

# RUSSIA AND THE PASSPORTS

### THE TREATY CONTROVERSY HAS LASTED THIRTY YEARS.

### BUT NEGOTIATIONS ARE OFF

#### Russia's Attitude Toward the United States in Matter Has Been Insulting—The Matter of Trade Did Not Bribe Uncle Sam.

**BY JAMES A. EDGERTON.**  
RUSSIA must admit the American principle of equality before the law when she deals with American citizens. That is the meaning of the action taken by the house of representatives when it voted to abrogate the Russian treaty by a majority of 300 to 1. For more than thirty years there has been controversy between the two nations as to honoring American passports, Russia insisting on her right to question our citizens as to their religious belief before admitting them and excluding Jews, Catholics and Protestant missionaries. Practically every American secretary of state has protested against this attitude, but nothing has come of it. Now the congress proposes to take decisive action. President Taft has stated that diplomatic negotiations are going forward and that he will communicate with congress later in regard thereto.

#### The Principle Involved.

The primary principle of Americanism is that "all men are created equal." This is the first proposition laid down in the Declaration of Independence. There has been a lot of nonsense written and spoken concerning it, but understood in the sense in which it was adopted it is true today and eternally. The Declaration of Independence is a political document; therefore this statement that "all men are created equal" should be understood in a political sense. It means that men are equal before the law. It applies to all American citizens not only as to their treatment by our own government, but by all other governments. There can be no discrimination. Another American principle is that the law shall know no difference of race or religion. That is only a further application of political equality. This also applies not only to our own government, but to all other governments in their treatment of American citizens.

If we permit any government with which we have treaty relations to discriminate between American citizens because of race or religion it is as though we did it ourselves. Our own government participates in the discrimination. It is bound to protect all American citizens, to safeguard their persons, their properties and their rights, in whatever part of the world they may be. If any nation violates the person, property or rights of an American citizen the American government is bound to demand and obtain reparation, even to the point of going to war. Now, Russia for forty years has been denying and violating the rights of a certain portion of our citizens. As Congressman Sulzer said: "This is not a Jewish question. It is an American question." The shame of it is that we have permitted this discrimination so long. There is nothing left but to abrogate the treaty. It is a matter of national integrity.

#### Russia's Attitude Insulting.

In her insulting attitude toward American Jews, Catholics and mission aries Russia has not only violated the fundamental principles of our government, but she has violated the treaty. The language of that instrument is as follows:

There shall be between the territories of the high contracting parties a reciprocal liberty of commerce and navigation. The inhabitants of their respective states shall mutually have liberty to enter the ports, places and rivers of the territories of each party wherever foreign commerce is permitted.

They shall be at liberty to sojourn and reside in all parts whatsoever of said territories in order to attend to their affairs, and they shall enjoy to that effect the same security and protection as natives of the country wherein they reside on condition of their submitting to the laws and ordinances there prevailing and particularly to the regulations in force concerning commerce.

For nearly forty years after the adoption of the treaty there was little friction over the matter of passports. Formerly the Russian attitude toward the Jews was liberal. It has been only since the "black hundreds," the infamous program and the massacre of Jewish citizens that the trouble has arisen. It must not be supposed that only American Jews have been excluded. Those of other nations have been kept out also. The millions of Russian Jews that have come to this country have made the question more acute with us, however. Against these Hebrews that have fled from the czar's dominions the Russian government has been especially bitter. They could not go back even to see their own relatives.

#### Secretary Blaine's Protest.

Among the American secretaries of state that have protested against the Russian practice of ignoring our passports were William M. Evarts, James G. Blaine and John Hay. In 1881 Mr. Blaine wrote to John W. Foster, our minister to St. Petersburg, as follows:

I need hardly enlarge on the point that the government of the United States concludes its treaties with foreign states for the equal protection of all classes of American citizens. It can make absolutely no discrimination between them, whatever their origin or creed. So that they abide by the laws at home or abroad, it must give them due protection and expect like protection for them. Any unfriendly or discriminatory act against them on the part of a foreign power with which we are at peace would call for our earnest remonstrance, whether a treaty existed or not.

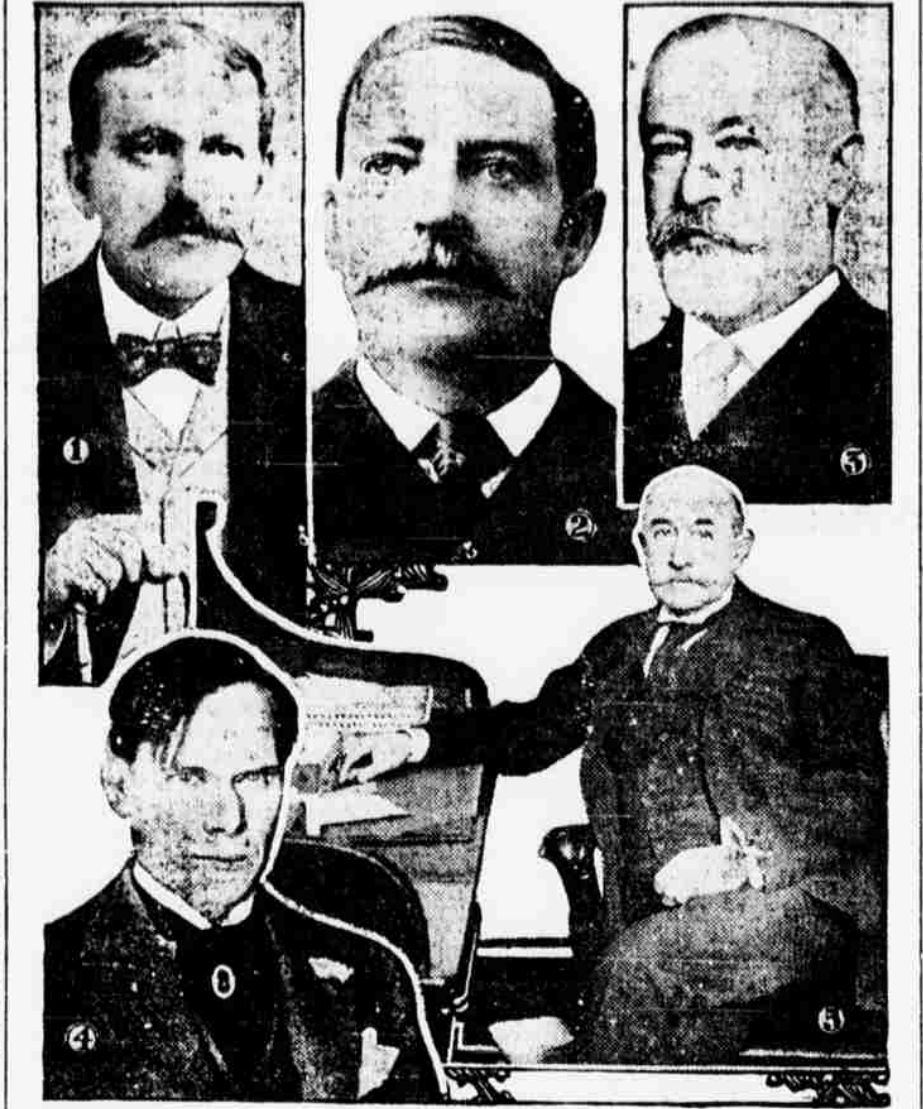
You will distinctly impress upon him

(the Russian minister of foreign affairs) that, regardless of the sovereignty of Russia, we do not submit any suggestions touching the laws and customs of the empire, except where those laws and customs conflict with and destroy the rights of American citizens as secured by treaty obligations. You can further advise him that we can make no new treaty with Russia nor accept any construction of our existing treaty which shall discriminate against any class of American citizens on account of their religious faith.

That was thirty years ago, and the condition is now more intolerable than it was then. Our continued remonstrances have been met by evasions, vague promises and other shifty devices of Russian diplomacy. Now the time for action has come, and there will be a showdown. The genius for mendacity for which the official representatives of the czar are notorious will have no further play so far as we are concerned. If a break means the loss of our growing trade in Russia the trade will have to go. Russia in an indirect way has threatened this, but if she imagines that the American nation can be bribed with a little trade to

power. As a matter of fact, Russia does take it upon herself so to question us if we seek to enter her domain. A former ambassador to Turkey has related that the same question was once raised as to American and English missionaries in Turkey and that he had reason to believe the Russian diplomatic representatives inspired the action. These missionaries were educating the natives, and he believed that Russia did not want any of the surrounding countries educated. Certainly she will not permit missionaries to educate her own people. She objected to the presence of William Morgan Shuster, an American, in Persia because he was an influence for democracy and nationalism in Persia. There is a higher principle involved in this matter than any yet mentioned. It is that of progress, liberty and enlightenment. Russia has set her face against these things. Yet if the American nation has a mission in the world it is to lead all lands toward these goals. This is not involved in the formal and tech-

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1, FORMER AMBASSADOR ROCKHILL; 2, AMBASSADOR GUILD; 3, JACOB H. SCHIFF; 4, CONGRESSMAN SULZER; 5, JOHN HAYS HAMMOND.

#### Wink at the denial of the rights of its citizens a rude awakening is in store for her. We love dollars, yes, but we also love fair play.

#### Our Gratitude to Russia.

Nor do Americans forget the debt of gratitude we owe Russia for her friendship in the days of the civil war. This issue, however, involves a fundamental principle that is above friendship. No special consideration of any kind whatever can be allowed to stand in the way of a square deal to all American citizens. That granted, the ancient friendship will be resumed. But if we must pay as the price of Russian friendship and Russian trade the concession that her officials can honor or dishonor American passports, as the whim strikes them, the cost is too high. Her trade and friendship are not worth it. The principle of equality before the law is not open to barter.

We do not question our citizens as to their religion, and no other government can be permitted to do so.

Their faith is a matter between themselves and their God. With it no earthly government has a right to interfere. Upon that rock we must stand, whatever happens. It is enough for any man beneath the protection of the stars and stripes to show his passport and say, "I am an American citizen." His religion is nobody's business. If I want to travel in England, or France, or Russia, and if I behave myself and observe the laws of the lands through which I pass, no bureaucrat has any right to question me as to the blood of my father or mother or as to whether I believe in the Trinity, the Koran, or baptism by immersion. Those things are sacred to me. I do not submit them to any temporal government whatsoever—not even to my own government, and much less to one that is alien.

These are fundamental rights of the individual. That Russia has violated them for so long is an outrage. It is all the more reason why she should not be permitted to violate them longer. By every principle on which our nation is founded, by every tradition and by every impulse of Americanism, we are bound to protect them.

#### Rights of Man Are Concerned.

This is not at all a question of whether we like or dislike persons of the Hebrew race. There are all sorts of racial prejudices in the world. The American nation is made up of practically every nationality and well nigh every creed. This is a matter that far transcends any difference of that nature. It concerns the rights of man, the rights of American citizens. It must be said for the American Jews, however, and we have about two millions of them, that for the most part they are good citizens. But even that is a matter aside. The fact that they are citizens at all is enough. If even the humblest and least worthy citizen is denied his rights, then your rights and mine are not secure. If he may be questioned as to his religion by an alien power you and I may be questioned as to our religion by an alien

nient issue between the two nations. Yet in a higher sense it is involved. Russia has rigidly excluded missionaries as well as Jews. Have we quite fulfilled our duty to humanity, to free speech and to civilization so long as we permit such a condition to exist? American missionaries are protected elsewhere. Why not in Russia?

#### Not Only Jews Affected.

Aside from this, however, which may be objected to as more or less of a sentimental consideration, we can insist and do insist that all American citizens receive equal treatment before the laws of our own and other lands. On that point our right is indubitable. That is Americanism in its essence. Russia cannot make fish of some and flesh of others. If she admits one she must admit all on equal terms. To the full recognition of that principle our faith as a nation is pledged.

Russia has refused to honor our passports issued not only to naturalized American Jews, but to native American Jews. She has refused those issued to Catholics, Baptists and others. Some of the staples of these exclusions make one's blood boil. At last they have aroused the American nation. Mass meetings are being held throughout the land. Protestant churches are among the foremost of those demanding that the rights of our Jewish citizens be guarded. On this point Americans are essentially a unit.

One of the most inspiring things in modern history is the influence exerted on all lands by the American Declaration of Independence. Never did a political document have such speedy and widespread influence. Since it was issued a chain of republics has appeared around the world and the process is not completed. Democracy and nationalism are sweeping even the orient. And now Russia, the land of absolutism, is to come face to face with the principle of equality before the law.

#### Christmas at the Hospital.

There was a gigantic Christmas tree at the state insane hospital on Christmas night, Dr. Johnson, the superintendent, seeing to it that every patient was remembered with a gift.

A feature which made Christmas a pleasant one at the hospital was the fact that the new building has just been finished. The dining room was occupied Sunday for the first time. The balance of the building will be ready for the early part of next week. This building has been under construction for several years. It is in this structure that the infirmary is located, with the new water treatment as an addition to the institution's equipment.

#### Steel Trust Gets Extension.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 26.—United States District Attorney Vreeland in the United States circuit court announced today a further extension of time had been granted for the filing of an answer in the suit of the government for the dissolution of the United States Steel corporation. The time was extended from the first Monday in January to February 1, in the

case of the United States Steel corporation itself and for twenty-five or thirty other defendants in the case.

#### Patterson a Suicide.

Plainfield, N. J., Dec. 26.—William Patterson of Lincoln, Neb., a friend of William Jennings Bryan, who disappeared from his daughter's home here on Sunday morning last, was found dead today with his throat cut near a quarry in North Plainfield. A bloody razor lay by his side and the police say that it is a case of suicide.

#### Brought to the Hospital.

West Point, Neb., Dec. 26.—Carl Priesch of Beemer, an old settler and one of the most substantial farmers of Cuming county, aged 60 years, was adjudged insane and conveyed by Sheriff Herman to Norfolk. Mr. Priesch has suffered for the last twelve months from a stroke of paralysis, which is supposed to have affected his mind. He is noted as being a most energetic and exemplary citizen, a good husband and father, and his misfortune is regretted by the entire community. Last week he attempted to commit suicide by drowning.

#### Girl Not Slain; Just a Rooster.

Olathe, Kan., Dec. 26.—Bloodstains in a deserted mill in this city which for two days kept county authorities busy running down a supposed murder clue, were today found to be the work of smallboys, who as a hoax slew a rooster, spattered his blood about the deserted building and upon a heavy iron bar found there.

Hairpins and strands of woman's hair found in the mill also are believed to have been placed there by the jokers. The authorities had dragged several ponds in the vicinity.

#### GOTCH TO MEET MUNROE.

#### Champion Wrestler Reaches Kansas City to Finish Training.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 26.—Frank A. Gotch, champion wrestler of the world, arrived here from Humboldt, Ia., this afternoon to complete his training for his match with Alec Munroe, champion of Great Britain, here tomorrow night. Neither Gotch nor Munroe has ever been defeated in a championship bout, and their meeting tomorrow night has aroused much interest.

#### Packers Plead Immunity Bath.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—When the trial of the ten Chicago meat packers under indictment for criminal violation of the Sherman law was resumed before United States District Judge George A. Carpenter today, counsel for the defense sprung a surprise on the government by reviving the famous immunity plea under which seven of the packers escaped possible conviction several years ago.

Attorney John S. Miller, who successfully raised this point in the former proceedings, used the argument today in a motion to have the court exclude all testimony in regard to the transactions of the packers prior to July 1, 1905. He said this testimony would be incompetent in the present trial.

Judge Carpenter intimated that he had passed on practically the same question when he denied the plea of abatement before the beginning of the trial, and he said he was not disposed to change his decision unless some new points were raised.

Counsel for the defense agreed to put their argument in writing and submit to the court before the close of the day. Judge Carpenter announced he would defer his ruling on the motion.

#### Tells of Packers' Meeting.

Albert H. Veeder, attorney for Swift & Co. since the organization of the company in 1885, was the first witness called by the government. He admitted that the packers in 1900, 1901 and 1902 had an organization which met in rooms adjoining his office, and that his son, Henry Veeder, acted as secretary of the organization for two years. He said he never heard the name of the organization and had no knowledge of the business transacted at the meetings held every Tuesday afternoon.

These are the meetings at which the government contends the price of meat was fixed by the old packers' pool prior to the organization of the National Packing company in 1903.

#### New Paving to be Done.

Norfolk avenue from Seventh street west to Fourteenth, and Ninth street from Norfolk avenue north to Prospect, are to be paved.

The city council passed an ordinance providing for this, in accordance with a petition that had been submitted by property owners. The next step will be the voting of bonds and the selection of material with which to pave the street intersections. The new district is paving district No. 2.

#### Knights Observe Christmas.

An impressive ceremony was observed in Masonic hall at 11 o'clock Christmas morning by Damascus commandery No. 29, Knights Templar. The regular Christmas program was carried out in full, a notable feature being the presence of Col. S. W. Hayes, who had not been present at the commandery Christmas exercises since for many years. Col. Hayes made a brief address.

"I consider it a privilege to meet with you," he said. "I may not be with you again next year, because I have lived long past the allotted time of man, but if I am physically able I will be with you again next year."

A card of regret was received from Joseph Alberry of Omaha, who has not failed to be present at the commandery's Christmas exercises since they were first instituted here.

The first speaker was A. H. Viele, who responded to "What We Are Here For." "The Knights' Decla-

tion" was the subject of C. H. Bright of Wayne, who followed Mr. Viele. P. H. Davis spoke of "The Night of Today"; Rev. John Melmaker, "The Prince of Peace"; D. Rees responded to the grand master's toast.

Night letters conveying Christmas greetings were sent to Knights Rix, Dean and Feather, who are wintering in California.

#### Trainmen Give Annual Party.

About 200 couples of merry-makers enjoyed the twenty-fourth annual ball of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, given at Marquardt hall Christmas night. The dancing continued until 2:30 in the morning and everybody had a great time. It was one of the most successful balls ever given by the railroad men—and the trainmen's ball is always the electric lighted, 60-mile-an-hour limited of the Christmas season in Norfolk. It has right of way.

Nearly everybody in Norfolk was on hand. Business men and professional men and railroad men brought their wives and found it a delightful ending to a merry Christmas. The decorations were elaborate. Vago's orchestra furnished the music.

#### Trainmen Give Annual Party.

Master of ceremonies—R. C. Demmon; assistants, E. V. Hulac, G. D. Bly.

#### Committee of arrangements—W. B. Hackett, Fred Goodheart, H. T. Brown, R. C. Demmon, Henry Kennedy, G. W. Patterson.

Invitation committee—E. W. Stansberry, H. C. Uecker, G. R. Barney, F. R. Dolney, C. Nelson, W. A. Bruce. Floor committee—M. E. Fangle, M. O'Sullivan, M. D. Perry, A. B. McLaughlin, L. J. Knapp, G. Hindewald, R. M. Wray, E. M. Kennedy, D. P. McGrane, J. W. Merriam, L. Halvatanstein, B. J. Sornerberger, W. H. Ryan, J. F. McGrane, E. F. Klentz.

#### Reception committee—Messrs. W. B. Hackett, J. F. McGrane, William Beck, R. L. Nichols, O. P. List, C. R. Cox, W. R. Bitney, A. D. Smiley, G. W. McDonald, B. J. Sornerberger; Mesdames W. B. Hackett, J. F. McGrane, William Beck, R. L. Nichols, O. P. List, C. R. Cox, W. R. Bitney, A. D. Smiley, G. W. McDonald, B. J. Sornerberger.

#### Talking of Another Fight.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 26.—Jack Curley of Chicago, manager of Jim Flynn, the Pueblo heavyweight, announced today that he would guarantee Jack Johnson \$20,000 for his share of the purse—win, loose or draw—for a finish with Flynn for the heavyweight championship of the world. Curley declared he would select Nevada as the battleground, as he insisted that the fight would be a finish, and he did not think it could be staged elsewhere.

Local sporting men declare that the proposal to stage another battle in Reno would bring out the inhabitants of that town with riot guns. Curley expects to leave for Chicago to confer with Johnson after the Flynn-Caproni bout, scheduled here for tomorrow night.

#### Reno Neb., Dec. 26.—From a legal standpoint there is nothing to prevent the staging of the proposed Flynn-Johnson battle on Nevada soil. The law enacted in 1897 for the fight promoters of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons bout is still in force.

The announcement from Salt Lake will be received with mixed feelings by Nevada people. Many believe that so long as the law permitting finish fights is in force interference should not be tolerated. On the other hand, there are many who are of the opinion that public decency would be violated should the fight be allowed, and there is no doubt but there would be a strong demonstration of disapproval in case the promoters endeavored to bring the men together in Nevada.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Jack Johnson today positively asserted that he would not fight Jim Flynn for less than a \$30,000 purse.

"I am willing to meet Flynn anywhere in the world," he said, "but the purse must be \$30,000."

#### RUSSIA INTRODUCES A BILL.

Measure of Prohibitive Tariff Aimed at the United States.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—A supplementary bill in which government proposal of a frankly prohibitive character is included, was introduced by the nationalists into the duma today. It is aimed directly at the United States.

According to the terms of the proposed enactment, American citizens of the Jewish religion are to be totally excluded from Russia, and in the second place customs duties are to be raised by 100 per cent unless the Russian normal schedule is lower than the American. In that case a duty equaling the American duty will be collected.

The author of the bill states that the provision is necessary in order to deal with the importation of American agricultural machinery. The remaining points of the proposed bill correspond in virtually every particular with the bill introduced on Dec. 22 by ex-President Guchkoff, providing for tariff schedules applicable to the United States at the expiration of the Russo-American commerce and navigation treaty of 1832.

#### WHOLE CREW WENT DOWN.

Qbraltar, Dec. 27.—Still another vessel, the German steamer Chios, foundered with nearly all hands during the recent storm in the bay of Biscay. The Chios, belonging to the German Levante line, was proceeding from Hamburg to Alexandria on last Thursday when she was caught in the hurricane and sank with all but two of her crew. The first officer and one sailor were rescued by a passing vessel.

# Preparing President's Message to Congress

### Special Arrangements Against Leakage of Contents Before Proper Time.

### System Whereby Newspaper Readers Have Message as Soon as Delivered.

THE public in general has little or no idea of the work that attaches to the preparation of the president's annual message to congress, a document which is looked upon as being of the greatest import.

There is no general rule as to when the president's annual message is to be completed. The act of compiling and writing and therefore the completion of the message is left to the individual occupant of the White House himself and in the past has averaged about one week prior to the assembling of congress.

Ex-President Roosevelt possessed the reputation of getting his facts together and the document out of the way early. The late Presidents McKinley and Cleveland both used to make it their rule to complete such duties as early as ten days in advance of the time required. There are times, however, when circumstances will arise which will cause delay in the work, and it is frequently not completed until the last moment. This does not mean, however, that the whole work upon the message is delayed until the last moment.

It might be said that the actual work of composition requires but a comparatively short time, from one to four weeks, but the main work of constructing the message may extend throughout the year.

Whatever affects the public welfare will therefore very likely become a part of the presidential message. There are few in our millions of population who do not stop to read some portion of it at least, and because it is an official expression of opinion and recommendation it will be treated in the most guarded manner.

#### Mode of Structure Similar.

The individual presidents, even back to Washington, have not varied much in their mode of structure of the message, though they have shown various literary qualities.

Usually after the gathering of data they will make a plain statement of the conditions of a subject, followed by a resume of the causes giving rise to those conditions. In an argument for or against any particular topic it is the usual practice not only to weigh each point, but to array the facts and data on their proper side of the balance much the same as would a judge in presenting a case to a jury. It has frequently been the case that such arguments have turned the tide of legislation in favor of the presidential policies.

It is really one of the purposes of these messages to be the medium through which an executive is to freely express his official opinions and upon these opinions to base his recommendations and suggest the outlines for general legislation which he may deem desirable.

Herein does the president often call upon his official advisers for suggestions. If there is a subject which pertains more particularly to any one executive department he will sometimes call the head of that department into consultation. There are occasions also when an executive will discuss certain subjects in regular cabinet meetings to secure a general outline of action, and it is not unusual that he will draw up the whole message in skeleton form and present it directly to the cabinet officers for general discussion.

Just how much the president has to say in this great document depends entirely on the state of public affairs. There have been some annual messages containing as many as 75,000 words, while the conditions and recommendations for some years have been such as to be treated with as small a number as 15,000. The message of President Taft of last year was an unusually lone one and in its bound form presented the appearance of a book.

But, whether the president's message be long or short, it is not the number of words which indicates the labor involved. Concentrated thought is a requisite, but the effort to guard against misinterpretation or a possible shifting of the sense to suit the enemies of the administration's policies is equally essential. It means a solid construction.

#### Absolute Secrecy.

When an executive begins the actual work of writing his annual message but one man is selected to help him. Not only must this clerk be exceptionally well qualified for such work, but he understands that absolute secrecy is enjoined.

The president usually dictates once each day or perhaps twice, as time permits. Carefully arranged notes form the basis of this dictation, and there are also all kinds of information on which to call. It may be on his desk or in one of the departments or reachable by telegraph. The total dictation for a day's work usually fills the best part of a notebook, which means that the stenographer must transcribe anywhere from 3,000 to 8,000 words on his typewriter.

As far as the actual writing goes, these characteristics vary also with the presidents. The styles of President Taft and the late Mr. McKinley are very similar, and their methods of doing the work are also alike.

President Taft's dictation is slow, even and carefully delivered. From two to five hours a day are generally taken up with this work during the time of actual writing. The whole message looks like a voluminous document in its typewritten form, consti-

tuting a pile of 250 or more pages. In this shape it goes to Uncle Sam's big printery—not, however, as does the ordinary public document.

Special arrangements are made against possible leakage of its contents to the public ears before the time set for its reading in congress. An assistant secretary carries the manuscript to the government printing office and delivers it in person to the public printer. In that office it is divided into sections.

#### Original Manuscript Destroyed.

Each group of compositors, printers and proofreaders who handle the various sections will know only the contents of their sections, for which they will be held strictly responsible.

It is safe to say that no editor ever griled a manuscript more critically or more unmercifully than does the president when he reads the proof of his message. When that is completed the original manuscript is destroyed at the White House. When the corrected proof is returned to the public printer, each time being conveyed by an assistant secretary, the work of preparing the message in its completed form begins.

Printed on heavy white paper in large readable type, with generous margins on all sides of each page, the message forms volume varying from 200 to 500 pages, nine inches wide by seventeen inches long. It is bound in a black flexible leather cover, labeled in gilt letters. Every copy that is printed at the government printing office is accounted for by register presses, which record each impression made.

These, having been checked up, are delivered at the executive offices and carefully stored away until ready for use.

Enough copies are bound in book form to supply each member of the cabinet and each member of the senate and house with one. Enough are printed on newspaper proof sheets to supply each newspaper in the United States which may care to publish the message in full. Altogether about 5,000 copies are run off.

There are only two copies made which are termed official copies. These are the copies which are formally signed by the president and presented to the vice president and presiding officer of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

#### Old Custom Changed.

In Washington's and Jefferson's time it used to be the custom for the chief executive personally to write his own message and read it himself before the joint assembly of the congress. This was in accord with that clause of the constitution which provides that the president shall communicate with congress in writing.

So far as the construction of the official copies of the message was concerned, such a custom prevailed until quite recently. Those copies, which were delivered to the vice president and the speaker, were entirely hand written, voluminous documents that looked endless to the spectators as the reading clerks sometimes struggled uncertainly through them. Within the past two years, however, that clause has been construed to mean any kind of writing, hand or machine, so that the big presses at the government printing office now do the writing in a few hours for both copies, where it used to require a few days for each.

By far the greater part of these 5,000 copies are proof sheets, which are sent in advance to the various newspapers throughout the country under what is termed the syndicate system. Each copy is headed with the announcement that it is to be released for publication on a certain date. This in newspaper circles means that it is not to be printed before that date.

Ordinarily the publication before the release date on the part of any newspaper publisher would mean a complete violation of the code of ethics in the newspaper world, but such a violation under these conditions would mean a far more serious matter to that paper in its future career. Thus by this system citizens in any part of the country may read the president's message in full a few hours after it has been read on the floor of the house and senate.

#### New Musical Instrument.

A new stringed musical instrument is reported to have been devised by a Japanese violin maker in the city of Nagoya. The invention is named the reiklin and seems likely to supersede the samisen. It has the shape of a guitar, save in the neck, which is the only part resembling a samisen. There are four strings to it, and by manipulation of the keys the instrument can be made to do the work of several samisens. The inventor has played his reiklin in an orchestra of Japanese instruments and showed that it is a success in every way. He says that the idea came to him when he was touring through Europe last year.

#### A General Snow.

Snow began falling early after midnight all the way from Norfolk to Chicago. At Omaha it was snowing hard this morning and the temperature was 22 degrees above zero. Reports from Grand Island and points between there and Chicago showed that snow was falling throughout that area. In the country around St. Louis it was raining.