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NO. 5.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

The President Transmits His Views on Porto Rico

THINKS FUTURE IS PROMISING

Teachers, Both American and Native, Endeavor to Train Students in Mind and in Citizenship—Insular Police and Porto Rican Regiment Should be Perpetuated—Full American Citizenship Should be Conferred Upon Natives—Marked Progress Made Under Present Governor Toward Self-Government Elections This Year Were Absolutely Orderly and Unaccompanied by Any Disturbance.

Washington, Special.—The President's message to Congress giving the result of his recent observations in Porto Rico and making recommendations concerning the government of that island was delivered to the Senate. It was read at length and received careful attention. The message was as follows:

The President's Message.
 To the Senate and House of Representatives:
 On November 21 I visited the island of Porto Rico, landing at Ponce, crossing by the old Spanish road by Cayey to San Juan, and returning next morning over the new American road from Arecibo to Ponce; the scenery was wonderfully beautiful, especially among the mountains of the interior, which constitute a veritable tropic Switzerland. I could not embark at San Juan because the harbor has not been dredged out and can not receive an American battleship. I do not think this fact creditable to us as a nation, and I earnestly hope that immediate provision will be made for dredging San Juan harbor.

I doubt whether our people as a whole realize the beauty and fertility of Porto Rico, and the progress that has been made under its admirable government. We have just cause for pride in the character of our representatives who have administered the tropic islands which came under our flag as a result of the war with Spain; and of no one of them is there more true than of Porto Rico. It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government.

I stopped at a dozen towns all told, and one of the notable features in every town was the gathering of the school children. The work that has been done in Porto Rico for education has been noteworthy. The main emphasis is as eminently wise and proper, has been put upon primary education; but in addition to this there is a normal school, an agricultural school, three industrial and three high schools. Every effort is being made to secure not only the benefits of elementary education to all the Porto Ricans of the next generation, but also as far as means will permit to train them in the industrial, agricultural and commercial opportunities of the island can be utilized to the best possible advantage. It was evident at a glance that the teachers, both American and native Porto Ricans, were devoted to their work, took the greatest pride in it, and were endeavoring to train their pupils, not only in mind, but in what counts for far more than mind in citizenship, that is in character.

Troops in the Island.
 I was very much struck by the excellent character both of the insular police and of the Porto Rican regiment. They are both of them bodies that reflect credit upon the American administration of the island. The insular police are under the local Porto Rican government. The Porto Rican regiment of troops must be appropriated for by Congress. I earnestly hope that this body will be kept permanent. There should certainly be troops in the island, and it is wise that these troops should be themselves native Porto Ricans. It would be from every standpoint a mistake not to perpetuate this regiment.

In traversing the island even the most cursory survey leaves the beholder struck with the evident rapid growth in the culture both of the sugar cane and tobacco. The fruit industry is also growing. Last year was the most prosperous year that the island has ever known before or since the American occupation. The total exports and imports of the island were \$45,000,000 as against \$18,000,000 in 1901. This is the largest in the island's history. Prior to the American occupation the greatest trade for any one year was that of 1896, when it reached nearly \$23,000,000. Last year, therefore, there was double the trade that there was in the most prosperous year under the Spanish regime. There were 210,273 tons of sugar exported last year, of the value of \$14,186,319; \$3,555,163 of tobacco, and 28,290,322 pounds of coffee of the value of \$3,431,102. Unfortunately, what used to be Porto Rico's prime crop—coffee—has not shared this prosperity. It has never recovered from the disaster of the hurricane, and moreover, the benefit of throwing open our market to it has not compensated for the loss inflicted by the closing of the markets to it abroad. I call your attention to the accompanying memorandum on this subject of the board of trade of San Juan, and I earnestly hope that measure will be taken for the benefit of the excellent and high grade Porto Rican coffee.

In addition to delegations from the board of trade and chamber of commerce of San Juan, I also received delegations from the Porto Rican

Federation of Labor, and from the Coffee Growers' Association. Question of Citizenship.

There is a matter to which I wish to call your special attention, and that is the desirability of conferring full American citizenship upon the people of Porto Rico. I most earnestly hope that this will be done. I can not see how any harm can possibly result from it, and it seems to me a matter of right and justice to the people of Porto Rico. They are loyal, they are glad to be under our flag, they are making rapid progress along the path of orderly liberty. Surely we should show our appreciation of them, our pride in what they have done, and our pleasure in extending recognition for what has thus been done, by granting them full American citizenship.

Under the wise administration of the present progress has been made in the difficult matter of granting to the people of the island the largest measure of self-government that can with safety be given at the present time. It would have been a very serious mistake to have gone any farther than we have already gone in this direction. The Porto Ricans have complete and absolute autonomy in all their municipal governments, the only power over them possessed by the insular government being that of removing corrupt or incompetent municipal officials. This power has never been exercised save on the clearest proof of corruption or incompetence—such as to jeopardize the interests of the people of the island; and under such circumstances it has been fearlessly used to the immense benefit of the people. It is not a power with which it would be safe, for the sake of the island itself, to dispense at present. The lower House is absolutely elective, while the upper House is appointive. This scheme is working well; no injustice of any kind results from it, and great benefit to the island, and it should certainly not be changed at this time. The machinery of the elections is administered entirely by the Porto Rican people themselves, the Governor and council keeping only such supervision as is necessary in order to insure an orderly election. Any protest as to electoral frauds is settled in the courts. Here again it would not be safe to make any change in the present system. The elections this year were absolutely orderly, unaccompanied by any disturbance; and no protest has been made against the management of the elections, although three contests are threatened, where the majorities were very small and error was claimed; the contests, of course, to be settled in the courts. In short, the Governor and council are co-operating with all of the most enlightened and most patriotic of the people of Porto Rico in educating the citizens of this island in the principles of orderly liberty. They are providing a government based upon each citizen's self-respect, and the mutual respect of all citizens; that is, based upon a rigid observance of the principles of justice and honesty. It has not been easy to instill into the minds of the people unaccustomed to the exercise of freedom, the two basic principles of our American system; the principle that the majority must rule, and the principle that the minority has rights which must not be disregarded or trampled upon. Yet real progress has been made in having these principles accepted as elementary, as the foundations of successful self-government.

I transmit herewith the report of the Governor of Porto Rico, sent to the President through the Secretary of State.

All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the Department of War or the Department of State. It is a mistake not so to arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another.

In conclusion let me express my admiration for the work done by the Congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with its administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well-nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
 The White House, December 11, 1906.

Rob Bank in Broad Day.
 Odessa, By Cable.—One of the most daring robberies of recent times in south Russia was committed at the Paterburg International Bank this afternoon, when a number of robbers escaped with \$14,500, the entire cash of the bank. Half a dozen armed men appeared suddenly at the counter and ordered the clerks to throw up their hands and shoot the policeman on duty. They then rifled the cash drawers and ran off.

Stranded Schooner Floated.
 Norfolk, Va., Special.—Late Thursday afternoon the tug Rescue, of the Merritt-Chapman Dry Dock & Wrecking Company, got a line to the stranded schooner Ralph M. Heywood, ashore 4 1/2 miles south of Cape Henry, and at 7:20 at night succeeded in floating the vessel. It is expected that the tug will arrive early Friday morning with the schooner in tow. Reports are current to the effect that the vessel is not seriously damaged.

A Heated Discussion Held.
 Guthrie, Okla., Special.—The constitutional convention had a heated discussion as to whether the Supreme Being should be designated as the "Supreme Ruler of the Universe," or "God Almighty." Petitions from different religious sects and one from atheists were presented, asking that there be no vigorous discrimination in the language of the constitution.

Couple Found Dead in Room.
 New York, Special.—A man about 40 years of age, believed to be the Rev. C. S. Quinn, pastor of St. Agnes church at Atlantic Highlands, N. J., and a young woman, thought to be Miss B. Kiley, also of Atlantic Highlands, were found dead in a room on the top floor of an East 18th street boarding house. The room was filled with gas which had escaped from a partially open jet in the room. The couple had been at the house since Wednesday evening.

TO SPELL AS BEFORE

Congress Forces President to Revoke Spelling Order

HOUSE HOLDS TO OLD SYSTEM

Will Withdraw Order to Public Printer and Documents Hereafter Will be Printed in Old-Fashioned Style—Resolution Adopted by the House Passed Without a Dissenting Vote—Considerations Governing Action of Committee.

Washington, Special.—Simplified spelling received a final quietus in the House. The subject has been under more dress, continuous discussion in the House and in committee ever since the convening of the present session of Congress, but it was brought to a sudden termination by the adoption of a resolution favoring the return to the old standard of orthography, just before the House adjourned. It was understood that this action had been taken as the result of an interview with the President, in which he had said that if the House should go on record as against the new system he would abandon his effort in that direction. The House was prompt in meeting this condition and the resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The Resolution Adopted.
 Representative Landis, of the joint committee on spelling, had a conference with the President when the President said that he did not wish to have spelling overshadow matters of great importance and expressed a willingness to revoke his order for the new spelling in case the House of Representatives should go on record as opposed to the system. Accordingly late in the afternoon Mr. Landis introduced the following resolution in the House:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that hereafter in printing reports, documents, or other publications authorized by law, or by Congress or either branch thereof, or emanating from the executive departments, their bureaus or branches, and independent offices of the government, the Government Printing Office should observe and adhere to the standard of orthography prescribed in generally accepted dictionaries of the English language.

The measure was passed without a dissenting vote, although Mr. Gillett, of Massachusetts, who made a fight for simplified spelling before the House committee on appropriations and has been regarded as the champion of the President's attitude, explained that he did not wish to give the impression that he had changed his mind. Mr. Gillett said that he saw the House was overwhelmingly against the innovation and consequently he bowed to its will.

The system of reform spelling was put into effect by the President during the recess of Congress and all public documents supplied to the executive departments have been printed in the simplified way. The committee on printing in its favorable report on the Landis resolution stated that the committee has been governed by the following considerations: "In the various reprints of the constitution of the original spelling is found in the majority of cases. The spelling in the original statutes reflects the forms of spelling in vogue at the time of their enactment. The various codifications of the statutes reflect the spelling in vogue at the time of the adoption of such a condition. The last codification adopted was in 1878. The subsequent statutes now number 14 volumes, covering a period of 28 years. Each volume reflects the spelling in vogue at the time of the enactment of the statutes embraced therein. "A new codification is about to be presented to Congress. Until Congress shall see fit to order the printing of this proposed codification of the statutes, embracing all the enactments of the law-making power of the government now in force, in some form of spelling other than that generally accepted by the people, it would appear to be the part of wisdom for the government in all its branches, to adhere to a uniform system of spelling, and this system should be the one already generally recognized and accepted by the people. "If Congress shall adhere to the form of spelling already in vogue as applied to the statutes, it would appear anomalous to employ some other form as applied to all of the preliminary stages of legislation, including the proceedings of Congress, up to the point where these proceedings are crystallized into law, and at this point order a change in the orthography of the original statutes.

Smoot Should Get Out.
 At the conclusion of the morning business in the Senate Senator Barrows, chairman of the Senate committee on privileges and elections called upon the resolution from that committee declaring that Hon. Reed Smoot is not entitled to a seat as a Senator of the United States from the State of Utah and addressed the Senate on that subject.

Charged With Assassination of Father-in-Law.
 Columbus, Ga., Special.—Charles Hardy was arrested near Chipley, this State, on the charge of having assassinated his father-in-law, Charles H. Brooks, several days ago. Hardy disappeared after a coroner's jury fixed the crime upon him. Brooks was a well-to-do farmer, a posse was formed and pursued and captured him.

Made False Entries in Timber Land Purchase.
 New Orleans, Special.—Admission that he swore falsely in making entries of a large Louisiana timber land purchase from the United States government, was made by John W. Smith, principal government witness and one from atheists were presented, asking that there be no vigorous discrimination in the language of the constitution.

CONGRESS AT WORK

What Our National Lawmakers Are Doing From Day to Day

Salaries Increased.

By a vote of 106 to 183 the House of Representatives refused to increase from \$5,000 to \$7,500 the salaries of Senators, members and delegates.

The House, however, by an overwhelming vote, increased the salaries of the Vice President, the Speaker of the House and members of the President's cabinet to \$12,000 each.

In an anticipation of the question of increasing salaries coming before the House there was an exceedingly large membership and the debate on the several amendments for increase, which were offered by Mr. Littauer, of New York, to the legislative appropriation bill, was followed with marked interest. After disposing of the salary question, the House passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

Mr. Littauer, of New York, opened the discussion by presenting an amendment raising the salaries of the Vice President and the Speaker of the House to \$12,000 per annum. He spoke of the dignity of the position of Speaker of the House and said that everybody recognized that the duties are arduous and that the pay is unequal.

Mr. Underwood, of Alabama, opposed any further increase of salaries along the line of legislative and executive offices. He believed the salaries of the minor clerks of the government should be increased on account of the increased cost of living.

After several speeches the amendment was adopted by a vote of 214 to 151, the opposition failing to secure votes enough to call the yeas and nays.

Having won a most substantial victory Mr. Littauer introduced another amendment as follows: "On and after March 4, 1907, the compensation of heads of executive departments, who are members of the President's cabinet shall be at the rate of \$12,000 per annum each."

Mr. Littauer held up a large picture of a president of a baseball association, whose salary had been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year, and contrasted that with the salaries of the cabinet. The amendment was adopted 204 to 60.

Mr. Littauer who retires to private life with the close of the present Congress, offered a provision raising the salaries of Senators and members of Congress, delegates and the resident commissioner from Porto Rico to \$7,500 and on agreement the time for the increase to begin was fixed on March 4, 1909.

PLAN IS INADEQUATE

Bankers' Scheme of Currency Reform Not Sufficient

SECRETARY SHAW GIVES IDEAS

Sec. Shaw Appears Before House Committee on Banking and Currency in Advocacy High Tax Credit Currency Suggested Five Per Cent. as Desirable Rate.

Washington, Special.—Secretary Shaw appeared before the House committee on banking and currency in advocacy of a high taxed credit currency, suggesting 5 per cent. as a desirable rate. He emphasized the need for greater elasticity in currency, and expressed the opinion that the plan framed by the American Bankers' Association will not bring out sufficient to be very useful. Granting that the bankers' plan results in the issuance of \$300,000,000 additional in national bank notes, Mr. Shaw said that in his opinion not more than \$200,000,000 worth of these will be redeemed.

Mr. Shaw thought the bankers' plan wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the commercial world and said it was encumbered with too much machinery for the limited good results he feels it is capable of accomplishing. He would not want to be regarded as an opponent of the measure suggested by the bankers because he felt that any step toward relieving the demand for greater elasticity at certain seasons of the year was desirable, but urged that the committee strive to frame a more effective measure.

It was urged by the Secretary that an effort should be made to make all our currency elastic, rather than to impart elasticity to a certain amount of emergency currency. Under the bankers' plan, he said, only the credit currency which goes into redemption. There would be no reason why private banks should seek redemption of national bank notes and consequently they would make no effort to do so.

In the bankers' plan national banks are to be permitted to issue \$25,000 additional notes for every \$100,000 of their capital at an interest rate of 2 1/2-3 per cent. and an additional \$12,500 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

Episcopalians Withdraw.
 Norfolk, Va., Special.—It developed that the Episcopalians, as a denomination, have withdrawn from the proposed inter-denominational evangelistic campaign to be conducted during the Jamestown Exposition period. A meeting of the Virginia State Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist committees has been called for December 18, when the local committees of these denominations will discuss with the State representatives the situation as prescribed by the withdrawal of the Episcopalians. It is stated for the Episcopalians that their withdrawal was because of no disinclination to co-operate, but because of the rather unsettled conditions in two of the leading Episcopal churches here, and further because it was not regarded that there was as great need for the evangelistic campaign as some thought.

For Ship Subsidy Measure.
 Washington, Special.—That President Roosevelt will send to Congress a special message advocating the passage as a ship subsidy measure at the present session, was stated by several members of the House. It was said that the President had declared that the recommendation in his annual message was misunderstood. In that message he said it was found inexpedient to pass the Senate bill, a measure should be passed to provide for a few lines to South American ports. He did not mean to minimize the importance of other features of the bill, it is said, and now purposes to correct any false impression that may have been gained by the House.

Twelve Business Houses Burned and Their Contents Destroyed.
 Sharon, Ga., Special.—Sharon was Friday morning visited by a disastrous fire. Twelve business houses and contents were totally consumed. There was a loss of \$50,000, with insurance of \$10,000. The fire started in the drug store of Dr. L. R. Brown. The flames spread rapidly, making a clean sweep of everything except two brick stores, the bank and the Georgia Railroad depot.

Contract Has Been Awarded.
 Norfolk, Va., Special.—The contract for the building to be erected at the Jamestown Exposition by the Daughters of the Confederacy all over the country will be awarded. The building will cost \$5,000 and will be a reproduction of "Beauvoir," the home of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, at Gulfport, Miss.

NO FOREIGN BIDDERS

American Contractors to Get Panama Canal Job

MANY CHANGES IN CONTRACTS

Many Changes Agreed to in Form of Contract for Construction. But Most Important is Announcement by Chairman Shonts That Only Proposals by American Firms Will Be Received.

Washington, Special.—Foreign contractors are to be barred from competition for the completion of the Panama Canal. Chairman Shonts, of the Isthmian Canal commission, made this announcement. Many changes have been agreed to in the form of contract to be entered into for the construction of the canal, but the most important is the limiting of proposals to American firms. The right will be reserved by the commission to reject all the bids submitted; in case none of them is satisfactory and the commission will then either throw the competition open to foreign bidders or proceed with the work without contract. January 12 is the date set for the opening of proposals.

A substantial reduction in the bond of the successful bidders was also made by the commission, in compliance with the request of prospective bidders. The bond will be only \$2,000,000 and the total liability of the contractor is to be limited to the loss of percentage and premiums otherwise payable to the contractor and \$3,000,000 in addition. Chairman Shonts indicated other changes as follows:

"To relieve the contractor from responsibility for the use of defective materials, or for the preparation for use of the same, provided he has requested the chief engineer in writing for the definite approval of the materials, or the preparation for use thereof, and the chief engineer after a reasonable time fails to act upon such request.

"To provide for a later change in the estimated cost and time of construction, as originally agreed to by the engineering committee, in case the plans and specifications for the construction of the canal shall be materially altered in any respect; or if it shall be made to appear to the President of the United States that the estimates are based on physical data so erroneous as to affect the estimated cost and time of construction or that the estimates have become substantially inequitable by reason of the intervention of an act of God or a public enemy; or for any other material cause which shall not have been taken into account by the engineering committee in making their estimates, and for which the contractor is not responsible.

"It was also provided that in case the contractor is not in default, the contractor shall be paid the cost of the work performed by him to date, and \$250,000 in addition to such percentage as may have been earned by him upon such cost up to that time.

"The responsibility of the contractor or the commissioner for all injuries or damages inflicted upon the plant, canal, or its auxiliary works, is limited to negligence of himself, or any of his employes, or subcontractors, or the employes of such subcontractors."

Six Men Blown to Shreds.
 Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—Six men met instant deaths Saturday afternoon in a dynamite explosion about 24 miles from Newport, Tenn., and just across the State line from North Carolina. They were employed on reconstruction in building an extension to the Tennessee & North Carolina Railroad. A load of dynamite for a blast exploded while being tampered, tearing six men into shreds and seriously injuring a seventh.

Green and Gaynor Appeal.
 Macon, Ga., Special.—The appeal for a new trial in the Greene and Gaynor case, now before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, will be heard at New Orleans, on January 5, 1907. They have been in jail here for several months pending appeal for a new trial. Gaynor suffers acute pains from asthma and locomotor ataxia, and under advice of physicians is permitted to take rides into the country where fresh air and exercise seem to give him relief. Both men are kept closely guarded within prison limits and not allowed liberties outside of prison walls.

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