59th congress began its last session at noon yesterday. It took the senate 15 minutes to arrange its preliminaries and the house an hour. The senate received from President Roosevelt a long list of appointments for its confirmation, and in executive session of 19 minutes decided, as the nominations had been received before the body had been organized formally, to make no confirmations until the president's annual message had been received and the session fairly started.

Senators Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and Foraker, of Ohio, came forward with resolutions of inquiry regarding the discharge of the negro troops of the Twenty-fifth infantry. One was addressed to the president and the other to the secretary of war. After the ripple of surprise had passed and Vice President Fairbanks had suggested that it was unusual to transact any business until the president's message had been received, the resolutions went over by unanimous consent. Senator Dupont, of Delaware, took the oath of office.

The opening of the two houses was witnessed by an animated throng, which filled the gallaries to their capacity. Hundreds went away disappointed in not gaining admission to witness the session of either senate or house.

Not in years have a larger number of members-elect of the lower house of congress presented themselves at the speaker's desk to take the oath of office. Death has been unusually active among the membership during the closing days of the last session and the beginning of the present, and Chaplain Couden feelingly called the attention of the body to the work of the grim reaper during the months since adjournment.

After the appointment of the usual committee to wait upon the president and inform him that the house was organized and ready to receive any communication he might desire to make of interest to the public service, the house adjourned out of respect to the memory of the deceased members. The president's message will be received both in the house and senate today. No bills were introduced in the senate. In the house three were 38 public measures and 350 of a private character.

Work of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The reading of the president's message consumed two hours and 25 minutes in the house today and was followed closely by a large number of members, while the crowded galleries gave close attention.

After the customary resolution relating to the printing of the message, the house, at 2:53, adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 4. — President Roosevelt's annual message to congress occupied the attention of the senate for two and one-half hours today, to the exclusion of nearly all other business. The exception to this was the introduction of a resolution on the Japanese situation by Raynor, of Maryland, and the adoption of appropriate resolutions regarding those members of the house of representatives who have died since the last session. As a mark of further respect to their memories, adjournment was taken at 2:54 o'clock.

Wednesday, December 5.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The brief session of the senate today resulted in the introduction of many bills, resolutions, petitions and memorials, and the receipt of a number of communications from the executive department. Senator Foraker's insistence that immediate action be taken on the pending resolutions asking for information regarding the discharge of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry developed discussion, but resulted in postponing action until tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The house today, awaiting the report of the appropriation bills, began its legislative grind by passing three measures:

Incorporating the National German-American alliance; authorizing the secretary of the treasury to duplicate gold certificates in lieu of ones lost or destroyed; and amending the national banking laws, permitting national banking associations to make loans on real estate as security and limiting the amount of such loans.

Worse Treated in Mexico.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 4.—A dispatch to the Express from Eagle Pass, Tex., says: Three hundred Japanese have entered the United States from Mexico through Eagle Pass since November 1. They are leaving Mexico because of ill treatment which they received at the hands of Mexican employers. The Japanese say they were lured into Mexico with promises of good pay and pleasant work on farms. So inviting were the promises that Japanese immigration societies worked to get Japanese for agricultural work.

Utah Coal Land Withdrawn.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 4.—The Utah state land board has received notice from the general land office at Washington of the withdrawal from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws of 184,21 acres of land in Utah. This land had been selected by the Utah land board for transfer to private parties as argicultural land, but it is now withdrawn by the government on the advice of experts, who pronounce it coal land.

Thursday, December 6.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The senate today adopted the Penrose resolution asking the president for information regarding the discharge of the negro troops of the Twenty-fifth infantry, and also the Foraker resolution directing the secretary of War to transmit information on the same subject.

Senator Beveridge introduced a bill today to amend the meat inspection act by requiring that the cost of inspection shall be paid by the packers. Another amendment requires that the date of inspection and packing or canning shall be placed on each package.

Washington, Dec. 64. — The house by a vote of 110 to 164 today defeated the bill of Littlefield of Maine removing discriminations against American sailing vessels in the coasting trade. The debate raged for four hours and a half and the result of the vote was a surprise to the friends of the measure, who openly charged its defeat to the American Federation of Labor.

Friday, December 7.

Washington, Dec. 7. — By a practically unanimous vote the house today passed the bill limiting the regulation of interstate commerce between the several states in articles manufactured by convict labor or in any prison or reformatory. The bill was introduced by Hunt, of Missouri, a practical stone mason. Under the Wilson bill, which became a law in 1890, convict labor-made goods may enter into active competition with the goods manufactured by "free labor" and under this Federal law a state could not pass a law that would prevent the shipping into the state of prison-made goods of other states.

The sovereignity of the state was the subject of earnest debate in the house today, growing out of the consideration of a bill to establish a game preserve of nearly 700,000 acres in the Olympia forest reserve in the state of Washington. The bill was passed without division.

READY FOR WAR.

Our Army and Navy Prepared if Japan Wants to Fight.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Nothing which has been said in the whole range of comment on the possibility of war between the United States and Japan has surprised certain Washington officials so much as the seeming unanimity of opinion in the country that we are utterly unprepared for a fight with the Orientals.

There is a prayerful hope that no war will come, but, if it should come, the strong probabilities are that the pessimists, and they seem to abound in every section of the land, will find that they have looked upon the prospect with blue glasses.

Congressmen have come into Washintgon from every district and all of them seem burdened with the belief that, if trouble comes with Japan over the California school question—which is a minor matter—or over the enactment of a Japanese exclusion law—which is a major matter—the Philippines will be lost to us, temporarily at least, within a month.

The Japanese will not take the Philippines, or, if they do, they will be successful in an exploit that will bring them such honors of war as few people.

FRANTIC APPEAL FOR COAL.

Spokane Dealers Hear From Entire Inland Empire.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 7. — Stimulated by the heavy fall of snow throughout the Big Bend, Palouse, Walla Walla and Coeur d'Alene counties last night, local coal dealers were today flooded with frantic appeals from Lewiston, Colfax, Davenport, Pullman, Wallace and other cities for coal.

In response to this demand six wholesale coal dealers, who supply the entire territory affected, issued a signed statement declaring they had coal here in sufficient quantity to supply the entire Inland Empire, but that the O. R. & N. and Northern Pacific railways were refusing or were unable to furnish cars with which to deliver the coal. They criticised the railway for placing them in a false light by advertising reduced rates on fuel and announced their intention of appealing to the Railway commission for an investigation.

Must Appear in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The clerk of the United States Circuit court today received notification from the United States marshal's office in New York that service had been ordered on John D. Rockefeller and others in the government suit against the Standard Oil company recently filed in St. Louis. In addition to Rockefeller, the following joint defendants with him were served: Henry H. Rogers, William Rockefeller, John D. Archbold, H. M. Flagler and Oliver H. Payne. They will be required to enter an appearance here.

Lesson to Free-Traders.

London, Dec. 7.—The Daily Mail comments this morning upon the "Tale of American Prosperity" told in Secretary of the Treasury Shaw's report. It says the striking fact about this dazzling prosperity is that it prevails in a country which British free traders, 15 years ago, predicted would be ruined by protection. The Daily Mail regards Mr. Shaw's currency proposals as a bold statement, not feasible except for the $60,000,000 duties collected.

PROBE HILL ROADS.

"Empire Builder" is Next Candidate for Commission Griddle.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the operations and management of the railroads controlled by James J. Hill and associates, including the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is in contemplation by the Interstate Commerce commission. After certain preliminaries have been arranged and counsel for the commission selected, formal announcement of the proposed inquiry will be made.

As in the case of the proposed investigation of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads of the Harriman system, the inquiry is not the outgrowth of any specific complaints of violations of the interstate commerce law, but it is to be undertaken by virtue of the general inquisitorial powers conferred upon the commission by congress.

The inquiry will be broad and comprehensive, with a view to ascertaining the exact condition of affairs regarding the railroad's compliance with the interstate commerce act. A member of the commission, in speaking of the proposed inquiry, said:

"Although there has been outward compliance with the decree of the Supreme court in dissolving the Northern Securities company, yet there has been no difference in the rates given upon the united system."

WOULD WELCOME CITIZENSHIP.

Viscount Aoki Says Japanese Are Eager for Naturalization.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Favorable action by congress on the recommendation of the president in his last annual message that an act be passed specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese who come to the United States intending to become American citizens, will go far toward securing a continuance of the traditional friendly relations between this country and Japan, is the opinion of Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador.

"Of course," said Viscount Aoki, today, "no nation likes to see its subjects leave to take up a permanent abode in a foreign land and lose all relation with the fatherland, but in many cases it cannot be helped."

The ambassador expressed the belief that there were not so many Japanese in this country to take advantage of naturalization if it were granted, but he thought that such an opportunity should be afforded them along with the citizens of other countries. He said he did not think it probable that those Japanese who were emigrating in large number to Hawaii and the Pacific coast would avail themselves of naturalization, because of the fact that they represented the poorer classes, and most of them ultimately returned to Japan. Viscount Aoki said he had every confidence in the outcome of the test case which will be brought in the California courts.

FIX LUMBER PRICE.

Senate May Investigate Manufacturers Who Control Industry.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the lumber combine, as proposed in the resolution introduced by Senator Kittredge, of South Dakota, will be productive of more good to the people, in the opinion of some Western senators, than any inquiry instituted in recent years. Mr. Kittredge has collected considerable material, and, when it is presented to the senate in connection with details Senator LaFollette and other Western senators will bring out, a strong majority is expected in favor of the resolution.

In many respects the "gentlemen's agreement" which controls the price of lumber is like that which was alleged in the beef packing industry. There are several associations, such as the Hemlock association, the Pine association and the Hardwood association, whose representatives meet once a month, discuss the conditions and fix prices.

There are no records and no documents that would incriminate, but through an agreement of "gentlemen" the output is regulated and prices fixed.

East River Tunnel Bores Joined.

New York, Dec. 10.—Manhattan and Brooklyn boroughs were connected under the East river today by the piercing of the last section which separated the ends of the north tube of the tunnel of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit extension. The East river tunnel extends from the Battery to Joralmon street, Brooklyn. It will form part of the Subway Rapid Transit system from Kings Bridge to Brooklyn. Electric cars of the Long Island railroad will also run through the tunnel. At the point of connection the tunnel is 75 feet under water.

No More Postal Franks.

New York, Dec. 10.— Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph & Cable company, stated today that the board of directors of that company had passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That owing to changed conditions, it has been found necessary to stop all free transmission of messages and this company will absolutely discontinue its free list on and after January 1, 1907." There are many franks outstanding.

Wealth From Montana Mines.

Butte, Dec., 10.—Montana produced in the calendar year of 1905, copper, silver, gold and lead to the value of $70,677,583. These values came from 5,000,000 tones of ore, and the aggregaet production was greater by $10,086,736 than the value of the output of 1904, which was approximately $10,000,000 than the year before.