

MESSAGE BRIEF

Chief Points In Roosevelt's Recommendations to Congress.

The following are the chief points brought out in the message of the president to the second session of the sixtieth congress.

The financial standing of the nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the nation's interests by the government during the last seven years has shown the most satisfactory results. But our currency system is imperfect and it is necessary to hope that the currency commission will be able to propose a thoroughly sound system which will do away with the existing defects.

As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate business, and especially the railroads, I repeat what I have already said and again said in my messages to the congress: I believe that the national government should exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness as both a justice and a power, and to do justice to the great corporations, which are the most important factors in modern business.

The railroads of the country should be put completely under the interstate commerce commission and removed from the domain of the states. The power of the commission should be made thoroughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of securities as well as over the raising and lowering of rates. As regards rates, at least, this power should be extended to all interstate lines. Power to make combinations and traffic agreements should be explicitly conferred upon the commission, and the commission being first gained and the combination of agreement being published in all its details.

Rates must be made as low as is compatible with giving proper returns to all the employees of the railroads, and proper returns to the shareholders; but they must not, for instance, be reduced in such fashion as to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employees or the abolition of the proper and legitimate profits of the shareholders.

Telegraph and telephone companies engaged in interstate business should be put under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission.

Interstate commerce is now chiefly conducted by railroads; and the great corporations have supplanted the small partnerships or individuals.

The proposal to make the national government supreme over, and therefore to carry out to the letter, the provisions of the interstate commerce law for such purposes, if not the prime purpose, for which the constitution was framed.

There are many factors affecting labor and the status of the wage worker to which I should like to draw your attention, but in an exhaustive discussion of the problem in all its aspects is not now necessary.

The congress should without further delay pass a law which would give the law for the District of Columbia. The employers' liability act recently declared unconstitutional, on account of apparently including in its provisions employees engaged in intrastate commerce as well as those engaged in interstate commerce.

In my last annual message I commended the postmaster general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on rural routes. The establishment of the local parcel post on rural routes would be a benefit to the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that the routes, serving more than 15,000,000 people should be utilized to the maximum practicable extent. An amendment was proposed in the senate last session, at the suggestion of the postmaster general, providing that, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of establishing a special local parcel post system on the rural routes of the United States, the postmaster general be authorized and directed to experiment and report to the congress the result of such experiment by establishing a special local parcel post system on rural routes in not to exceed four hundred of the United States post offices of fourth class matter originating on a rural route or at the distributing offices for delivery by rural carriers. It would seem only proper that an experiment should be tried in order to demonstrate the practicability of the proposition, especially as the postmaster general estimates that the revenue derived from the operation of such a system on all the routes would amount to many million dollars.

The share that the national government should take in the betterment of education has not received the attention and the care it rightly deserves. The immediate responsibility for the support and improvement of our educational systems and institutions rests and should always rest with the people of the several states and with their state and local governments, but the nation has an opportunity in educational work which must not be lost, and which which should no longer be neglected.

I strongly urge that the request of the director of the census be granted, and that the census be soon begun, be complied with and that the appointments to the census force be made under the civil service law, and that the geographical requirements as requested by the director of the census. The supervisors and enumerators should not be appointed under the civil service law for the reasons given by the director. I commend to the congress the consideration of the report of the director of the census, and I trust that his recommendations will be adopted and immediate action thereon taken.

It is highly advisable that there should be intelligent action on the part of the nation on the question of conserving the health of the country. Through the practical extermination in San Francisco of disease-bearing rats, the country has thus far escaped the bubonic plague. This is but one of the many achievements of American health officers, and it shows what can be accomplished with a better organization than at present exists.

The dangers to public health from food adulteration from many other sources, such as the menace to the physical, mental and moral development of the nation from child labor, are so many and so serious that they must be met and overcome. There are numerous diseases which are now known to be preventable, which are, nevertheless, not prevented. The recent international congress on tuberculosis has made us painfully aware of the inadequacy of our health service, and it is therefore urged that the passage of a bill which shall authorize a reorganization of the bureau which shall best accomplish this end.

I recommend that legislation be enacted placing under the jurisdiction of the department of commerce and labor the government printing office.

All soldiers' homes should be placed under the complete jurisdiction and control of the war department.

Economy and sound business policy require that all existing independent bureaus and commissions should be wisely merged, and that executive work done save by the purely executive bodies, under the control of the president; and each such executive body should be under the immediate supervision of a cabinet minister.

I advocate the immediate admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states. This should be done at the earliest session of the congress. The people of the

two territories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one state. The only alternative is to have the two territories admitted as such, to be done without delay.

I call the attention of the congress to the importance of the problem of the fisheries in the interstate waters. On the Great Lakes we are now, under the very wise treaty of April 11 of this year, under a complete and satisfactory international agreement for the preservation and satisfactory use of the fisheries of the waters, which cannot otherwise be achieved.

But the problem is quite as pressing in the interstate waters of the United States. The salmon fisheries of the Columbia river are now but a fraction of what they were 25 years ago, and what they would be now if the United States government had taken complete charge of them by intervening between Oregon and Washington. During these years the fishermen of the one state have naturally tried to take all they could get, and the two legislatures have never been able to agree on joint measures for the protection of the fisheries. At the moment the fishing on the Oregon side of the Washington side of any kind, and no one can tell what the courts will decide in this matter, and under which this action and inaction result. Meanwhile very few salmon reach the spawning grounds, and the industry of the fishermen on the one side will amount to nothing; and this comes from a struggle between the associated, or allied, fishermen on the one side and the owners of the fishing wheels on the river.

The federal statute regulating interstate traffic in fish should be amended to include fish. No federal fish hatcheries should be established. The administration of the Alaska seal fisheries should be vested in the bureau of fisheries.

This nation's foreign policy is based on the theory of the equality of rights between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last 100 years we have in this matter followed this policy. We have, however, and are behaving toward other nations as in private life an honorable man would behave toward his fellows.

The work on the Panama canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and care devoted to duty that makes it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been accomplished in such a short period of time. The men on the Isthmus are to be commended for their foresight already shows that action sooner or later will be inevitable.

I again recommend the extension of the postal service to the Hawaiian Islands, to the Philippines, to the South Pacific, to the Philippines and Australasia may be established. The extension of the postal service to the Hawaiian Islands, to the Philippines, to the South Pacific, to the Philippines and Australasia may be established. The extension of the postal service to the Hawaiian Islands, to the Philippines, to the South Pacific, to the Philippines and Australasia may be established.

I again recommend that American citizenship be conferred upon the people of Porto Rico.

In Cuba our occupancy will cease in about two months' time. The Cubans are ready to make a government of their own government authorities, and the island will be turned over to them. Our report to the congress is that we have a little over two years and Cuba has thrived and prospered under it. Our earnest hope and one desire is that the people of Cuba should be able to govern themselves with justice, so that peace and order may be secured. We will gladly help them to do this, but we would solemnly warn them to remember the great truth that the only way a people can perpetuate a government is by governing without the aid of a foreign power, and will govern themselves from within.

The Japanese government has postponed until 1917 the date of the great international exposition, the action being taken to permit the Japanese to have time to prepare to make an exhibition that it should be made. The American commissioners have visited Japan to perfect its efficiency, but should be represented at the exposition.

As regards the army, I call attention to the fact that the enlisted men stand very high. The present system of promotion by seniority brings to the front the best men, and grades many men of mediocre capacity who have but a short time to serve. The army should be reorganized on modern lines. This is an arm in which it is peculiarly necessary that the field officers should not be old. The army should be reorganized so that it should be kept up to the maximum both in efficiency and in content. It should be a more modern army. At present both infantry and artillery are too few in number for our needs. Special attention should be paid to the organization of a non-military character to perform.

Now that the organized militia, the national guard, has been incorporated with the army as a part of the national forces, it behooves the government to do every reasonable thing in its power to perfect its efficiency. It should be assisted in its instruction and otherwise aided more liberally than heretofore. The regular officers will be essential in this connection.

I approve the recommendation of the navy, calling special attention to the need of additional destroyers and colliers. It is desirable to complete as soon as possible a squadron of eight battle-ships of the best existing type.

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speed and turning circle, and as near as possible these tactical qualities should be the same as in the four vessels bore named now being built.

Two hospital ships should be provided. The actual experience of the hospital ship with the fleet in the Pacific has shown the invaluable work which such a ship does, and has also proved that it is well to have it kept under the command of a medical officer as far as possible. It is to be expected, all of the anticipation of trouble from such a command have proved completely baseless. It is absurd to put a hospital ship under a line officer as it would be to put a hospital on shore under such a command. This ought to have been realized before and there is no excuse for failure to realize it now.

Nothing better for the navy from every standpoint has ever occurred than the cruise of the battle fleet around the world. The improvement of the ships in every way has been extraordinary and they have gained far more experience in battle tactics than they would have gained if they had stayed in the Atlantic waters. The American people have cause for profound gratification in the practical demonstration of the fleet as shown by this cruise, and in view of the improvement the cruise has worked in this already high condition. I do not believe that there is any other service in the world in which the average of character and efficiency of the enlisted men is so high as in the case in our own. I believe that the same statement can be made as to our officers, taken as a whole.

GREAT NORTHERN HOLDUP.

Three Masked Men Board Engine Just Out of Spokane.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 10.—Great Northern passenger train No. 4 was held up by three masked robbers about a mile and a half east of Hilliard shortly before midnight last night. The presence of mind of the fireman prevented the express car, which is supposed to have contained a large sum, including a \$20,000 shipment from Spokane, from being robbed.

When he was ordered to dismount from his cab and cut off the baggage, express and mail cars from the other coaches, he cut two, but left the express car, which was the last of the first three cars, and thus saved the treasure.

The train had been out of Hilliard but few minutes when the engineer and fireman were surprised to see three men, two of them masked, crawling down from the tender. With drawn revolvers they ordered the engineer to stop the train immediately. He obeyed their orders, and as soon as the train came to a stop, all dismounted from the cab, the trainmen leading the way, covered with the weapons of the robbers.

The engineer was left standing with two of the hold-ups while the third accompanied the fireman back part way while he was obeying the orders to uncouple the cars. When he had fooled the thugs by cutting off two of the cars instead of three, the three robbers boarded the engine and started off down the track, leaving the fireman and engineer with the dead train. After proceeding about two miles the hold-ups, who are said to be old railroad men, judging from the manner in which they handled the locomotive, stopped it and then went through the mail car, obtaining a considerable quantity of registered mail.

COMMISSION TAKES STOCK.

Inventory of Natural Riches of Country and Their Duration.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Governor John A. Johnson, of Minnesota, in an address yesterday before the joint conference of the national conservation commission and the governors of different states, brought an enthusiastic message of accord from the great middle west in the schemes of conservation and declared that the paramount problem of the hour was the development of inland waterways. After the inventory of lands, presented by Senator Nelson, there was an informal discussion. Senators Newlands and Smoot and Governors Noel, Broward, Ansel, Lea and ex-Governors Hoke Smith and Blanchard participated. More than thirty state governors were present.

Much of the time of the session was devoted to reports on water, forest, land and mineral resources, these being in the form of an inventory.

The report of the commission was presented by ex-Governor Blanchard of Louisiana. Mr. Blanchard urged the appointment of a permanent conservation commission.

Mr. Newlands spoke of the importance of the commission's work and the need for its permanency, with suitable appropriations, and upon his motion, seconded by Senator Smoot of Utah, a committee will be appointed to present the question to congress.

MILLIONS FOR RIVERS.

Rivers and Harbors Congress Solid for \$500,000,000 Bond Issue.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Sentiments in favor of a government bond issue for a comprehensive improvement of the rivers, harbors and canals of the country, to the end that the nation shall have the greatest system of waterways in the world, gained headway at the opening session of the Rivers and Harbors Congress here yesterday. The scheme contemplated \$500,000,000 worth of federal bonds for internal watercourses, to be distributed over a ten-year period, or \$50,000,000 annually. President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft before the joint conservation meeting have advocated the issuance of government bonds for constructing permanent public improvements.

The speakers included Vice-President Fairbanks, Andrew Carnegie, Ambassador Bryce, Seth Low of New York, Representative Joseph E. Ransdell, Representative Champ Clark of Missouri, Governor George E. Chamberlain of Oregon and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Upwards of 3,500 delegates, representing 44 states and the territories of Alaska, New Mexico, Hawaii and Porto Rico were in attendance.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

IMMENSE COLONY S PLANNED

Scheme to Set Out 10,000 Acres in Trees in Jackson County.

Medford.—A huge colonization scheme for Jackson county lands has been planned by Colonel Ray, of New York City. Mr. Ray is owner of the Condor Water & Power plant and various other properties in this county. It is his intention to have planted on one of the large tracts held by his company 75,000 fruit trees annually and continue until 10,000 acres have been planted. He plans to place the land under irrigation, the facilities for which he now controls. The project has long been a favorite with Colonel Ray, who is doing it not from a desire to enrich himself so much as a desire to furnish small tracts for employees of the American Tobacco company, of which he is vice-president.

CUTTING UP BIG HOLDINGS.

Lebanon Landowners Find Ready Sale at Advanced Figures.

Lebanon.—The cutting up of the 1000 acres of the Paine farm into small tracts has attracted more than a passing interest in this community, and it is believed that it is but the beginning of many more like acts. The owners seem to have just discovered that men will pay much higher prices for a 10 or 20-acre tract than a like proportion for a large tract, and by cutting up these large tracts they readily pass out to small holders at high prices.

A few months ago a stranger came to Lebanon and purchased a farm adjoining the town for \$100 an acre, and many of the old timers laughed at the "greeny" who would pay that price for that kind of land. He cut it up into small tracts of from two to ten acres, and in six months has sold enough to pay the \$8000 he paid for it, and has half of it left, and is making sales every week. Other farms are now being cut up near here, and the town people are rejoicing at the new turn of things in the land deal.

OPTIONS ARE RETURNED.

Eastern Timber Company Withdraws From Klamath.

Klamath Falls.—After securing options on between 30,000 to 40,000 acres of timber land lying along the reservation line between Bonanza and Bly, the Eastern Timber company has taken its cruisers off and is returning the option contracts. The options were secured by Albert Walker and were only for 60 days. It is believed that the timber company on account of the lateness of the season and the impossibility of making a cruise before the winter snows set in, decided to withdraw from the field until next year.

Close to 40,000 acres were secured on option at an average price of \$1.35 a thousand. It is stated that there is double this amount of timber owned by individuals which can be bought in this section. Representatives of other interests have been looking over the field, but it is not believed that any large sales will be made this year, as it is almost impossible for cruisers to work in the timber during the winter on account of the deep snow.

Outside Capital for Railroad.

Marshfield.—M. M. Johnson, assistant secretary of the Equitable Savings & Loan association, and treasurer of the Columbia Life & Trust company of Portland, is in the city considering the possibility of an electric line between Coos bay and Roseburg. He states that there is nothing definite as to plans, but that he is simply looking over the field to see what can be done, and if the electric line is possible. While here Mr. Johnson will gather data as to what business might be expected if a line were built. Those who have investigated feel certain that it would prove profitable. The plan of building the line with local capital was suggested, but it is understood that Mr. Johnson is looking into the matter with the idea of interesting outside capital.

INCORPORATE IRRIGATION COMPANY.

Oregon City.—The Union Irrigation company has filed articles of incorporation, with a capital stock of \$5000, divided into 500 shares at \$10 each. The incorporators are Charles Holman, Beulah Holman and Franklin T. Griffith, and the object of the corporation is to furnish water for irrigation purposes, household and home consumption, and for watering livestock upon dry lands in this state. The company also expects to supply electrical current for general purposes. The principal office is in Oregon City.

More Gas Encountered.

Ontario.—A series of gas explosions have occurred in the Ontario oil well, throwing water, mud and pebbles into the air to a height of 150 feet. The gas flow, which opened last week, had been closed. Drilling has been resumed, the shaft being extended another 90 feet. This is the largest yet made, and proves an immense supply of gas here. The directors of the oil company have applied to the city council for a franchise to light and heat the town.

NEW PORTLAND POSTOFFICE.

Washington.—Senator C. W. Fulton has introduced bills appropriating \$2,500,000 for a public building in Portland, \$500,000 for a public building in Astoria, \$100,000 for a public building in Oregon City; also to create Saddle mountain national park in the western division of the Blue mountain forest reserve, and providing for repayment of fees and purchase money to land entrymen whose entries have been declared void.

More Time on Klamath Project.

Washington.—An extension of 90 days has been granted to Campbell & Huffman, of Klamath Falls, for the completion of their contract to construct wooden flumes on the Klamath project. This advances the date of completion to February 27.

REVENUE FROM HUNTERS' LICENSES.

Astoria.—Since the first of the year the county clerk has issued 771 hunters' licenses for Clatsop county. The licenses are \$1 each and the money is turned over to the state. Over 1,500 licenses have been issued in some counties in the state.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 96@97c; club, 91c; fit, 90@91c; red Russian, 88c; 40-fold, 91c; valley, 91c.

Barley—Feed \$26.50 per ton; brewing, \$27.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$31@31.50 per ton.

Hays—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$16@17; clover, \$12; alfalfa, \$13; grain hay, \$12.50@13.

Fruits—Apples, 60c@.81.50 per box; pears, \$1@1.25 per box; grapes, \$1@1.50 per crate; quinces, \$1@1.25 per box; cranberries, \$13.50@14 per barrel; huckleberries, 10@15c per pound; persimmons, \$1@1.25.

Potatoes—75c@85c per cwt.; sweet potatoes, 2@2.1c per pound.

Onions—\$1@1.10 per 100 pounds.

Vegetables—Turnips \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots \$1; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$1.25; horseradish, 80c per pound; artichokes, 90c@1.00; beans, 10@14c per pound; cabbage, \$1@1.1c per pound; cauliflower, 75c@1.1c per dozen; celery, \$3.50 per crate; cucumbers, \$2@2.50 per box; eggplant, 11c per pound; lettuce, \$1@1.25 per box; parsley, 30c per dozen; peas, 12c per pound; peppers, 15@20c per pound; pumpkins, 10@11c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 9@10c per pound; squash, 1@1.1c per pound; tomatoes, 50c@.75.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36@37c; fancy outside creamery, 32@35c per pound; store, 17@20c.

Eggs—Oregon selects, 42@45c; Eastern, 30@35c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 12@13c per pound; spring, 12@13c; mixed, 12@12.1c; ducks, 14@15c; geese, 9@10c; turkeys, 16@17c; dressed turkeys, nominal.

Veal—Extra, 9@9.1c per pound; ordinary, 7@8c; fancy, 7@8c per pound; large, 6@7c.

Hops—1908, choice, 8c; prime, 6@7c; medium, 5@6c per pound; 1907, 2@3c; 1906, 1@1.5c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 10@14c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15@18c.

Mohair—Choice, 18c per pound.