

# McKINLEY'S MESSAGE

## The Annual Communication of the President to Congress.

### MANY IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Defines Our Policy in China—Approves of Ship Subsidy—Proposes Legislation for the Philippines and Asks Ratification of Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The following is a comprehensive synopsis of the president's annual message to congress:

The president gives first place in his message to the troubles in China, and our connection with the allied forces opposing them. He says the causes leading up to the Boxer outbreak, and the first murders of foreigners in Chinese territories. In this connection he says:

The increasing gravity of the conditions in China and the imminence of peril to our own diversified interests in the empire, as well as to those of all the other treaty governments, were most appraised by this government, causing it profound solicitude. The United States from the earliest days of foreign intercourse with China had followed a policy of peace, omitting no occasion to extend its influence to further the extension of lawful trade, to respect the sovereignty of its government, and to insure by all legitimate and kindly but earnest means the fullest measure of protection for the lives and property of our law-abiding citizens and for the exercise of their beneficent callings among the Chinese people.

Mindful of this, it was felt to be appropriate that our purposes should be pronounced in favor of such course as would hasten united action of the powers at Peking to promote the administrative reforms so greatly needed for the strengthening of the imperial government and maintaining the integrity of China, in which we believed the whole western world to be alike concerned. To these ends I caused to be addressed to the several powers occupying the position of maintaining spheres of influence in China the circular proposals of 1899, inviting from them declarations of their intentions as to the desirability of the adoption of a policy insuring the benefits of equality of treatment of all foreign trade throughout China.

#### Vigor of the Siege.

The history of the efforts made at Peking is thoroughly covered, no important detail is lacking and every engagement with the Chinese forces is mentioned, whether our forces were engaged or not. It shows the vigor with which the siege of the legations was pushed by our law-abiding citizens and the Chinese people. Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

#### Foundation of Durable Peace.

I regard as one of the essential factors of a durable adjustment the securing of adequate guarantees for liberty of faith, since in security of these nations may embrace alien creeds in scarcely less a factual assault upon the rights of foreign worship and teaching than would be the direct invasion thereof.

#### First Place at Paris.

Our relations with other countries are gone into in detail. The Paris exposition is referred to as offering an opportunity for a display of the good will existing between the United States and France. He notes that there were many drawbacks to a proper exhibition of American products, but says:

Despite all these drawbacks the contribution of the United States was not only the largest foreign display, but was among the earliest in place and the most orderly in arrangement. Our exhibits were shown in 101 out of 122 classes and more completely covered the entire classification than those of any other nation. In total number they rank next after those of France, and the attractive form in which they were presented secured general attention.

#### Relations with Germany.

Of our relations with Germany the president says good will prevails. He advises congress that the question of the admission of the German life insurance companies to do business in that country has been reached and the companies admitted. Of the meat inspection law of Germany he says:

#### Preparations for Relief.

All the preparations for relief by the combined powers are gone into, and when that object was finally accomplished on August 14 the conditions met with in Peking are described as follows:

The imperial family and the government had fled a few days before. The city was without a ruler. The remaining imperial soldiery had made on the night of the 13th a last attempt to exterminate the besieged, which was gallantly repelled. It fell to the occupying forces to restore order and organize a provisional administration.

#### Our Chinese Policy.

He recalls the circular note to the powers issued by this government on July 3, outlining our policy as one of peace, guaranteeing the integrity of China, and says:

earliest possible moment. As soon as the sacred duty of relieving our legation and its dependents was accomplished we withdrew our troops to the coast and our legation under an adequate guard in Peking as a channel of negotiation and settlement—a course adopted by others of the interested powers. Overturning of the empowered representatives of the Chinese emperor have been considered entertained.

#### Accepted Russia's Proposition.

The Russian proposition looking to the restoration of the imperial power in Peking has been accepted as in full consonance with our policy. We have held and hold that effective reparation for wrongs suffered and an enduring settlement that will make their recurrence impossible can be secured only by the aid of an authority which the Chinese nation reverences and obeys. While so doing we forego no jot of our undoubted right to exact exemplary and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injury.

#### Relations with Italy.

The lynching of the Italians in Louisiana is the one question standing between this government and Italy. The president says that successive grand juries have failed to find indictments, and says: "Setting the principle at issue in the case of all consideration of merely pecuniary indemnification, such as this government made in the three previous cases, Italy has solemnly invoked the pledges of our treaty and asked that the justice to which she is entitled shall be meted in regard to her unfortunate countrymen in our territory with the same full measure which we have accorded to any American where his reciprocal treaty rights concerned."

#### The Peace Negotiations.

Taking, as a point of departure, the imperial edict appointing Earl Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching plenipotentiaries to arrange a settlement, and the edict of September 23, 1900, by which high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved, in concert with the other powers, toward the opening of negotiations which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

#### General bases of negotiation.

Formulated by the government of the French republic and accepted by the other powers, these negotiations as to details, made necessary by our own circumstances, but, like similar observations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations. The disposition of the emperor to permit to admit liability for wrongs done to foreign governments and their nationals, and to act upon such additional designation of officials, certainly high officials, ministers at Peking may be in a position to make, gives hope of a complete settlement of all questions involved, assuring foreign rights of residence and intercourse on terms of equality for all.

#### The Nicaraguan Canal.

He advocates the speedy building of the Nicaraguan canal, and recommends the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty as the subject of the subject.

#### The Trust Question.

The trust question receives the attention of the president, and he says:

#### The Philippines.

Considerable attention is given the subject of the Philippines, and in this connection the scope and work of the Philippine commission as outlined to the congress of 1898, and the present conditions in the islands the president says:

#### The Postal Service.

Under a discussion of the postal service he urges an extension of the rural free delivery system and says:

#### The Navy.

The recommendations of the secretary of the navy for more ships and an increase in the personnel of the navy are approved, and the president says:

#### Further Financial Legislation.

He recommends further financial legislation in the following words:

to neutral cargoes, not contraband in their own nature, shipped to Portuguese South Africa, on the score of probable or suspected ultimate destination to the Boer states.

Of the final settlement of this question he says:

Such consignments in British ships, by which direct trade is kept open between our ports and Southern Africa, were seized in application of a municipal law prohibiting British vessels from trading with the enemy without regard to any contraband character of the goods, while cargoes shipped to Delagoa Bay in neutral bottoms were arrested on the ground of alleged destination to enemy's country. Appropriate representations on our part resulted in the British government agreeing to purchase outright all such goods shown to be actual property of American citizens, the clause in our treaty providing for the satisfaction of the immediately interested parties, although, unfortunately, without a broad settlement of the question of a neutral right to send goods not contraband per se to a neutral port adjacent to a belligerent area.

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of the fiscal year to call in the funded loan of 1891 continued at two per cent in the sum of \$25,864,500. To and including November 30, \$25,468,107 of these bonds have been redeemed. Together with the amount which may accrue from further redemptions under the call, will be applied to the sinking fund.

The law of March 14, 1890, provided for refunding to the government of the four per cent, principal and interest, in gold coin of the present standard value, that portion of the public debt represented by the three per cent bonds of 1882, the four per cents of 1897 and the five per cents of 1900, of which there was outstanding at the date of said law \$83,149,532. The holders of the old bonds presented them for exchange March 14 and November 30 to the amount of \$364,948,750. The net saving to the government on these transactions aggregates \$9,106,169.

#### Banking Facilities Extended.

The beneficial effect of the financial act of 1900, so far as it relates to the modification of the national banking act, is already apparent. The provision for the incorporation of national banks with a capital of not less than \$50,000 in places not having a population of 5,000 inhabitants has resulted in the establishment of 1,100 banks, many of which are in small communities hitherto unable to provide themselves with banking institutions under the national system. There are now in operation 1,100 banks, of which 266 were with capital less than \$50,000 and 834 with capital of \$50,000 or more.

#### Our Foreign Trade.

Our foreign trade shows a remarkable record of commercial and industrial progress. The total of imports and exports for the first time in the history of the country, are greater than they have ever been before. The total for the fiscal year 1900 being \$1,394,489,082, an increase over 1899 being \$1,394,489,082, an increase over 1898 being \$1,394,489,082, an increase over 1897 being \$1,394,489,082, an increase over 1896 being \$1,394,489,082.

#### Lynching.

In my inaugural address I referred to the general subject of lynching in these words:

"Lynching must not be tolerated in a great and civilized country like the United States; courts, not mobs, must decide the guilt of a man. The preservation of public order, the right of discussion, the integrity of courts, and the orderly administration of justice must continue forever the rock of safety upon which our government securely rests."

#### The Internal Revenue Tax.

I recommend that the congress at its present session reduce the internal revenue taxes imposed to meet the expenses of the war with Spain in the sum of \$20,000,000. The reduction of these taxes which experience has shown to be the most burdensome to the industries of the people, and the special tax on foreign ships, which has been reduced in the past, and the reduction in the legacy tax, requests for public uses of a literary, educational or charitable character.

#### Recommendations Ship Subsidy.

American vessels during the past three years have carried about nine per cent of our foreign trade. Foreign ships should carry the least, not the greatest, part of American trade. The remarkable growth of our steel industries, the progress of shipbuilding for the domestic trade, and the steadily maintained expenditures for the navy have created an opportunity to place the United States in the first rank of commercial maritime powers.

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local self-government, of education, and of industrial and agricultural development which we stand ready to give to them.

Principles are Appreciated.

Referring to the manner in which the work of the commission upon the islands laid down in his instructions to them has been received by the people of the Philippines, the president says:

It is evident that the most enlightened thought of the Philippine people fully appreciates the importance of these principles and rules, and they will inevitably within a short time command universal assent. Upon this subject a branch of the government of the Philippines, therefore, must be imposed three inviolable rules:

That no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation; that in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the nature and cause of the accusation to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense; that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted; that no person shall be put twice in jeopardy for the same offense, or be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself; that the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist except as a punishment for crime; that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed; that no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the rights of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances; that no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and that the free exercise of the profession of religious profession and worship without discrimination or preference shall forever be allowed.

#### Encouraging Reports.

Later reports from the commission show every encouraging sign that the government is insuring the benefits of liberty and good government to the Filipinos, in the interest of humanity and with the aim of building up an enduring, self-supporting self-administering community. Those far eastern seas. I would impress upon the congress that whatever legislation may be enacted in respect to the Philippine islands should be along these general lines. The fortune of war has thrown upon this nation an unsought trust which should be unselfishly discharged, and devoted to this responsibility toward these millions whom we have freed from an oppressive yoke.

#### Porto Rico.

The civil government of Porto Rico provided for by the act of the congress, approved April 12, 1900, is in successful operation. The courts have been established. The governor and his associates, working intelligently and harmoniously, are meeting with commendable success. On the 6th of November a general election was held in the island for members of the legislature, and the body elected has been called to convene on the first Monday of December.

#### Dealings with Cuba.

The present conditions in Cuba are referred to, citing the call for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention which is in progress. This part of his message, with the following:

When the convention concludes its labor I will transmit to the congress the constitution as framed by the convention, and I will urge the congress for such action as it may deem advisable.

#### The Army.

An increase in the regular army is recommended, and the need of soldiers shown. After saying that we need at least 25,000 more troops, he says:

Our extensive fortifications and ordnance contingents:

We have in Cuba between 5,000 and 6,000 troops. The present force is insufficient, and cannot be withdrawn on a moment's notice, and certainly not until the conclusion of the labors of the constitutional convention now in session and a government provided for by the constitution shall have been established and its stability assured.

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