

PRELIMINARY CONGRESS

To the Senate and the House of Representatives:

The relations of the United States with all foreign governments have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding, and are very generally satisfactory.

Pursuant to the provisions of the general treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and Great Britain, April 4, 1908, a special agreement was entered into between the two countries on January 27, 1909, for the submission of questions relating to the fisheries on the North Atlantic coast to a tribunal to be formed from members of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague. In accordance with the provisions of the special agreement the printed case of each government was, on October 4 last, submitted to the other and to the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, and the conduct of the case of the United States is now in course of preparation.

The American rights under the fisheries article of the treaty of 1818 have been a cause of difference between the United States and Great Britain for nearly seventy years. The interests involved are of great importance to the American fishing industry, and the final settlement of the controversy will remove a source of constant irritation and complaint. This is a case involving such great international questions which has been submitted to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain concerning the Canadian international boundary, concluded April 11, 1908, authorizes the appointment of two commissioners to define and mark accurately the international boundary line between the United States and the Dominion of Canada in the Passamaquoddy bay, and provides for the exchange of briefs within the period of six months. The briefs were duly presented within the prescribed period, but as the commissioners failed to agree within the time after the exchange of the printed statements, as required by the treaty, it has now become necessary to resort to the arbitration provided for in the article.

The international fisheries commission appointed pursuant to and under the authority of the convention of April 11, 1908, between the United States and Great Britain, has completed a system of uniform and common international regulations for the fisheries in the waters of the United States and Canada.

The regulations will be duly submitted to Congress with a view to the enactment of such legislation as will be necessary under the convention to put them into operation.

The convention providing for the settlement of international differences between the United States and Canada, including the apportionment of the two countries of certain of the boundary waters and the appointment of commissioners to adjust certain other questions, signed on the 11th day of January, 1909, and to the ratification of which the Senate gave its advice and consent on March 3, 1909, has not yet been ratified on the part of Great Britain.

Commissioners have been appointed on the part of the United States to act jointly with commissioners on the part of Great Britain in the settlement of the boundary waters and the adjustment of other questions, and are now engaged in their work.

The negotiations for an international conference to consider and reach an arrangement providing for the preservation and protection of the fur seals in the North Pacific are in progress with the governments of Great Britain, Japan and Russia. The interest of the governments interested leads me to hope for a satisfactory settlement of this question as the ultimate outcome of the negotiations.

His Majesty Mehmed V, Sultan of Turkey, recently visited this country a special embassy to announce his accession. The quick transition of the government of the Ottoman empire from one of retrograde tendencies to a constitutional government with Parliament and with progressive and modern policies of reform and public improvements is one of the important phenomena of our times. Constitutional government seems also to have made further advance in Persia. These events have turned the eyes of the world upon the Near East. In that quarter the prestige of the United States has spread widely through the peaceful influence of American schools, universities and governments. There is every reason why we should exercise a greater share of the commerce of the Near East since the conditions are more favorable now than ever before.

Our Latin American Neighbors.

To-day, more than ever before, American capital is seeking investment in foreign countries, and American products are more and more generally seeking foreign markets. As a consequence, in all countries there are American citizens and American interests to be protected, on occasion, by their government. These movements of men, of capital, and of commodities bring peoples and governments closer together and so form bonds of peace and mutual dependency, as they must also naturally sometimes make passing points of friction. The Pan-American policy of this government has long been fixed in its principles and remains unchanged. With the changed circumstances of the United States and of the republics to the south of us, most of which have great natural resources, stable government and progressive ideals, the apprehensions which gave rise to the Monroe doctrine may be said to have nearly disappeared, and neither the doctrine as it exists nor any other doctrine of American policy should be permitted to operate for the perpetuation of irresponsible government, the insidious allegation of dominating ambitions on the part of the United States.

My meeting with President Diaz and the greeting exchanged on both American and Mexican soil served, I hope, to signalize the close and cordial relations which so well bind together this republic and the great republic immediately to the south, between which there is so vast a network of material interests. I am happy to say that all but one of the cases which for so long vexed our relations with Venezuela have been settled within the past few months and that, under the enlightened regime now directing the government of Venezuela, provision has been made for arbitra-

tion of the remaining case before The Hague tribunal. On July 30, 1909, the government of Panama agreed, after considerable negotiation, to indemnify the relatives of the American officers and sailors who were brutally killed, one of them having, indeed, been killed by the Panamanian police this year.

The sanitary improvements and public works undertaken in Cuba prior to the present administration of that government, and the success with which the United States is interested under the treaty, are reported to be making good progress and since the Congress provided for the continuance of the reciprocal commercial arrangement between Cuba and the United States assurance has been received that no negotiations injuriously affecting the situation will be undertaken without consultation.

The collection of the customs of the Dominican Republic through the general receiver of customs appointed by the President of the United States in accordance with the convention of February 8, 1907, has proceeded in an uneventful and satisfactory manner.

Many years ago diplomatic intervention became necessary to the protection of the interest in the American claim of Alsop and company against the government of Chile. The government of Chile had frequently admitted obligation in the case and had promised this government to settle it. There have been two abortive attempts to do so through arbitral commissions, which failed through lack of jurisdiction. Now, happily, as the result of the recent diplomatic negotiations, the government of the United States and of Chile, actuated by the sincere desire to free from any strain those cordial and friendly relations upon which both set such store, have agreed by a protocol to submit the controversy to definitive settlement by His Britannic Majesty, Edward VII.

The Nicaraguan Difficulty.

Since the Washington conventions of 1907 were communicated to the government of the United States as a consulting and advising party, this government has been almost continuously called upon by one or another, and in turn by one or another, of the American republics, to exert itself for the maintenance of the conventions. Nearly every complaint has been against the Yeliza government of Nicaragua, which has kept Central America in constant tension or turmoil.

In response to the representations of Central American republics, as due from the United States on account of its relation to the Washington conventions, have been at all times conservative and have avoided, so far as possible, any semblance of interference, although it is very apparent that the considerations of geographic proximity to the Canal zone and of the very substantial American interests in Central America give to the United States a special position in the zone of these republics and the Caribbean Sea.

I need not rehearse here the patient efforts of this government to promote peace and welfare among these republics, efforts which are fully appreciated by the majority of them who are loyal to the true interests. It would be no less unnecessary to rehearse here the sad tale of unspeakable barbarities and oppression alleged to have been committed by the Yeliza government. Recently two Americans were killed by death by order of President Yeliza himself. They were officers in the organized forces of a revolution which had continued many weeks and was in control of about half of the republic, and as such, according to the modern enlightened practice of civilized nations, they were entitled to be dealt with as prisoners of war.

At the date when this message is printed this government has terminated diplomatic relations with the Yeliza government, for reasons made public in a communication to the former Nicaraguan chargé d'affaires, and is intending to take such future steps as may be found most consistent with its dignity, its duty to American interests and its moral obligations to Central America and to civilization. It may be necessary for me to bring this subject to the attention of the Congress in a special message.

The International Bureau of American Republics has carried on an important and increasing work during the last year. In the exercise of its peculiar functions as an international agency, maintained by all the American republics for the development of Pan-American commerce and friendship, it has accomplished a great practical good which could be done in the same way by no individual department or bureau of one government, and is therefore deserving of your liberal support. The fact that it is about to enter a new building, erected through the munificence of an American philanthropist and the contributions of all the American nations, was both a source of pride and a source of encouragement to the administration and expense of maintenance will naturally be much augmented, further entitles it to special consideration.

Relations in the Far East.

In the Far East this government preserved unchanged its policy of supporting the principle of equality of opportunity and scrupulous respect for the integrity of the United States, which policy are pledged the interested powers of both east and west.

Our traditional relations with the Japanese empire continue cordial as usual. As the representative of Japan, his imperial highness Prince Kunikida, the recent visit of a delegation of prominent business men as guests of the chambers of commerce of the Pacific slope, whose representatives had been graciously received in Japan, doubtless contribute to the growing trade across the Pacific, as well as to that mutual understanding which leads to mutual appreciation.

Expenditures and Revenues.

Perhaps the most important question presented to the administration is that of economy in expenditures and sufficiency of revenue. The deficit of the last fiscal year, and the certain deficit of the current year, prompted Congress to throw a greater responsibility on the executive and the secretary of the treasury than had heretofore been declared by statute. This declaration imposes upon the secretary of the treasury the duty of ascertaining all the estimates of the executive departments, bureaus, and offices, of the expenditures necessary in the ensuing fiscal year, and of making an estimate of the revenues of the government for the same period, and if a probable deficit is thus shown, it is made the duty of the President to recommend the method by which such deficit can be met.

The report of the secretary shows that the ordinary expenditures for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, will exceed the estimated receipts by \$34,075,620. If to this deficit is added the amount

disbursed for the Panama canal, amounting to \$38,000,000, and \$1,000,000 to be paid on the public debt, the deficit of the current year, and the deficit of the year increased to a total deficit of \$73,075,620. This deficit the secretary proposes to meet by the proceeds of bonds to be issued for the purpose of constructing the Panama canal. I approve this proposal.

The policy of paying for the construction of the Panama canal, not out of current revenue, but by bond issues, was adopted in the Spooner act of 1902, and there seems to be no good reason for departing from that policy. The cost of the canal shall fall upon our posterity who are to enjoy it; and there is no reason why the cost of the canal, which is now half done and which will be completed in 1915, should be increased to \$297,766,000, instead of \$139,705,200, as originally estimated. In addition to engineering and construction, there are other expenses, including sanitation and government, and the amount paid for the properties, the franchise, and the privilege of operating the canal, will increase the cost by \$75,435,000, to a total of \$375,201,000. The increase in the cost of engineering and construction is due to a substantial widening of the canal 100 feet in the Culebra cut and by increasing the dimensions of the locks. The estimate of the quantity of the work to be done under the original plan, and to an underestimate of the cost of labor and materials, and the fact that the original estimate in price since the original estimate was made.

In order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing year, I directed the heads of departments in the preparation of their estimates to make them as low as possible consistent with imperative public necessities. The estimates have been as I am advised by the secretary of the treasury that the estimates for the expenses of the departments for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, are less than the appropriations for this current fiscal year by \$42,818,000. So far as the secretary has been able to ascertain, the estimate as to future income and compare it with the expenditures for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and excluding the amount of the Panama canal, which will undoubtedly be taken up by bonds, there will be a surplus of \$35,931,000.

In the present estimates the needs of the departments and of the government have been cut to the quick, so to speak, and any assumption on the part of Congress to increase the estimates, without the estimates that they may be reduced, will result in seriously hampering proper administration.

The secretary of the treasury points out what should be carefully noted in respect to this reduction in governmental expenditures. He says that the needs of the government are of two kinds—first, there is a saving in the permanent administration of the departments, bureaus, and offices of the government, and secondly, there is a present reduction in expenses by a postponement of projects and improvements that ultimately will have to be carried out. He says that he has every reason to hope that additional revenue in the future will permit their execution without producing a deficit.

It is a matter of course there is a strong feeling in both houses of Congress, and possibly in the country, against the establishment of civil pensions, and that this feeling is not infrequently expressed in the reduction of military pensions, which it has always been the policy of our government to assume; but I am strongly convinced that the reduction of military pensions, and the difficulties presented by the superannuation of civil servants can be found than that a system of civil pensions.

The business expenditures of the government have expanded enormously since the Spanish war, but as the revenue has not increased in proportion to the expenditures until recently, the attention of the public, and of those responsible for the government, has been directed to the necessity of reducing the cost of administration. We cannot, in view of the advancing prices of living, hope to have money by a reduction in the salaries of the government. Indeed, if any change is made in that regard, an increase rather than a decrease in the salaries of the government employees will be in reducing the number of employees and in obtaining a greater average of efficiency from those retained in the service.

Frauds in the Customs Service.

I regret to refer to the fact of the discovery of extensive frauds in the collection of the customs revenue at New York City. The frauds were discovered by the employees in the weighing and other departments were directly concerned, and in which the beneficiaries were the American Revenue Company. The frauds consisted in the payment of duty on underweights of sugar. The government has recovered from the American Sugar Refining Company the sum of \$1,000,000, but there was an express reservation in the contract of settlement by which the settlement was not intended to prevent the criminal prosecution of every one who was found to be subject to the same.

Criminal prosecutions are now proceeding against a number of the government officers. It would seem to me that an investigation of the frauds by Congress at the present time, and the department of justice, as proposed, might by giving publicity and otherwise prove an embarrassing and securing conviction of the guilty parties.

The New Tariff Law.

Two features of the new tariff act call for special reference. By virtue of the clause known as the "Maximum and Minimum" clause, it is the duty of the executive to consider the laws and practices of the foreign countries, and to report to the Congress, and if the executive finds such laws and practices to be unduly discriminatory, he shall be charged with the duty of recommending to the President that he should find on the part of that country not only a violation of the laws or the practice of the United States, but that the discriminations found shall be undue; that is, without good and fair reason, conducive to the public interest, and that the maximum duties might never be applied in any case, but that the power to apply them would enable the President and the state department through friendly negotiation to secure the elimination of the laws and the practices under them, or of that which is unduly discriminatory. No one is seeking a tariff war or a condition in which the spirit of retaliation shall be aroused.

The new tariff law enables me to appoint a tariff board to assist me in connection with the department of state in the administration of the minimum and maximum clause of the act and also to assist officers of the government in the administration of the entire law. An ex-

amination of the law and an understanding of the nature of the facts which should be considered in discharging the duty of the secretary of the treasury, and I have the power to direct the tariff board to make a comprehensive glossary and an encyclopedia of the terms used and articles used in the tariff laws, and to secure information as to the cost of production of such goods in this country and the cost of their production in foreign countries. I have therefore directed a tariff board consisting of three members and have directed them to perform all the duties which the law imposes.

War and Navy Departments.

In the interest of immediate economy and because of the prospect of a deficit, I have required a reduction in the estimates of the war department for the coming fiscal year, which brings the total estimates down to an amount \$45,000,000 less than the corresponding estimates for last year. The secretary of war calls attention to a number of needed changes in the army, in all of which I concur. The coast defenses of the United States proper are generally all that could be desired, and in some respects they are rather more elaborate than under present conditions are needed to protect our fleet from entering the harbors of the United States. The secretary and naval joint board have unanimously agreed that it would be unwise to increase the number of the United States navy, and have expressed their preference for making an extensive naval base at Pearl harbor, near Honolulu, and not at the other end of the island.

This does not dispense with the necessity for the comparatively small appropriations required to finish the proper equipment of the navy, and to complete a suitable repair station and coaling supply station, which is the most important project of the joint board will end the discussion as to the comparative merits of the two plans. I have approved the recommendations, and will lead to prompt measures for the proper equipment and defense of Pearl harbor.

The return of the battleship fleet from its voyage around the world, in more efficient condition than when it started, was a noteworthy event of interest to our citizens and the naval authorities of the world. Besides the beneficial and far-reaching effect on our personal and diplomatic relations with the countries which the fleet visited, the marked success of the ships in steaming around the world in all respects, and the fact that they were in respect for our navy and has added to our national prestige. Our enlisted personnel recruited from all sections of the United States, and from all parts of the world, and the energetic and patriotic spirit of the national spirit. Owing to the necessity for economy in expenditures, I have directed the curtailment of recommendations for naval appropriations so that they are thirty-eight millions less than the corresponding estimates of last year. I have approved the recommendations, and will lead to prompt measures for the proper equipment and defense of Pearl harbor.

The use of a navy for military purposes is a subject which has long been a matter of discussion in the department of the military branch dealing directly with the military use of the fleet. The secretary of the navy has also been a matter of discussion in the department, and he has reached conclusions and decided important matters before me. I have approved the recommendations, and will lead to prompt measures for the proper equipment and defense of Pearl harbor.

The Department of Justice.

The deplorable delays in the administration of civil and criminal law have led me to have in mind the recommendations of the American Bar Association and of many state bar associations, as well as the considered thought of judicial officers, to have in mind a change in judicial procedure, with a view to reducing its expense to private litigants in the prosecution of civil and criminal cases, and to the delay in the execution of the law. I have approved the recommendations, and will lead to prompt measures for the proper equipment and defense of Pearl harbor.

I presume it is impossible, without an amendment to the constitution, to unite under one form of action the proceedings at common law and proceedings in equity in the federal courts, but it is certainly not impossible to have a uniformity of procedure in the federal courts, and to make short and direct the procedure both at law and in equity in those courts. It is impossible to have a uniformity of procedure in the federal courts, and to make short and direct the procedure both at law and in equity in those courts. It is impossible to have a uniformity of procedure in the federal courts, and to make short and direct the procedure both at law and in equity in those courts.

"Snap" Injunctions.

The platform of the successful party in the last election contained the following: "The Republican Party will support all times the authority and integrity of the courts, state and federal, and will endeavor to secure the prompt and efficient process and to protect life, liberty, and property shall be preserved inviolate. We believe, however, that the rules of procedure in the federal courts, and the procedure upon the private litigants and upon the public treasury and make recommendations with a view to simplifying and expediting the proceedings as far as possible and making it as inexpensive as may be to the litigant of little means."

I recommend that in compliance with the promise thus made, appropriate legislation be adopted. The chief cause of complaint against ill-considered injunctions without notice will be removed by the enactment of a statute which hereafter the issuing of any injunction or restraining order, whether temporary or permanent by any federal court, without notice to the party to be enjoined, shall be void; unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court that the delay necessary to give such notice and hearing would result in irreparable injury to the complainant.

Unless also the court shall from the evidence make a written finding, which shall be spread upon the court minutes, that the injury is irreparable and that it is likely to ensue to the complainant, and shall define the injury, state why it is irreparable, and shall also endorse on the writ the date and the hour of the issuance of the order. Moreover, every such injunction or restraining order issued without previous notice and opportunity for the defendant to be heard shall be of no effect after seven days from the issuance thereof or within any time less than that period which the court may extend or renew after previous notice and opportunity to be heard.

My judgment is that the passage of such an act which really embodies the best practice in equity and is very like the rules now in force in some courts will prevent the issuing of ill-considered orders of injunction without notice and will render such orders, when issued, less objectionable by the short time in which they may remain effective.

Interstate Commerce Law.

The jurisdiction of the general government over interstate commerce has led to the passage of the so-called "Sherman Antitrust Law" and the "Interstate Commerce Law" and its amendments. The development in the operation of these laws, as shown by indictments, trials, judicial decisions, and other sources of information, call for a discussion and some suggestions as to amendments.

The Postoffice Department.

The deficit every year in the postoffice department is largely caused by the low rate of postage of 1 cent a pound charged on second-class mail matter, which includes not only newspapers but magazines and miscellaneous periodicals. The actual loss growing out of the transmission of this second-class mail matter at the present rate of postage is about \$2,000,000 a year. The average cost of the transportation of this matter is more than 3 cents a pound. A great saving might be made, amounting to more than half of the loss, by imposing upon magazines and periodicals a higher rate of postage. They are much heavier than newspapers, and contain a much higher proportion of advertising to reading matter, and the average distance of their transportation is three and a half times as great.

The total deficit for the last fiscal year in the postoffice department amounted to \$17,500,000. The branches of its business which it did at a loss were the second class mail service, in which the loss was \$2,000,000, and the delivery of newspapers, in which the loss was \$23,000,000. Those losses were in part offset by the profits of the letter postage and the profits of income tax stamps. It would be wise to reduce the loss upon second class mail matter, at least to the extent of preventing a deficit in the total operations of the postoffice department.

The second subject worthy of mention in the postoffice department is the reallocation of postal savings banks. The successful party at the last election declared in favor of postal savings banks, and although the proposition has not been adopted in many parts of the country, I am convinced that the people desire such banks, and are sure that when the banks are established they will be productive of the utmost good. I believe then to be necessary in order to offer a proper inducement to the people to save, and to whom such a system would offer an opportunity to accumulate their savings, that the government will furnish a satisfactory substitute based on sound principle and actual successful trial in nearly all the countries of the world, for the system of postal savings banks now being adopted in several western states, which I believe to be the most desirable and most democratic of conservative banking and certain financial disaster.

The question of how the money deposited in postal savings banks shall be invested is not free from difficulty, but I believe that a satisfactory provision for the investment of the funds has been inserted in the bill considered by the Senate at its last session. It has been proposed to delay the consideration of legislation until after the report of the monetary commission. This report is likely to be delayed and properly so, because of the necessity for a thorough and close investigation. I do not see why the one should be tied up with the other. It is understood that the monetary commission have existing and are not thought to be inconsistent with a proper financial and banking system.

Recommendations Ship Subsidy.

Following the course of my distinguished predecessor, I earnestly recommend to Congress the consideration and passage of a ship subsidy bill, looking to the establishment of lines between our Atlantic seaboard and the eastern coast of South America, as well as lines to the west coast of the United States to South America, China, Japan and the Philippines.

Interior Department.

The successful party in the last election in its national platform declared in favor of the admission as separate states of New Mexico and Arizona, and I recommend that legislation appropriate to this end be adopted.

A Governor for Alaska.

With respect to the territory of Alaska, I recommend legislation which shall provide for the appointment by the President of a governor and also an executive council, the members of which shall during their term of office reside in the territory, and which shall have legislative powers sufficient to enable it to give to the territory local laws adapted to its present growth.

Conservation of National Resources.

In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our national resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to Congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways, upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid and swamp lands; upon the preservation of our forests and the reforestation of suitable areas; upon the reclassification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement mineral, coal and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power.

Department of Agriculture.

I commend to your careful consideration the report of the secretary of agriculture as showing the immense sphere of usefulness which that department now covers, and the wonderful addition to the wealth of the nation made by the farmers of this country in the crops of the current year. The lighthouse board now discharges its duties under the department of commerce and labor. I recommend the transfer of control over the lighthouses to a suitable civilian bureau.

Consolidation of Bureaus.

I request congressional authority to

enable the secretary of commerce and labor to unite the bureaus of manufactures and statistics.

The "White Slave" Trade.

I greatly regret to have to say that the investigations made in the bureau of immigration and customs sources of information lead to the view that there is urgent necessity for additional legislation and greater executive activity to suppress.

Bureau of Health.

The opportunities offered for useful research and the spread of useful information in regard to the cultivation of the soil and the breeding of stock and the solution of many of the intricate problems in progressive agriculture have demonstrated the wisdom of establishing that department. Similar reasons, of equal force, can be given for the establishment of a bureau of health that shall not only exercise the police jurisdiction of the federal government respecting quarantine, but which shall also afford an opportunity for investigation and research by competent experts into questions of health affecting the whole country, or important sections thereof, questions which, in the absence of federal action, are not likely to be promptly solved.

The Civil Service Commission.

The work of the United States civil service commission has been performed to the general satisfaction of the public officers with whom the commission has been brought into official communication.

Recommendations have been made by my predecessors that Congress appropriate a sufficient sum to pay the balance—about 38 per cent—of the amounts due depositors in the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. I renew this recommendation.

Emancipation Semi-Centennial.

The year 1913 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to the negroes. It seems fitting that this event should be properly celebrated. Already a movement has been started by prominent negroes, encouraged by prominent white people and the press.

In Conclusion.

I have thus, in a message compressed as much as the subject will permit, referred to many of the legislative needs of the country, with the exceptions already noted. Speaking generally, the country is in a high state of prosperity. There is every reason to believe that we are on the eve of a substantial business expansion, and we have just garnered a harvest unexampled in the market value of our agricultural products. The high prices which such products bring mean great prosperity for the farming community, but on the other hand they mean a very considerably increased burden upon those classes in the community who yearly compensation for their labor, and the general prosperity. Various reasons are given for the high prices. The proportionate increase in the market value of gold, and the increase in population and the more expensive mode of living of the people, which have not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in average production, may furnish a further reason. It is well to note that the increase in the value of gold is not confined to this country, but prevails the world over, and that those who would charge increases in prices to the existing protective tariff have taken place almost wholly in those products of the factory and farm in respect to which there has been either no increase in the tariff or in many instances a very considerable reduction.

WM. H. TAFT.

Matt Henson on the Rock.

Matthew Henson, the colored companion of Commander Peary on his trip to the north pole, began his career as a lecturer before a large audience in the New York Hippodrome, speaking from notes and using a number of photographs which he took on the way. But the interesting part of the story was the quiz at the end. Plenty of Cook adherents were there to ask questions. These brought out the statement from Henson that the Peary party had suspected that Cook would claim the discovery of the pole, even before they started on their trip northward. Henson said he could have taken observations while with Peary at the pole, but that he was not asked to do so by Peary, and hence did not do it.

World Shipping Federation.

Word comes from London that a gigantic international combine of ship-owners was formed there last week. Delegates from the shipping federations of England, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, representing more than 16,000,000 tons of shipping, had registered in accordance with the British law. It is intended ultimately to embrace all federations of shipping interests in the world. France and Norway already have signified their willingness to join. The objects are said to be purely defensive against the "unreasonable attacks" which may be made by trade unions and others upon the shipowners' freedom of contract in the employment of labor. Headquarters will be in London.

Test Cases in Spokane.

The contest for the right of free speech and peaceable assembly which the Industrial Workers of the World have been waging at Spokane reached the test-case stage during the week. Two of the 275 men arrested were charged with vagrancy and the other with disorderly conduct. The local Central Labor Union and the socialists have come to the assistance of the I. W. W. men, and these cases will be carried to the higher courts if necessary. All of the women arrested were released by the police justice on their promise not to take an active part until the test cases have been disposed of.

Another Football Victim.

Archer Christian, son of a Richmond banker, was injured fatally while playing as half back on the University of Virginia team in its match with Georgetown University at Washington. Owing to this fatality Georgetown has canceled all games for the season.

Not to Be Taken Seriously.

We are told that Mrs. Pankhurst says that American women are not serious enough. Probably she has heard some of them say they haven't a thing to wear.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.