

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen of the Congress: I deeply regret my inability to be present at the opening of the extraordinary session of Congress. It still seems to be my duty to take part in the councils of the Peace Conference and contribute what I can to the solution of the innumerable questions to whose settlement it has had to address itself; for they are questions which affect the peace of the whole world and from them, therefore, the United States cannot stand apart. I deemed it my duty to call the Congress together at this time because it was not wise to postpone longer the provisions which must be made for the support of the government. Many of the appropriations which are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the government and the fulfillment of its varied obligations for the fiscal year 1919-1920 have not yet been made; the end of the present fiscal year is at hand; and action upon these appropriations can no longer be prudently delayed. It is necessary therefore, that I should immediately call your attention to these critical needs. It is hardly necessary for me to urge that it may receive your prompt attention.

I shall take the liberty of addressing you on my return on the subjects which have most engrossed your attention and the attention of the world during these last anxious months, since the armistice of last November was signed; the international settlements which must form the subject matter of the present treaties of peace and of our national action in the immediate future. It would be premature to discuss them or to express a judgment about them before they are brought to their complete formulation by the agreements which are now being sought at the table of the conference. I shall hope to lay them before you in their many aspects so soon as arrangements have been reached.

I hesitate to venture any opinion or press any recommendation with regard to domestic legislation while away from the United States and out of daily touch with intimate sources of information and council. I am conscious that I need, after so long an absence from Washington, to seek the advice of those who have remained in constant contact with Democratic problems and who have known them close at hand from day to day; and I trust that it will very soon be possible for me to do so. But there are several questions pressing for consideration to which I feel that I may, and indeed must, even now, direct your attention, if only in general terms. In speaking of them I shall, I dare say, be doing little more than speak your own thoughts. I hope that I shall speak your own judgment also.

The question which stands at the front of all others in every country amidst the present great awakening is the question of labor; and perhaps I can speak of it with as great advantage while engrossed in the consideration of interests which affect all countries alike as I could at home and amidst the interests which naturally most affect my thought, because they are the interests of our own people.

By the questions of labor I do not mean the question of efficient industrial production. The question of how labor is to be obtained and made effective in the great process of sustaining populations and winning success amidst commercial and industrial rivalries, I mean that much greater and more vital question, how are the men and women who do the daily labor of the world to obtain progressive improvement in the conditions of their labor, to be made happier, and to be served better by the communities and the industries which their labor sustains and advances? How are they to be given their right advantage as citizens and human beings?

We cannot go any farther in our present situation. We have already gone too far. We cannot live right life as a nation or achieve our proper success as an industrial community if capital and labor are to continue being antagonistic and if they continue to fight one another; or what perhaps amounts to the same thing, calculate by what form and degree of coercion they can manage to extort on the one hand work enough to make enterprise profitable, on the other justice and fair treatment enough to make life tolerable. That had road has turned out a blind alley. It is no more thoroughfare to real prosperity. We must find another, leading in another direction and to a very different destination. It must lead not merely to adoption but also to a genuine co-operation and partnership based on a real community of interest and participation in control.

There is now in fact a real community of interest between capital and labor, but it has never been made evident in action. It can be made operative and manifest only in a new organization of industry. The genius of our businessmen and the sound prudence of our workers can certainly work such a partnership out when once they realize exactly what it is they see and sincerely adopt a common purpose with regard to it.

Labor legislation lies, of course, chiefly with the states but the new spirit and new attitude of legislation which must be effected are not to be brought about by legislation so much as by the common counsel and voluntary co-operation of capitalist, manager and workman. Legislation can go only a very little way in commanding what shall be done. The organization of industry, the general individual initiative and of practical business arrangement. Those who really desire a new relationship between capital and labor can readily find ways of doing so, and perhaps federal legislation can help more than state legislation could.

The object of all reform in this special matter must be genuine democratization of industry, based upon a full recognition of the right of those who work, in whatever rank to participate in some organic way. Some positive legislation is practicable. The Congress has already shown the way to one reform which should be worked wide, by establishing the eight hour day as the standard day in every field of labor over which it can control. It has sought the way to prevent child labor, and will, I hope and believe, presently find it. It has served the whole country by leading the way in developing the means of preserving and safeguarding life and health in dangerous industries.

It can now help in the difficult task of a new form and spirit to industrial organizations by co-operating the several agencies of conciliation and adjustment which have been brought to its assistance by the difficulties and mistaken policies of the present management of industry, and by setting up and developing new federal agencies of advice and information which serve as a clearing house for the most experimental and the best thought on this great matter, upon which every thinking man must be aware that the future development of society directly depends. Agencies of international council and suggestion are presently to be created in connection with the League of Na-

tion to perform in bringing commercial and industrial undertakings of the world back to their old scope and swing again, and putting a solid structure of credit under them. All our legislation should be friendly to such plans and purposes.

And credit and enterprise alike will be quickened by timely and helpful legislation with regard to taxation. I hope that the Congress will find it possible to undertake an early reconsideration of Federal taxes, in order to make our system of taxation more simple and easy of administration and the taxes themselves as little burdensome as they can be made. It is of course to support the government and meet all its obligations. The figures to which those obligations have arisen are very great indeed, but they are not so great as to make it difficult for the nation to meet them, and meet them, perhaps, by the adoption of taxes which will neither crush nor discourage. These are not so great as they seem, not so great as the immense sums we have paid to borrow, added to the immense sums we have had to raise by taxation would seem to indicate, for a very small portion of these sums were raised in order that they might be loaned to the government with which we were associated with in the war.

The main thing we shall have to care is that our taxation shall rest as lightly as possible upon the productive resources of the country, that its rates shall be stable and that it shall be constant in its revenue power. We have found the main sources from which it must be drawn. I take as a basis the income tax, which is henceforth to be the income tax, the excess profits tax and the estate tax. All these can be so adjusted to yield constant and adequate revenues and yet not constitute a too grievous burden on the tax payers.

A revision of the income tax has already been provided for by the act of 1918, but I think you will wish to see the further changes that can be made to advantage both in the rates of the tax and in the method of its collection. The excess profits tax need not long be maintained at the rates which were necessary while the enormous expenses of the war had to be borne; but it should be made the basis of a permanent system which will reach undue profits without discouraging the enterprise and activity of our business men. The tax on inheritances ought, no doubt, to be reconsidered in its relation to the general system of the several states, but it certainly ought to remain a permanent part of the fiscal system of the federal government also.

Many of the minor taxes provided for in the revenue legislation of 1917 and 1918, though no doubt made necessary by the peculiar circumstances of the war time, can find some justification of peace and can now happily be got rid of. Among these, I hope you will agree, are the excises upon various manufactures and excises upon retail sales. They are unequal, they are levied on different authorities and on different individuals. Their collection is difficult and expensive. Those which are levied upon articles sold at retail are largely evaded by the retail trade of the country.

On the other hand, I should assume that it is expedient to maintain a considerable range of indirect taxes, and the fact that alcoholic liquors will presumably no longer afford a source of revenue by taxation makes it the more necessary that the field should be carefully restudied in order that equivalent sources of revenue may be found which it will be legitimate, and not burdensome, to draw upon. But you have at hand the Treasury Department and many experts who can advise you upon the matters much better than I can. I can only suggest the lines of a permanent and workable system and the placing of the taxes where they will least hamper the people.

There is fortunately no occasion for undertaking in the immediate future any general revision of our system of import duties. No serious danger of foreign competition now threatens American industries. Our country has emerged from the war less disturbed and less weakened than any of the European countries which are our competitors in manufacture. Their industrial establishments have been subjected to greater strain than ours, their labor forces are more disorganized, and this is clearly not the time to seek an organized advantage. The work of reconstruction will, I am afraid, tax the capacity of our resources of their people for years to come. So far from there being any danger or need of accentuated foreign competition, it is likely that the conditions of the next few years will greatly facilitate the marketing of American manufactures abroad. Let us of all should we depart from the policy adopted in the tariff act of 1913 of permitting the free entry into the United States of raw materials needed to supplement and enrich our own abundant supplies.

Nevertheless, there are parts of our tariff system which need prompt attention. The experiences of the war have made it plain that in some cases too great reliance on foreign supply is dangerous, and that in determining certain parts of our tariff policy domestic considerations must be borne in mind which are political as well as economic. Among our industries to which special consideration should be given is that of the manufacture of dyes and related chemicals. Our complete dependence upon German supplies before the war made the introduction of this trade a cause of exceptional national advantage. German chemical industry with which we will be brought into competition was and may well be again a thoroughly knit monopoly capable of exercising a competition of peculiarly insidious and dangerous kind.

The United States should, moreover, have the means of properly protecting itself whenever our trade is discriminated against by foreign nations, in order that we may be assured of that equality of treatment which we hope to accord and to promote the world over. Our tariff laws as they now stand provide no weapon of retaliation in case other governments should enact legislation unequal in its bearing on our products as compared with the products of other countries. Though we are as far as possible from desiring to enter upon any course of retaliation, we must frankly face the fact that hostile legislation by other nations is not to be overlooked, and that it may be outweighed by us. The attention of Congress has been called to this matter on past occasions and the past measures which are now recommended by the tariff commission are substantially the same that have been

ANNOUNCED SURE RETURN RAILS, PHONES, AND WIRES

suggested by previous administrations. I recommend that this phase of the tariff question receive the early attention of the Congress.

"Will you not permit me, turning from these matters to speak once more and very earnestly of the proposed amendment to the constitution which would extend the suffrage to women and which passed the House of Representatives at the last session of the Congress? It seems to me that every consideration of justice and of public advantage calls for the immediate adoption of that amendment and its submission forthwith to the legislators of the several states. Throughout all the world this long delayed extension of the suffrage is looked for; in the United States, longer, I believe, than anywhere else, the necessity for it and the immense advantage of it to the national life, men and women who saw the need for it and urged the policy of it when it required steadfast courage to be so much beforehand with the common conviction and I, for one, covet for our country the distinction of being among the first to act in a great reform.

"The telegraph and telephone lines will, of course, be returned to their owners so soon as the transfer can be effected without administrative confusion, so soon as the change can be made with least possible inconvenience to the public and to the owners themselves. The railroads will be handed over to their owners at the end of the calendar year; if I were in immediate contact with the administration of the railroads, I could name the exact date for their return also. Until I am in direct contact with the practical management involved, it is clearly desirable that legislation should be considered that may tend to make of these dependable instrumentalities of our modern life a uniform and coordinated system which will afford those who use them as complete and certain means of communication with all parts of the country as has so long been afforded by the postal system of the government and at rates as uniform and intelligible.

Expert advice is, of course, available in this matter, and the public interest is manifest. Neither the telegraph nor the telephone service of the country can be said to be in any sense a national system. There are many confusions and inconsistencies of rates. The scientific means by which communication by such instrumentalities could be rendered more thorough and satisfactory has not been made full use of. An executive study of the whole question of electrical communication and of means by which a central authority can use and improve it, is being conducted by the appropriate committees of the Congress would certainly result indirectly, even if not directly, in a great public benefit.

"The demobilization of the military forces in our country has progressed to such a point that it is necessary to make it more necessary that the field should be carefully restudied in order that equivalent sources of revenue may be found which it will be legitimate, and not burdensome, to draw upon. But you have at hand the Treasury Department and many experts who can advise you upon the matters much better than I can. I can only suggest the lines of a permanent and workable system and the placing of the taxes where they will least hamper the people.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON, "20, May, 1919."

NC4 MAKES TRIP OF 150 MILES IN HOUR AND HALF

Goes From Horta to Ponta Del Gada in Record Time—No Mishaps.

SPEED OVER 85 MILES AN HOUR

Weather Reported Clear—NC3 Will Not Be Able to Resume Flight.

Washington, May 20—The naval seaplane NC-4 arrived at Ponta Del Gada from Horta at 10:24 a. m., Washington time. The seaplane NC-4 started for Ponta Del Gada at 12:40 p. m. today, Greenwich meridian time.

The weather was clear and the wind favorable. The official report to the Navy Department from Rear Admiral Jackson showed that the big plane covered the distance of 150 miles in one hour and 15 minutes at the rate of more than 85 miles an hour. Admiral Jackson's despatch filed at 10:25 a. m., Washington time, said: "NC-4 arrived Ponta Del Gada 10:24 G. M. T. (10:24 a. m. Washington time). The seaplane NC-4 will not be able to resume the trans-Atlantic flight. A message to the Navy Department early today from Admiral Jackson at Horta said the damage resulting from the buffeting she received when forced to land while nearing the Azores had definitely put her out of the race. The hull was leaking, the message said, and one of the engine struts was badly damaged.

PEACE TREATY TO BE SIGNED ABOUT JUNE 15

Expect Enemy Delegation to Submit Voluminous Counter Proposals.

GERMAN DELEGATES HOLD CONFERENCE

Probably be Known by June 8 Whether or Not Germans Will Sign.

(By The Associated Press.) The treaty of peace may not be signed until some time near the middle of June, according to advices from Paris. It will probably be known by June 8, however, whether the Germans will accept or reject the terms of the Allies.

Before the 15-day period given to the Germans to make replies to the terms of the treaty expires, on Thursday of this week, it is expected, the enemy delegation will submit counter-proposals so voluminous that it will take the Peace Conference until June 10 to frame a rejoinder. After that, the Germans, it is said, will probably be given a week to frame their final reply. This will be on or about June 8 and the treaty must then be engrossed in final form for signing.

The German delegation was called together yesterday by its chief, Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, who laid before his colleagues the instructions he received at Spa on Sunday. It is reported that an announcement has been prepared by the Germans, but has been referred to Berlin for approval.

HAWKER MISSING BELIEVE ARMEN CAME TO GRIEF

English Government Criticised For Not Affording Them Protection.

WEATHER BAD OFF IRELAND

Impossible For Airplanes to Conduct Search Over the Sea.

London, May 20—No definite news of the whereabouts of the Sopwith biplane carrying Harry G. Hawker and Lieutenant Commander MacKenzie Grieve having been received here, it was believed in admiralty circles here, that the daring aviators came to grief soon after leaving New Foundland Sunday afternoon.

All communication centres in London are silent as to news from Hawker and Lieutenant-Commander Grieve. Even the rumors which prevailed yesterday and last night have died out.

The opinion held in Admiralty circles is that Hawker came to grief soon after he started.

It is pointed out that the aviator almost certainly would have sent a farewell message before getting out of radio range, had an accident not befallen him in the meantime.

In returning the railroads, it generally was considered, the Republican leaders will readily give the President

their co-operation. But as to prohibition and tariff and internal revenue taxation the case will be more doubtful. Those are problems of which no very clear sentiment apparently has been formed in either of the great parties.

The recommendations regarding labor were general, but the President called attention to the need for a partnership between capital and labor and genuine democratization of industry.

On tariff revision the President said the United States should have the means of properly protecting itself when there was danger of discrimination against it by foreign nations.

"Though we are as far as possible from desiring to enter upon a course of retaliation," he said, "we must frankly face the fact that hostile legislation by other nations is not beyond the range of possibilities, and that it may have to be met by counter legislation.

"Although the United States will gladly and unhesitatingly join in the program of international disarmament, it will, nevertheless, be a policy of obvious prudence to make certain of the successful maintenance of many strong and equipped social plants."

Desires to Abolish Manufacturers and Retail Sales Excises and Outlined Generally Program In Regard to Labor—Again Urges Enactment of Woman Suffrage Amendment—Wants Teeth for Tariff Laws.

Washington, May 20—President Wilson, in his message to Congress today, recommended repeal of the war time prohibition law—so far as it applies to wine and beer only; announced definitely that the rail systems, telephone and telegraph lines would be returned to private ownership; urged a revision of war taxes, particularly to abolish the manufacturers and retail sales excises and outlined generally a program respecting labor.

These were the "high spots" of the President's message cabled from Paris. Besides that, he again urged enactment of the Woman Suffrage constitutional amendment; recommended that the tariff laws be supplied with teeth to protect American industry against foreign attack; spoke for legislation to facilitate American shipping; and backed Secretary Lane's program for land for returning soldiers.

Of the Paris peace conference and the League of Nations the President merely said it would be premature to discuss them or express opinion.

Congress heard a unique document; the only one of its kind ever transmitted across the ocean from a President on a foreign shore. For the first time in six years it heard a Presidential message read by a reading clerk instead of assembling to hear the President deliver an address in person.

The recommendation for the repeal of war time prohibition and for return of the rail and wire systems, while not unexpected by some, contained the greatest element of surprise and caused the most widespread comment.

In his reference to prohibition, the President did not enter extensively into the conditions involved. Demobilization he said, merely "has progressed to such a point that it seems to me entirely safe now to remove the ban upon the manufacture and sales of wines and beers." This ban, laid several months ago to become effective on July 1, could be removed, the President said, only by Congressional enactment.

His recommendation regarding return of the railways and wire lines was the first authoritative declaration by the administration of its future policy and greatly surprised many members who had interpreted the developments of the last few months to mean that Mr. Wilson eventually would propose some form of permanent government operation. On the contrary the directness of the President's declaration on that point left no doubt that he was through with any possible scheme of permanent retention.

"The telegraph and telephone lines," said the message, "will of course be returned to their owners as soon as the transfer can be effected without administrative confusion." The railroads will be handed over to their owners at the end of the calendar year.

In the case of each the President asked for legislation to make easier the readjustments necessitated by the change.

In his recommendation for readjustment of taxation the President made it clear that he did not expect a fundamental readjustment of the Federal tariff rates that have been operative for the last six years. He asked for tariff changes only to protect special new interests like the dyestuffs industry. Some reductions were advocated in war time excess profits taxes, and the present excess retail sales tax, the President thought, could be dispensed with entirely.

What will be the reply of the Republican Congress to these proposals became at once the topic of discussion everywhere about the Capitol.

In returning the railroads, it generally was considered, the Republican leaders will readily give the President

PERSHING'S VISIT TO LONDON HAS BEEN POSTPONED

London, May 20—The proposed visit to London of General Pershing, the American commander-in-chief, has been definitely postponed. It was announced here that this postponement is due to the official view that it would be inadvisable for the commander to leave the Rhine until the Germans had signed the peace treaty.

DR. DOW BEEBE IS FINED \$50

Dentist Charged With Violation of Motor Vehicle Law in Fairfield.

Dr. Dow R. Beebe, a dentist of this city, was fined \$50 in the criminal common pleas court this morning for violation of the motor vehicle law. He pleaded guilty and paid his fine. It was alleged that on February 14 last, Dr. Beebe, while driving over Turney's bridge, Fairfield, collided with another car. It was charged that the dentist was driving recklessly.

Louis James of Westport, charged with assault on his wife, Mary James, pleaded guilty this morning and was sentenced to jail for 30 days and fined \$15. Judge Walsh suspended the jail sentence. As James is a farm laborer and had been considerable in wages because of his arrest, it was decided to give him another chance.

The case of Ernest Cozza of this city, charged with carrying concealed weapons, is expected to be decided by Judge Walsh and the jury. Cozza occupies the stores throughout the city.

GERMAN REPLY WILL BE READY ON THURSDAY

Berlin, May 20—The German reply to the peace terms will be handed to the representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers on Monday, the Tageblatt says. The contents of the reply, it is added will adhere closely to the German version of President Wilson's fourteen points.

W. E. GODDARD SUES CONN. CO.

The fifteen days given the Germans to make a reply to the peace treaty will expire Thursday.

Goddard claims that on the day of the accident he had alighted from his machine and was making some repairs in the rear of the car when it was struck by the trolley car and was thrown to the ground. Negligence on the part of the motorman is alleged. This is denied by the Connecticut. The testimony is being heard by Judge Walsh and the jury.

Stratford Trust Co. Official Testifies Regarding Collision With Car.

Secretary and Treasurer Walter E. Goddard of the Stratford Trust Co. appeared in the superior court today to testify in his suit against the Connecticut Co., in which action he claims \$5,000 damage. He declares that two ribs were fractured and other injuries sustained when his automobile was struck by a trolley car at East Main street and Stratford avenue in 1917.