

# MESSAGE READ TO CONGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

## The Panama Canal.

The policy of paying for the construction of the Panama canal out of current revenue, but by bond issue, was adopted in the Spooner act of 1902, and there seems to be no good reason for departing from the principle by which a part at least of the burden of the cost of the canal shall fall upon our posterity, who are to enjoy it, and there is all the more reason for this view because the actual cost to date of the canal, which is now half done and which will be completed Jan. 1, 1915, shows that the cost of engineering and construction will be \$297,766,000 instead of \$139,705,200, as originally estimated. In addition to engineering and construction, the other expenses, including sanitation and government and the amount paid for the properties, the franchise and the privilege of building the canal, increase the cost by \$75,485,000 to a total of \$373,251,000. The increase in the cost of engineering and construction is due to a substantial enlargement of the plan of construction by widening the canal 100 feet in the Culebra cut and by increasing the dimensions of the locks, to the underestimate of the quantity of the work to be done under the original plan and to an underestimate of the cost of labor and materials, both of which have greatly enhanced in price since the original estimate was made.

## Government Economy.

In order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year I directed the heads of departments in the preparation of their estimates to make them as low as possible consistent with imperative governmental necessity. The result has been, as I am advised by

the secretary of the treasury, that the estimates of the expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911—that is, for the next fiscal year—are less by \$55,668,000 than the total of appropriations for the current fiscal year and less by \$94,000,000 than the estimates for that year. So far as the secretary of the treasury is able to form a judgment as to future income, there will be no deficit in the year ending June 30, 1911, but a small surplus of \$712,000.

In the present estimates the needs of the departments and of the government have been cut to the quick.

For the purpose of securing information which may enable the executive and the legislative branches to unite in a plan for the permanent reduction of the cost of governmental administration the treasury department has instituted an investigation by one of the most skilled expert accountants in the United States. The object of the investigation is to devise means to increase the average efficiency of each employee. There is great room for improvement toward this end, not only by the reorganization of bureaus and departments and in the avoidance of duplication, but also in the treatment of the individual employee.

Under the present system it constantly happens that two employees receive the same salary when the work of one is far more difficult and important and exacting than that of the other. Superior ability is not rewarded or encouraged.

## Civil Pensions.

As the degree of efficiency in all the departments is much lessened by the retention of old employees who have outlived their energy and usefulness it is indispensable to any proper system of economy that provision be made so that their separation from the service shall be easy and inevitable. It is impossible to make such provision unless there is adopted a plan of civil pensions. We cannot, in view of the advancing prices of living, hope to save money by a reduction in the standard of salaries paid. Indeed, if any change is made in that regard an increase rather than a decrease will be necessary, and the only means of economy will be in reducing the number of employees and in obtaining a greater average of efficiency from those retained in the service.

## Frauds in the Collection of Customs.

I regret to refer to the fact of the discovery of extensive frauds in the collection of the customs revenue at New York city, in which a number of the subordinate employees in the weighing and other departments were directly concerned and in which the beneficiaries were the American Sugar Refining company and others. The frauds consisted in the payment of duty on underweights of sugar. The government has recovered from the American Sugar Refining company all that it is shown to have been defrauded of. The sum was received in full of the amount due which might have been recovered by civil action against the beneficiary of the fraud, but there was an excess reservation in the contract of settlement by which the settlement should not interfere with or prevent the criminal prosecution of every one who was found to be subject to the same.

Criminal prosecutions are now proceeding against a number of the government officers. The treasury department and the department of justice are exerting every effort to discover all the wrongdoers, including the officers and employees of the compa-

nies who may have been privy to the fraud. It would seem to me that an investigation of the frauds by congress at present, pending the problem by the treasury department and the department of justice, as proposed might by giving immunity and otherwise prove an embarrassment in securing conviction of the guilty parties.

## Maximum and Minimum Clause in Tariff Act.

Two features of the new tariff act call for special reference. In order that the maximum duty shall be charged against the imports from a country it is necessary that the executive shall find on the part of that country not only discriminations in its laws or the practice under them against the trade of the United States, but that the discriminations found shall be undue—that is, without good and fair reason. No one is seeking a tariff war or a condition in which the spirit of retaliation shall be aroused.

## Tariff Readjustment.

The new tariff law enables me to appoint a tariff board to assist me in connection with the department of state in the administration of the minimum and maximum clause of the act and also to assist officers of the government in the administration of the entire law. I believe that the work of this board will be of prime utility and importance whenever congress shall deem it wise again to readjust the customs duties. If the facts secured by the tariff board are of such a character as to show generally that the rates of duties imposed by the present tariff law are excessive under the principles of protection as described in the platform of the successful party at the late election I shall not hesitate to invite the attention of congress to this fact and to the necessity for action predicated thereon. Nothing, however, halts business and interferes with the course of prosperity so much as the threatened revision of the tariff, and until the facts are at hand, after careful and deliberate investigation, upon which such revision can properly be undertaken, it seems to me unwise to attempt it.

## War Department.

In the interest of immediate economy I have required a reduction in the estimates of the war department for the coming fiscal year which brings the total estimates down to an amount forty-five millions less than the corresponding estimates for last year. This could be accomplished only by cutting off new projects and suspending for the period of one year all progress in military matters. For the same reason I have directed that the army shall not be recruited up to its present authorized strength. These measures can hardly be more than temporary, for I am sure that the interests of the military establishment are seriously in need of careful consideration by congress.

The secretary of war calls attention to a number of needed changes in the army, in all of which I concur, but the point upon which I place most emphasis is the need for an elimination bill providing a method by which the merits of officers shall have some effect upon their advancement and by which the advancement of all may be accelerated by the effective elimination of a definite proportion of the least efficient.

The military and naval joint board have unanimously agreed that it would be unwise to make the large expenditures which at one time were contemplated in the establishment of a naval base and station in the Philippine Islands and have expressed their judgment, in which I fully concur, in favor of making an extensive naval base at Pearl Harbor, near Honolulu, and not in the Philippines.

## The Navy.

The return of the battleship fleet from its voyage around the world in more efficient condition than when it started was a noteworthy event of interest alike to our citizens and the naval authorities of the world. The marked success of the ships in steaming around the world in all weathers on schedule time has increased respect for our navy and has added to our national prestige.

It is a regrettable fact that the higher officers are old for the responsibilities of the modern navy, and the admiral do not arrive at flag rank young enough to obtain adequate training in their duties as flag officers.

Owing to the necessity for economy in expenditures, I have directed the curtailment of recommendations for naval appropriations so that they are thirty-eight millions less than the corresponding estimates of last year, and the request for new naval construction is limited to two first class battleships and one repair vessel.

The secretary of the navy has inaugurated a tentative plan involving certain changes in the organization of the navy department, including the navy yards, all of which have been found by the attorney general to be in accordance with law. I have approved the execution of the plan proposed because of the greater efficiency and economy it promises.

## Department of Justice—Expedition in Legal Procedure.

The deplorable delays in the administration of civil and criminal law have received the attention of committees of the American Bar association and of many state bar associations as well as the considered thought of judges and jurists. In my judgment, a change in public procedure, with a view to reducing its expense to private litigants in civil cases and facilitating the dispatch of business and final decision in both civil and criminal cases, constitutes the greatest need in our American institutions. I do not doubt for one moment that much of the lawless violence and cruelty exhibited in lynchings are directly due to the uncertainties and injustice growing out of the

delays in trials, judgments and the execution thereof by our courts.

I therefore recommend legislation providing for the appointment by the president of a commission with authority to examine the law and equity procedure of the federal courts of first instance, the law of appeals from those courts to the courts of appeals and to the supreme court and the costs imposed in such procedure upon the private litigants and upon the public treasury and make recommendation with a view to simplifying and expediting the procedure as far as possible and making it as inexpensive as may be to the litigant of little means.

The platform of the successful party in the last election contained the following:

## Injunctions Without Notice.

"We believe that the rules of procedure in the federal courts with respect to the issuance of the writ of injunction should be more accurately defined by statute and that no injunction or temporary restraining order should be issued without notice, except where irreparable injury would result from delay, in which case a speedy hearing thereafter should be granted."

I recommend that in compliance with the promise thus made appropriate legislation be adopted. Moreover, every such injunction or restraining order issued without previous notice and opportunity by the defendant to be heard should by force of the statute expire and be of no effect after seven days from the issuance thereof or within any time less than that period which the court may fix unless within such seven days or such less period the injunction or order is extended or renewed after previous notice and opportunity to be heard.

## Anti-trust and Interstate Commerce Laws.

The jurisdiction of the general government over interstate commerce has led to the passage of the so called "Sherman anti-trust law" and the "interstate commerce law" and its amendments. The developments in the operation of those laws call for a discussion and some suggestions as to amendments. These I prefer to embody in a special message.

## Postoffice Department—Second Class Mail Matter.

The deficit every year in the post office department is largely caused by the low rate of postage of 1 cent a pound charged on second class mail matter, which includes not only newspapers, but magazines and miscellaneous periodicals. The actual loss growing out of the transmission of this second class mail matter at 1 cent a pound amounts to about \$13,000,000 a year. The average cost of the transportation of this matter is more than 9 cents a pound. The statistics of 1907 show that second class mail matter constituted 63.9 per cent of the weight of all the mail and yielded only 5.19 per cent of the revenue.

The figures given are startling and show the payment by the government of an enormous subsidy to the newspapers, magazines and periodicals. A great saving might be made, amounting to much more than half of the loss, by imposing upon magazines and periodicals a higher rate of postage.

## Postal Savings Banks.

I believe postal savings banks to be necessary in order to offer a proper inducement to thrift and saving to a great many people of small means who do not now have banking facilities and to whom such a system would offer an opportunity for the accumulation of capital. They will furnish a satisfactory substitute, based on sound principle and actual successful trial in nearly all the countries of the world, for the system of government guaranty of deposits now being adopted in several western states which, with deference to those who advocate it, seems to me to have in it the seeds of demoralization to conservative banking and certain financial disaster.

## Ship Subsidy.

Following the course of my distinguished predecessor, I earnestly recommend to congress the consideration and passage of a ship subsidy bill.

## Interior Department—New Mexico and Arizona.

The successful party in the last election in its national platform declared in favor of the admission as separate states of New Mexico and Arizona, and I recommend that legislation appropriate to this end be adopted.

## Alaska.

With respect to the territory of Alaska, I recommend legislation which shall provide for the appointment by the president of a governor and also of an executive council, the members of which shall during their term of office reside in the territory and which shall have legislative powers sufficient to enable it to give to the territory local laws adapted to its present growth. I strongly deprecate legislation looking to the election of a territorial legislature in that vast district.

## Conservation of Natural Resources.

In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our national resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to congress.

## The White Slave Trade.

There is urgent necessity for additional legislation and greater executive activity to suppress the recruiting of the ranks of prostitutes from the streams of immigration into this country—an evil which, for want of a better name, has been called "the white slave trade."

## Bureau of Health.

There seems to be no reason why all

the bureaus and offices in the general government which have to do with the public health or subjects akin thereto should not be united in a bureau to be called the "bureau of public health."

## Political Contributions.

I urgently recommend to congress that a law be passed requiring that candidates in elections of members of the house of representatives and committees in charge of their candidacy and campaign file in a proper office of the United States government a statement of the contributions received and of the expenditures incurred in the campaign for such elections and that similar legislation be enacted in respect to all other elections which are constitutionally within the control of congress.

## Conclusion.

Speaking generally, the country is in a high state of prosperity. There is every reason to believe that we are on the eve of a substantial business expansion, and we have just garnered a harvest unexampled in the market value of our agricultural products. The high prices which such products bring mean great prosperity for the farming community; but, on the other hand, they mean a very considerably increased burden upon those classes in the community whose yearly compensation does not expand with the improvement in business and the general prosperity. Various reasons are given for the high prices. The proportionate increase in the output of gold, which today is the chief medium of exchange and is in some respects a measure of value, furnishes a substantial explanation of at least part of the increase in prices. The increase in population and the more expensive mode of living of the people, which have not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in acreage production, may furnish a further reason. It is well to note that the increase in the cost of living is not confined to this country, but prevails the world over, and that those who would charge increases in prices to the existing protective tariff must meet the fact that the rise in prices has taken place almost wholly in those products of the factory and farm in respect to which there has been either no increase in the tariff or in many instances a very considerable reduction.

## SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS

On the Sunday School Lesson by Rev. Dr. Linscott for the International Newspaper Bible Study Club.

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Dec. 12th, 1909.

(Copyright, 1909, by Rev. T. S. Linscott, D.D.) Paul's Last Words—II. Tim. iv:1-18. Golden Text—For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phil. 1:21.

Verses 1-2—When a minister in authority gives instructions to a devoted minister under him, concerning the work to which he is appointed, are his words more or less effectual if he calls God to witness? Why or why not?

What precisely did Paul mean by "Preach the Word?" What, if any, reason is there to believe that preaching or its equivalent can never be "out of season?"

Why is the duty to preach and practice truth, honesty, love, and the presence of God never out of season? Why is every man under vital obligation to be always on the qui vive to promote the temporal and eternal interests of his fellows?

Verses 3-4—What is the minimum of Christian faith necessary for "sound doctrine" and salvation? (This question must be answered in writing by members of the club.)

Why is it that burglars, counterfeiters, gamblers, liars, drinkers and other bad men, and women, often persuade themselves that they are right?

When men do not believe in the supernatural, that is, God, prayer, immortality, rewards and punishments after death, etc., give your reason for your belief whether it is, or not, a result of some moral defect in their lives?

Verses 5—What are the chances of success, in any calling, for a man who will watch, suffer, work and demonstrate his faithfulness?

Verses 6—Which is the more desirable time, the day of one's birth or the day of one's death, and why?

How did Paul at this time know that the day of his departure was at hand?

Verses 7—What can you say for or against the theory, that the better the man the less he thinks of himself?

State your views as to whether Paul was guilty of boasting here, or whether it was but an honest statement that he had "fought a good fight," and that he had kept the faith.

Is God hard to please, or is it possible for an ordinary, honest Christian to please God in all things, and to have the consciousness that he is so pleasing him?

Verses 8—Was the crown of righteousness that Paul was going to receive, a gift of grace, or a reward for merit, and will it be the same case with all the faithful?

What will be the nature of the reward which awaits the Christian after death?

Verses 9-12—Is it a sign of weakness or strength, and why, when a Christian craves human company and friendship?

What is the moral quality of a man who forsakes his friend when he is in trouble?

Are friendships rare, or plentiful, which remain steadfast, and true alike in prosperity and adversity, through evil and good report, and how do you characterize such a friendship?

verse 13—Upon which will a normal right thinker put the emphasis, on things for the body, mind or spirit, and why?

Taking Paul's "cloak" to represent things for the body, his "books" the mind, his "parchments" the spirit, please say what proportion of the thought and energy is spent, by the average community, upon these things respectively?

Verses 14-15—Is there any reason to believe that Jesus would have prayed that a bad man may be rewarded according to his works?

What should be the attitude of a good man toward those who speak evil of him?

Verses 16-18—What effect ought the lack of co-operation of friends, and the opposition of enemies, to have upon the work of a true and determined man?

Lesson for Sunday, Dec. 19th, 1909.

—Review.

**A Queer Importation.**  
As a result of the labors of trained explorers of the bureau of plant industry in China, the forest service has been furnished with a supply of seeds of the pistacia chinensis, an oriental tree resembling the California pepper tree. These seeds were gathered from trees growing in the province of Shantung, China, where some of them have reached large proportions, says the San Francisco Call.

A tree standing at the grave of Confucius has a diameter of over four feet. They are well adapted to dry regions and are long lived. It is hoped the trees grown from this seed will serve as a stock of the pistachio nut of commerce.

The seeds will be planted at the Lytle Creek nursery station in southern California, and if the plantations are successful they will be grown extensively for reforestation purposes.

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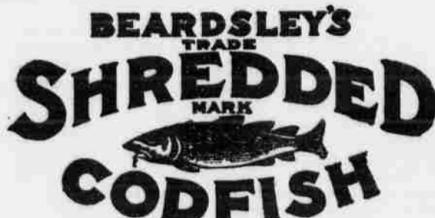
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This delicious fish means a meal without bother or trouble. It is ready to cook the instant you open the package. And the meat is so light and fluffy and dainty that it cooks almost the minute it is reached by heat.

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**Free Book of Recipes**  
Ask your grocer for our book of new recipes. It means pleasing variety in meals. Or write us—we will send you the book, and with it a generous sample of Beardsley's Shredded Codfish.

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