

✿ ✿ The Weekly Press on the President's Message ✿ ✿

**Itasca (Tex.) Item:** The president appears to favor the subsidizing of the American merchant marine, and his attitude is calculated to render him unpopular with the masses of the people.

**Adel (Ga.) News:** The message was looked for with a good deal of expectancy and although an able state paper, there is not that strong individuality about it that was generally expected.

**Temple (Tex.) Times:** When the article is finished it leaves an impression very similar to a school girl's essay on the duties of parents. It reads very well, but it never strikes the nail a home stroke.

**Elkton (Ky.) Times:** President Roosevelt wants to be cautious in dealing with the trusts. To use a moss-covered expression, he "knows which side his bread is buttered on," and, well—he likes butter.

**Hastings (Neb.) Democrat:** If there is such a thing as a trust in the country he thinks "publicity" will settle it. Think of that! The republican president has doubts whether there is such a thing as trusts.

**Spartanburg (S. C.) Free Lance:** It is a typical republican message, dealing with governmental abuses that are the subject of popular discontent in such a manner as to pull the wool over the eyes of those who complain and yet retain the friendship and support of the beneficiaries of those abuses.

**New Castle (Va.) Record:** Of our merchant marine he urges that something should be done to remedy the inequalities existing between American built ships and the subsidized ships of foreign countries; he does not mention subsidy as a remedy, but such an implication is easily seen.

**Ithaca (N. Y.) Democrat:** The document gives assurances to the trusts and monopolies that they can depend upon Roosevelt as implicitly as they can upon Attorney General Knox, of the steel trust, and shows that the common people have no ground to hope for any protection from the aggressions of predatory wealth, through the influence of the president.

**Hutchinson (Minn.) Leader:** It was unlike Roosevelt in that it lacked sensational features and it betrays a conservatism that few suspected him to possess. While on minor matters of patronage the president may break away from established precedents, it is evident that on questions of party policy, he has come to a fairly good understanding with the party leaders.

**Portsmouth (O.) Times:** On two of the vital questions of the day it is vague, uncertain and non-committal. In the matter of the encroachment and menace of trusts, there is nothing to alarm the cormorants and nothing to satisfy the people. The president's claim that publicity will be a remedy for the rapacity of monopolies is really pitiful, and that is all he has to say against them.

**Gainesville (Fla.) Sun:** His suggestion for dealing with trusts are directed on the line of publicity by governmental inspection and semi-supervision of their acts. Like all republican presidents he pleads the inability of the national government to protect the people against the greed of combined monopoly because of the rights which individual states have in the premises. He goes a little further on than his predecessor and even suggests the advisability of an amendment to the constitution.

**Versailles (Mo.) Democrat:** The country had been warned of his opposition to trusts and combines, but on this subject the message is mild and suggests no remedy. The situation with regard to our colonial policy and possessions remains unchanged and we are still in the dark in the matter of the future policy to be pursued in Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines.

**Boulder (Colo.) Representative:** Our president is opposed to the trusts, but only suggests that laws be so framed as to permit of legal inquiry into the operations of these modern inventions of ingenious Yankees. Congress is safely republican and many were elected by the aid of these trusts so there is no danger that the trusts are to be disturbed in their methods of oppression to business and the public.

**Georgetown (Del.) Democrat:** While a good message from a republican point of view, it is not, of course, in accordance with democratic opinion and many of its suggestions will meet with strong opposition throughout the country. It looks likely, too, that the tariff portion will encounter opposition from western members of his own party, though not to an extent that will endanger the policy.

**Luray (Va.) News:** It was looked forward to with much interest as it was expected to outline policies greatly at variance with those favored by many of the most influential leaders of the republican party, especially in the matter of trade reciprocity. These expectations were by no means realized, as President Roosevelt's radical views are greatly toned down in his message.

**Columbia (Mo.) Herald:** In one respect it has fulfilled expectation. There is an originality, a lack of perfunctoriness about it not usual in presidential messages. But in the promulgation of any new or startling policies it is disappointing. While it takes somewhat higher grounds upon the standard of the civil service it is not otherwise specially different from the message of the ordinary republican president.

**Memphis (Tenn.) Herald:** President Roosevelt's message is a disappointment to many, as it was expected to be a characteristic document. It is said that he listened to advice and toned it down. Whether or not this is the case, it does not differ much from the sesame verbiage used in former messages, and there is nothing to distinguish it from what other presidents have done.

**Augusta (Me.) New Age:** This is the position of President Roosevelt and the republican leaders in congress: "Reciprocity is a beautiful theory. We have promised it in our platforms and our speeches, but we fear it can never become an accomplished fact. Let us talk and let us agitate, but, for the peace, security and prosperity of the country, as well as for our own political hides, let us not enact."

**Staunton (Va.) News:** We do not accept the president's theories on protection, but we heartily commend any step that may be taken toward establishing reciprocity. We are only afraid that the restriction he places on its extension will prevent its adoption in any case where it would prove of value to consumers. Protected interests will always cry out against any course that affects them. They have done so already, and have defeated the very excellent reciprocity treaties negotiated by Mr. McKinley.

**Hackensack (N. J.) Democrat:** Reciprocity and the tariff, of course, he treats from a republican standpoint and believes that the present tariff laws are responsible for the general prosperity of the country. "Reciprocity," he claims, ought to be treated as the "handmaiden" of protection. If Roosevelt is to follow in McKinley's footsteps, as he has promised, he must give reciprocity a fair opportunity of being tested.

**Ithica (Mich.) News:** The message does not come up to the expectations of the president's most "strenuous" friends. The president's ideas seem to meander along about on the middle ground of republican sentiment, and are neither very hot nor very cold, the intention apparently being to follow the average of party views, aiming to shoot, according to the old saying, so as "to hit the game if it is a deer and miss it if it happens to be a calf."

**Hudson (Wis.) True Republican:** Some time ago Bourke Cockran declared that the way to fight trusts was by publicity. The president takes the same ground, only a little weaker, by advising an inquiry into the social conditions, and then if anything is found wrong publish it. That sounds very well, but if a grizzly were close after his coat tail he would not be apt to say, "I'll investigate this and if I find you are wrong I'll put your name in the paper."

**Garnett (Kas.) Agitator:** Many people believed that the president would jump onto the trusts with both feet, and there seemed to be some reason for this belief, but the trusts have "read between the lines" that portion of his message relating to trusts, and they are not the least bit disturbed. Indeed, he favors the trusts in a left-handed manner. The protectionists and the trusts are losing no sleep over the matter. They are safe, so far as Roosevelt is concerned.

**Solon (Ia.) Economy:** With the general tenor and recommendations of the president's message we have no fault to find, though we would not vouch for the wisdom of several of the matters recommended. Upon the whole, the message has more of the vigor of Rehoboth than of the wisdom of David or of Solomon. But this we may expect as well from the present condition of the nation as from the previous life and training of Colonel Roosevelt. Neither a David nor a Solomon could well fill President Roosevelt's place at this time.

**Bel Ayr (Md.) Democrat:** President Roosevelt sent his first message to congress on Tuesday. The president having a reputation for the spectacular, not a few expected in the message a few bolts and flashes that would startle his party associates. And there is internal evidence that they were in the message as originally penned and subsequently removed after consultation with leading senators, to whom the document was submitted before committed to the hands of the printer. As pruned it is the work of an artist with a second term as background. It mildly suggests remedies for public evils, but fails to press them with the usual Roosevelt strenuousness—as much as to say to party leaders, not my will, but thine be done.

**Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger:** President Roosevelt discusses the trust question in a manner to which these interests can find no objection. He urges publicity as the "only sure remedy which we can now invoke." But publicity, as he urges it, is for the purpose, not of crushing the power of industrial combinations to prey upon the

producer, the consumer and the wage-earner, but to protect the confiding capitalists who put their money in stocks and bonds. The only real "evil" that he points out is over-capitalization, although he admits that there are other "real and grave evils." The president, in fact, begins his discussion of the trust question with an argument to show that they are the legitimate outgrowth of natural conditions.

**Berlin (Md.) Herald:** "While we will do everything in our power for the Filipino who is peaceful," he says, "we will take the sternest measure with the Filipinos who follow the path of the insurrecto and the ladrone." Even to the extent of concentration and starvation of women and children, Mr. President? What more could Spain have said with respect to the people of these same Philippine islands when they were her unwilling subjects, before they had been purchased by this country, at a price of \$20,000,000 in money and oceans of trouble?

**Shenandoah (Ia.) World:** There seems to be a tone all the way through it that indicates that the president is influenced by the republican leaders, shown more, perhaps, by the things that are left unsaid than by the things actually said. For instance, his utterances on the matter of reciprocity will not, we believe, satisfy the American people; nor do we believe they are nearly so strong as would have been Mr. McKinley's had he lived. And the things he does say about this, even, are so hedged about with warnings not to unduly disturb the tariff that they lose their effectiveness.

**Rochester (Pa.) Chronicle:** We fear his message was written with an eye single to the welfare of the privileged classes. From the four corners of his message there comes the inuendo that fundamentally our political and social structure is as perfect as human brains can conceive; that fundamentally everything is right. Yet everyone who has given the subject any thought whatever, realizes that our entire social and industrial fabric is based on privilege—a fact that portends evil for popular government. Every republic of history has given way to the disintegrating influences of privilege.

**Hastings (Mich.) Herald:** There are certain parts of the message in which the president's political bias is strongly and vigorously brought out, arguments and recommendations which will not meet with the approval of democrats. He champions the present tariff law and strongly opposes any tinkering with it, but he favors reciprocity which he calls the "handmaid of protection." He urges that congress do something to build up our merchant marine, but does not specify in what way. If he favors the subsidy scheme he is not bold enough to say so and in this respect he shows an unexpected weakness.

**Dayton (Tenn.) Herald:** The trust princes are chuckling in their sleeve, for says the president, "It would be most unwise to cramp or fetter the strength of our youthful industries in the strife for commercial supremacy among the nations of the world." He is thoroughly convinced that the public is being abused somewhere or somehow by this great amassing of wealth and controlling of industries and labor, but where it is, what it is and how it is he doesn't know, but recommends that these things be found out. To sum up, "pursue the even tenor of your way, Mr. Morgan, meanwhile we will discuss the question as to where the people are being hit at."