

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 12)

straint of trade. Whenever the period of filing had passed without any such prohibition, the contracts or combinations could be disapproved or forbidden only after notice and hearing with a reasonable provision for summary review on appeal by the courts. Labor organizations, farmers' organizations, and other organizations not organized for purpose of profit, should be allowed to register under the law by giving the location of the head office, the charter and by-laws, and the names and addresses of their principal officers. In

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C. E. BROOKS, The Inventor

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That is the fairest proposition ever made by a rupture specialist. The banks or any responsible citizen in Marshall will tell you that is the way I do business—always absolutely on the square.

If you have tried most everything else, come to me. Where others fail is where I have my greatest success. Write me today and I will send you my book on Rupture and its Cure, showing my appliance and giving you prices and names of people who have tried it and been cured. It is instant relief when all others fail. Remember I use no salves, no harness, no lies. Just a straight business deal at a reasonable price.

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the interest of all these organizations—business, labor, and farmers organizations alike—the present provision permitting the recovery of threefold damages should be abolished, and as a substitute therefor the right of recovery allowed for should be only the damages sustained by the plaintiff and the cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

The law should not affect pending suits; a short statute of limitations should be provided, so far as the past is concerned, not to exceed a year. Moreover, and even more in the interest of labor than of business combinations, all such suits brought for causes of action heretofore occurred should be brought only if the contract or combination complained of was unfair or unreasonable. It may be well to remember that all of the suits hitherto brought by the government under the anti-trust law have been in cases where the combination of contract was in fact unfair, unreasonable, and against the public interest.

It is important we should encourage trade agreements between employer and employe where they are just and fair. A strike is a clumsy weapon for righting wrongs done to labor, and we should extend, so far as possible, the process of conciliation and arbitration as a substitute for strikes. Moreover, violence, disorder, and coercion, when committed in connection with strikes, should be as promptly and as sternly repressed as when committed in any other connection. But strikes themselves are, and should be, recognized to be entirely legal. Combinations of workmen have a peculiar reason for their existence. The very wealthy individual employer, and still more the very wealthy corporation, stand at an enormous advantage when compared to the individual workman; and while there are many cases where it may not be necessary for laborers to form a union, in many other cases it is indispensable, for otherwise the thousands of small units, the thousands of individual workmen, will be left helpless in their dealings with the one big unit, the big individual or corporate employer.

Twenty-two years ago, by the act of June 29, 1886, trades unions were recognized by law, and the right of laboring people to combine for all lawful purposes was formally recognized, this right including combinations for mutual protection and benefits, the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labor, and the protection of the individual rights of the workmen in the prosecution of their trade or trades; and in the act of June 1, 1898, strikes were recognized as legal in the same provision that forbade participation in or instigation of force or violence against persons or property, or the attempt to prevent others from working by violence, threat, or intimidation. The business man must be protected in person and property, and so must the farmer and the wageworker, and as regards all alike, the right of peaceful combination for all lawful purposes should be explicitly recognized.

The right of employers to combine and contract with one another and with their employes should be explicitly recognized, and so should the right of employes to combine and to contract with one another and with the employers and to seek peaceably to persuade others to accept their views and to strike for the purpose of peaceably obtaining from employers satisfactory terms for their labor.

Nothing should be done to legalize either a blacklist or boycott that would be illegal at common law.

The question of financial legislation is now receiving such attention in both houses that we have a right

to expect action before the close of the session. It is urgently necessary that there should be such legislation. Moreover action should be taken to establish a postal savings bank. These postal savings banks are imperatively needed for the benefit of the wageworkers and men of small means and will be a valuable adjunct to our whole financial system.

The time has come when we should prepare for a revision of the tariff. It seems to me that before the close of this session provision should be made for collecting full material which will enable the congress elected next fall to act immediately after it comes into existence. This would necessitate some action by the congress at its present session, perhaps in the shape of directing the proper committee to gather the necessary information.

I am of the opinion, however, that one change in the tariff could with advantage be made forthwith. Our forests need every protection, and one method of protecting them would be to put upon the free list wood pulp with a corresponding reduction upon paper made from wood pulp.

Ample provision should be made for a permanent waterways commission. The congress should recognize in fullest fashion the fact that the subject of the conservation of our natural resources is literally vital for the future of the nation.

Numerous bills granting water power rights on navigable streams have been introduced. None of them give the government the right to make a reasonable charge for the valuable privileges so granted. Nor is any definite time limit set. I shall be obliged hereafter, in accordance with the policy stated in a recent message, to veto any water power bill which does not provide for a time limit and for the right of the president or the secretary concerned to fix and collect such a charge as he may find to be just and reasonable in each case.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The White House, March 25, 1908.

MR. BLAINE'S REQUEST

Years ago, just two weeks after Grover Cleveland had been inaugurated president for the first time, James G. Blaine, his defeated opponent, went to the White House and into the Cleveland presence. It became known afterward that Mr. Blaine told Mr. Cleveland that he came to ask a favor, only one favor of the administration. Then the defeated one told the president that he hoped sincerely that a certain man in Maine, a democrat, would not be given the office that it was known he craved.

Mr. Blaine told Mr. Cleveland 'hat the campaign of the summer and fall previous had been a campaign of personal abuse of mud-slinging in which neither party chief had a part and which both discontenanced. The Maine man whom Mr. Blaine wished to have denied the office that he sought was the man who in large part was responsible for certain stories concerning the early personal life of Blaine, which, even had they been true, never should have seen print.

Mr. Cleveland's answer to Mr. Blaine on that occasion was never known in its exact form, but this much was known, the Maine mud-slinger asked for his office only to have his request met with pointblank denial.—Washington correspondence Chicago Post.

CURRENCY LEGISLATION

Mr. A. A. Jones, a well known citizen of Las Vegas, N. M., writes as follows:

"I wish to advance a thought in reference to the present financial situation and proposed legislation. "Owing to the vast increase in the

production of gold during the last ten years it is generally believed we have an adequate amount of money with which to transact all legitimate business. But the full supply of money must be available for use and not hoarded. The remedy suggested for the accomplishment of this object is the guarantee of bank deposits. This remedy is feasible. If adopted it will be found simple and effective.

There will remain, however, one serious objection to our currency system and that is its non-elasticity. Under the guise of securing elasticity it is proposed to issue either 'bond-secured' or 'asset' currency. In my judgment the issuance of such currency would not only be unwise for the many reasons already publicly presented but it is unnecessary. Elasticity can be secured through the proper use of bank reserves. If bank deposits are guaranteed the reserves will not be required to meet 'runs' upon the banks, the only real contingency under the present system which calls for use of the reserves. The reserves should be made to subserve some useful purpose. I suggest that the banks, for legitimate commercial uses, be permitted by law to loan or reduce reserves upon the payment of a tax. They should be permitted to reduce the reserves 25 per cent upon the payment of a tax of one-half per cent per month and be permitted an additional reduction of 25 per cent upon payment of a greater tax. The remaining reserve would be ample to meet ordinary commercial conditions. If, however, it should be deemed that present reserves are too low to permit any reduction, then increase the reserves to a point where they may safely be reduced as above suggested. The proceeds of such tax should be used to pay losses which may arise from the guarantee of deposits.

"A. A. JONES."

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