

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

(Continued from page six.)

hands and who must (we hope in a constantly increasing measure) also toll with his brain. Under the constitution the national legislature can do but little of direct importance for his welfare save where he is engaged in work which permits it to act under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution, and this is one reason why I so earnestly hope that both the legislative and judicial branches of the government will construe this clause of the constitution in the broadest possible manner.

The Farmer.
The only other persons whose welfare is as vital to the welfare of the whole country as is the welfare of the wage-workers are the tillers of the soil, the farmers.

Several factors must co-operate in the improvement of the farmer's condition. He must have the chance to be educated in the widest possible sense, in the sense which keeps ever in view the intimate relationship between the theory of education and the facts of life.

Organization has become necessary in the business world, and it has accomplished much for good in the world of labor. It is no less necessary for farmers. Such a movement as the grange movement is good in itself and is capable of a well nigh infinite further extension for good so long as it is kept to its own legitimate business. The benefits to be derived by the association of farmers for mutual advantage are partly economic and partly sociological.

Irrigation and Forest Preservation.
Much is now being done for the states of the Rocky mountains and 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.

Divorce Legislation.
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. 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.

Merchant Marine.
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. It seems to me that the proposed measure is as nearly unobjectionable as any can be.

The Currency.
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. There must soon be a revision of them, because to leave them as they are means to incur liability of business disaster. Since your body adjourned there has been a fluctuation in the interest on call money from 2 per cent to 30 per cent, and the fluctuation was even greater during the preceding six months. The secretary of the treasury had to step in and by wise action put a stop to the most violent period of oscillation.

I do not press any especial plan. Various plans have recently been proposed by expert committees of bankers. Among the plans which are possibly feasible and which certainly should receive your consideration is that repeatedly brought to your attention by the present secretary of the treasury, the essential features of which have been approved by many prominent bankers and business men. According to this plan, national banks should be permitted to issue a specified proportion of their capital in notes of a given kind, the issue to be taxed at so high a rate as to drive the notes back when not wanted in legitimate trade. This plan would not permit the issue of currency to give banks additional profits, but to meet the emergency presented by times of stringency.

I do not say that this is the right system. I only advance it to emphasize my belief that there is need for the adoption of some system which shall be automatic and open to all sound banks so as to avoid all possibility of discrimination and favoritism. The law should be amended so as specifically to provide that the funds derived from customs duties may be treated by the secretary of the treasury as he treats funds obtained under the internal revenue laws. There should be a considerable increase in bills of small denominations. Permission should be given banks, if necessary under settled restrictions, to retire their circulation to a larger amount than three millions a month.

Our Outlying Possessions.
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.

Porto Rican Affairs.
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 expenses of the federal court of Porto Rico should be met from the federal treasury.

Hawaii.
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 coolly tilled estates.

Alaska.
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. 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.

Rights of Aliens.
Not only must we treat all nations fairly, but we must treat with justice and good will all immigrants who come here under the law. Whether they are Catholic or Protestant, Jew or gentile, whether they come from England or Germany, Russia, Japan or Italy, matters nothing. All we have a right to question is the man's conduct. If he is honest and upright in his dealings with his neighbor and with the state, then he is entitled to respect and good treatment. 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.

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. I recommend to the congress that an act be passed specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese who come here intending to become American citizens. One of the great embarrassments attending the performance of our international obligations is the fact that the statutes of the United States are entirely inadequate. They fail to give to the national government sufficiently ample power, through United States courts and by the use of the army and navy, to protect aliens in the rights secured to them under solemn treaties which are the law of the land. I therefore earnestly recommend that the criminal and civil statutes of the United States be so amended and added to as to enable the president, acting for the United States government, which is responsible in our international relations, to enforce the rights of aliens under treaties.

The Cuban Matter.
Last August an insurrection broke out in Cuba which it speedily grew evident that the existing Cuban government was powerless to quell. Thanks to the preparedness of our navy, I was able immediately to send enough ships to Cuba to prevent the situation from becoming hopeless, and I further dispatched to Cuba the secretary of war and the assistant secretary of state in order that they might grapple with the situation on the ground.

In accordance with the so called Platt amendment, which was embodied in the constitution of Cuba, I thereupon proclaimed a provisional government for the island, the secretary of war acting as provisional governor until he could be replaced by Mr. Magoon, the late minister to Panama and governor of the canal zone on the isthmus. Troops were sent to support them and to relieve the navy, the expedition being handled with most satisfactory speed and efficiency. Peace has come in the island, and the harvesting of the sugar cane crop, the great crop of the island, is about to proceed. When the election has been held and the new government inaugurated in peaceful and orderly fashion the provisional government will come to an end.

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 on 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.

The Rio Conference.
The second international conference of American republics, held in Mexico in the years 1901-02, provided for the holding of the third conference within five years and committed the fixing of the time and place and the arrangements for the conference to the governing board of the bureau of American republics, composed of the representatives of all the American nations in Washington. That board discharged the duty imposed upon it with marked fidelity and painstaking care, and upon the courteous invitation of the United States of Brazil the conference was held at Rio de Janeiro, continuing from the 23d of July to the 29th of August last. Many subjects of common interest to all the American nations were discussed by the conference, and the conclusions reached, embodied in a series of resolutions and proposed conventions, will be laid before you upon the coming of the final report of the American delegates.

Panama Trip.
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 Algebras Convention.
The Algebras convention, which was signed by the United States as well as by most of the powers of Europe, superseded the previous convention of 1880, which was also signed both by the United States and a majority of the European powers. This treaty confers upon us equal commercial rights with all European countries and does not entail a single obligation of any kind upon us, and I earnestly hope it may be speedily ratified.

Sealing.
The destruction of the Pribilof island fur seals by pelagic sealing still continues. The herd, which, according to the survey made in 1871 by direction of the congress, numbered 4,700,000, and which, according to the survey of both American and Canadian commissioners in 1891, amounted to 1,000,000, has now been reduced to about 180,000. This result has been brought about by Canadian and some other sealing vessels killing the female seals while in the water during their annual pilgrimage to and from the south or in search of food.

The process of destruction has been accelerated during recent years by the appearance of a number of Japanese vessels engaged in pelagic sealing.

Suitable representations regarding the incident have been made to the government of Japan, and we are assured that all practicable measures will be taken by that country to prevent any recurrence of the outrage.

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.

The laws for the protection of the seals within the jurisdiction of the United States need revision and amendment.

Second Hague Conference.
In my last message I advised you that the emperor of Russia had taken the initiative in bringing about a second peace conference at The Hague. Under the guidance of Russia the arrangement of the preliminaries for such a conference has been progressing during the past year. Progress has necessarily been slow, owing to the great number of countries to be consulted upon every question that has arisen. It is a matter of satisfaction that all of the American republics have now, for the first time, been invited to join in the proposed conference.

Army and Navy.
It must ever be kept in mind that war is not merely justifiable, but imperative upon honorable men, upon an honorable nation, where peace can only be obtained by the sacrifice of conscientious conviction or of national welfare.

The United States navy is the surest guarantor of peace which this country possesses. 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.

In both the army and the navy there is urgent need that everything possible should be done to maintain the highest standard for the personnel alike as regards the officers and the enlisted men. I do not believe that in any service there is a finer body of enlisted men and of junior officers than we have in both the army and the navy, including the marine corps.

West Point and Annapolis already turn out excellent officers. We do not need to have these schools made more scholastic. On the contrary, we should never lose sight of the fact that the aim of each school is to turn out a man who shall be above everything else a fighting man. There should soon be an increase in the number of men for our coast defenses. These men should be of the right type and properly trained, and there should therefore be an increase of pay for certain skilled grades, especially in the coast artillery. Money should be appropriated to permit troops to be massed in body and exercised in maneuvers, particularly in marching.

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