

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE

Makes Recommendations to Congress Concerning Needed Legislation.

ON MCKINLEY'S ASSASSINATION

The President Reviews the Sad Misfortune that Brought Him to the Presidential Chair—Work of the Different Departments Reviewed—The Army and Navy—Recommendations—General Peace and Prosperity—Civil Service.

Following is the first annual message of President Roosevelt to the Congress of the United States, with the exception of a few unimportant paragraphs.

Production—Assassination of President McKinley—Anarchy.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Congress is assembled this year under the shadow of a great calamity. On the sixth of September, President McKinley was shot by an assassin while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln. This is a sad and a terrible misfortune. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured.

It is not far from the truth to say that the death of President McKinley was the most widely lamented and the most widely mourned event in the history of the United States. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured.

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The shock, the grief of the country, are bitter in the minds of all who saw the dark days, while the President yet hovered between life and death. At last the light was kindled in the kindly eyes and the breath went from the lips that even in mortal agony uttered no words save of forgiveness to his murderer. There is no longer deed in the annals of crime.

When the President was shot, the Nation was in the midst of a great crisis. The President was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln.

When we turn from the man to the Nation, the heart is drawn to the thought of our present and our future. The President was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln.

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I worked not the slightest dilatoriness in our government system, and the danger of a recurrence of such a deed, no matter how great it may seem, will work only in the direction of strengthening and giving harness to the laws of order. No man will ever be restrained from becoming President by any law that has ever been enacted. If the law is to be enforced, it must be enforced by the people. The President was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln.

Confidence restored. During the past few years business confidence has been restored, and the Nation is to be congratulated because of its present abundant prosperity. Such prosperity can never be created by force, although it may be destroyed by it. The President was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln.

Corporate Capital. The tremendous and rapidly increasing industrial development which went on with our people during the past few years is a fact that is not to be denied. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured. It is a tragedy that has struck the people of this country with a force that is not to be measured.

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ter into any proof of this statement; the memory of the lean years which began in 1893 is still vivid, and we can contrast them with the conditions in this very year which is now closing. Disaster to great business enterprises can never have its effects limited to the men at the top. It spreads through out, and while it is bad for everybody it is worse for those farthest down. The President was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the fourth of this month. Of the last seven Presidents, he is the third who has been assassinated, and the first since the death of President Lincoln.

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tion should be protected from excesses. When the Constitution was adopted, at the end of the eighteenth century, no human wisdom could foresee the sweeping changes, alike in industrial and political conditions, which were to take place by the beginning of the twentieth century. At that time it was accepted as a matter of course that the several States were the proper authorities to regulate, so far as was then necessary, the comparatively insignificant and strictly localized corporate bodies of the day. The conditions are now wholly different, and wholly different action is called for. I believe that a law can be framed which will enable the National Government to exercise control along the lines above indicated; profiting by the experience gained through the passage and administration of the Interstate-Commerce Act. If, however, the judgment of the Congress is that it lacks the constitutional power to pass such an act, then a constitutional amendment should be submitted to confer the power.

There should be created a Cabinet officer, to be known as Secretary of Commerce and Industries, as provided in the bill introduced at the last session of the Congress. It should be his province to deal with commerce in its broadest sense; including among many other things, the regulation of our business corporations and our merchant marine. The course proposed is one phase of that which should be a comprehensive and far-reaching scheme of constructive stewardship for the purpose of broadening our markets, securing our business interests on a safe basis, and making firm our new position in the international industrial world; while scrupulously safeguarding the rights of wage-worker and capitalist, of investor and private citizen, so as to secure equity as between man and man in this Republic.

The Farmer and Wage-Worker. With the sole exception of the farming interest, no one matter is of such vital moment to our whole people as the welfare of the wage-workers. If the farmer and the wage-worker are well off, it is absolutely certain that all others will be well off too. It is therefore a matter for hearty congratulation that on the whole wages are higher today in the United States than ever before in our history, and far higher than in any other country. The standard of living is also higher than ever before. Every effort of legislator and administrator should be bent to secure the permanency of this condition of things and its improvement wherever possible. Not only must our labor be protected by the tariff, but it should also be protected so far as it is possible from the presence in this country of any laborers brought over by contract, or of those who, coming freely, yet represent a standard of living so depressed that they can underbid our men in the labor market and bring them to a lower level. I regard it as necessary, with this end in view, to re-enact immediately the law excluding Chinese laborers and to strengthen it wherever necessary in order to make its enforcement more effective.

The National Government should demand the highest quality of service from its employees, and in return it should be a good employer. If possible legislation should be passed in connection with the Interstate-Commerce Law, which will render effective the efforts of different States to do away with the competition of convict contract labor in the open labor market. So far as practicable under the constitution of Government, provision should be made to render the enforceable hours of labor, from night work, and from work under degrading conditions. The Government should provide in its contracts that all work should be done under "fair" conditions, and in addition to setting a high standard should uphold it by proper inspection, extending if necessary to the subcontractors. The Government should forbid all night work for women and children, as well as excessive overtime. For the District of Columbia a good factory law should be passed; and as a powerful indirect aid to such laws, provision should be made to turn the Federal prisons, the existence of which is a reproach to our Capital City, into labor streets, where the inmates can live under conditions favorable to health and morals.

American wage-workers work with their heads as well as their hands. We love, they take a keen pride in what they are doing; so that, independent of the reward, they wish to turn out a perfect job. This is the great secret of our success in competition with the labor of foreign countries. The most vital problem with which this country is faced for that matter is the one which civilized world has to deal with in the problem which has for one side the betterment of social conditions, moral and physical, in large cities, and for another side the effort to deal with that tangled far-reaching question which we group together when we speak of "labor." The chief factor in the success of each man—wage-worker, farmer, and capitalist alike—must ever be the sum total of his own individual qualities and abilities. Second only to this comes the power of acting in combination or association with others. Very great good has been and will be accomplished by associations or unions of wage-workers, when managed with foresight, and when they combine insistence upon their own rights with law-abiding respect for the rights of others. The display of these qualities in such bodies is a duty to the Nation no less than to the associations themselves. Finally, there must also in many cases be action by the Government in order to safeguard the rights and interests of all. Under our Constitution there is much more scope for such action by the State and the Municipality than by the Nation. But on points such as those touched on above the National Government can act.

Whetherhood, remains as the indispensable prerequisite to success in the kind of national life for which we strive. Each man must work for himself, and unless he works no outside

help can avail him; but each man must remember also that he is indeed his brother's keeper, and that while no man who refuses to walk can be carried with advantage to himself or anyone else, yet that each at times needs to have the helping hand outside of himself. To be permanently effective, aid must always take the form of helping a man to help himself; and we can all best help ourselves by joining together in the work that is of common interest to all.

Our present immigration laws are unsatisfactory. We need every honest and efficient immigrant fitted to become an American citizen, every immigrant who comes here to stay, who brings here a strong body, a stout heart, a good heart, and a resolute purpose to do his duty well in every way and to bring up his children as law-abiding and God-fearing members of the community. But there should be a comprehensive law enacted with the object of working a threefold improvement over our present system. First, we should aim to exclude absolutely not only all persons who are known to be believers in anarchistic principles or members of anarchistic societies, but also all persons who are of a low moral tendency or of unsavory reputation. This means that we should require a strict thorough system of inspection abroad and a more rigid system of examination at our immigration ports, the former being especially necessary.

The second object of a proper immigration law ought to be to secure by a careful and not merely perfunctory education test some intelligent capacity to appreciate American institutions and act sanely as American citizens. This would not keep out all anarchists, for many of them belong to the intelligent criminal class, but it would do what is also in point, that is, tend to decrease the sum of ignorance, so potent in producing the envy, suspicion, malignant passion, and hatred of order, out of which anarchistic sentiment inevitably springs. Finally, all persons should be excluded who are below a certain standard of economic fitness to enter our industrial field as competitors with American labor. There should be proper proof of personal capacity to earn an American living and enough money to insure a decent start under American conditions. This would stop the influx of cheap labor, and the resulting competition which gives rise to so much of bitterness in American industrial life; and it would dry up the springs of the pestilential social conditions in our great cities, where anarchistic organizations have their greatest possibility of growth.

Both the educational and economic tests in a wise immigration law should be designed to protect and elevate the general body politic and social. A very close supervision should be exercised over the steamship companies which mainly bring over the immigrants, and they should be held to a strict accountability for any infraction of the law.

Our Tariff System. There is general acquiescence in our present tariff system as a national policy. The first requisite to our prosperity is the continuity and stability of this economic policy. Nothing could be more unwise than to disturb the business interests of the country by any general tariff change at this time. Doubt, apprehension, uncertainty are exactly what we wish to avoid in the interest of our commercial and material well-being. Our experience in the past has shown that sweeping revisions of the tariff are apt to produce conditions closely approaching panic in the business world. Yet it is not only possible, but eminently desirable, to combine with the stability of our economic system a supplementary system of reciprocal benefit and obligation with other nations. Such reciprocity is an incident and result of the firm establishment and preservation of our present economic policy. It was especially provided for in the present tariff law.

Reciprocity is best treated as the handmaiden of protection. Our first duty is to see that the protection granted by the tariff, in every case where it is needed is maintained, and that reciprocity be sought for so far as it can safely be done without injury to our home industries. Just how far this is to be determined according to the individual case, remembering always that every act of shifting national policy to meet our shifting national needs must be conditional upon the cardinal rule that the duties must never be reduced below the point that will cover the difference between the labor cost here and abroad. The well-being of the wage-worker is a prime consideration of our entire policy of economic legislation.

Subject to this proviso of the proper protection necessary to our industrial well-being at home, the principal of reciprocity must command our hearty support. The phenomenal growth of export trade emphasizes the urgency of the need for wider markets and for a liberal policy in dealing with foreign nations. Whatever is merely petty and vexatious in the way of trade restrictions should be avoided. The customers to whom we dispose of our surplus products should be given as much as possible by so arranging our tariff as to enable us to take from them those products which we can use without harm to our own industries and labor, or the use of which will be of marked benefit to us.

It is most important that we should maintain the high level of our present prosperity. We have now reached the point in the development of our interests where we are not only able to supply our own markets but to produce a constantly growing surplus for which we must find markets abroad. To secure these markets we can utilize existing duties in any case where they are no longer needed for the purpose of protection, or in any case where the duty is no longer necessary for revenue, as giving us something to offer in exchange for what we seek. The cordial relations with other nations which are so desirable will naturally be produced

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