

recommended the acquittal of Mr. Moseley and furnished such evidence as to identify the employes who preferred the charges, who were subsequently dismissed from the government service.

**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE**

As soon as the house re-convened after the holiday recess on Monday, January 4, President Roosevelt sent a message in reply to the inquiry concerning what he meant by his secret service reference in his annual message in December.

In this special message the president disclaims any intention of charging corruption against congress or against any member of the present house. Then the president says: "Now as to the request of the congress that I give the evidence for my statement that the chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men. The part of the Congressional Record to which I have referred above entirely supports this statement. Two distinct lines of argument were followed in the debate. One concerned the question whether the law warranted the employment of the secret service in de-

partments other than the treasury, and this did not touch the merits of the service in the least. The other line of argument went to the merits of the service, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, and here the chief if not the only argument used was that the service should be cut down and restricted because its members had 'shadowed' or investigated members of congress and other officers of the government. If we examine the debate in detail it appears that most of what was urged in favor of the amendment took the form of the simple statement that the committee held that there had been a 'violation of law' by the use of the secret service for other purposes than suppressing counterfeiting (and one or two other matters which can be disregarded), and that such language was now to be used as would effectually prevent all such 'violation of law' hereafter. Mr. Tawney, for instance, says: 'It was for the purpose of stopping the use of this service in every possible way by the departments of the government that this provision was inserted;' and Mr. Smith says: 'Now, that was the only way in which any limitation could be put upon the activities of the secret service.' Mr. Fitzgerald followed in the same vein, and by far the largest part of the argument against the employment of the secret service was confined to the statement that it was in 'violation of law.' Of course such a statement is not in any way an argument in favor of the justice of the provision. It is not an argument for the provision at all. It is simply a statement of what the gentlemen making it conceive to have been the law. There was both by implications and direct statement the assertion that it was the law, and ought to be the law, that the secret service should only be used to suppress counterfeiting; and that the law should be made more rigid than ever in this respect."

The message contained names of many lawyers and other individuals who are unknown outside of their immediate localities. Associated Press dispatches say that many of the president's references to Tawney of Minnesota, Smith of Iowa, Sherley of Kentucky, and Fitzgerald of New York called forth "a storm of laughter."

The president hit Speaker Cannon over the shoulders of his private secretary, L. W. Busby, charging that certain articles appearing in the Chicago Inter Ocean and written by Mr. Busby were inspired.

It is announced that Smith, Fitzgerald and others will reply to the president from the floor of the house.

**CONGRESS HELPS ITALY**

On January 4 the American congress responded to the president's suggestion that \$500,000 be appropriated for the benefit of the earthquake sufferers of Italy by appropriating the generous sum of \$800,000. President Roosevelt has also tendered to the Italian government the services of the vessels of the battleship fleet now in eastern waters.

**NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE**

The Nebraska democratic legislature organized Tuesday, January 5. Charles W. Pool of Tecumseh, a newspaper man, was chosen speaker of the house; Tremore Cone was made chief clerk of the house; G. W. Tibbets of Hastings, a lawyer, was chosen president pro tem of the senate. W. H. Smith of Seward, a newspaper man, was chosen secretary of the senate. Ashton C. Shallenberger, the democratic governor, was inaugurated in simple but impressive services.

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