

# OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## APPEALS FOR LEGISLATION TO SOLVE UNREST PROBLEM

### Encourage Increased Crop Production—To Secure Land and Employment for Service Men

Washington. — President Wilson's crops, simplify the system of taxation built up during the war, control government expenditure by a budget system and care for the nation's soldiers and sailors who have left the service.

Though the president several times referred to the peace treaty and the league of nations he did not discuss the treaty situation. He will do so in a later message. He also will message to congress was devoted on directly to the great problems confronting the nation.

Legislation was recommended to curb bolshevism in America, reduce living costs, remove the grievances of labor which are causing industrial troubles, aid farmers to produce bigger deal later with the railroad question, he informed the legislators.

Much of the message was devoted to discussion of the labor problem. To solve it, the president said, congress "must now help in the difficult task of finding a method that will bring about a genuine democratization of industry based upon the full recognition of the right of those who work, in whatever rank, to participate in some organic way in every decision which directly affects their welfare."

No better means of doing this can be found, the president declared, than by applying legislation to the principles set up in the labor section of the league of nations covenant. To go back to old standards of labor and wages is impossible, he said. Age-long antagonism between capital and labor must be ended, he declared, before real world stability can be accomplished. In this the United States, he said, is bid by the world unrest to "put our own house in order" and "be the first to lay the foundation stones" of industrial peace. The president warned against anti-strike legislation. "The right of individuals to strike is inviolate," he declared, "and ought not to be interfered with by any process of government." But, he added, that the government has the predominant right to protect all the people against the challenging aggression of any single class.

Analysis of labor's complaint, the president told congress, shows it is based upon justice. Capital, too, he declared, has a right to an adequate return, and the government, he warned, must never "play" capital and labor against each other.

The president suggested establishment of a tribunal before which disputes between capital and labor can be taken for settlement.

#### Blame for Unrest

Blame for the unrest in the country was placed partly upon the senate for its failure to ratify the peace treaty.

One cause of this unrest, the president asserted, is "the failure on the part of our government to arrive speedily at a just and permanent peace, permitting return to normal conditions."

While congress should deal with the activities of reds and agitators, the president advised against action "either impatient or drastic." He urged that the causes of unrest be sought and removed and outlined them thus:

"The causes of this unrest, while various and complicated are superficial rather than deep-seated. Broadly, they arise from, or are connected with the failure on the part of the government to arrive speedily at a just and permanent peace . . . from the transference of radical theories from seething European centers . . . from heartless profiteering . . . and lastly, from the machinations of malevolent agitators."

Stronger laws against anarchists should be enacted at once, he urged. High cost of living: The president appealed again for enactment of the comprehensive program he proposed at the special session to lower living costs.

Budget system: Wilson opened his recommendations with the hope that a budget system will be established, which will put the preparation of appropriation estimates under direction of the president and provide for an audit system to determine whether the money has been economically spent.

Taxes and tariff: Immediate necessity dictates simplification of the income and profits taxes, the president said. He warned that if income and profits tax rates are left too high they may prove destructive to business and not productive of revenues.

He also warned against a tariff too high for Europe's manufacturers.

Tariff legislation protecting the chemical and dye industries of this country against German efforts to regain the market is, however, necessary, the president said.

#### Soldiers' Aid

Wilson repeated his request for legislation to provide farms for soldiers. He recommended again legislation

g available for them the cutovers and unused lands in the west. Farmers and food production: Encourage the farmers, the president urged and make rural life more active as a means of stimulating food production. He included recommendations for developing the forest resources and continuation of the building of good roads.

In the text of his message to congress the president said in part: "To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"I sincerely regret that I cannot be present at the opening of this session of the congress. I am thus prevented from presenting in as direct a way as I could wish the many questions that are pressing for solution at this time. Happily, I have had the advantage of the advice of the heads of the several executive departments who have kept in close touch with affairs in their detail and whose thoughtful recommendations I earnestly second.

"In the matter of the railroads and the readjustment of their affairs growing out of federal control, I shall take the liberty at a later date of addressing you.

"I hope that congress will bring to a conclusion at this session legislation looking to the establishment of a budget system. That there should be one single authority responsible for the making of all appropriations and that appropriation should be made not independently of each other, but with reference to one single comprehensive plan of expenditure properly related to the nation's income, there can be no doubt. I believe the burden of preparing the budget, must, in the nature of the case, if the work is to be properly done and responsibility concentrated instead of divided, rest upon the executive. The budget so prepared should be submitted to and approved or amended by a single committee of each house of congress and no, single appropriation should be made by the congress, except such as may have been included in the budget prepared by the executive or added by the particular committee of congress charged with the budget legislation.

"Another and not less important aspect of the problem is the ascertainment of the economy and efficiency with which the moneys appropriated are expended. Under existing law, the only audit is for the purpose of ascertaining whether expenditure have been lawfully made within the appropriations. No one is authorized or equipped to ascertain whether the money has been spent wisely, economically and effectively. The auditors should be highly trained officials with permanent tenure in the treasury department, free of obligations to or motives of consideration for this or any subsequent administration, authorized and empowered to examine into and make report upon the methods employed and the result obtained by the executive departments of the government. Their reports should be made to the congress and to the secretary of the treasury.

"I trust that the congress will give its immediate consideration to the problem of future taxation. Simplification of the income and profits taxes has become an immediate necessity. These taxes performed indispensable service during the war. They must, however, be simplified, not only to save the tax payer inconvenience and expense, but in order that his liability may be made certain and definite.

"With reference to the details of the revenue law, the secretary of the treasury and the commissioner of internal revenue will lay before you for your consideration certain amendments necessary or desirable in connection with the administration of the law — recommendations which have my approval and support.

"It is of the utmost importance that in dealing with this matter the present laws should not be disturbed so far as regards taxes for the calendar year 1920, payable in the calendar year 1921. The congress might well consider whether the higher rates of income and profits taxes can in peacetime be effectively productive of revenue, and whether they may not on the contrary be destructive of business activity and productive of waste and inefficiency. There is a point at which in peacetime high rates of income and profits taxes discourage energy, remove the incentive to new enterprise, encourage extravagant expenditures and produce industrial stagnation with consequent unemployment and other attendant evils.

"The problem is not an easy one. A fundamental change has taken place with reference to the position of America in the world's affairs. The prejudice and passions engendered by decades of controversy between two schools of political and economic thought — the one believers in protection of American industries; the other believers in tariff for revenue only — must be subordinated to the single consideration of the public interest in the light of utterly changed conditions. Before the war, America was heavily the debtor of the rest of the world and the interest payments she had to make in foreign countries on American securities held abroad, the expenditures of American travelers abroad and the ocean freight charges she had to pay to others, about balance the value of her pre-war favorable balance of trade. During the war, America's exports have been greatly stimulated and increased prices have increased their value. On the other hand she has purchased a large proportion of the American securities previously held abroad, has loaned some nine billions of dollars to foreign governments and has built her own ships. Our favorable balance of trade has thus been greatly increased and Europe has been deprived of the means

of securing it heretofore existing. She can have only three ways of setting the favorable balance of trade peace times: By imports into this country of gold or of goods, or by establishing new credits. Europe is in no position at the present time to ship gold to us nor could we contemplate large further imports of gold into this country without concern.

"The time has nearly passed for international governmental loans and it will take time to develop in this country a market for foreign securities. Anything, therefore, which would tend to prevent foreign countries from settling for our exports by shipments of goods into this country would only have the effect of preventing them from paying for our exports and therefore of preventing the exports from being made. The productivity of the country greatly stimulated by the war, must find an outlet by exports to foreign countries and any measures taken to prevent imports will inevitably curtail exports, force curtailment of production, load the banking machinery of the country with credits to carry unsold products and produce industrial stagnation and unemployment.

If we want to sell we must be prepared to buy. Whatever, therefore, may have been our views during the period of growth of American business concerning tariff legislation, we must now adjust our own economic life to a changed condition growing out of the fact that American business is full grown and that America is the greatest capitalist in the world.

"No policy of isolation will satisfy the growing needs and opportunities of America. The provincial standards and policies of the past, which have held American business as if in a straight jacket, must yield and give way to the needs and exigencies of the new day in which we live — a day full of hope and promise of American business, if we will but take advantage of the opportunities that are ours for the asking. The recent war has ended our isolation and thrown upon us a great duty and responsibility. The United States must share the expanding world market. The United States desires for itself only equal opportunity with the other nations of the world and that through the process of friendly co-operation and fair competition the legitimate interests of the nations concerned may be successfully and equitably adjusted."

## FELL TO ROOSEVELT'S SPEAR

Big Devilfish a Victim of the Colonel's Love of Sport, Either on Sea or Land.

The fame of the late Col. Theodore Roosevelt as a big game hunter is well known, but he was equally as adept at killing big fish of the sea, according to Russell J. Coles, noted big-fish killer. Attracted by one of Coles' articles about killing the devilfish, the colonel applied to him for instruction in the art. After taking several land lessons, using a spear with which he saw an African kill a lion, he finally became expert, and Mr. Coles formed a party to hunt the devilfish off the coast of Florida, in Punta Gorda, March 25, 1917. There the colonel killed his first devilfish, hitting the huge creature, which weighed many tons, just two inches from the spot indicated on a drawing by Coles, and driving the spear two feet four inches through the heaviest and boniest structure of the fish. The colonel was standing on the deck of a small boat traveling nine miles an hour, and the fish was coming toward the boat at the rate of 15 or 18 miles an hour, swimming about four or six feet under water. Had the colonel missed his aim the fish would have been able, with one of its side fins, to upset the boat and drown the fishermen. An hour after his first catch the colonel killed a second devilfish, which was the second largest devilfish ever killed. Mr. Coles is a scientist who has hunted devilfish for more than 20 years.

#### Auberge du Pigeon.

Strasbourg, French once more, is unfolding, like a rose to the sun. The old life has begun again, as it was lived before the interruption in 1871. Houses are throwing open their shutters and hanging up once familiar signs. One of them, the Pigeon inn, one of the glories of Strasbourg with its painted wood carvings, its old windows and curious ship decorations, has reopened its doors. It was built in 1331 and began its career under the sign of "Au Pigeon." Then later the sign changed to "Au Pigeon Blanc" and for two centuries the inn was the rendezvous of the university students. After 1870 the sign was taken down, the Pigeon Blanc's hospitality ceased and the house became the headquarters of a Roman Catholic society. The days of its ecclesiastical importance are happily over. The inn becomes the "Pigeon Blanc" once more, opening a new chapter of its long history under true Alsatian management. — Christian Science Monitor.

#### Rather Warm in the Deepest Well.

The deepest well in the world is six and one-half miles southeast of Fairmont, W. Va., drilled by the Hope Natural Gas company of Pittsburgh. It is 7,579 feet deep. The well had to be abandoned because the drilling tools stuck in the drill hole, the cable parted and left the tools and 4,000 feet of cable in the hole.

C. E. Van Orstrand of the United States geological survey, informs the Scientific American that the temperature at 7,000 feet was 172 degrees F., and the rate of increase was one degree in 51 feet. At this rate the boiling point would be reached at about 10,000 feet below the surface.

Once again the husband came staggering home late.

"Oh, John, have you been drinking again?" sobbed his wife as she caught a whiff of alcohol.

"No, dearie; you wrong me. I've been eatin' frogsh' legs, and you smell the hops." — Bursts and Duds.

Some roses are known by the cheeks they decorate. — Exchange.

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