

What the Nation Expects of Taft

Chief Task of the National Symposium

What is the most important task before the new administration under President Taft? What one great thing should be achieved by the Taft administration?

Following are some of the letters from prominent Americans received by the Christian Herald of New York in answer to its queries as to the most important task confronting President Taft:

UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Revival of Merchant Marine.

By Hon. WILLIAM P. FEYER, President Pro Tempore.

I know of no legislation more important for the consideration of congress during the present administration than that providing for the revival of the American merchant marine.

Many Important Tasks.

By Senator GEORGE C. PERKINS of California.

The most important subjects which are likely to be brought forward are old age pensions, public health and tuberculosis legislation, preservation of forests and conservation of natural resources, legislation to safeguard food preparation, greater sanctity of our courts and extension of rural free delivery.

Attend to Its Own Business.

By Senator A. J. McLAURIN of Mississippi.

The most important thing for the administration to do is to attend exclusively to executive business and let congress attend to legislation and the courts attend to adjudicating.

Opening Field of Opportunity to All.

By Senator PORTER W. MCMURDER of North Dakota.

While there are many problems the proper solution of which will advance the material interests of the people, there is one in particular which transcends all others in its scope and importance—the problem of opening and keeping open the field of business opportunity for each and every American citizen.

The Work of the Roosevelt Administration.

In the Roosevelt administration the field against monopoly has been great, the accomplishment great, but the work is not completed. Any cessation of endeavor along this line would mean a task which would not be completed until the rights and duties of great industrial and other combinations have been fixed and determined in such way as to guard every field and avenue of trade and business from the control of monopolies and maintain equal opportunities for the small and the great.

A Federal Incorporation Law.

By Senator JONATHAN BOURNE of Oregon.

The most important tasks before the present administration include everything that will tend to readjust the controlling forces of society to their legitimate spheres. At present our industrialism is driving us upon the rocks of anarchy or upon the shoals of despotism, through unionism on the one hand and plutocracy on the other. An equitable adjustment between these two forces, which should be had and I believe can be obtained through a federal incorporation law ought to be the special task of the new administration.

Enforce the Law.

By Senator NORRIS BROWN of Nebraska.

The most important task before the new administration under President Taft is to enforce the law.

Improve Inland Waterways.

By Senator WILLIAM H. MILTON of Florida.

The improvement of the inland waterways is one of the most important tasks before the Taft administration.

CONGRESSMEN.

Develop the Navy.

By Representative RICHMOND PEARSON HOESON of Alabama.

I believe the development of the American navy to meet the requirements of the law of self preservation and the demands for peace and the opportunity to Christianize the peoples of the earth, particularly those of Asia and more especially the inhabitants of the empire of China, is the most important conflict toward which the withdrawal of our feet from the Pacific is setting us—that is, the conflict between the yellow race and the white race—has increased in importance and other that the new administration will have to meet.

Work For Peace.

By Representative RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW of Missouri.

President Taft can make himself immortal if during his administration he should perfect the legal machinery by which differences between nations will be settled by judicial decision instead of by war. A good start has been made, and if present arbitration treaties are still further extended the era of bloody war will soon be a thing of the past.

Revise the Tariff.

By Representative FRANCIS BURTON HARRISON of New York.

The most important matters before the new administration are, first, a genuine revision of the tariff downward in the interest of the whole people and to increase the revenue; second, a real parcel post system, along the lines of the parcel post which has proved so successful in other civilized countries; third, legislation looking to the establishment of a real bureau of public health.

BUSINESS AND LABOR.

Harmonize Capital and Labor.

By HENRY CLEWS, Banker, New York.

One of the most important things which will confront Mr. Taft will be the strained relations of labor and capital. There is no doubt in the mind of any fair man but that in the unsettled conditions that have existed during the past two years, labor has been tyrannical and uncompromising. The great mass of the American public has been like a cornucopia between two millstones, one of which was labor and the other the trusts, and as usual many were ground exceeding fine.

If Mr. Taft can devise some method of procedure that will bring harmony, with justice, between these opposing forces, which will prove to both that the interests of labor and capital, he will solve the greatest problem now perplexing the American people.

Build Good Country Roads.

By AMZI L. BARBER, Capitalist.

I think that one great thing to be achieved by the administration under Mr. Taft should be the commencement and carrying out of a new policy upon the part of the national government by making

Immediate Results.

Mrs. Hinney—Jemie, what's that nois? James—'Tis little Paddy Mulligan pokin' a stick into th' ribs o' Casey's goat. Mrs. Hinney—Ah, he's snipped now! James—No, mother; he's goin' yet. I think he won't stop till he strikes th' house.—Exchange.

A Little Slow.

"How's collections at your church, Brudder Shinn?" "Well, we ain't neber had to stop in de middle ob a collection to go an' empty de box."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Industry keeps the body healthy, the mind clear, the heart whole, the purse full.—Simmons.

Cheaper.

Servant—Please, sir, missus wants you to send for the plumber, 'cos she's dropped her diamond ring down the bath pipe. Mr. Nurliche—Tell your mistress not to be ridiculous. I'll buy her another diamond ring!—London Mail.

Snow fell in Europe for forty days in 1434.

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Snappy Side Lights Will Help the Chief of the Ship of State.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THE cabinet is not provided for by the constitution, but neither is the flag. The constitution could not look after everything. The cabinet is purely an advisory board and sometimes scarcely that. It depends on the president. Some of our chief executives would listen to advice by the yard and then go ahead and do as they pleased. Others would not even listen and still do as they pleased. Yet cabinets are useful institutions. They are handy to have around as foils when the boss is trying to find out what he wants to do and his goats to take the blame if things go wrong. Every president has had at least one cabinet and some of them two or three. Roosevelt has had his official cabinet, his tennis cabinet and General Leonard Wood.

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"I called upon Miss Smith quite frequently while in Geneva and saw the portrait of Cagliostro grow from its beginning. It was simply wonderful. At first the outline appeared like the features of a young man, but as Miss Smith worked the face grew older and wrinkled. The color of his dress was changed several times during the making of the picture and finally remained a rich brown.

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"Captain of His People."

In many details of his multifarious activities Mr. Roosevelt has erred. To err is human. He has fallen short and failed. He has never faltered. As Lincoln did before him, he has known how to meet overmastering necessity with optimism, but he has not taken his eye from his "hosen god nor relaxed the iron of his determination. His devotion to the national ideals, his fervent patriotism, have been an inspiration to his generation and will be a lasting example to posterity. No president, no patriot, has ever put away power in a nobler spirit or with a firmer will than he when he refused a re-election that would have come in spite of reiterated pledge and refusal had he not opposed it the full force of his influence. A great champion, conservator and exemplar of American democracy, Theodore Roosevelt has been the captain of his people, and in the house of the lowly as in the house of the strong he has been the mighty prophet of a better day.—Chicago Tribune.

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Mr. Roosevelt is too impulsive, erratic and uncertain to identify to win favor as a possible executive of a corporation. Such an institution must have at its head a tactful, clear headed and able man of self control. That the United States should have had as chief executive a man whose idiosyncrasies would have imperiled an average corporation and that it should have survived his ebulliences but shows how fortunate the country has been in its misfortunes.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Captain of His People."

In many details of his multifarious activities Mr. Roosevelt has erred. To err is human. He has fallen short and failed. He has never faltered. As Lincoln did before him, he has known how to meet overmastering necessity with optimism, but he has not taken his eye from his "hosen god nor relaxed the iron of his determination. His devotion to the national ideals, his fervent patriotism, have been an inspiration to his generation and will be a lasting example to posterity. No president, no patriot, has ever put away power in a nobler spirit or with a firmer will than he when he refused a re-election that would have come in spite of reiterated pledge and refusal had he not opposed it the full force of his influence. A great champion, conservator and exemplar of American democracy, Theodore Roosevelt has been the captain of his people, and in the house of the lowly as in the house of the strong he has been the mighty prophet of a better day.—Chicago Tribune.

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