

PRESIDENT TAFT'S MESSAGE

Resume of the Work of the Various Departments of the Government Is Presented to Congress.

NEED OF ECONOMY POINTED OUT Has Little to Say About the Tariff—Work on Panama Canal Is Reviewed—No Change in Anti-Trust Laws—Interstate Commerce Laws Are Discussed.

Washington, Dec. 5.—In the longest document of its kind ever sent to congress, President Taft reviews at length the business of the year in the various departments of the national government. The settlement of the *Hague Tribunal* case in a *considerable* degree of the president's attention. The history of the fisheries dispute and the establishment of the *tribunal* are comprehensively reviewed.

The president gives a resume of the foreign relations of the government, which are declared to be in a satisfactory condition.

Tariff Negotiations.
Referring to the negotiation of new tariff agreements President Taft says:

The new tariff law, in Section 2, respecting the maximum and minimum tariffs of the United States, which provisions came into effect on April 1, 1919, imposed upon us responsibility of determining prior to that date whether any undue discrimination existed against the United States and its products in any country of the world with which we maintain commercial relations.

In the case of several countries in places of apparent undue discrimination against American commerce were found to exist. These discriminations were removed by negotiation. Prior to April 1, 1919, when the maximum tariff was in effect, the maximum tariff was in some cases as high as 40 per cent. In applying the minimum tariff should be issued by the president, one hundred and thirty-four such discriminations were issued.

This series of proclamations embraced the entire commercial world and hence the minimum tariff of the United States has been given uniform application, thus testifying to the *antidiscriminatory* character of our trade relations with foreign countries.

Marked advantages to the commerce of the United States were obtained through these tariff settlements.

The policy of broader and closer trade relations with the Dominion of Canada which was initiated in the adjustment of the maximum and minimum provisions of the tariff act of August, 1909, has proved mutually beneficial. It justifies further efforts for the readjustment of the commercial relations of the two countries so that their commerce may follow the channels natural to contiguous countries and to communicate with the steady expansion of trade and industry on both sides of the boundary line.

Ship Subsidy.
The president urges such action as he believes will increase American trade abroad, and says:

Another instrumentally independent to the unhampered and natural development of American commerce is merchant marine. All maritime and commercial nations recognize the importance of this factor. The greatest commercial nations, our competitors, jealously foster their merchant marine. Perhaps nowhere is the need for rapid and direct mail, passenger and freight communication quite so urgent as between the United States and Latin America. We can secure no other quarter of the world such immediate benefits in friendship and commerce as would flow from the establishment of direct lines of communication with the countries of Latin America adequate to meet the requirements of a rapidly increasing appreciation of the reciprocal dependence of the countries of the western hemisphere upon each other's products, sympathies and assistance.

I should like to see the most important subject in my last annual message, it has often been before you and I need not recapitulate the reasons for its recommendation. Unless prompt action be taken the completion of the Panama canal will find this the only great commercial nation unable to avail itself of international maritime business of this great contribution to the means of the world's commercial intercourse.

Governmental Expense.
To one subject does he devote more space than to the expense of conducting the various government departments and the urgent need for economy, and in this connection he says:

Every effort has been made by each department chief to reduce the estimated cost of his department for the ensuing fiscal year ending June 30, 1912. I say this in order that congress may understand that these estimates thus made present the smallest sum which will maintain the department, bureau and offices of the government and meet its other obligations under existing law, and that a cut of these estimates would result in embarrassing the executive branch of the government in the performance of its duties. This remark does not apply to the river and harbor estimates, except to those for expenses of maintenance and the meeting of obligations under authorized contracts, nor does it apply to the public building bill nor to the navy building program. Of course, as to these congress could withhold any part or all of the estimates for them without interfering with the discharge of the ordinary obligations of these functions of its departments, bureaus and offices.

The final estimates for the year ending June 30, 1912, as they have been sent to the treasury on November 29 of this year, for the ordinary expenses of the government, including those for public buildings, rivers and harbors, and the navy building program, amount to \$529,919,312. This is \$2,944,875 less than the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911. It is \$18,883,152.44 less than the total estimates, including supplemental estimates submitted to congress by the treasury for the year 1911, and is \$5,571,659.29 less than the original estimates submitted by the treasury for 1911.

These figures do not include the appropriations for the Panama canal, the policy in respect to which ought to be, and is, to spend as much each year as can be economically and effectively expended in order to complete the canal as promptly as possible, and therefore, the ordinary motive for cutting down the expense of the government does not apply to appropriations for this purpose.

Postal Savings Banks.
At its last session congress made a provision for the establishment of postal savings banks by the postoffice department of this government by which under general control of trustees, consisting of the postmaster general, the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general, the system could be begun in a few cities and towns, and enlarged to cover within its operations as many cities and towns and as large a part of the country as seemed wise. The initiation and establishment of such a system has required a great deal of study on the part of the experts in the postoffice and treasury departments, but a system has now been devised which is believed to be more economical and simpler in its

operation than any similar system abroad. Arrangements have been perfected so that savings banks will be opened in some cities and towns on the 1st of January, and there will be a gradual extension of the benefits of the plan to the rest of the country.

It is gratifying, says the president, that the reduction in the postal deficit has been accomplished without any curtailment of postal facilities. On the contrary, the service has been greatly extended during the year in all its branches.

Second-Class Mail.
"In my last annual message I invited the attention of congress to the inadequacy of the postal rate imposed upon second-class mail matter in so far as that includes magazines, and showed by figures prepared by experts of the postoffice department that the government was rendering a service to the magazines, costing many millions in excess of the compensation paid. An answer was attempted to this by the representatives of the magazines, and a reply was filed to this answer by the postoffice department. The utter inadequacy of the answer, considered in the light of the reply of the postoffice department, I think must appeal to any fair-minded person. Whether the answer was all that could be said in behalf of the magazines is another question. I agree that the question is one of fact; but I insist that if the fact is as the experts of the postoffice department show, that we are furnishing a service worth millions more than they pay for it, then justice requires that the rate should be increased. The increase in the receipts of the department resulting from this change may be devoted to increasing the usefulness of the department in establishing a parcels post and in reducing the cost of first-class postage to one cent. It has been said by the postmaster general that a fair adjustment might be made under which the advertising part of the magazine should be charged for at a different and higher rate from that of the reading matter. This would relieve many useful magazines that are not circulated at a profit, and would not shut them out from the use of the mails by a prohibitory rate.

With respect to the parcels post, I respectfully recommend its adoption on all rural delivery routes, and that 11 pounds—the international limit—be made the limit of carriage in such post."

Abolish Navy Yards.
The president calls attention to certain reforms urged by the secretary of the navy which he recommends for adoption, and continues:

The estimates of the navy department are \$5,900,000 less than the appropriations for the same purpose last year, and included in this is the building program of the same amount as that submitted for your consideration last year. It is merely carrying out the plan of building two battleships a year, with a few needed auxiliary vessels. I earnestly hope that this program will be adopted.

The secretary of the navy has given personal examination to every navy yard, and has studied the uses of the navy yards with reference to the necessities of our fleet. With a fleet considerably less than half the size of that of the British navy, we have shipyards more than double the number, and there are several of these shipyards expensively equipped with modern machinery, which, after investigation of the secretary of the navy believes to be entirely useless for naval purposes. He asks authority to abandon certain of them and to move their machinery to other places, where it can be made of use."

The complete success of our country in Arctic exploration should not remain unnoticed. The unparalleled achievement of Peary in reaching the north pole, April 6, 1909, approved by critical examination of the most expert scientists, has added to the distinction of our navy, to which he belongs, and reflects credit upon his country. I recommend fitting recognition by congress of the great achievement of Robert Edwin Peary.

Conservation.
The subject of the conservation of the public domain has commanded the attention of the people within the last two or three years.

There is no need for radical reform in the methods of disposing of what are really agricultural lands. The present laws have worked well. The enlarged homestead law has encouraged the successful farming of lands in the semiarid regions.

Nothing can be more important in the matter of conservation than the treatment of our forest lands. It was probably the ruthless destruction of forests in the older states that first called attention to the necessity for a halt in the waste of our resources.

In the present forest reserves there are lands which are not properly forested, and which ought to be subject to homestead entry. This has caused some local irritation. We are carefully eliminating such lands from forest reserves or where their elimination is not practical listing them for entry under the forest homestead act.

Congress ought to trust the executive to use the power of reservation only with respect to land most valuable for forest purposes. During the present administration, 62,250,000 acres of land largely non-timbered, have been excluded from forest reserves, and 3,500,000 acres of land principally valued for forest purposes have been included in forest reserves, making a reduction in forest reserves of non-timbered land amounting to 2,750,000 acres."

Coal Lands.
The next subject, and one most important for your consideration, is the disposition of the coal lands in the United States and Alaska. At the be-

ginning of this administration there were withdrawn from entry for purposes of classification 17,867,000 acres. Since that time there have been withdrawn by my order from entry for classification 78,977,745 acres, making a total withdrawal of 96,844,745 acres. Meantime of the acres thus withdrawn 1,061,889 have been classified and found not to contain coal and have been restored to agricultural entry, and 4,726,091 acres have been classified as coal lands; while 7,993,229 acres remain withdrawn from entry and await classification. In addition 337,000 acres have been classified as coal lands without prior withdrawal, thus increasing the classified coal lands to 10,429,372 acres.

Under the laws providing for the disposal of coal lands in the United States, the minimum price at which lands are permitted to be sold is \$10 an acre, but the secretary of the interior has the power to fix a maximum price and to sell at that price.

As one-third of all the coal supply is held by the government, it seems wise that it should retain such control over the mining and the sale as the relation of lessor to lessee furnishes.

The secretary of the interior thinks there are difficulties in the way of leasing public coal lands, which objections he has set forth in his report, the force of which I freely concede. I entirely approve his stating at length in his report of the objections in order that the whole subject may be presented to congress, but after a full consideration, for the reasons I have given above, I favor a leasing system and recommend it."

Water Power Sites.
Prior to March 4, 1909, there had been, on the recommendation of the reclamation service, withdrawn from agricultural entry, because they were regarded as useful for power sites which ought not to be disposed of as agricultural lands, tracts amounting to about 4,000,000 acres. The withdrawals were hastily made and included a great deal of land that was not useful for power sites. They were intended to include the power sites on 29 rivers in 9 states. Since that time 3,475,442 acres have been restored for settlement of the original 4,000,000 because they do not contain power sites; and meantime, new withdrawals have been made which, with other restorations based upon field examination, result in withdrawals at present effective of 1,218,356 acres on vacant public land and 202,197 acres on entered public land, or a total of 1,420,553 acres. These withdrawals made from time to time cover all the power sites included in the first withdrawals and many more, on 151 rivers and in 12 states. The disposition of these power sites involves one of the most difficult questions presented in carrying out practical conservation.

The subject is one that calls for new legislation. It has been thought that there was danger of combination to obtain possession of all the power sites and to unite them under one control. Whatever the evidence of this, or lack of it, at present we have had enough experience to know that combination would be profitable, and the control of a great number of power sites will within certain sections.

However this may be, it is the plain duty of the government to see to it that in the utilization and development of all this immense amount of water power, conditions shall be imposed that will prevent extortionate charges, which are the usual accompaniment of monopoly.

The question of conservation is not a partisan one, and I sincerely hope that even in the short time of the present session consideration may be given to those questions which have now been much discussed, and that action may be taken upon them."

Alaska.
With reference to the government of Alaska, I have nothing to add to the recommendations I made in my last message on the subject. I am convinced that the migratory character of the population, its unequal distribution, and its smallness of number, which the new census shows to be about 50,000, in relation to the enormous expanse of the territory, make it altogether impracticable to give to those people who are in Alaska today and may not be there a year hence, the power to elect a legislature to govern an immense territory to which they have relation so little permanent."

Bureau of Corporations.
Referring to the report of the commissioner of corporations, the president says:

The commissioner finds a condition in the ownership of the standing timber of the United States other than the government timber that calls for serious attention. The direct investigation made by the commissioner covered an area which contains 80 per cent of the privately-owned timber of the country.

His report shows that one half of the timber in this area is owned by 200 individuals and corporations; that 14 per cent is owned by these corporations, and that there is very extensive inter-ownership of stock as well as other circumstances, all pointing to friendly relations among those who own a majority of this timber, a relationship which might lead to a combination for the maintenance of a price that would be very detrimental to the public interest, and would create the necessity of removing all tariff obstacles to the free importations of lumber from other countries."

Bureau of Labor.
The commissioner of labor has been actively engaged in composing the differences between employers and employees engaged in interstate transportation, under the Erdman act, jointly with the chairman of the interstate commerce commission.

"I cannot speak in too high terms of the success of the two officers in conciliation and settlement of controversies which, but for their interposition, would have resulted disastrously to all interests.

Civil Service Commission.
The civil service commission has continued its useful duties during the year. The necessity for the maintenance of the provisions of the civil service law was never greater than today. Officers responsible for the policy of the administration, and their immediate personal assistants or deputies, should not be included within the classified service, but in my judgment, public opinion has advanced to the point where it would support a bill providing a secure tenure during efficiency for all purely administrative officials. I entertain the profound conviction that it would greatly aid the cause of efficient and economical government and of better politics if congress could enact a bill providing that the executive shall have the power to include in the classified service all local officers under the treasury department, the department of justice, the postoffice department, the interior department and the department of commerce and labor, appointments to which now require the confirmation of the senate, and that upon such classification the advice and consent of the senate shall cease to be required in such appointments. By their certainty of tenure, dependent on good service, and by their freedom from the necessity for political activity, these local officers would be induced to become more efficient public servants.

Economy and Efficiency.
The increase in the activities and in the annual expenditures of the federal government has been so rapid and so great that the time has come to check the expansion of government activities in new directions until we have tested the economy and efficiency with which the government of today is being carried on. The responsibility rests upon the head of the administration. He is held accountable by the public, and properly so. Despite the unselfish and patriotic efforts of the heads of departments and others charged with responsibility of government, there has grown up in this country a conviction that the expenses of government are too great. The fundamental reason for the existence undetected waste, duplication, and bad management is the lack of prompt, accurate information.

"I have requested the head of each department to appoint committees on economy and efficiency in order to secure full cooperation in the movement by the employees of the government themselves.

"I urge the continuance of the appropriation of \$100,000 requested for the fiscal year 1912.

"My experience leads me to believe that while government methods are much criticized, the bad results—if we do have bad results—are not due to a lack of zeal or willingness on the part of the civil servants."

Interstate Commerce.
There has not been time to test the benefit and utility of the amendments to the interstate commerce law contained in the act approved June 18, 1910. The law as enacted did not contain all the features which I recommended. It did not specifically denounce as unlawful the purchase by one of two parallel and competing roads of the stock of the other. Nor did it subject to the restraining influence of the Interstate Commerce commission the power of corporations engaged in operating interstate railroads to issue new stock and bonds; nor did it authorize the making of temporary agreements between railroads limited to 30 days, fixing the same rates for traffic between the same places.

"I do not press the consideration of any of these objects upon congress at this session.

Fried Halibut.
Cut the slices about the middle an inch in thickness; wipe dry and have ready sifted cracker crumbs, season with pepper and salt; beat up an egg, dip the seasoned slices into it; then sprinkle the crumbs thickly over. Have enough boiling lard to cover the fish. When brown serve hot. Decorate the serving dish with slices of lemon and sprigs of parsley. To test lard before putting in the fish drop in a crust of bread; if it browns the lard is of the right temperature.

Fricassee of Calf's Tongues.
Boil the tongues one hour. Pare and cut into thick slices. Roll these in flour, and fry in dripping five minutes. Put the tongues into a saucepan; add sliced onion, thyme and parsley. Cover with a cup of your soup or gravy. Simmer half an hour, covered tightly. Take up the tongues, keep them warm; steam the gravy; thicken, put in four or five thin slices of lemon from which the peel has been taken; boil one minute and pour over the fricassee.

Keep Milk Sweet.
Fill a bottle or tin within half an inch of the neck, press a perforated rubber stopper into each bottle, set them in a pot of water until the water begins to boil; then press a glass stopper into the rubber one, thus hermetically sealing the bottle, which should not be unfastened until required for use. Milk so treated is freed from all germs of life or disease, and no amount of thunder will turn it sour.

Soup Stock.
Boil a soup bone the day before wanted. Boil gently from five to six hours, strain and put in earthen dish; skim off the grease the next day; keep in a cool place. In order to prepare soup it is only necessary to heat some of the jelly. One can have a change of soup each day by adding different flavorings such as onions, onions, vermicelli, tapioca, vegetable or celery. Add sufficient boiling water for the necessary amount of liquor.

Stripped Potatoes, Stewed.
Pare and cut into lengthwise strips; cover with boiling water; put in a cup of cold milk, with salt and pepper. When this boils stir in a spoon of butter rolled in flour, with a little chopped parsley. Cook two minutes and serve.

Disqualified.
Her—My brother was first prize in that amateur gauding contest, but they ruled him out as a professional.
His—A professional?
Her—Yes. He's employed in the government bureau, you know.

A Time Likeness.
That caton seems to go like clock work.
"I thought it rather disorganized. In what respect?"
"It is regularly striking."

Fortunate.
"It is said," remarked the moralizer, "that a fool is born every minute."
"And I'm glad of it," rejoined the demoralizer. "What a sorry old world this would be if there was nothing but wisdom on tap."

Important.
Judge—Now, madam, remember as a witness you must tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
Witness—Well, judge, do you mean before you swear me or afterward?—Yonkers Statesman.

Ruling Passion.
Kate—Maud is dreadfully particular about her appearance.
Ethel—Indeed, she is. Why, heap coals of fire on her head and she'll want to know if they are on straight.

Appropriate Decoration.
"You remember the famous ice palace built for one of the Russian empresses?"
"Yes. What of it?"
"I wonder if the principal decoration of its rooms was not a trizee?"

None in Stock.
A well-dressed woman paused in front of the chestnut vender's stand.
"Are they wormy?" she asked.
"No, ma'am," he answered blandly. "Did you want them with worms?"

The Sleep Chaser.
Landlord—Here, now, you needn't be afraid you will oversleep. And if the alarm clock should by any chance fail to awaken you, just give the lit hammer a poke with your finger, then she'll go off.—Helter Skelter.

Good Scheme.
"Out at my uncle's the people go to bed with the chickens."
"Well, at the price chickens sell at now they are certainly worth watching."

Change of Ideals.
"Funny, isn't it?"
"What is?"
"In the days of chivalry, men were tickled to death if they got a lady's glove, and now they are all broken up if she gives them the mitten."

Possibly.
Gotham—They say that the wireless business is still in its infancy.
Flatbush—And do you suppose some day we'll have barbed wireless fences?—Yonkers Statesman.

TO MAKE A "TRIFLE"

DAINTY ENGLISH CONFECTION IS SIMILAR TO AMERICAN DISH.

Delicious Dainty Is Made as Easily as Less Tempting Ones—To Insure Success Whip Should Be Made Day Before.

A trifle, as served in England, is altogether a more elaborate and delicious affair than the sweet which so frequently is served in this country under the same name. True there are almost as many English variations of this dainty as there are American ones, but the favorite one, called simply "a trifle," stands distinctly apart and above all others.

This is quite as easily made as the less delicious ones, but to ensure success the whip should be made the day before it is to be used, as keeping it for 24 hours makes it firmer and vastly improves its flavor. To make the whip, put together into a large bowl one pint of thick, sweet cream, one-quarter of a pound of pounded loaf sugar, the whites of two eggs, and a small glass of sherry or of raisin wine. Orange jelly made slightly tart by the addition of a little lemon juice may be substituted for the wine if preferred, or any other fruit juice having a pleasing flavor. Whisk these ingredients well in cool place and as fast as the froth rises remove it with a skimmer and put it on a sieve to drain. When sufficient of the whip has been prepared, place it in a cool place to drain. For the trifle, place six small sponge cakes, twelve coconut macaroons, and two dozen rattails at the bottom of a deep glass dish and pour over them one cupful of sherry or of sweet wine mixed with four or five tablespoonfuls of brandy. Fruit juice may again be substituted if preferred. Just enough should be used to soak the cakes thoroughly. Mix lightly together the grated yellow rind of one lemon, three large spoonfuls of sweet almonds blanched and cut in strips, and sufficient raspberry or strawberry jam to make a generous layer. Place it evenly over the cakes in the dish. Pour over a rich, boiled custard, well chilled, and heap the whipped cream as high over the top as possible. Garnish with strips of red currant jelly and some crystallized fruit or candies, rose petals and violets.

WAY TO MAKE PIGEON PIE

Take Three or Four Birds, Rub the Flesh with Mixture of Salt and Pepper, Etc.

Clean and truss three or four pigeons, rub them outside and in with a mixture of pepper and salt; rub the inside with a bit of butter, and fill it with a bread-and-butter stuffing or mashed potatoes. Sew up the slit, butter the sides of a tin basin or pudding dish, and line the basin or pudding with pie paste rolled to quarter of an inch thickness; lay the birds in; for three large tame pigeons, cut quarter of a pound of sweet butter and put it over them, strew over a large teaspoon of salt, and a small teaspoon of pepper, with a bunch of finely cut parsley, if liked; dredge a large tablespoon of wheat flour over; put in water to nearly fill the pie; lay skewers across the top, cover with a puff paste crust; cut a slit in the middle, ornament the edge with leaves, braids or shells of paste, and put it in a moderately hot or quick oven for one hour; when nearly done brush the top over with the yolk of an egg beaten with a little milk, and finish. The pigeons for this pie may be cut in two or more pieces, if preferred.

Any small birds may be done in this manner.

Fried Halibut.
Cut the slices about the middle an inch in thickness; wipe dry and have ready sifted cracker crumbs, season with pepper and salt; beat up an egg, dip the seasoned slices into it; then sprinkle the crumbs thickly over. Have enough boiling lard to cover the fish. When brown serve hot. Decorate the serving dish with slices of lemon and sprigs of parsley. To test lard before putting in the fish drop in a crust of bread; if it browns the lard is of the right temperature.

Fricassee of Calf's Tongues.
Boil the tongues one hour. Pare and cut into thick slices. Roll these in flour, and fry in dripping five minutes. Put the tongues into a saucepan; add sliced onion, thyme and parsley. Cover with a cup of your soup or gravy. Simmer half an hour, covered tightly. Take up the tongues, keep them warm; steam the gravy; thicken, put in four or five thin slices of lemon from which the peel has been taken; boil one minute and pour over the fricassee.

Keep Milk Sweet.
Fill a bottle or tin within half an inch of the neck, press a perforated rubber stopper into each bottle, set them in a pot of water until the water begins to boil; then press a glass stopper into the rubber one, thus hermetically sealing the bottle, which should not be unfastened until required for use. Milk so treated is freed from all germs of life or disease, and no amount of thunder will turn it sour.

Soup Stock.
Boil a soup bone the day before wanted. Boil gently from five to six hours, strain and put in earthen dish; skim off the grease the next day; keep in a cool place. In order to prepare soup it is only necessary to heat some of the jelly. One can have a change of soup each day by adding different flavorings such as onions, onions, vermicelli, tapioca, vegetable or celery. Add sufficient boiling water for the necessary amount of liquor.

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Pare and cut into lengthwise strips; cover with boiling water; put in a cup of cold milk, with salt and pepper. When this boils stir in a spoon of butter rolled in flour, with a little chopped parsley. Cook two minutes and serve.