

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.—CONTINUED.

should be kept as much as possible on line water, for it is there only they can learn their duties as they should be learned.

Every detail which can be performed by a civilian should be so performed, the officer being kept for his special duty in the sea service.

We now have seventeen battalions appropriated for, of which nine are completed and have been commissioned for actual service.

Many of the essentials of success are already recognized by the general board, which, as the central office of a growing staff, is moving steadily toward a proper war efficiency and a proper efficiency of the whole navy, under the secretary.

The naval militia forces are state organizations, and are trained for coast service, and in event of war they will constitute the inner line of defense.

But in addition we should at once provide for a national naval reserve, organized and trained under the direction of the navy department, and subject to the call of the chief executive whenever war becomes imminent.

The American people must either build and maintain an adequate navy or else make up their minds definitely to accept a secondary position in international affairs.

To Improve Our Army. It is not necessary to increase our army beyond its present size at this time.

The conditions of modern war are such as to make an infinitely heavier demand than ever before upon the individual character and capacity of the officer and the enlisted man.

The proportion of our cavalry regiments has wisely been increased. The American cavalryman, on foot and on horseback, is the best type of soldier for general purposes now to be found in the world.

A general staff should be created. As for the present staff and supply departments, they should be filled by details from the line, the men so detailed returning after a while to their line duties.

The process of elimination of the least fit should be conducted in a manner that would render it practically impossible to apply political or social pressure on behalf of any candidate.

entitled to the rewards get them, and that those who are peculiarly fit to do the duties are chosen to perform them.

Every effort should be made to bring the army to a constantly increasing state of efficiency.

Our army is so small and so much scattered that it is very difficult to give the higher officers (as well as the lower officers and the enlisted men) a chance to practice maneuvers in mass and on a comparatively large scale.

A great debt is owing from the public to the men of the army, and they should be so trained as to enable them to reach the highest point of efficiency.

Each good has already come from the act reorganizing the army, passed early in the present year. The three reforms, all of them of literally incalculable value, are, first, the substitution of four-year details from the line for permanent appointments in the so-called staff divisions.

The reorganization provided for by the act has been substantially accomplished. The improved conditions in the Philippines have enabled the war department materially to reduce the military charge against the army.

Action should be taken in reference to the militia and to the raising of volunteer forces. Our militia law is obsolete and worthless.

That the army is not at all a mere instrument of destruction has been shown during the last three years. In the Philippines, Cuba, and Porto Rico it has proved itself a great constructive force.

Tribute to the Veterans. No other citizens deserve so well of the Republic as the veterans, the survivors of those who saved the Union.

The men who in the last three years have done so well in the East and the West Indies and on the mainland of Asia have shown that this remembrance is not lost.

Civil Service. The merit system of making appointments is in its essence a democratic and American as the common school system itself.

other positions where the duties are entirely non-political, all applicants should have a fair field and no favor, each standing on his merits as he is able to show them by practical test.

It is even more important to have this system obtain at home, in our own possessions.

It is important to have this system obtain at home, in our own possessions. Not an officer should be filled in the Philippines or Porto Rico with any regard to the man's partisan affiliations or services.

The administration of these islands should be as wholly free from the suspicion of partisan politics as the administration of the army and navy.

The merit system is simply one method of securing honest and efficient administration of the government.

The Consular Service. The consular service is now organized under the provisions of a law passed in 1884.

The Consular Service. The consular service is now organized under the provisions of a law passed in 1884, which is entirely inadequate to existing conditions.

The guardianship and fostering of our rapidly expanding foreign commerce, the protection of American citizens resorting to foreign countries in lawful pursuit of their affairs.

New Policy for the Indians. In my judgment the time has arrived when we should definitely make up our minds to recognize the Indian as an individual and not as a member of a tribe.

In dealing with the aboriginal races few things are more important than to preserve them from the forcible physical and moral degradation resulting from the liquor traffic.

Expositions and Libraries. I bespeak the most cordial support from the congress and the people for the St. Louis exposition to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana purchase.

will appreciate the deep interest our country takes in this exposition, and our view of its importance from every standpoint, and that they will participate in securing its success.

The Pan-American exposition at Buffalo has just closed, and I have taken the responsibility of directing that this be done for I feel that it is due to the people to help her in her praiseworthy effort.

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The advancement of the highest interests of national science and learning and the custody of objects of art and of the valuable results of scientific expeditions conducted by the United States have been committed to the Smithsonian Institution.

Perhaps the most characteristic educational movement of the past fifty years is that which has created the modern public library and developed its broad and active service.

In these efforts they naturally look for assistance to the Federal Library, which, though still the library of congress, and so entitled, is the one national library of the United States.

Permanent Census Bureau. For the sake of good administration, sound economy, and the advancement of science, the census office as now constituted should be made a permanent government bureau.

Postal Developments. The remarkable growth of the postal service is shown in the fact that its revenues have doubled and its expenditures have nearly doubled within twelve years.

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The Situation. Owing to the rapid growth of our power and our interests on the Pacific, whatever happens in China must be of the keenest national concern to us.

The general terms of the settlement of the questions growing out of the anti-foreign uprisings in China of 1900, having been formulated in a joint note addressed to China by the representatives of the injured powers in December last, were promptly accepted by the Chinese government.

The agreement reached disposes in a manner satisfactory to the powers of the various points of contact, and will contribute materially to better future relations between China and the powers.

Provisions have been made for insuring the future safety of the various representatives in Peking by setting aside for their exclusive use a quarter of the city which the powers can make defensible and in which they can if necessary maintain permanent military guards.

Under the provisions of the joint note of December, 1900, China has agreed to revise the treaties of commerce and navigation and to take such other steps for the purpose of facilitating foreign trade as the foreign powers may decide to be needed.

The Chinese government has agreed to participate liberally in the work of bettering the water approaches to Shanghai and to Tientsin.

During these troubles our government has unhesitatingly advocated moderation, and has materially aided in the efforts of the United States to restore order and to re-establish friendly relations between the Chinese and the people of the United States.

The Pan-American Congress. We view with lively interest and keen hopes of beneficial results the proceedings of the Pan-American congress, convoked at the invitation of Mexico, and now sitting at the Mexican capital.

My predecessor communicated to the congress the fact that the Weil and La Alaba awards against those agents who had been obtained through fraud and perjury on the part of the claimants, and that in accordance with the acts of the congress the money remaining in the hands of the secretary of state on these awards had been returned to Mexico.

International Amenities. The death of Queen Victoria caused the people of the United States deep and heartfelt sorrow, to which the government gave full expression.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.