THE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

President Roosevelt's Annual Communication to the National Legislators

The Isthmian Canal and the Panama Revolution Are Given Lengthy Consideration

Says the Department of Commerce and Labor Will Go Far Towards Solving the Trust Problem.

Calls Attention to Undesirable Immigration ---Asks for More Stringent Naturalization Laws and Enforcement

Needs of Merchant Marine-Post Office and Public Land Frauds -Our Foreign Relations.

To the Senate and House of Representa-The country is to be congratulated in the amount of substantial achieve-nent which has marked the past year both is regards our foreign and as regards our comestic policy.

sage of December 2, 1902, I called atten-tion to certain needs of the financial sit-uation, and I again ask the considera-tion of the congress for these questions. The Merchant Marine.

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throughout the empire, and to introduce other desirable administrative reforms.

Rural Free Delivery.

The rural free-delivery service has been steadily extended. The attention of the congress is asked to the question of the compensation of the letter carriers and clerks engaged in the postal service, especially on the new rural free-delivery routes. More routes have been installed since the first of July last than in any like period in the department's history. While a due regard to economy must be kept in mind in the establishment of new routes, yet the extension of the rural free-delivery system must be continued, for reasons of sound public policy. No governmental movement of recent years has resulted in greater immediate benefit to the people of the country districts. Rural free delivery, taken in connection with the telephone, the bicycle, and the trolley, accomplishes much toward lessening the isolation of farm life and making it brighter and more attractive.

Our Issular Possessions.

I recommend that an appropriation be made for building lighthouses in Hawaii, and taking possession of those aiready built. The territory should be reimbursed for whatever amounts it has already expended for lighthouses. The governor should be empowered to suspend or remove any official appointed by him, without submitting the matter to the legislature.

Of our insular possessions the Philippines and Porto Rico it is gratifying to say that their steady progress has been such as to make it unnecessary to spend much time in discussing them. Yet the congress should ever keep in mind that a peculiar obligation resis upon us to further in every way the welfare of these communities. The Philippines should be knit closer to us by tariff arrangements. It would, of course, be impossible suddenly to raise the people of the islands to the high pitch of industrial prosperity and of governmental efficiency to which they will in the end by degrees attain; and the caution and moderation shown in developing them have been among the main reasons why this development has hitherto gone on so smoothly. Scrupulous care has been taken in the choice of governmental agents, and the entire elimination of partisan politics from the public service. The condition of the islanders is in material things far better than ever before, while their governmental, intellectual and moral advance. No one people ever benefited another people more than we have been intelled the Filipinos by taking possession of the islands.

marksmanship is being steadily raised. The best work ashore is indispensable, but the highest duty of a navai officer is to exercise command at sea.

It is eminently desirable, however, that there should be provided a navai general staff on lines similar to those of the general staff on lines similar to those of the general staff on lines similar to those of the general staff that they created for the army. Within the navy department itself the needs of the service have brought about a system under which the duties of a general staff are partially performed; for the bureau of navigation has under its direction the war college, the office of navai intelligence and the board of inspection, and has been in close touch with the general board of the mavy. But though under the excellent officers at their head, these boards and bureaus do good work, they have not the authority of a general staff, and have not sufficient scope to insure a proper readiness for emergencies. We need the establishment by law of a body of trained officers, who shall excretes a systematic control of the military affairs of the navy, and be authorized advisers of the secretary concerning it.

The Isthmian Canal.

By the act of June 28, 1992, the congress

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The Isthmian Canal.

By the act of June 23, 1902, the congress authorized the president to enter into treaty with Colombia for the building of the canal across the Isthmus of Panama; it being provided that in the event of failure to secure such treaty after the lapse of a reasonable time, recourse should be had to building a canal through Nicaragua. It has not been necessary to consider this alternative, as I am enabled to lay before the senate a treaty providing for the building of the canal across the Isthmus of Panama. This was the route which commended itself to the deliberate judgment of the congress, and we can now acquire by treaty the right to construct the canal over this route. The question now, therefore, is not by which route the isthmian canal shall be built, for that question has been definitely and irrevocably decided. The question is simply whether or not we shall have an isthmian canal.

When the congress directed that we should take the Panama route under treaty with Colombia, the essence of the condition, of course, referred not to the government which controlled that route but to the route itself, to the territory across which the route lay, not to the name which for the moment the territory bore on the map. The purpose of the law was to authorize the president to make a treaty with the power in actual control of the Isthmus of Panama. This purpose has been fulfilled.

Isthmian Treaty Obligations.

In the year 1848 this government entered into a treaty with the power in actual control of the Isthmus of Panama.

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