

# MESSAGE OF WILSON

PRESIDENT DELIVERS A SHORT ADDRESS TO CONGRESS IN JOINT SESSION.

## ASKS MORE RAILWAY LAWS

**Calls for Early Action on Remaining Measures of His Program of Settlement and Regulation—Other Legislation That is Advised.**

Washington, Dec. 5.—President Wilson's message, delivered to congress in joint session today, was brief and to the point. The president said:

Gentlemen of the Congress:

In fulfilling at this time the duty laid upon me by the Constitution of communicating to you from time to time information of the state of the Union and recommending to your consideration such legislative measures as may be judged necessary and expedient, I shall continue the practice, which I hope has been acceptable to you, of leaving to the reports of the several heads of the executive departments the elaboration of the detailed needs of the public service and confine myself to those matters of more general public policy with which it seems necessary and feasible to deal at the present session of the congress.

I realize the limitations of time under which you will necessarily act at this session and shall make my suggestions as few as possible; but there were some things left undone at the last session which will now be time to complete and which it seems necessary in the interest of the public to do at once.

In the first place, it seems to me imperatively necessary that the earliest possible consideration and action should be accorded the remaining measures of the program of settlement and regulation which I had occasion to recommend to you at the close of your last session in view of the public dangers disclosed by the unaccommodated difficulties which then existed, and which still unhappily continue to exist, between the railroads of the country and their locomotive engineers, conductors, and trainmen.

### Railway Troubles First.

I then recommended:

First, immediate provision for the enlargement and administrative reorganization of the interstate commerce commission along the lines embodied in the bill recently passed by the house of representatives and now awaiting action by the senate; in order that the commission may be enabled to deal with the many great and various duties now devolving upon it with a promptness and thoroughness which are, with its present constitution and means of action, practically impossible.

Second, the establishment of an eight-hour day as the legal basis alike of work and of wages in the employment of all railway employees who are actually engaged in the work of operating trains in interstate transportation.

Third, the authorization of the appointment by the president of a small body of men to observe the actual results in experience of the adoption of the eight-hour day in railway transportation alike for the men and for the railroads.

Fourth, explicit approval by the congress of the consideration by the interstate commerce commission of an increase of freight rates to meet such additional expenditures by the railroads as may have been rendered necessary by the adoption of the eight-hour day and which have not been offset by administrative readjustments and economies, should the facts disclosed justify the increase.

Fifth, an amendment of the existing federal statute which provides for the mediation, conciliation, and arbitration of such controversies as the present act by adding to it a provision that, in case the methods of accommodation now provided for should fail, a full public investigation of the merits of every such dispute shall be instituted and completed before a strike or lockout may lawfully be attempted.

And, sixth, the lodgment in the hands of the executive of the power, in case of military necessity, to take control of such portions and such rolling stock of the railroads of the country as may be required for military use and to operate them for military purposes, with authority to draft into the military service of the United States such train crews and administrative officials as the circumstances require for their safe and efficient use.

### Renews His Recommendations.

The second and third of these recommendations the congress immediately acted on: it established the eight-hour day as the legal basis of work and wages in train service and it authorized the appointment of a commission to observe and report upon the practical results, deeming these the measures most immediately needed; but it postponed action upon the other

suggestions until an opportunity should be offered for a more deliberate consideration of them. The fourth recommendation I do not deem it necessary to renew. The power of the interstate commerce commission to grant an increase of rates on the ground referred to is indisputably clear and a recommendation by the congress with regard to such a matter might seem to draw in question the scope of the commission's authority or its inclination to do justice when there is no reason to doubt either.

The other suggestions—the increase in the interstate commerce commission's membership and in its facilities for performing its manifold duties, the provision for full public investigation and assessment of industrial disputes, and the grant to the executive of the power to control and operate the railroads when necessary in time of war or other like public necessity—I now very earnestly renew.

The necessity for such legislation is manifest and pressing. Those who have entrusted us with the responsibility and duty of serving and safeguarding them in such matters would find it hard, I believe, to excuse a failure to act upon these grave matters or any unnecessary postponement of action upon them.

Not only does the interstate commerce commission now find it practically impossible, with its present membership and organization, to perform its great functions promptly and thoroughly, but it is not unlikely that it may presently be found advisable to add to its duties still others equally heavy and exacting. It must first be perfected as an administrative instrument.

The country cannot and should not consent to remain any longer exposed to profound industrial disturbances for lack of additional means of arbitration and conciliation which the congress can easily and promptly supply. And all will agree that there must be no doubt as to the power of the executive to make immediate and uninterrupted use of the railroads for the concentration of the military forces of the nation wherever they are needed and whenever they are needed.

This is a program of regulation, prevention and administrative efficiency which argues its own case in the mere statement of it. With regard to one of its items, the increase in the efficiency of the interstate commerce commission, the house of representatives has already acted; its action needs only the concurrence of the senate.

### For Control and Operation.

I would hesitate to recommend, and I dare say the congress would hesitate to act upon the suggestion should I make it, that any man in any occupation should be obliged by law to continue in an employment which he desired to leave. To pass a law which forbade or prevented the individual workman to leave his work before receiving the approval of society in doing so would be to adopt a new principle into our jurisprudence which I take it for granted we are not prepared to introduce. But the proposal that the operation of the railroads of the country shall not be stopped or interrupted by the concerted action of organized bodies of men until a public investigation shall have been instituted which shall make the whole question at issue plain for the judgment of the opinion of the nation is not to propose any such principle. It is based upon the very different principle that the concerted action of powerful bodies of men shall not be permitted to stop the industrial processes of the nation, at any rate before the nation shall have had an opportunity to acquaint itself with the merits of the case as between employee and employer, time to form its opinion upon an impartial statement of the merits, and opportunity to consider all practicable means of conciliation or arbitration.

I can see nothing in that proposition but the justifiable safeguarding by society of the necessary processes of its very life. There is nothing arbitrary or unjust in it unless it be arbitrarily and unjustly done. It can and should be done with a full and scrupulous regard for the interests and liberties of all concerned as well as for the permanent interests of society itself.

Other Legislation Urged.

Three matters of capital importance await the action of the senate which have already been acted upon by the house of representatives: the bill which seeks to extend greater freedom of combination to those engaged in promoting the foreign commerce of the country than is now thought by some to be legal under the terms of the laws against monopoly; the bill amending the present organic law of Porto Rico; and the bill proposing a more thorough and systematic regulation of the expenditure of money in elections, commonly called the Corrupt Practices Act. I need not labor my advice that these measures be enacted into law. Their urgency lies in the manifest circumstances which render their adoption at this time not only opportune but necessary. Even a delay would seriously jeopard the interests of the country and of the government.

Immediate passage of the bill to regulate the expenditure of money in elec-

tion would seem to be less necessary than the immediate enactment of the other measures to which I refer; because at least two years will elapse before another election in which federal officers are to be filled; but it would greatly relieve the public mind if this important matter were dealt with while the circumstances and the dangers to the public morals of the present method of obtaining and spending campaign funds stand clear under recent observation and the methods of expenditure can be frankly studied in the light of present experience; and a delay would have the further very serious disadvantage of postponing action until another election was at hand and some special object connected with it might be thought to be in the mind of those who urged it. Action can be taken now with facts for guidance and without suspicion of partisan purpose.

I shall not argue at length the desirability of giving a freer hand in the matter of combined and concerted effort to those who shall undertake the essential enterprise of building up our export trade. That enterprise will presently, will immediately assume, has indeed already assumed, a magnitude unprecedented in our experience. We have not the necessary instrumentalities for its prosecution; it is deemed to be doubtful whether they could be created upon an adequate scale under our present laws. We should clear away all legal obstacles and create a basis of undoubted law for it which will give freedom without permitting unregulated license. The thing must be done now, because the opportunity is here and may escape us if we hesitate or delay.

### Porto Rico's Needs.

The argument for the proposed amendments of the organic law of Porto Rico is brief and conclusive. The present laws governing the island and regulating the rights and privileges of its people are not just. We have created expectations of extended privilege which we have not satisfied. There is uneasiness among the people of the island and even a suspicious doubt with regard to our intentions concerning them which the adoption of the pending measure would happily remove. We do not doubt what we wish to do in any essential particular. We ought to do it at once.

There are other matters already advanced to the stage of conference between the two houses of which it is not necessary that I should speak. Some practicable basis of agreement concerning them will no doubt be found and action taken upon them.

### Inasmuch as this is, gentlemen, probably the last occasion I shall have to address the Sixty-fourth congress, I hope that you will permit me to say with what genuine pleasure and satisfaction I have co-operated with you in the many measures of constructive policy with which you have enriched the legislative annals of the country. It has been a privilege to labor in such company. I take the liberty of congratulating you upon the completion of a record of rare serviceableness and distinction.

## "SMITH"

By EDGAR JENNINGS  
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It was the last thing "Smith" had expected, and it came with the suddenness of the expected.

"Smith" had been watching the girl with bitterness in his heart, the bitterness which he felt toward all humanity. Even a criminal can feel the pangs of exile, and "Smith" was shaking the dust of his native land off his feet forever.

To be more precise, when "Smith" boarded the boat that ran across Lake Michigan, a sheriff's deputy was about five minutes behind him. In front of him lay Canada, and "Smith" knew that he had succeeded in throwing the deputy off his trail long enough to enable him to reach the coveted haven of a new land without having to answer any inconvenient, not to say impertinent questions about his past. In plain-er words, no wire had been sent to search the boat for him.

And "Smith" had been disgusted at the sight of the girl. She seemed somehow to remind him of that past when he had not spent his days planning to circumvent the law. She was bright and winsome and free, and her clear eyes, which looked upon the world in friendly fashion, betokened that she was at peace with it and feared nothing.

She had looked in the same friendly fashion upon "Smith," and "Smith" had muttered under his breath and slunk away.

He was still looking at her from a distance when, without any warning,



the unexpected happened. The vessel quietly tipped on her side and capsized.

She went right under and floated hull upward. Some structural defect, the blow of a wave, a shifting of the cargo? Nobody ever knew. It was one of those unexpected things that happen.

"Smith" found himself in the water.

He was aware of the cries of the passengers who had been flung from the deck. Those imprisoned in the hull had died very painlessly and quickly. But two scores of unfortunate were fighting for their lives, just out of sight of land.

"Smith" was one of these. The girl was the other.

He fought hard. He looked about him for a spar, but there was no wreckage. It was not a wreck, it was a catastrophe.

One minute the ship had sailed proudly across the lake water; the next it was floating, screws upward, upon its surface.

"Smith" saw the girl near him. She was swimming pluckily, but it was evident that her strength would not sustain her very long.

"Smith" made his way toward her through the waves. He did not know what impulse it was that prompted him; perhaps an ancestral one, derived from generations of honest, sturdy forebears.

"Trust yourself to me," he shouted. She nodded, and "Smith," turning on his back, began to support her under the shoulders.

The water was warm, and "Smith," undulating her, could have swum indefinitely. Oddly enough, he remembered something that his father had said to him, years before, when he met with an accident on the river:

"You'll never drown, Johnny; you were born to be hanged."

He was smiling at the memory now as he floated, bearing up the girl's body. They were alone upon the surface of the lake. The unfortunate about them had gone under.

In the distance a steamer was making her way toward them. She had seen the disaster; but it was a question whether "Smith's" strength would sustain him. And the girl was growing weak from her immersion; if she fainted "Smith's" task would become infinitely harder.

"Help is coming!" he shouted, as her eyes began to close. "Look under!"

She smiled faintly. "Smith" marvelled at her courage. The steamer was quite close now, and was lower-

## FOR TARIFF GRAFT

"INTERESTS" SEEKING REVIVAL OF ALDRICH SCHEDULES.

Stories of How Europe is Ready to Flood This Country With Cheap Goods After the War, Put Forward With Definite Object.

Signs multiply that "the interests" are planning to impress congress and the public with an alleged necessity of revising the tariff upward.

We shall hear wondrous tales of how Europe is making ready to "dump" all sorts of goods upon the American market the moment the war ends, and how enormously war's discipline has increased Europe's industrial efficiency.

Doubtless the war's pressures will have increased the average efficiency of its undisciplined survivors. Moreover, the war will leave Europe with labor plentiful in relation to capital, and with workers so impoverished as to be compelled to accept low wages. But to efficient labor must be given the best tools before its competition can become formidable. Europe must rebuild wrecked mills and replace machinery worn out by war's abuse before Europe can set out on reconquest of world markets.

In a word, rehabilitation must be accomplished before competition with countries unravaged by war can be undertaken.

What the old tariff grafters want is the Aldrich schedules. Nothing less will satisfy them.

In this situation it would be well for the Democratic leaders to remember that the most effective defense is to take the offensive first. Let them pick out a few tariff schedules that need further reduction and reduce them. There are several such schedules. That move would give the tariff boosters so much to think about that we should probably hear no more of the intimidation plan now preparing.

### Massachusetts in 1920.

The Republican party now has its hands two ex-presidents, a defeated candidate for the presidency, a considerable number of reprobated bosses, a few who are still in the saddle and a badly cemented cleavage line where the split came in 1912. It would be foolish to deny that it also has some capable men of progressive tendencies who will try to strengthen the party and make the coalition between the two wings of the party a genuine reunion four years hence.

So far as party tactics are concerned the method by which these men can be met and beaten is easy. It will consist in giving the country the benefit of the same sort of progressive legislation as that which was given in the last four years. Time after time the Democratic majority in congress compelled progressive Republicans to vote with them, and a progressive Republican who has to vote with the Democrats cannot attack the result of his own voting.

As for the old-line Republicans, the more they show their teeth the better for the Democracy. They have been repudiated in the West and they have all but lost their hold in New England. If they dominate their party for four years more the Democrats can carry Massachusetts in 1920.

### Not Wilson Who Is on Trial.

There can be no question as to the credit of the coming years to the administration of Woodrow Wilson.

Posterity will honor him as the leader in the wholesale reconstruction of an outworn currency and banking system. It will accord Wilson the credit of having been the first president to see that farming was a business and not the failure of the law to consider the business needs of the farmer as had long considered those of merchant and manufacturer was threatening the foundations of the nation's vitality. It will honor him for the great series of acts which are the emancipation of agriculture.

### Opportunity for Good Work.

Under the present administration team-work in legislation has been most successful, even when a sturdy minority in house and senate had to be overcome, remarks the Washington Post. Even better teamwork can now be obtained by an administration and a party secure in four more years of power. The three months of existence of the present congress should be and without a doubt will be fruitful of good work for the interests of the people.

### Why Democratic Victory.

As far as the Republican party of the East is concerned, it is bankrupt. It has no ideas, no ideals, no principles.—New York Tribune (Rep.).

Yes, but it has the votes. The Republican party of the West, headed by Cannon, Watson, Fordney, Snoot, Crocker and Otis, is just as deficient in ideas, ideals and principles, and vastly more so in votes, which is why Mr. Wilson was re-elected.

### Country's Trust Justified.

Unquestionably, Mr. Wilson and his party have given the country the most constructive and useful administration ever had in the course of one four-year period. The republic has been placed upon the strong and, we believe, lasting basis of solidarity for the welfare of the masses of the people, and the highest ideals have been formed and enacted into legislation, setting the stride, so to speak, that will be maintained for all time to come and to the immense benefit of all the people.—Mobile Register.

## WHEN HEALTH COMES BACK

Early Days of Return to Convalescence Are Things That Linger Long in the Memory.

The return from illness to health is like coming up from a dive, supposing the time from when the swimmer first sees light through the water until his head rises to the surface to be the affair of weeks. The change in physical condition may be slow, but the change in orientation takes place in a twinkling and is complete. The eye no longer looks down into unplumbed depths, but back toward the light of day; curiosity for the ultimate yields to a golden memory of familiar things—friends, household goods, books, barking dogs, the freshness of grass and trees. The body has reassured itself. The dreaming imagination is dragged away from its goal by the galloping senses. Eye, ear, touch, taste, start upon a rampage. Especially does the appetite for food wax furious, discovering itself endowed with power to transform a cold egg into something rich and strange, and to illumine chicken broth with a charm that no art can equal. The universe, lately shrunk to the sickroom, now rises again like the genie out of the bottle in which he had been imprisoned; the sickroom becomes a house of detention, and at its doors, as in a seashell clapped to the ear, the convalescent hearkens to all the rumors of the outer world.—Henry Dwight Sedgwick, in the Atlantic.

### Papa's Limp.

"Mother, what makes papa limp that way?" asked George.

"Papa fell and hurt his leg when he was a little boy, and they had to put it in plaster, and it has never been well since."

"That night there was company for dinner, and George called out in true infant terrible style:

"Papa, I know why you limp. It's 'cause you got a mortar leg."

### Smoking Girls.

"There is a very excellent reason why a girl shouldn't smoke."

"What?" she demanded.

"Makes her less agreeable to kiss."

"Well, I'll tell somebody wants to kiss me," she said; "when they do, I'll give up cigarettes—and take a pipe!"—Margaret Deland, in the Woman's Home Companion.

### That's Right.

Father was attempting to read the evening newspaper and Bobby seemed to be rather fuller of questions than usual, the flow being uninterrupted in spite of the elder man's persistent admonitions for the youngster to cease talking.

"Say, papa, just tell me something else and then I'll quit bothering you," promised Bobby. "I will, for sure, papa."

"Well, what is it?"

"I've got to write a composition in school tomorrow and don't know what to write about. What shall I write about?"

"I'm surprised at such a question," replied the fond and doting parent, "and I want you to remember for future reference that whenever you don't know what to write about, you can always write about face."

### Eating Higher Up.

Bert Swor, famous delineator of darky types, hails from Fort Worth, Tex., where he had exceptional opportunities for studying the characters which he now impersonates in a professional way.

Swor loves to tell about a certain dusky swain who, when he found the door closed against him, tried to cozen his sweetheart with soft promises.

After long and unsuccessful coaxing Henry tried a masterstroke.

"Better let me in, honey," he said, "kase I's got sumfin' you all like."

"What is it?" inquired Clarissa, suspiciously.

"Pigs' feet."

With a sniff of contempt Clarissa retorted:

"Go on away wif youah pigs' feet; I done got a new bean an' now I am eatin' higher up on de hawg."

### Times Change.

"I see that Fifi Flubdub, the actress, is so temperamental that she swoons at the odor of tuberoses. So her management has to watch her constantly."

"Um. Time brings great changes. I knew her once. She was raised in a block next to a gas house."

### Knew Scales Were All Right.

"I'm sure that grocer of ours gives us short weight," said he. "No, he doesn't," said ma. "His scales are correct. I weighed myself on them this morning and they showed that I am twenty pounds lighter than I thought I was."—Detroit Free Press.

Began to Support Her Under the Shoulders.

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