

A MESSAGE

To Congress Concerning Oil Investigation.

GARFIELD REPORT

Is Transmitted to Both Houses by the President, With Recommendation for Action.

Washington, D. C. — President Roosevelt Friday transmitted to congress a message concerning the oil industry of the United States. The message was accompanied by the report of James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, who has been investigating the affairs of the Standard Oil Co. and the relation of that company to the railroads of the country. Following are salient points of the message:

"I transmit herewith a report by the commissioner of the bureau of corporations in the department of commerce and labor on the subject of transportation and freight rates in connection with the oil industry.

"The facts set forth in this report are for the most part not disputed. It is only the inferences from them that are disputed, and even in this respect the dispute is practically limited to the question as to whether the transactions are or are not technically legal. The report shows that the Standard Oil Co. has benefited enormously up almost to the present moment by secret rates, many of these secret rates being clearly unlawful. This benefit amounts to at least three-quarters of a million a year.

"A very striking result of the investigation has been that shortly after the discovery of these secret rates by the commissioner of corporations, the major portion of them were promptly corrected by the railroads, so that most of them have now been done away with. This immediate correction, partial or complete, of the evil of the secret rates is of course on the one hand an acknowledgment that they were wrong, and yet were persevered in until exposed; and on the other hand a proof of the efficiency of the work that has been done by the bureau of corporations. The department of justice will take up the question of instituting prosecutions in at least certain of the cases.

"But in addition to these secret rates the Standard Oil profits immensely by open rates, which are so arranged as to give it an overwhelming advantage over its independent competitors.

"The argument is sometimes advanced against conferring upon some governmental body the power of supervision and control over inter-state commerce, that to do so tends to weaken individual initiative. Investigations such as this conclusively disprove any such allegation.

"What is needed is the conferring upon the commission of ample affirmative power, so conferred as to make its decisions take effect at once, subject only to such action by the court as is demanded by the constitution.

"The government should have power by its agents to examine into the conduct of the railways—that is, the examiners under the direction of the inter-state commerce commission should be able to examine as thoroughly into the affairs of the railroad as bank examiners examine banks.

"Though not bearing upon the question of railroad rates, there are two measures consideration of which is imperatively suggested by the submission of this report. The Standard Oil Co. has, largely by unfair or unlawful methods, crushed out home competition. It is highly desirable that an element of competition should be introduced by the passage of some such law as that which has already passed the house, putting alcohol used in the arts and manufactures upon the free list. Furthermore, the time has come when no oil or coal lands held by the government, either upon the public domain proper or in territory owned by the Indian tribes, should be alienated. The fee to such lands should be kept in the United States government whether or not the profits arising from it are to be given to any Indian tribe, and the lands should be leased only on such terms and for such periods as will enable the government to keep entire control thereof.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Following is an epitome of Commissioner Garfield's report:

The Standard Oil Co. controls 88 1/2 per cent. of the refined oil and the petroleum products business of the country; the trust developed its enormous profit-making pipe lines by special agreements with the railroads; officials of the trust informed him that their company had not in recent years and was not now receiving railroad rebates; the trust is receiving discriminations in open as well as secret rates; prorating is denied to the independents, inter-state rates being classified as state rates; in some cases the railroads abolished secret rates and open discriminations after these

Alleged Discrimination. Clarksburg, W. Va.—In the United States circuit court of the northern district of West Virginia a writ was filed in a suit brought Friday by the Federal Coal and Coke Co. of West Virginia against the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. and the Fairmont Coal Co., alleging discrimination against the plaintiff company in furnishing transportation of coal from the plaintiff's mines and conspiracy to wreck and cause financial ruin to the plaintiff with the intent to bring about the forced sale of the plaintiff's property.

Threw Train Off Track. Shreveport, La.—A cow and a calf Friday threw most of a train off the track at Bodus. The locomotive and all coaches except the chair car and a sleeping car were thrown down an embankment. The engineer and the fireman were killed, two passengers were severely injured and several were hurt.

Bank Cashier Dies. Bloomington, Ind.—Walter E. Woodburn, for 36 years cashier of the First national bank and treasurer of Indiana university, died Friday.

10,000 Acres Burned Over. A well-known Oakland engineer states that the area devastated by the fire in San Francisco approximates 10,000 acres, or about 15 square miles. There are few cities in the world where so much valuable property is contained in an equal territory. Within this 15 square miles were nearly 100 banks, some of the finest buildings in the world, thousands of mercantile and manufacturing establishments, and more than 230,000 inhabitants, besides 40,000 transients.

To Ask Loan of Congress. Congress may be asked to appropriate \$100,000,000 to rebuild a new metropolis on the Pacific coast on the site of the devastated city. The money to be loaned on real estate security for 25 years at two per cent. per annum.

This project, it is said, will be laid before the president and the leaders of both political parties in congress by Herbert Law, a San Francisco capitalist, after a conference with the leading business men of the city.

were exposed by the government, the roads thus confessing their guilt; though tariffs are filed with the inter-state commerce commission by the railroads, none but the favored shipper may know of their existence.

MR. H. H. ROGERS' REPLY. New York.—In reply to President Roosevelt's message and the report of Commissioner Garfield, Messrs. H. H. Rogers and John D. Archbald, of the Standard Oil Co., said that their examination of the message and report had necessarily been a hurried one, and that they should at a later date make a full answer to their shareholders. They, however, denied that they had violated the law. The following being the substance of what they said:

"Regarding the president's criticisms upon the management of the railroads or his strictures upon any act of the inter-state commerce commission, we have neither responsibility or concern. When, however, he or Commissioner Garfield attacks the Standard Oil Co. and uses its methods of doing business as an object lesson for the purpose of promoting his views we protest. It may be frankly stated at the outset that the Standard Oil Co. has at all times, within the limits of fairness and with due regard for the law, sought to secure the most advantageous freight rates and routes possible. There will be no denial of this fact on our part. The question is whether we have at any point violated the law or the proprieties.

"The present inquiry grew out of a resolution adopted by congress a year ago instructing the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the oil business as carried on in this country. We welcomed the investigation. When Commissioner Garfield in the discharge of his duty visited our office he and his experts were given free access to our books and the fullest opportunity to ascertain the manner in which our business was conducted. Frank disclosures of all of our methods were made and every criticism offered by him was met with a candid and painstaking answer.

"There have been no secret rates or unlawful discrimination in the interest of the Standard Oil Co.

"The Standard Oil Co. has been investigated over and over again at the instance of its rivals and it always welcomes such investigations when conducted in good faith and fairly. We are engaged in a large and honorable business. We are conducting it honorably and we sincerely believe in conformity to law.

"We say flatly that any assertion that the Standard Oil Co. has been or is now knowingly engaged in practices which are unlawful is alike untruthful and unjust."

RAILROAD WRECK.

Head-on Collision on Pennsylvania Road—Many Passengers Reported Killed and Wounded.

Altoona, Pa.—Chicago mail train, westbound, and the Chicago and St. Louis express, eastbound, on the Pennsylvania railroad, running at full speed, met head-on near Springfield Furnace, on the Petersburg cut off, 18 miles from this city, at 11 o'clock Friday night. A few hours before 37 freight cars had been wrecked at Union Furnace, on the middle division, 20 miles east of this city, and all trains were being run around Altoona. The Chicago mail left this city on time and went as far as Tyrone, where it was sent back to go over the cut-off. The Chicago and St. Louis express was sent west from Huntingdon on the cut-off and the two trains met at Springfield Junction, where there is but one track.

The cause of the disaster is said to have been a misunderstanding of orders by the operator at Springfield Junction. Physicians were sent from Altoona. Both locomotives, the express and mail cars and passenger coaches were completely demolished. Seven persons were killed and about 20 injured. Later particulars may change these figures.

TRADE BULLETIN.

R. G. Dun & Co. Report Business in Good Condition.

New York.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

The violent decline in prices of securities is no criterion of business conditions. The only drawbacks regarding the future are the labor controversies and the stringency in the money market, neither of which may prove of more than temporary duration. Manufacturing plants report little idle machinery and trade in seasonal merchandise feels the impetus of settled weather.

Of greatest importance to the iron and steel industry of all the events of the past week was the strike of longshoremen on the lake water front. If this struggle is not promptly settled it will soon become impossible to maintain pig iron production at the highest point on record. Otherwise the strikes on May 1 were not of sufficient magnitude to affect the progress of the steel business.

Failures in the United States are 212, against 215 last week, 199 the preceding week and 212 the corresponding week last year. Failures in Canada number 351, against 29 last week, 18 the preceding week and 22 last year.

Disaster Erases Class Distinction. Earthquake at San Francisco—No Places Rich and Poor on Same Level.

Sidelights on the Great Catastrophe. Millionaire and Pauper Now Friends—Business Being Conducted Amid the Ruins—Heir to Wealth Born on Sidewalk.

San Francisco, Cal.—This town is "on the level" in every sense of the word, writes Richard Barry. You can stand on Tar flat and see Telegraph hill with no obstruction but a few skyscraper skeletons. South of Van Ness avenue it is not even a junk heap. No more ghoulies are shot because there is nothing to steal, and they will have to pay men to carry off the smashed bricks. Russian, Telegraph and Nob hills, which formerly made such a magnificent metropolitan saddle against the Golden Gate, look as they do in the prints of '49, when scrubby bushes rambled across their barren faces. They have been scraped of fowl and fair by a mighty muck rake. The homes of threefourths of the people are annihilated, and as one walks through the desolation he slowly realizes that the world can never know what has happened; that 100 Pompeis would be swallowed in these ruins and that California in tragedy, as in all else, has shaken her jaunty fist in the face of history and written "fais" to the volume.

Social Distinctions Levelled. Yet these smashed buildings and desolate streets do not present the significant leveling. The material loss is great, but it does not stagger the imagination. A few hundred millions will mend the hurt and there are many people here to-day who think the shake-up is worth the leveling. Society is on the ground, face to face. Every artificial barrier is swept away. The social distinctions built up in 50 years have been obliterated with the same swiftness and finality shown by the flames toward the property. The loss of life is small, the loss of social position colossal. Down to the elements, now nothing counts but human loss. Money has momentarily lost its purchasing power. Servants, luxury, habits, prestige—yes, amity, feuds, hatred, jealousy and contempt have disappeared. Humanity is in the flat and every one is on the level.

Here are a few random incidents picked from the edge of the cataclysm: Fillmore street, a third-rate metropolitan artery, has become for the moment the business center of the town. Here, in dinky bakeries, cheap candy stores, tawdry photograph galleries and insignificant lodging houses, are found all that is left of the greatest business institutions on the Pacific coast. A sawmill that formerly employed 4,000 men has its office in a hall bedroom that used to rent for one dollar a week. A bakery that employed 300 carts before the fire is operating out of a hand laundry that was run by three women. The largest department store in the west is being resurrected from a soda water stand that has been roughly partitioned, the front 14 by 16 feet space being used for an office. In a rear room of similar extent the exclusive heads go for friezes and coffee warmed over an alcohol lamp.

Odd Quarters for City Officials. You can see the chief of police in San Francisco as easily as you could see the sheriff of the most backwoods county in Arizona. He sits in the window of a corner grocery and as you pass on the sidewalk you glance at his bright face and hear his hearty laugh. The mayor issues his orders from the lodge room of a secret society. The superior court is being held in a Jewish synagogue, while the city and county records are buried in a tomb in the Masonic cemetery.

The newspapers that once occupied the principal skyscrapers in the city are being operated from four little rooms in the same block, no one of which has more than a 39-foot front or a 50-foot depth. On one side of each room you can see the sign "Subscription Department," on the other "Advertising Department," while on each rear wall is hung a rough sign, "Editorial Department."

One Newspaper Office a Bedroom. One of the most fortunate papers, after much maneuvering, has managed to commandeer a second-floor bedroom, the nature of whose previous occupants is attested by the notice still hanging from the chandelier, which reads, "Don't Blow Out the Gas." In this tiny room, around two small tables, is congregated the journalistic talent that formerly conducted a world-famous organ from a suite of 15 rooms in one of the most magnificent buildings in the west.

DISASTER ERASES CLASS DISTINCTION

EARTHQUAKE AT SAN FRANCISCO PLACES RICH AND POOR ON SAME LEVEL.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE GREAT CATASTROPHE

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If further proof were needed of the leveling character of conditions it might have been seen yesterday afternoon, when "Mike" De Young, of the Chronicle, millionaire and political leader, stood in front of one of these little offices. Down the street in an automobile belonging to ex-Mayor James D. Phelan came Abe Reuf, the triumphant Republican boss. When he saw De Young he waved his hat and called out a hearty greeting, to which De Young responded with a gay salute. For one not intimate with San Francisco to fully realize what this means he must be told that Reuf, Phelan and De Young are the respective leaders of the most bitter and antagonistic political factions in the west.

If you still doubt that the millennium is upon us go down the street two blocks to where the relief committee is working 24 hours a day from the showroom of a vegetable grocer and you will find Gavin McNabb and Abe Reuf with chairs and arms touching, laughing at the same grim earthquake jokes and putting the two craftiest heads in San Francisco together for the immediate relief of the afflicted. A week ago as the bosses respectively of the Republican and Democratic ranks, America could have afforded no more striking instance of deadly rivalry than would have been adduced by mention of these two names.

Resurrecting a Dry Goods Store.

From another cigar stand white-haired, esthetic Raphael Weil is resurrecting the most fashionable dry goods store in the city. He is old, wealthy and practically retired. He could easily turn his back on San Francisco and live the rest of his days, the one other place of his delight; but says he: "I shall stay here and see it all up again just as it was—with perhaps one difference, it will be about twice as good."

Up and down all the streets one can see curbstone fires, where the people are cooking their meals in obedience to the municipal order to light no fires in the houses. They being without large ranges, small kitchen stoves, improvised sheet iron ovens and the old brick Dutch ovens are used and from which are turned out some wonderful concoctions.

Most of the servants have either run away or been sent away and the people who get their own meals out of doors are among the best in the city. Cooking their dinners in the streets may be seen girls who have been educated at Stanford, Berkeley, Vassar and Bryn Mawr.

Spreckels Heir Born on Sidewalk.

But of all the astounding leveling feats accomplished by the fire and earthquake the most remarkable occurred in front of the Pacific avenue home of Rudolf Spreckels, son of the president of the sugar trust. There on the sidewalk, behind some screens, Mrs. Spreckels was safely delivered of a handsome and healthy son. It is a free state, everyone beginning over again, rich and poor alike, just as the front rank broke from the line the day Oklahoma territory was opened to settlement.

Not Fair Shake; Start Again.

Young men who can swing a small capital to-day will be millionaires in a few years. Millionaires who to-day are walking the streets mourning over their ill-luck will never again be flush. San Francisco, queen city of chance, born of the gambling fever, bred of the gambling energy, dreamed out of a gambler's visions of wealth and glory, with a fierce and terrible grandeur, has smitten all who loved her and said to the half million who had sworn by her: "It's not a fair shake; start again."

Rescue Insane People.

Many stories of heroism lie buried in the ruins, but some tales that make the heart tingle are slowly filtering through official sources. This is the story of the noble work performed by Mrs. Kane, matron of the Detention hospital, and Policeman John McLean, who was detailed there the night of the great earthquake. The insane patients at the ruined city hall were kept in locked cells, from which only the keys of the stewards could free them. At the hour of dawn on that fatal Wednesday morning, the structure in which the courts were housed was the first to fall. The weight tense nervous emergency and the officer the detention hospital, which was on the ground floor. Steward Manville was so badly injured by the falling ruins that he died two days later. Mrs. Kane and Policeman McLean, however, managed to rush outside to momentary safety. Both of them are well advanced in years, but the nurse is a woman of intense nervous energy and the officer is a man of giant frame. As soon as they reached the open court they were greeted by the terrified shrieks of the insane that pierced through the smoking ruins around. They refused to leave their helpless charges, and both went back into the chaotic debris.

New Buildings Are Planned.

The work of rebuilding San Francisco will proceed rapidly. Mrs. Herman Oelrichs of New York has agreed to repair the Rialto building and to build again on the site of the Crossley. She and her sister, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., have also stated that they will put up solid office structures on their Montgomery street site.

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