

# President's Message

Washington correspondence.

President Roosevelt's message to Congress is a very long one, aggregating over 20,000 words. It covers an immense variety of subjects, internal and external, and has some straight talk particularly on the subject of railroad rate legislation and Federal supervision of corporations, which will appeal to the country. The President has not minced words in his various recommendations.

The feature of the message which will attract the most attention, because it has been made by the President the "paramount issue" in American politics, is that devoted to the discussion of the railroad rate question. The President points out in great detail the evils now existing and the necessity for their eradication. As a remedy he proposes that the Interstate Commerce Commission shall be authorized in declaring a rate to be unreasonable, to declare at the same time what is a maximum, reasonable rate, and to make an order requiring the offending railroad to reduce its rate to that maximum. He further recommends that in order to insure obedience to the order, the law contain a penalty, but that opportunity be reserved to the company to appeal to the Federal court, whose decision shall be final. The President also seeks the regulation of the private car and terminal interests so that discrimination or rebates in any form shall be impossible.

The President in his direct recommendation stands almost where he stood a year ago, but not exactly. Then he said that, while it was undesirable to clothe the Interstate Commerce Commission with general authority to fix railroad rates, he did believe that the commission should be vested "with the power, where a given rate has been challenged and after a full hearing found to be unreasonable, to decide, subject to judicial review, what shall be a reasonable rate to take its place, the ruling of the commission to take effect immediately and to obtain unless and until reversed by the court of review."

In his message this year, the President takes the position that this power should be vested in the Interstate Commerce Commission or some other body created by the Federal government and that it should have authority to fix a maximum rate, that is to say, a rate above which the carriers shall not go until the matter has been reviewed by the court. But the President still stands out for a law which would put the rate in effect and keep it there, and to all intents and purposes his position is the same as last year, because there would seem to be no likelihood of agreement on some rate regulating body outside of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The message is a very elaborate discussion of the whole transportation problem. There are suggestions that private car lines, combined rail and water lines, other auxiliary transportation companies, elevators, etc., be brought within the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The President also devotes some attention to the necessity for preventing ruinous rate wars and unfair competition, and says it might be a good thing if the different trunk lines were allowed to meet and consult about rates.

**Need of Insurance Reform.**  
The President has handled the subject of insurance without gloves, referring to the revelations made during the inquiry in New York as evidence of the great need of Federal supervision. He says that the only complete remedy for the present deplorable state of affairs will be found in an aroused public conscience and a higher sense of ethical conduct among business men. He thinks that this country should follow the policy of other nations by providing national supervision of commercial interests that are clearly national in character. He also believes the work of the bureau of corporations in investigating corporations is having a good effect. The President's language as usual is very strong in dealing with the questionable phases of modern finance, and especially with the recent life insurance disclosures.

**Curb for Corporations.**  
Corporations is a subject which has been given serious consideration by the President. He believes corporations should be managed with due regard to the interests of the public as a whole. He has expressed this belief and has recommended proper legislation by Congress. In this connection, attention is called to prosecutions which have been conducted by the Department of Justice. He declares strongly against overcapitalization and inflation, and favors a certain salutary control over the big corporations engaged in interstate commerce by the Federal authorities, though expressing

in unmistakable terms his belief that work that can with propriety be left in private hands should be so left.

In discussing the relations of capital and labor the President takes a conservative position. He tells why it would be unwise to deprive the proper courts of the power to issue injunctions, but suggests further regulations to hedge about that power. He speaks for equal justice for employer and employe and hopes for the coming of the day when both will recognize that "they are properly partners and not enemies."

The message strongly denounces the corrupt use of money at elections. The President would make it unlawful for any corporation to contribute to the funds of a political committee. He would require the publicity of all contributions of all individuals. He leaves Congress no excuse for failing to meet this growing evil.

**Urges Domingo Action.**  
The President has much to say and nothing to conceal on the subject of our relations with Santo Domingo. He tells the whole story. An arrangement was entered into under which the

its cost. He earnestly commends the encouragement of the merchant marine by appropriate legislation. The President has had a commission make a careful investigation of the subject of citizenship and naturalization. He reports its findings, showing the terrible abuses it has found, and recommends appropriate legislation for their cure.

**Condemns Graft.**  
The gross extravagance and even graft which have been found to flourish are subjects for especial condemnation, and the difficulty the national authorities encounter in prosecuting cases against prominent and wealthy companies whose lawyers fight their battles upon legal technicalities comes in for mention. The President finds considerable saving can be made in the administration of the government, and refers to the necessity of making appropriations in such manner as will enable purchases of government supplies in large lots rather than by each department as in the past.

**Progress in the Philippines.**  
The President is satisfied that real progress is being made in the Philippines. He regards the government as more efficient and more economical, and Filipinos are replacing Americans in official positions. He recommends strongly legislation for lower tariff rates on Filipino exports to the United States, while he suggests the granting of a reduction in the schedule on importations from the Philippine Isl-

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.



United States was to be the custodian of a percentage of the customs duties collected, which were to be applied to the extinguishment of the debt of the island. The foreign creditors required us to do so. If we had objected we could not have complained if some European country had seized the customs houses of the island and administered the customs for an indefinite period against the spirit of the Monroe doctrine. Immediately after the adjournment of the Senate without having ratified the treaty a foreign war ship appeared in Dominican waters, determined to take a hand in the collection of the customs for the benefit of the Italian creditors. The President asks the approval of the Senate for what he has done and requests the ratification of the pending treaty.

**Faith in the Canal Project.**  
There is a full discussion of the Panama Canal. The President gives an account of everything that has been done since Congress failed to give him legislation last winter. He describes the present financial situation as to the canal showing that the money is all exhausted and that more must be appropriated at once if the work is not to halt. Two points regarding the canal the President regards as no longer open to debate: It is to be built upon the Isthmus of Panama, and there is no question of the entire feasibility of the route. The report of the advisory board of engineers on the unsettled point of whether a lock canal or one at sea level is more practical will soon be presented to Congress.

**Reform in Consular Service.**  
The President tells of the reforms he has ordered in the consular service and recommends that Congress enact legislation in order that this service may be placed upon a sound business footing, which will enable it to give satisfactory and adequate results for

ands. The President refrains from urging a revision of the tariff.

**Pride in Growth of Navy.**  
The President is gratified at the substantial increases which have been made in the navy, and believes this work should not stop. He refers to the lessons of the Russo-Japanese war as vindicating the battleship and concurs in the recommendations of the general board of the navy that three new battleships be authorized.

**Check for Immigration.**  
Immigration, as usual, is discussed fully. There is an argument for restricting immigration to a more desirable class, and for the safeguarding of American citizenship. The President wants laws which will prevent the United States from serving as a dumping ground for Europe. At the same time he wants fair dealing with all nations, and has devoted considerable space to the question of the amendment of the Chinese exclusion law. He favors continued exclusion of the laboring classes of the Chinese, but opposes the exclusion of the intelligent classes.

There is also a full discussion of our relations with China on the question of the exclusion of Chinamen. There has been much ground for complaint on the part of the intelligent Chinese against the enforcement of the exclusion laws, and Congress is counseled to act wisely in order to prevent reprisals similar to those attempted in the boycott of American goods in China.

The President discusses the encouragement of the merchant marine, the fostering of relations between labor and capital, the necessity for economy in government expenditures, the improvement of public lands through irrigation and through the care of the forest reserve and many other subjects which are discussed at length in the reports of the different heads of the departments.

## JEWS SEND CALL FOR AID

JEWS AT ODESSA FEAR ANOTHER SERIOUS OUTBREAK

Military Authorities Unable to Control Actions of Their Own Troops and Situation Grows More Serious

KIEFF, Russia, Via Warsaw.—There has been serious street fighting between mutinous Sappers and Cossacks and between workmen and bands of the "black hundred." Scores of persons have been killed or wounded. Martial law has been proclaimed.

LONDON.—The Daily Mail's Kieff correspondent in a dispatch forwarded by way of Podwoleczyska says:

"Early in the morning a company of Sappers, dissatisfied with their martial commander, mutinied and persuaded a second company to join them. They left the fortress fully armed and by threats compelled the remaining Sappers' battalion to join them. Numbering a thousand, the mutineers marched to the barracks of the 125th Kusk infantry, which, however, remained loyal. Jewish musicians marched at the head of the mutineers. Several attempts were made to induce other troops to join them but these likewise failed.

"A body of Cossacks allowed the rebels to pass them in the street. Finally the mutineers arrived at the barracks of the artillery division and the Azoff infantry regiment. The Azoff men answered their appeal with insults and the rebels opened fire on them. The Azoffs answered with three volleys. A portion of the mutineers fled but the others continued fighting.

The Azoffs replied with deadly volleys and finally the rebels fled headlong, throwing down their arms. Two hundred of them surrendered and were conveyed to their barracks by Cossacks. All was over by 2:30 in the afternoon.

"Fifty dead and a hundred wounded mutineers were left on the ground.

"A court martial has been convened and an order issued that any further attempt at mutiny will be quelled by artillery."

ODESSA.—This dispatch is sent at the request of the Jewish community which fears a fresh massacre by the local garrison. It is asserted that a proclamation is being circulated in almost every regiment, calling on the soldiers to exterminate the Jews and to destroy the newspaper office in revenge for groundless accusations against the troops of their participation in massacres and pillage and in the protection of rowdies.

This is exciting the population against the army.

The Jews assert that the officers deliver anti-semitic speeches in the barracks after removing the Jewish soldiers and that Governor General Knulbars himself has confessed that the officers are burning for revenge on the Jews and that he is unable to guarantee the preservation of order.

In view of the fact that this city is entirely cut off from St. Petersburg and thus is altogether in the hands of the local authorities, the Jewish community implores all civilized nations and their governments to take all possible measures at St. Petersburg to prevent a catastrophe which may exceed anything that has yet occurred.

VIENNA.—Tageblatt publishes a communication from Odessa which was mailed to Podwoleczyska, Galicia, from which point it was telegraphed. It read:

"The Ismaili and Donai regiments stationed at Odessa mutinied but the authorities succeeded in disarming all the men.

"An order issued by the minister of education Count John Tolstoi prohibiting more than the legal percentage of Jews entering the university was ignored by the faculty which had the streets placarded with a notice to the effect that the university was open.

It is reported from Odessa that a general strike will be declared soon.

Advices from Sebastopol declare the panic there is increasing. The members of the so-called military party are holding meetings in all the barracks and this fact greatly increases the anxiety for the future.

A dispatch from Cracow, Galicia, says that news had been received from Warsaw to the effect that many families are hurriedly leaving that city. The banks doing Germany and Austrian business in Warsaw are meeting many incalls for the immediate payment of considerable sums

## TELLS ABOUT NAVY

SECRETARY BONAPARTE OFFERS ANNUAL REPORT.

### Deplores Recent Fatality

First Fights at Academy on a Parallel With Duelling and Not to Be Countenanced—Additions to Navy

WASHINGTON.—The report of Secretary Bonaparte of the navy was submitted to the president. Discussing the recent fatal prize fight at the academy the secretary says:

"A very painful incident has recently attracted public attention to the naval academy and caused grave concern to the department. One of the midshipmen there died, early in the month of November, as the result of injuries received in a fist fight with another midshipman. The department felt bound to order the trial of the latter by court martial, and in view of this fact I refrain from any further comment on this particular occurrence; but it may be well to make perfectly clear the attitude of the department with respect to similar prearranged encounters between midshipmen, since this attitude has been apparently misconstrued and therefore unjustly criticised in certain quarters.

"There may be something to be fairly said in favor of permitting such conflicts, just as there may have been something to be fairly said in favor of permitting duelling, but such considerations, if they exist, address themselves properly to the legislative branch of the government. As the law stands now, an encounter of this character is a crime, and this department must and will enforce the law. If the congress shall see fit to change the law, of course this will alter the attitude of the department, but while the articles for the government of the navy remain unchanged all participants in such proceedings must be punished with a severity corresponding to the gravity of their offense.

"The estimates submitted for the expenses of the department and the service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, exceed by some eleven and a half millions the amount appropriated for the same purpose for the current fiscal year. While this additional expense is, of course, to be regretted in itself, it can hardly be deemed unreasonable, in view of the steady growth of the navy. In fact these estimates have been reduced by more than \$15,000,000 from the aggregate of those submitted by the several chiefs of bureaus and I think any further reduction will be made at the risk of diminishing the efficiency of the navy.

"It will be observed on examining them that there is a large reduction in the amount asked for the increase of the navy, the aggregate of the sums requested for this purpose being some \$18,000,000 less than what was asked for the present fiscal year. On the other hand, there is a very heavy increase in the estimates of the bureau of ordnances and considerable additions to the appropriations asked for those of equipment and steam engineering, besides the increased amounts required for pay and maintenance of the navy and marine corps.

"A considerable amount has been also asked for public works at the naval stations, although very heavy reductions were made by the department in the estimates submitted for this purpose by the bureaus. The last item is explained by the fact that a number of improvements, which for reasons of economy have been postponed once or oftener already, are now indispensable in the interest of the service. It is further explained in part by the necessity of making provisions for the advance naval basis at Guantanamo and Olongapo, although the amounts allotted for these purposes have been kept as low as was consistent with avoiding delay in the final completion of this work.

"Within the past two years very impressive lessons as to naval problems of the highest importance have been afforded by the bloody war in eastern Asia, now happily concluded. As to some conclusions to be drawn from this experience, we may fairly say that everyone is agreed. Such are the paramount importance to a belligerent of thorough preparation, drill, discipline, target practice, and proximity to a well supplied base at the moment of decisive conflict."