# **PRESIDENT** TO CONGRESS

# Message Read to Both Houses of National Assembly

#### LEGISLATION CALLED FOR

Financial Standing of the Nation Declared Excellent-Control of Corporations, the President Thinks, Should Be Left to the National Government-Labor Leaders Come In for Criticism-Respect for Law Vital to the Well-Being of Country.

Washington.-The message of President Roosevelt was read in both houses of congress Tuesday. In substance the document was as follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives: The financial standing of the nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the na tion's interests by the government during the last seven years has shown the most salisfactory results. But our curtency system is imperfect, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the currency

commission will be able to propose a

thoroughly good system which will do

away with the existing defects. During the period from July 1, 1901, to September 30, 1908, there was an increase in the amount of money in circulation of \$902,991,390. The increase in the per capita during this period was \$7.06. Within this time there were several occasions when it was necessary for the treasury department to come to the relief of the money market by purchases or redemptions of United States bonds; by increasing deposits in national banks; by stimulating additional issues of national bank notes, and by facilitating importations from abroad of gold. Our imperfect currency system has made these proceedings necessary, and they were effective until the monetary disturbance in the fall of 1907 immensely increased the difficulty of ordinary methods of relief. By the middle of November the available working balance in the treasury had been reduced to approximately \$5,600,000. Clearing house associations throughout the country had been obliged to resort to the expedient of issuing clearing house certificates, to be used as money. In this emergency it was determined to invite subscriptions for \$50,000,000 Panama canal bonds, and \$100,000,000 three per cent. certificates of indebtedness authorized by the act of June 12, 1898. It was r , osed to redeposit in the national back the proceeds of these issues, and t their use as a basis for addition: lating notes of national banks. The

moral effect of this procedure was so great that it was necessary to issue only \$24.631.980 of the Panama bonds and \$15 During the period from July 1, 1901, to September 30, 1908, the balance between the net ordinary receipts and the net ordinary expenses of the government showed a surplus in the four years 1902, 1963, 1966, and 1907, and a deficit in the years 1904, 1905, 1908 and a fractional part of the fiscal year 1909. The net result was a surplus of \$59,283,413.54. The financial operations of the government during this period, based upon these differences between receipts and expenditures, resuited in a not reduction of the interestbearing debt of the United States from \$87,141,040 to \$897,253,990, notwithstanding that there bad been two sales of Panama canal bonds amounting in the aggregate to \$54,631,980, and an issue of three per cent, certificates of indebtedness under the act of June 13, 18%, amounting to \$45,436,500. Refunding operations of the treasury department under the act of March 16, 1900, resulted in the conversion into two per cent, consols of 1930 of \$30,30,400 bonds bearing higher rates of interest. A decrease of \$5,687,556 in the annual interest charge resulted from these operations.

In short, during the seven years and three months there has been a net surplus of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest-bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama canai, and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charge.

## Control of Corporations.

As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate busin-s, and especially the railroads, I can only repeat what I have already again and again said in my messages to the congress. I believe that under the interstate clause of the constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce. and i believe that the national government alone can exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness so as both to secure justice from, and to do justice to. the great corporations which are the most important factors in modern business. I believe that it is worse than folly to attempt to prohibit all combinations as is done by the Sherman anti-trust law, because such a law can be enforced only imperfectly and unequally, and its enforcement works almost as much hardship as good. I strongly advocate that instead of an unwise effort to prohibit all combinations. there shall be substituted a law which shall expressly permit combinations which are in the interest of the public but shall at the same time give to som agency in the national government full power of control and supervision over them. One of the chief features of this control should be securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know, and furthermore the power, not by judicial but by executive action, to prevent or put a stop to every form of improper favoritism or other wrengdoing.

The railways of the country should be put completely under the interstate comion and removed from the domain of the anti-trust law. The power of the commission should be made thoroughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of securities as well as over the raising and lowering of rates. As regards rates, at least, this power should be summary. . . . Rates must be made as low as is compatible with giving proper returns to all the employes of the rail road, from the highest to the lowest and proper returns to the shareholders but they must not, for instance, be re duced in such fashion as to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employes or profits of honest shareholders.

Telegraph and telephone companies er gaged in interstate business should be put under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission.

It is very earnestly to be wished that our people, through their representatives, should act in this matter. It is to the interest of all of us that there should be a premium put upon individual initiative and individual capacity, and an ample reward for the great directing intelligences alone competent to manage the great business operations of to-day. It is well to keep in mind that exactly as the anarchist is the worst enemy of liberty and the reactionary the worst enemy of order, so the men who defend the rights of property have most to fear from the wrongdoers of great wealth, and the men who are championing popular rights have most to fear from the demagogues who in the name of popular rights would do wrong to and oppress honest business men, honest men of wealth; for the success of either type of wrongdoer necessarily invites a violent reaction against the cause the wrongdoer nominally upholds. . .

Need of Centralization. The proposal to make the na-

therefore to give it complete control over. the railroads and other instruments of interstate commerce is merely a proposal to carry out to the letter one of the prime purposes, if not the prime purpose, for which the constitution was founded. It does not represent centralization. It represents merely the acknowledgment of the patent fact that centralization has already come in business. If this irre-aponsible outside business power is to be controlled in the interest of the general public it can only be controlled in one way; by giving adequate power of control to the one sovereignty capable of exercising such power-the national government. To abandon the effort for national control means to abandon the effort for all adequate control and yet to render likely continual bursts of action by state legislatures, which cannot achieve the purpose sought for, but which can do a great deal of damage to the corporation without conferring any real benefit on

Corporations Learning Wisdom. I believe that the more farsighted corporations are themselves coming to recognize the unwisdom of the violent hostility they have displayed during the last few years to regulation and control by the national government of combinations engaged in interstate business. truth is that we who believe in this movement of asserting and exercising a genuine control, in the public interest over these great corporations have to contend against two sets of enemies,

who, though nominally opposed to one another, are really ailies in preventing proper solution of the problem. There are, first, the big corporation men, and the extreme individualists among business men, who genuinely believe in utterly unregulated business-that is, in the reign of plutocracy; and, second, the men who, being blind to the econom movements of the day, believe in a movement of repression rather than of regulation of corporations, and who denounce both the power of the railroads and the exercise of the federal power which alone can really control the railroads. Those who believe in efficient national control, on the other hand, do not in the least object to combinations: do not in the least object to concentration in business administration. On the contrary, they favor both, with the all-important provise that there shall be such publicity about their workings, and such theroughgoing control over them, as to insure their being in the interest, and not against the interest, of the general public. We do not object to the concentration of wealth and administration; but we do believe in the distribution of the wealth in profits to the real owners, and in securing to the public the full benefit of the concentrated administration. We believe that with concentration in adninistration there can come both the advantage of a larger owneship and of a more equitable distribution of profits,

practiced on a small scale. We do not for a moment believe that the problem will be solved by any short and easy method. The solution will come only by pressing various concurrent emedies. Some of these remedies must lie outside the domain of all government. some must lie outside the domain of the ederal government. But there is legslation which the federal government alone can enact and which is absolutely vital in order to secure the attainment of our purpose. Many laws are needed. There should be regulation by the nacorporations, including a simple method of account keeping, publicity, supervision of the issue of securities, abolition of rebates and of special privileges. There should be short-time franchises for all corporations engaged in public business; including the corporations which get power from water rights. There should be national as well as state guardianship of mines and forests. The labor legislation hereinafter referred to should con-

and at the same time a better service to

the commonwealth. We believe that the

administration should be for the benefit

of the mary; and that greed and ras-

cality, practiced on a large scale,

should be punished as relentlessly as if

To accomplish this, means a certain inrease in the use of-not the creation of lower, by the central government. The wer already exists; it does not have be created; the only question is whether it shall be used or left idleand meanwhile the corporations over which the power ought to be exercised will not remain idle. The danger to American democracy lies not in the least in the concentration of administrative power in responsible and accountable hands. It lies in having the power insufficiently concentrated, so that no one can be held responsible to the people for its use Concentrated power is palpable, visible, responsible, easily reached, quickly held to account. Democracy is in peril wherever the administration of political power is scattered among a variety of men who work in ecret, whose very names are unknown to the common people. It is not in peril from any man who derives authority from the people, who exercises it in sight of the people, and who is from time to time compelled to give an

currently be enacted into law.

#### account of its exercise to the people. Legislation for Wageworker.

There are many matters affecting labor and the status of the wageworker to which I should like to draw your attention, but an exhaustive discussion of the problem in all its aspects is not now necssary. I believe in a steady effort, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say in steady efforts in many different directions, to bring about a condition of affairs under which the men who work with hand or with brain, the laborers, the superintendents, the men who produce the market and the men who find a market for the articles produced, shall own a far greater share than at present of the wealth they produce, and be enabled to invest it in the tools and instruments by which all work is carried on. As far as possible I hope to see a frank recognition of the advantages conferred by machinery, organization and division of labor, accompanied by an effort to bring about a larger share in the ownership by wage-worker of rail-

way, mill and factory. Postal Savings banks will make it easy for the poorest to keep their savings in absolute safety. The regulation of the national highways must be such equal justice. Corporate finances must be supervised so as to make it far safer than at present for the man of small means to invest his money in stocks. There must be prohibition of child labor, ...minution of women labor, shortening of hours of all mechanical labor; stock watering should be prohibited. and stock gambling so far as is possible discouraged. There should be a progressive inheritance tax on large fortunes. Industrial education should be encouraged. As far as possible we should lighten the burden of taxation on the small man. We should put a premium upon thrift, hard work, and business energy; but these qualities ease to be the main factors in accumulating a fortune long before that fortune reaches a point where it would be seriously affected by any inheritance tax such as I propose. It is eminently right that the nation should fix the terms upon which the great fortunes are inherited. They rarely do good and they often do harm to those who inherit them in their entirety.

There should no long r be any paltering with the question of taking care of the wageworkers who, under our present industrial system, become killed, crippled, or worn out as part of the regular incidents of a given business. As far as concerns those who have been worn out, I call your attention to the fact that definite steps toward pro-iding old-age pensions have been taken in many of our private industries. These may be in-definitely extended through voluntary association and contributory schemes. or through the agency of savings banks, as under the Massachusetts

## Urgent Need of Reform.

Our present system, or rather no sys. tem, works dreadful wrong, and is of benefit to only one class of people-the lawyers. When a workman is injured what he needs is not an expensive and doubtful lawsuit, but the certainty of relief through immediate administrative action. No academic theory about "freedom of contract" or "constipermitted to interfere with this and Pending a thoroughgoing investigation and action there is certain legislation which should be enacted at once.

The law, passed at the last session of the congress granting compensation to certain classes of employes of the gov-ernment should be extended to include all employes of the government and should be made more liberal in its terms. There is no good ground for the distinction made in the law tween those engaged in hazardous occupations and those not so engaged. The terms of the act providing compensation should be made more liberal than in the present act. A year's compensation is not adequate for a wage-earner's family in the event of his death by accident in the course of his employment. And in the event of death occurring, say, ten or eleven months after the accident, the family would only receive as compensation the equivalent of one or two months' earnings. In this respect the generosity of the United States towards its employes compares most unfavorably with that of every country in Eu-

rope—even the poorest.

The terms of the act are also a hardship in prohibiting payment in cases where the accident is in any way due to the negligence of the employe. It is inevitable that daily familiarity with danger will lead men to take chances that can be construed into negligence. So well is this recognized that in practically all countries in the civilized world, except the United States, only great degree of negligence acts as a bar to securing compensation. Probably in no other respect is our legislation, both state and national, so far behind practically the entire civilised world as in the matter of liability and compensation for accidents in industry. It is humiliating that at European in ternational congresses on accidents the Inited States should be singled out as the most belated among the nations in respect to emp 'yers' liability legislation. This government is itself a large employer of labor and in its dealings with its employes it should set a standard in this country which would place it on a par with the most progressive countries in Europe. The laws of the United States in this respect and the laws of European countries have been summarized in a recent bulletin of the bureau of labor, and no American who reads this summary can fail to be struck by the great contrast between our practices and theirs-a contrast not in any sense to our credit.

I renew my recommendation made in previous message that half-holidays e granted during summer to all wageorkers in government employ . I also renew my recommendation that the principle of the eight-hour day should as rapidly and as far as practicable be extended to the entire work being carried on by the government; the present law should be amended to embrace contracts on those public works which the present wording of the act seems to exclude.

Would Double Salaries of Judges. I most earnestly urge upon the congress the duty of increasing the totally inadequate salaries now given to our judges. On the whole there is no body of public servants who do as valuable work, nor whose moneyed reward is so inadequate compared to their work. Beginning with the supreme court the udges should have their salaries douoled. It is not befitting the dignity of the nation that its most honored public servants should be paid sums so small compared to what they would earn in public service by them implies an ex-

ceedingly heavy pecuniary sacrifice. It is earnestly to be desired that some method should be devised for doing away with the long delays which now obtain in the administration of justice and which operate with peculiar severity against persons of small means, and favor only the very criminals whom it is most desirable to punish. These long delays in the final decisions of cases make in the aggregate a crying evil; and a remedy should be devised Much of this intolerable delay is duto improper regard paid to technicalities which are a mere hinderance to fustice. In some noted recent cases this over-regard for technicalities has resulted in a striking denial of justice, and flagrant wrong to the body politic.

Labor Leaders Criticised. At the last election certain leaders o organized labor made a violent and sweeping attack upon the entire indiciary of the country, an attack couched in such terms as to include the most upright, honest and broad-minded udges, no less than those of narrower mind and more restricted outlook Last year, before the house committee on judiciary. labor leaders formulated their despecifying the bill mands. contained them, refusing all compromise, stating they wished the principle of that bill or nothing. They insisted on a provision that in a labor dispute no injunction should issue except to protect a property right, and specifically provided that the right to carry on business should not be construed as a property right; and in a second provision their bill made legal in a labor dispute any act or agreement by or be tween two or more persons that would not have been unlawful if done by a single person. In other words, this bill legalized blacklisting and boycotting in every form, legalizing, for instance, those forms of the secondary boycott which the anthracite coal strike commission so unreservedly condemned; while the right to carry on a business was explicitly taken out from under that protection which the law throws over property. The demand was made that there should be trial by jury in contempt cases, thereby most seriously impairing the authority of the courts All this represented a course of policy which, if carried out, would mean the enthronement of class privilege in its crudest and most brutal form, and the destruction of one of the most essential functions of the judicary in all civilized lands.

The violence of the crusade for this legislation, and its complete failure, illustrate two truths which it is essen tial our people should learn. In the first place, they ought to teach the that they shall serve all people with workingman, the laborer, the wageworker, that by demanding what is improper and impossible he plays into the hands of his foes. Such a crude and vicious attack upon the courts, even if it were temporarily successful, would inevitably in the end cause a violent reaction and would hand the great mass of citizens together, forcing them to stand by all the judges, competent and incompetent alike, rather than to

see the wheels of justice stopped. The wageworkers, the workingmen. the laboring men of the country by the way in which they repudiated the effort to get them to cast their votes in response to an appeal to class hatred. have emphasized their sound patriotism and Americanism. Such an attitude is an object lesson in good citizenship to

the entire nation Judicial System Sound.

Our judicial system is sound and effective at core, and it remains, and must ever be maintained, as the safeguard of those principles of liberty and justice which stand at the foundation of American institutions: for. as Burke finely said, when liberty and justice are separated, neither is safe. There are, however, some members of hind in their understanding of these great and vital changes in the politic, whose minds have never been opened to the new applications of the old principles made necessary by the new conditions. Judges of this stamp do lasting harm by their decisions, because they convince poor men in need of protection that the courts of the land are profoundly ignorant of and out of sympathy with their needs, and profoundly ignorant or hostile to any proposed remedy. To such men it seems a cruel mockery to have any court decide against them on the ground that it desires to preserve "liberty" in a purely technical form, by withholding liberty in any real and constructive sense.

There are certain decisions by various courts which have been exceedingly detrimental to the rights of wage-workers. This is true of all decisions that decide that men are, by the constitution, "guargovernment supreme over, and tutional liberty to contract" should be anteed their liberty" to contract to enter

undesirable or improper number of hours, or to work in unhealthy surroundings; and therefore cannot recover damages when maimed in that occupation, and cannot be forbidden to work what the legislature decides is an excessive number of hours, or to carry on the work under conditions which the legislature decides to be unhealthy. Decisions such as those nullify the legislative effort to protect the wage-workers who most need protection from those employers who take advantage of their grinding need. They halt or hamper the move ment for securing better and more equitable conditions of labor.

There is also, I think, ground for the belief that substantial injustice is often suffered by employes in consequence of the custom of courts issuing temporary injunctions without notice to them, and punishing them for contempt of court in instances where, as a matter of fact, they have no knowledge of any proceed Organized labor is ings. the unjust restraint which comes from repeated resort to this plan of procedure. Its discontent has been unwisely expressed, and often improperly expressed, but there is a sound basis for it, and the orderly and law-abiding people of a community would be in a far stronger position for upholding the courts if the unabtedly existing abuses could be provided against.

Matters for Thought for Labor. Such proposals as those mentioned above as advocated by the extreme labor leaders, contain the vital error of being class legislation of the most offensive kind, and even if enacted into law I believe that the law would rightly be held unconstitutional. Moreover, the labor people are themselves now beginning to invoke the use of the power of injunction. During the last ten years, and within my own knowledge, at least fifty injunctions have been obtained by labor mions in New York city alone, most o them being to protect the union label (a "property right"), but some being obtained for other reasons against employ-

Injunction Must Remain.

The power of injunction is a great equitable remedy, which should on no account be destroyed. But safeguards should be erected against its abuse In substance, provision should be made that no injunction or temporary restraining order issue otherwise than on notice, except where irreparable injury would otherwise result; and in such case hearing on the merits of the order should be had within a short fixed period, and, if not then continued after hearing, it should forthwith lapse. Decisions should be rendered immediately, and the chance of delay minimized in every way. Moreover, I believe that the procedure should be sharply defined, and the judge required minutely to state the particulars both of his action and of his reasons therefor, so that the congress can if it desires examine and investigate the same.

For many of the shortcomings of justice in our country our people as a whole are themselves to blame, and the judges and juries merely bear their together with the public as a whole. It is discreditable to us as a people that there should be difficulty in convicting murderers, or in bringing to justice men who as public servants have been guilty of corruption, or who have profited by the corruption of public servants. The result is equally unfortunate, whether due to hairsplitting technicalities in the interpretationof law by judges, to sentimentality and class consciousness on the part of juries, or to hysteria and sensational ism in the daily press. For much of this failure of justice no responsibility whatever lies on rich men as such. We cannot shift the responsibility from our own shoulders. But there is an important part of the failure waich has specially to do with inability to hold to proper account men of wealth who behave badly.

The Modern Corporation.

The huge wealth that has been accumulated by a few individuals of recent years, in what has amounted to a social and industrial revolution, has been as regards some of these individuals made possible only by the improper use of the modern corporation. A certain type of modern corporation, with its officers and agents, its many issues of securities, and its constant consolidation with allied undertakings, finally becomes an instrument so complex as to contain a greater number of elements that, under various judicial decisions, lend themselves to fraud and oppression than any device yet evolved in the human brain. Corporations are necessary instruments of modern business. They have been permitted to become a menace largely because the governmental representatives of the people have worked slowly in providing for adequate control over them. Our great clusters of corporations, huge trusts and fabulously wealthy multimillionaires, employ the very best lawyers they can obtain to pick flaws in statutes after their passage; but they also employ a class of secret agents who seek, under the advice of experts, to render hostile legisla.ion innocuous by making it unconstitutional, often through the insertion of what appear on their face to be drastic and sweeping provisions against the interests of the parties inspiring them; while the demagogues, the corrupt creatures who introduce blackmailing schemes to "strike" corporations, and all who demand extreme and undesirably radical, measures, show themselves to be the worst ene mies of the very public whose loud-

mouthed champions they profess to be Real damage has been done by the manifold and conflicting interpretations or the interstate commerce law. Control over the great corporations doing interstate business can be effective only if it is vested with full power in an administrative department, a branch of the federal executive, carrying out a federal law: it can never be effective if a divided responsibility is left in both the states and the nation; it can never be effective if left in the hands of the courts to be decided by lawsuits.

Respect for Law Must Be Upheld. The courts hold a piace of peculiar and deserved sanctity under our form of government. Respect for the law is essential to the permanence of our institutions; and respect for the law is largely conditioned upon respect for the courts. It is an offense against the republic to say anything which can weaken this respect, save for the gravest reason and in the most carefully guarded manner. In no other nation in the world do the courts wield such vast and far-reaching power as in the United States. All that is necessary is that the courts as a whole should exercise this power with the farsighted wisdom already shown by those udges who scan the future while they act in the present. Let them exercise this great power not only honestly and bravely, but with wise insight into the needs and fixed purposes of the people, so that they may do justice, and work equity, so that they may protect all persons in their rights, and yet break down the barriers of privilege, which is the foe

Forest Preservation.

than another we owe it to our children to perform at once, it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the conservation of the natural resources of the country. . . . Just as a farmer, after all his life making his living from his farm, will, if he is an expert farmer, leave it as an asset of increased value to his son, so we should leave our national domain to our children, increased in value and not worn out. There are small sections of our own country, in the east and in the west, in the Adirondacks, the White mountains and the Appalachians, and in the Rocky mountains, where we can already see for ourselves the damage in the shape of permanent injury to the soil and the river systems which comes from reckless deforestation. It matters not whether this deforestation is due to the actual reckless cutting of timber, to the fires that inevitably follow such reckless cutting of timber, or to reckless and uncontrolled grazing, especially by the great migratory bands of sheep, the unchecked wandering of which over the country means destruction to forests and

disaster to the small home-makers, the settlers of limited means.

Thanks to our own recklessness in the use of our splendid forests, we have already crossed the verge of a timber famine in this country, and no

measures that we now take can, at least for many years, undo the mischief that has already been done. But we can prevent further mischief being done; and it would be in the highest degree reprehensible to let any consideration of teminterfere with such action, especially regards the national forests which the

The lesson of deforestation in China is a lesson which mankind should have learned many times already from what has occurred in other places. Denudation leaves naked soil; then gullying cuts down to the bare rock; and meanwhile the rock-waste buries the bottomlands. When the soil is gone, men must go; and the process does not take

nation can now, at this very moment,

Plea for Inland Waterways. Action should be begun forthwith, during the present session of the congress for the improvement of our inland waterways-action which will result in giving us not only navigable but navigated

Until the work of river improvement undertaken in a modern way it can not have results that will meet the needs of modern nation. The which promises the best and quickest results is that of a permanent commission authorized to co-ordinate the work of all the government departments relating to waterways, and to frame and supervise the execution of a comprehensive plan. Under such a commission the actual work of construction might be entrusted to the reclama tion service; or to the military engineers acting with a sufficient number of civilians to continue the work in time of war; or it might be divided between the reclamation service and the corns of engineers. Funds should be provided from current revenues if it is deemed wiseotherwise from the sale of bonds. The essential thing is that the work should go forward under the best possible plan and with the least possible delay. time for playing with our waterways is

past. The country demands results. The president urges that national parks adjacent to national forests be placed under the control of the forest service of the agricultural department; he also points out the benefits derived from pure food legislation.

The message continues: Needs of the Secret Service.

Last year an amendment was incor porated in the measure providing for the ecret service, which provided that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. The amendment in question was of benefit to no one excepting to criminals, and it seriously hampers the government in the detection of crime and the securing of justice. The chief argument in of the provision was the congressmen did not them-selves wish to be investigated by the secret service men. Very little of such investigation has been done in the past but it is true that the work of the secret service agents was partly responsible for the indictment and conviction of a senator and a congressman for land frauds Oregon. I do not believe that it is in the public interest to protect criminals in any branch of the public service, and exactly as we have again and again durconvicted such criminals who were in the executive branch of the government so in my belief we should be given ample means to prosecute them if found in the legislative branch. But if this is no onsidered desirable a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of the congress.

Postal Savings Banks. I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks, for depositing savings with the security of the government behind them. The object is to encourage thrift and economy in the wage-earner and person of moderate means. It is believed that in the aggregate vast sums of money would b brought into circulation through the instrumentality of the postal savings

In my last annual message I comthe postmaster-general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on the rural routes. The establishment of a local parcel post or rural routes would be to the mutual benefit of the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that the routes, serving more than 15,000,000 people, should be utilized to the fullest practicable extent.

With the limited means hitherto pro vided, the bureau of e ducation has rendered efficient service, but the congress has neglected to adequately sup ply the bureau with means to meet th educational growth of the country earnestly recommend that this un fortunate state of affairs as regards the national educational office be reme died by adequate appropriations. This recommendation is urged by the repre great state universities and the leading educators, who all unite in requesting favorable consideration and action by the congress upon this subject.

The president points out the neces sity of better organization of the various bureaus responsible for the public health, and urges the placing of all soldiers' homes under the jurisdiction of the war department.

On the question of statehood th president says: I advocate the immediate admission of

New Mexico and Arizona as states. This should be done at the present session o the congress. The people of the two ter ritories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one state. The only alternative is to admithem as two, and I trust that this will be ione without delay.

Interstate Fisheries.

I call the attention of the congress t the importance of the problem of the fisheries in the interstate waters. On the Great Lakes we are now, under the very wise treaty of April 11 of this year, endeavering to come to an internationa agreement for the preservation and satisfactory use of the fisheries of these waters which can not otherwise be achieved. Lake Erie, for example, has the richest fresh water fisheries in the world; but it is now controlled by the statutes of two nations, four states, and one province and this province by two different ordi nances in different counties. All these political divisions work at cross purposes, and in no case can they achieve rotection to the fisheries, on the one hand, and justice to the localities and individuals on the other.

Foreign Affairs.

This nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last ten years we have in this matter proven our faith by our deeds. have behaved, and are behaving, tothe first and most important element in wards other nations, as in private life an honorable man would wards his fellows.

Latin-American Republics. The commercial and material prog-

ress of the 20 Latin-American republics is worthy of the careful attention of the congress. The International Eureau of the American Republics is doing a useful work in making these nations and their resources better known to us, and in acquainting them not only with us as a people and with our purposes towards them, but with what we have to exchange for their goods. Panama Canal.

The work on the Panama canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty, which make it a model for all work of the kind. The men on the Isthmus, from Col. Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employes who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect

I again recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891 so that satis-factory American ocean mail lines to South America, Asia, the Philippines, and Australasia may be established. I again rece

Hawaii. I call particular attention to the Territory of Hawaii. The importance of those islands is apparent, and the need of improving their condition and de-

veloping their resources is urgent. The Philippines

Real progress toward self-governmen is being made in the Philippine island I trust that within a generation the time will arrive when the Philippin can decide for themselves whether it is well for them to become independent, or to continue under the protection of a strong and disinterested power, able to guarantee to the islands order at home and protection from foreign invasion.

Porto Rico. I again recommend that American citsenship be conferred upon the people of

Porto Rico.

In Cuba our occupancy will cease in about two months' time; the Cubani have in orderly manner elected their own governmental authorities, and the island will be turned over to them. Our occupation on this occasion has lasted a lit tle over two years, and Cuba has thriven and prospered under it. Our earnes hope and one desire is that the people of the island shall now govern themselves with justice, so that peace and order may be secure.

Japanese Exposition. The Japanese government has postponed until 1917 the date of the great international exposition, the action being taken so as to insure ample time in which to prepare to make the exposition all that it should be made. The American commissioners have visited Japan and the postponement will merely give ampler opportunity for America to be represented at the exposition Not since the first international exposition has there been one of greater importance than this will be, marking as it does, the fiftieth anniversary of the ascension to the throne of the emperor of Japan. The extraordinary eap to the foremost place among the nations of the world made by Japan during this half century is something

unparalleled in all previous history I take this opportunity publicly to state my appreciation of the way in which in Japan, in Australia, in New Zealand, and in all the states of South America, the battle fleet has been received on its practice voyage around the world. The American government can not too strongly express its appreciation of the abounding and generous hospitality shown our ships in every port they visited.

The Army.

As regards the army I call attention to the fact that while our junior officers and enlisted men stand very high, the present system of promotion by seniority results in bringing into the higher grades many men of mediocre capacity who have but a short time to serve. No man should regard it as his vested right to rise to the highest rank in the army any more than in any other profession. It is a curious and by no means creditable fact that there should be so often a failure on the part of the public and its representatives to understand the great need, from the standpoint of the service and the nation, of refusing to promote respectable, elderly incompetents. The most deserving men without regard to seniority: at least seniority should treated as only one consideration. In the stress of modern industrial competition no business firm could succeed if those responsible for its management were chosen simply on the ground that they were the oldest people in its employment; yet this is the course advocated as regards the army, and required by law for all grades except those of general officer. As a matter of fact all of the best officers in the highest ranks of the army are those who have attained their present position wholly or in part by a process of selection.

The scope of retiring boards should be extended so that they could consider general unfitness to command for any cause, in order to secure a far more rigid enforcement than at present in the elimination of officers for mental physical or temperamental disabilities But this plan is recommended only if the congress does not see fit to provide what in my judgment is far better, that is, for selection in promotion, and for elimination for age. Officers who fail to attain a certain rank by a certain age, should be retired-for in stance, if a man should not attain field rank by the time he is 45 he should of course be placed on the retired list. General officers should be selected as at present, and one-third of the other promotions should be made by selection, the selection to b made by the president or secretary of war from a list of at least two candidates proposed for each vacancy by a board of officers from the arm of the service from which the promotion is to be made. A bill is now before the congress having for its object to secure the promotion of officers to various grades at reasonable ages through a process of selection, by boards of officers, of the least efficient for retirement with a percentage of their pay depending upon length of service. The that should be done, is a long step in the right direction; and I earnestly recommend its passage, or that of a more completely effective measure.

National Guard.

Now that the organized militia, the National Guard, has been incorporated with the army as a part of the national forces, it behooves the government to do every reasonable thing in its power to perfect its efficiency. It should be assisted in its instruction and otherwise aided more liberally than heretofore. The continuous services of many well-trained regular officers will b essential in this connection. bill is now pending before congress creating a number of extra officers in the army, which if passed, as it ought to be, will enable mor officers to be trained as instructors of National Guard and assigned to that duty. In case of war it will be of the utmost importance to have a large number of trained officers to use fo

approve the recommendations the general board for the increase of the navy, calling especial attention to the need of additional destroyers and colliers, and above all, of the four battleships. It is desirable to complete as soon as possible squadron of eight battleships of the best existing type.

I most earnestly recommend that the

turning raw levies into good troops.

general board be by law turned into a general staff. There is literally no excuse whatever for continuing the pres ent bureau organization of the navy. The navy should be treated as a purely milltary organization, and everything should be subordinated to the one object of securing military efficiency. A system of promotion by merit, either by selec tion or by exclusion, or by both processes, should be introduced. It is out of the question, if the present principle of promotion by mere seniority is kept, expect to get the best results from higher officers. Our men come too old, and stay for too short a time, in the high command positions.

Nothing better for the navy from every standpoint has ever occurred than the cruise of the battle fleet around the world. The improvement of the ships in every way has been extraordinary, and they have gained far more experience in battle tactics than they would have gained if they had stayed in the Atlantic waters. The American people have cause for profound gratification, both in view of the excellent condition of the fleet as shown by this cruise, and in view of the improvement the cruise has worked in this already high condition. I do not believe that there is any other service in the world in which the average of character and efficiency in the enlisted men is as high as is now the case in our own. THEODORE ROOSEVELT. The White House, Tuesday, December TO CURE A COUGH

Or Break a Cold in 24 Hours

Mix two ounces of Glycerine and a half ounce of Virgin Oil of Pine compound pure with a half pint of Straight Whisky. Shake well and take a tea-

spoonful every four hours. The genuine Virgin Oil of Pine com pound pure is prepared only by The Leach Chemical Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, and is put up only in helf-ounce vials, each vial securely sealed in a round wooden case to insure its freshner



Lazy Larry-Woof! Just to think with all this wasted effort, I could have won the Marathon race!

Expert Pocket-Picking.

An old lady was accosted in a London street by a well-dressed and refined-looking stranger, who effusively claimed her as a friend. "I really don't believe you remember me!" she exclaimed, reproachfully, and the old lady, never doubting that her memory was at fault, confessed that she could not quite recall the name. "Ah, but I have changed it since you knew me," said her interlocutor, gayly, and after a few more lively speeches she passed on, having possessed herself meanwhile of the old lady's purse.

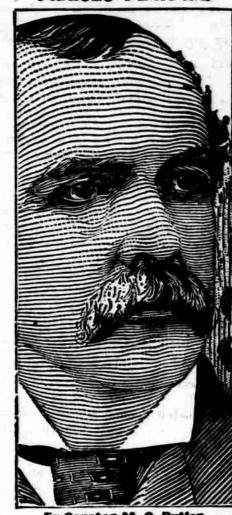
Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good Starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

Lachrymose.

"Pa. Mary's upstairs crying again." "What's the matter this time.

"I can't just make out whether it's because she's afraid Jim won't ask her to go to the theater to-night or whether she hasn't anything fit to wear, if he should."-Detroit Free Press.

#### UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA PRAISES PE-RU-NA.



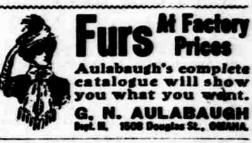
Dyspepsia Is Often Caused by Catarrh of the Stomach—Peruna Relieves Catarrh of the Stomach and Is Therefore a Remedy for Dyspersia.

Hon. M. C. Butler, U. S. Senator from South Carolina for two terms, in a letter from Washington, D. C., writes to the Peruna Medicine Co. as follows:

"I can recommend Peruna for dyspepsia and stomach trouble. I have been using your medicine for a short period and I feel very much relieved. It is indeed a wonderful medicine, besides a good tonic."

"ATARRH of the stomach is the correct name for most cases of dyspep sia. Only an internal catarrh remedy, such as Peruna, is available. Person Tablets can now be precured. Ask your Druggist for a Free Peruna Almanac for 1909.

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