

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE READ IN CONGRESS

Comprehensive Document Covering Every Question of Importance Now Before the American People—At the Dawn of a New Century We Face Many Perplexing Puzzles—Regulation of Big Corporation Weighs Upon the Mind of the Chief Executive—What He Recommends and How He Thinks Needed Changes Might Be Made—Revision of Tariff Would Be Harmful, in the President's Opinion. Stability of Our Economic Policy Has Become a Vital Necessity—Reciprocity With Cuba a Necessity to Protect Ourselves—Proper Immigration Law Should Be Formulated—Secretary of Commerce Advocated as a Departure in Administration—Isthmian Canal and the Hawaiian Cable and Their Present Status—What We Have Done For the Philippines, and the Condition of the Army and Navy. Irrigation in the West a Topic of the Utmost Importance—The Care of Our Indian Wards, the Condition of the Postoffice Department, the Safety Appliance Law and Other Matters Considered in the Message of the Chief Executive.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS. Washington, Dec. 2.—President Roosevelt's message is as follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives:

We still continue in a period of unbounded prosperity. This prosperity is not the creature of law, but undoubtedly the laws under which we work have been instrumental in creating the conditions that make it possible, and by the aid of which it will undoubtedly be maintained.

As a people we have played a large part in the world, and we are bent upon making our future even larger than the past. In particular, the events of the last four years have definitely decided that, for woe or for weal, our place must be great among the nations.

FACE MANY PROBLEMS AT DAWN OF CENTURY

But our people, the sons of the men of the civil war, the sons of the men who had iron in their blood, rejoice in the present and face the future high of heart and resolute of will. Ours is not the creed of the weakling and the coward; ours is the gospel of hope and of triumphant endeavor.

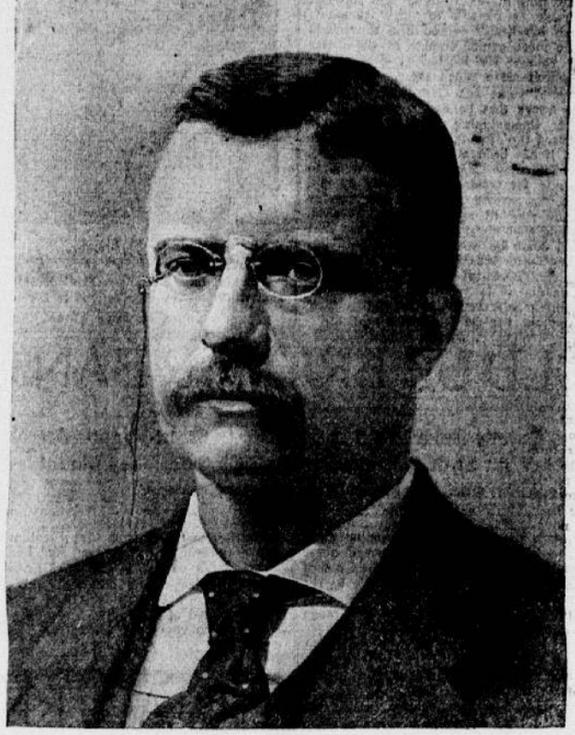
No country has ever occupied a higher plane of material well-being than ours at the present moment. This well-being is due to no sudden or accidental causes, but to the play of the economic forces in this country for over a century; to our laws, our sustained and continuous policies; above all, to the high individual average of our citizenship.

Must be careful not to kill when curbing. In curbing and regulating the combinations of capital which are or may become injurious to the public we must be careful not to stop the great enterprises which have legitimately reduced the cost of production, not to abandon the place which our country has won in the leadership of the international world, not to strike down wealth with the result of closing factories and mines, of turning the wage-worker idle in the streets and leaving the farmer without a market for what he grows.

REGULATION OF THE BIG CORPORATIONS A QUESTION. In my message to the present congress at its first session I discussed at length the question of the regulation of those big corporations commonly doing an interstate business, often with some tendency to monopoly, which are popularly known as trusts.

THINKS MONOPOLIES CAN BE PUT DOWN. I believe that monopolies, unjust discriminations, which prevent or cripple competition, fraudulent overcapitalization, and other evils in trust organizations and practices which injuriously affect interstate trade can be prevented under the power of the congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states through regulations and requirements operating directly upon such commerce, the instrumentalities thereof, and those engaged therein.

view to the passage of a law reasonable in its provisions and effective in its operations, upon which the questions can be finally adjudicated that now raise doubts as to the necessity of constitutional amendment. If it prove impossible to accomplish the purposes above set forth by such a law, then, assuredly, we should not shrink from amending the constitution so



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

not hostile to them; we are merely determined that they shall be so handled as to subserve the public good. We draw the line against misconduct, not against wealth. The capitalist who, alone or in conjunction with his fellows, performs some great industrial feat by which he wins money is a well-doer; not a wrong-doer, provided only he works in proper and legitimate lines.

REDUCTION OF TARIFF HAS BEEN ADVOCATED. One proposition advocated has been the reduction of the tariff as a means of reaching the evils of the trusts which fall within the category I have described. Not merely would this be wholly ineffective, but the diversion of our efforts in such a direction would mean the abandonment of all intelligent attempt to do away with these evils.

STABILITY OF ECONOMIC POLICY A NECESSITY. Stability of economic policy must always be the prime economic need of this country. This stability should not be fossilization. The country has acquired in the wisdom of the protective-tariff principle. It is exceedingly undesirable that this system should be destroyed or that there should be violent and radical changes therein.

PROPER IMMIGRATION LAW IS BADLY NEEDED. I again call your attention to the need of passing a proper immigration law, covering the points outlined in my message to you at the first session of the present congress; substantially such a bill has already passed the house.

time to make the necessary reapplication of the principle to the shifting national needs. We must take scrupulous care that the reapplication shall be made in such a way that it will not amount to a dislocation of our system, the mere threat of which (not to speak of the performance) would produce paralysis in the business energies of the community.

RECIPROcity TREATIES FOR THE READJUSTMENT. One way in which the readjustment sought can be reached is by reciprocity treaties. It is greatly to be desired that such treaties may be adopted. They can be used to widen our markets and to give a greater field for the activities of our producers on the one hand, and on the other hand to secure in practical shape the lowering of duties when they are no longer needed for protection among our own people, or when the minimum of damage done may be disregarded for the sake of the maximum of good accomplished.

NO PROTECTIONIST WILL OBJECT TO MEASURES. The cases in which the tariff can produce a monopoly are so few as to constitute an inconsiderable factor in the question; but of course if in any case it be found that a given rate of duty does promote a monopoly which works ill, no protectionist would object to such reduction of the duty as would equalize competition.

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employer or employe, without weakening individual initiative, without hampering and cramping the industrial development of the country, is a problem fraught with great difficulties and one which it is of the highest importance to solve on lines of sanity and far-sighted common sense as well as of devotion to the right. This is an era of federation and combination. Exactly as business men find they must often work through corporations, and as it is a constant tendency of these corporations to grow larger, so it is often necessary for laboring men to work in federations, and these have become important factors of modern industrial life.

HERE IS A CLASS TO WHOM WE OWE MUCH. Few people deserve better of the country than those representatives both of capital and labor—and there are many such—who work continually to bring about a

good understanding of this kind, based upon wisdom and upon broad and kindly sympathy between employers and employe. Above all, we need to remember that any kind of class animosity in the political world is, if possible, even more wicked, even more destructive to national welfare, than sectional, race or religious animosity. We can get good government only upon condition that we keep true to the principles upon which this nation was founded, and judge each man not as a part of a class, but upon his individual merits.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE SHOULD BE CREATED. It is earnestly hoped that a secretary of commerce may be created, with a seat in the cabinet. The rapid multiplication of questions affecting labor and capital, the growth and complexity of the organizations through which both labor and capital now find expression, the steady tendency toward the employment of capital in huge corporations, and the wonderful strides of this country toward leadership in the international business world justify an urgent demand for the creation of such a position.

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