

THE JOURNAL

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The President's Message. It is a common remark that no one reads a president's message except the man who edits the copy and the proof-readers in the newspaper offices.

That cannot be said of the message which went to congress to-day. President Roosevelt's message will be read.

In the first place, it is short, as president's messages go, and in the next place he has something to say which the people want to hear.

Not very many messages have been awaited with as much interest by the business world as that which has been manifested in Mr. Roosevelt's deliverance to-day.

Certain apprehension has been felt in some business circles on account of it, and yesterday the stock market was slightly affected by the uncertainty as to what the president would say about the tariff and the trusts.

Business generally has not halted, but the speculative market, always sensitive to the slightest influence, has exhibited some nervousness for some days over conflicting reports as to what the message would contain.

And now we have the document itself, which seems to us to be most admirable communication from the chief executive to the legislative department.

In the first place, it is not radical but conservative, and yet with all its conservatism it is vigorous, positive, certain and unequivocal.

It is also readable. As a piece of good English it is a credit to the office from which it proceeds. It will be a gratification to educated Americans everywhere that their chief executive is not only a man of affairs, but so much a man of letters that this message in point of literary finish and vigor is a model.

But, of course, the great interest centers in what Mr. Roosevelt has to say about the trusts and about the tariff. With some preliminary remarks relating to the happy conditions of prosperity which we now enjoy, and the heavy responsibilities which have devolved upon our government and our people, there is sounded an inspiring note of courage, self-reliance, and resolute purpose, which should and will serve as a powerful stimulus to right action on the part of the people and their representatives.

There is manifested a degree of confidence in the people themselves which should lift their own courage and hall them on to a willing and cheerful and conscientious discharge of those great duties which the trend of world events has imposed upon them.

The first specific proposition is the trust problem. Here there is given no sign of hostility to great enterprises; no suggestion of a spirit of destructiveness, no "smashing of the trusts." "We are not," says the president, "attacking the corporations, but endeavoring to do away with any evil in them; we are 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."

Again he warns against "blindness to the historical truth that wise evolution is a sure safeguard against revolution." Experience has shown that this is true of the political world; there is no reason to doubt its truth as to the commercial.

The president stands upon the proposition that congress has this power to regulate interstate commerce with no limitations other than those prescribed by the constitution; furthermore, he insists that this power has not been exhausted by any legislation now in the statute books. Certainly we have made some progress in the handling of the trust question when the

IN A NUTSHELL....

The probable admission of Oklahoma as a state, at the present session of congress develops unusual interest in the qualifications of that territory for statehood.

In the first place, Oklahoma has a larger population than several states of the Union. For instance, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Florida, Delaware, Nevada, New Hampshire, Vermont, Montana and Oregon all have less population. Oklahoma has 541,480 inhabitants, a gain of 148,149 during the past year. There is an average of 14 persons to the square mile. Although it contains quite a number of Indians, the percentage of illiteracy is 5 1/2, while only 4 per cent of the population is foreign born.

The valuation of property returned for taxation in 1902 was \$72,677,423. The territorial tax levy for 1902 was 7 1/2 mills; the property valuation is at a rate of about one-fourth of the true value.

chief executive goes before the national congress to say that no longer are we to rely upon the inadequate and limited powers of the states to regulate operations which are carried on beyond state boundaries; that the problem is one to be treated and disposed of by federal action, and that the power of the federal government is adequate to protect the people against any misuse of corporate power.

The president does not believe it necessary to wait for a constitutional amendment before making a beginning, although willing to concede that constitutional amendment might aid by the enlargement of the powers of congress in the direction in which further experience may suggest. He has little faith in tariff revision as a remedy for trust evils, but urges the treatment of the trust question quite apart from tariff revision, and this is undoubtedly the ripest conclusion of the best judgment of the country on the subject—that in the main trust regulation must be accomplished outside of and beyond the scope of tariff influences, many trusts being entirely unaffected by tariff conditions.

Upon the subject of the revision of the tariff, the president's recommendations are conservative and judicious. While recognizing that the tariff is an institution to be treated from "the standpoint solely of our business needs," he would take scrupulous care that there be no "dislocation of our system." He urges consideration of the pending reciprocity treaties and suggests that if it is impossible to ratify them, and no warrant exists for the endeavor to execute others, the same end may be met by direct legislation. He adheres to his recommendation of a tariff commission, although he does not urge it as an essential part of the machinery of tariff revision.

On the subject of Cuban reciprocity, the president has taken no backward steps since he stood bravely and firmly for the Cuban reciprocity bill in the last session. He cites the fact that, in a sense, "Cuba has become a part of our international political system, and this makes it necessary that in return she should be given some of the benefits of becoming a part of our economic system. It is, he says, "from our own standpoint a short-sighted and mischievous policy to fail to recognize this need." He urges the moral obligation also, and suggests the value of fair and generous treatment of Cuba as an assurance to all our sister nations on the American continent that we are disinterested and sincere friends.

In this message the president makes no reference in detail to our foreign relations; those chapters usually given to a rehearsal of our relations with foreign countries, reciting events that are generally well-known, are wisely omitted, but in addition to the particular subjects already referred to, he commends to congress consideration of our monetary system, with a view of providing one more automatic and more readily adjusted to our varying needs. The relations of capital and labor are discussed in a suggestive and profitable vein, made the more significant, perhaps, by the recent participation of the chief executive in the attempt to settle the great coal strike. He urges the creation of a department of commerce; expresses satisfaction over the practical operations of The Hague tribunal, urges progress on the isthmian canal while giving the assurance that "no independent nation in America need have the slightest fear of aggression from the United States"; expresses gratification in the satisfactory conditions obtaining in the Philippines, and commends the army for its important service in this connection. The president urges reorganization of the army in line with the recommendations of the secretary of war, and impressively presents to congress the needs of the navy, particularly from the standpoint of efficient manning of ships. In battle, he says, "the only shots that count are the shots that hit"; while we need more ships, we need more men, more thoroughly trained for their work. This includes both officers and men.

Naturally the president would be expected to take a peculiar interest in western affairs, and this adds importance and value to his recommendations regarding irrigation and the land laws, the care of the Indians and legislation for Alaska.

The people of America think better of Roosevelt than they did a year ago. He has been tried. We believe this message will still further strengthen the confidence of the people on board our good ship of state in the man at the helm. This message breathes the spirit of action; it comes from a man who does things; congress cannot but feel the stimulus to action which pervades it.

And yet it is all so calmly, so judiciously and so wisely spoken, that we are unable to see where any legitimate interest can take exception, or how the influence of this important deliverance is to have other effect than to strengthen public confidence; confidence not only in our ability to utilize the most advanced methods and systems, and devices in our commercial and industrial world, but confidence in our ability to protect ourselves against harm from any of these powerful and gigantic forces which we have invoked and which peculiarly distinguish our age and civilization.

A friend of The Journal takes exception to the ideas of Mr. Bede, exploited in this paper recently under the head of "Sound Money and Sound Stocks." To the statement, "make your shares of stock like your bank notes, stand for 100 cents on the dollar," he says it cannot be done

Some of Oklahoma's Qualifications for Statehood.

The territory's indebtedness June 30, 1902, was \$466,950, or about 80 cents per capita. Last year 2,968,000 acres of land were settled upon; there remain 3,769,000 acres open to settlement, mostly grazing lands in western counties. Oklahoma has provided well for her public school system, having set apart 2,065,000 acres, all of which is leased, producing a revenue of more than \$400,000 annually.

In 1901 school was taught in 2,278 districts, the average session being ninety-seven days. The enrollment was 112,948 white children and 4,928 negroes.

In Oklahoma there is a railroad main line mileage of 1,413 miles; 500 miles of new railroad were built during the past year, and more railway building is now under way than in any other territory. Chartered for twenty-three years before in the history of the territory, twenty-three railway companies were issued during the year.

The chief products of Oklahoma are wheat, cotton and live stock. The climate is about that of Tennessee.

and should not be; that there is no parallel between the dollar and stock value. He admits the theory is plausible, but insists that it is out of the question because a stock must fluctuate on its earning value, and cities stocks which could not be bought at par. Perhaps the critic takes the proposition too literally. Stocks representing property value appreciate or depreciate. That is inevitable, of course, and is the result of various causes, one of which is management. But that is no reason why the principle of sound stocks, stocks worth at the outset what they purport to be worth, is not good, and that is all that is contended for. Unquestionably one of the greatest evils of our commercial life to-day is cheap stocks, the term being used in the same sense in which we speak of cheap money—money that pretends to be worth what it is not.

Street Railway Problems. Street railway managers, especially those whose companies operate in the larger cities, are said to view the recent advances in wages by the railroads with some degree of nervousness. Every day brings its report of new railroads coming into line and further advances granted to employees. At the present rate it will not be long before every railroad in the country will have shown something of an increase in the wage scale, and then it is feared a similar wave will sweep over the street railways. Managers are asking themselves whether some line in a large center will start such a movement, or whether the disposition will be to wait for the men to ask an advance, on the argument that if the railroads can afford to raise the wages of employees, the street railways can do the same.

There is some ground for the contention of the street railway managers, that the action of the railroads should not be expected to influence them. It does not follow that, because the railroads grant increases, the street railways can afford to follow with correspondingly large advances, however difficult it might be to make out an argument along this line that would be convincing to the men.

While this is an important difference, that the railroads may advance freight rates to offset an advance in wages, the street railways have no such resource, and, having granted an increase, must see a falling off in earnings, or make up the difference by greater economy of operation. It is difficult materially to increase the number of passengers carried, and too close economy in operation results in poor service and brings down the exaction of the public.

There are many factors entering into the matter of street railway operation, or bearing in some way upon street railway earnings, that the public scarcely appreciates in full. To just what extent the bicycle injured the business of the street railways it would be difficult to determine, but it has been asserted that the bankruptcy of the Denver street railway company was due in part to decreased earnings following the more general use of the bicycle in that city.

Now it is the automobile that threatens street railway earnings. There are somewhere between 55,000 and 60,000 street railway cars in the United States. Two years ago there were about 1,100 automobiles in the country. To-day there are said to be 18,000 automobiles in use in the country, and this is probably not an overstatement; if the increase in the number in Minneapolis in the past two years is a fair basis for the increase in the country at large. At this rate there will soon be as many automobiles as street cars.

The automobile is yet too expensive a machine to enter much into competition with the street railways, and a majority of those who ride in automobiles would not be regular patrons of the street cars under old conditions. But the automobile is being modified and cheapened from time to time, and the same ingenuity that finally produced a serviceable bicycle to sell at less than one-fifth the original cost of a good wheel, may yet bring the cost of a serviceable automobile so low that its use will not be confined to the few, but it may come within the reach of the man of very moderate income.

Complaint is made that our stage song is not sufficiently and distinctively Minnesotan that our neighbors cannot appropriate it. A Wisconsin teacher, we are told, has already adapted it and adopted it in Wisconsin, she thinks, as well as if it had been written for that state. But why does she do this? Certainly not because the song is not admirable. What is that about imitation being the sincerest form of flattery? The Wisconsin teachers who adapt the Minnesota state song pay the writer and his judges a high compliment.

Senator Nelson's idea that high prices are due quite as much in many cases to increased consumption as to a high tariff is no doubt true, but we were surprised at the senator's remark quoted in The Journal yesterday with regard to Canadian reciprocity. He was represented by the Washington Post as having said: "I observed that Governor Lind, in his canvass in the Minneapolis district, began to talk about reciprocity with Canada, but the issue did not last long and there was practically no business in it. He soon dropped it and devoted himself to trusts, which occupied his attention to the end of the campaign."

If the senator meant that there was no chance for political profit that is no doubt true. There is practically no difference of opinion here on the subject. We are

Olive White, as Mrs. Ferris, whose chief endeavor throughout the play is to preserve the honor of a man who has no conception of the word's meaning.

The other roles are all in good hands. Carrie Lamont, a young woman of most pleasing personality, plays Elizabeth Burdette with dignity, grace and charm, and Harry Gibbs is good as the mine owner. Even the minor roles are excellently handled, Francis Bonn and Thomas Clayton deserving special credit for the air of realism with which they invest the parts assigned them.

"Shenandoah" at the Lyceum. Bronson Howard's civil war drama of "Shenandoah" has been revived by the stock company at the Lyceum this week and was presented last evening before an audience that applauded enthusiastically both play and players. Like good wine, "Shenandoah" needs no bush. It has been presented here on half a dozen different occasions, by as many different organizations. Its scenes and situations are familiar; its characters appear in the guise of old friends; and with its very dignity we maintain intimacy.

However, all this merely proves the worth of the drama, for had "Shenandoah" been other than an interesting play, admirably constructed, it could not have survived. But comment upon Bronson Howard's work is superfluous at this late date, when our concern should be rather for the actors.

So far as the manner of its playing is concerned, "Shenandoah" in its present production, is a curious mixture of good and bad. Some of the parts are excellently played, others are used most despatchfully. The piece is excellent. It requires a large cast and even its minor roles demand attention. The chief hinges about the loves of Colonel Kerchival West, an officer in Sheridan's cavalry, and Gertrude Ellingham, a southern girl, whose sturdy allegiance is given to the doctrine of state's rights.

On his last visit, which was to repair a broken cannon in a shanty looking over the ham charmingly. She depicts with accuracy the girl's struggle between love for what she conceives to be her country and her love for a man who has won her heart; yet she does not fall into the error of making the part too tense. Unfortunately Mr. Corbett is not a success as a burlesque. He ruins his best scene by an air of indifference totally at variance with the lines, and is, in fact, a more impossible lover than Captain Heartsease himself.

West has been wounded and is subsequently placed under arrest. To him comes Gertrude Ellingham, a confession of love upon her lips. As she speaks, the role of cannon is heard in the distance. "What is that?" she asks, in fearful amazement.

"That," replies the colonel, "that is only a little 'you love me'."

Mr. Corbett reads this line with about the same expression a man might use in calling for his shaving water. Nor is he happier in other scenes of the play.

The two roles best played in the current revival are Colonel General Haverrill, entrusted to Ben Johnson; and the Captain Heartsease of Dick Ferris. Mr. Ferris plays Heartsease with a peculiar jerky speech that recalls the peculiar Bertie Van Alstyne, but without Bertie's lisp. It is a cleverly conceived and ingeniously executed piece of character acting, and was so recognized by the audience. Mr. Johnson is admirable as a general, despite the fact that he wears a wig so atrocious that it must distract attention from the merit of his work.

Miss Maud Gilbert is good as Madeline West; and W. H. Murdoch is satisfactory as Captain Thornton. Credit is due Miron Laffin for a good impersonation of Sergeant Barkot who, when asked if he had searched a young woman for incriminating papers, naively explained that he had not married himself, and was "unfamiliar with the geography of his own body." The battle scene is managed with fine realism and the play is well staged.

To-morrow will be G. A. R. night, the various posts of the society having made plans to attend in a body.

"HAPPY STORY OF PROSPERITY." The first year of his college course he won the letters B. C. To treat upon his easy caper, the baseball club right filder he.

A sophomore, he next secured As tribute to his growing knowledge. Two crossed oars, and the letter N—The navy suburbs his college.

The third year he obtained A. U.—Athletic Union; his relatives interested in the elder track. To skilfully on the elder track. To vaulting and to throwing weights.

The fourth year, faithful to his aim. He hoisted still another letter. Presented to him, with esteem, the cardinal of Frank Roberts is a smooth and benevolently diplomatic churchman. Harry Burkhardt plays the masquerading stage producer very well, his fine carriage and graceful deportment tending to disfigure an early impression of affectation. Walter Crosby is successful in the role of the man who has fallen in love and manfully bears with his bitter passion, passion.

It is unfortunate that the piece is not staged a little more generously. In the final scene it is rather disillusionizing to see the man who has fallen in love and manfully bears with his bitter passion, passion.

"Sergeant James" at the Bijou. "Sergeant James," Eugene Walter's new play which has come to the Bijou this week, is that rare bird among modern stage productions, a farcical melodrama. Supplied with an interesting story, well staged and acceptably acted, "Sergeant James" is by all odds the best play of its season. It is not for the first time, and his name is yet unfamiliar, he has turned out an excellent piece of work in this drama, one that augurs well for what may be his future work. The parallel might be drawn with a manager who has not noted himself in the matter of production.

It may be said of "Sergeant James" that the main idea of its plot resembles closely the story of the man who has been rejected by the woman he loved and who seeks reparation in the army. Both men enlist. Both are promoted to sergeantcies. Both afterwards befriend their successful rivals. The parallel might be carried even further, but whether this resemblance is accidental matters little, for the minor details of Mr. Walter's plot are his own, and he has developed his story in most pleasing fashion.

The scenes of "Sergeant James" are laid in Montana. Its characters are army men, the officers of a mining corporation and their families. It is not for the first time of an unmarried man for a married woman, who—here the commonplace creeps into the plot—had been induced to refuse him in order to save her other from financial ruin. When this was added the villainy of the successful soldier, and the fact that he is more than once saved from disgrace by the man he had supplanted, you have the groundwork for an interesting stage drama, such as "Sergeant James" unquestionably is.

The play is still new and its first act needs retouching. The incidents of this act have little bearing upon the plot, and their importance has been somewhat exaggerated, yet the comedy is good and though merely preparatory, the act does supply the necessary background for the play. Mr. Walter has handled his incidents with a fine sense of proportion. His story is evolved naturally, easily, and plausibly, and it is couched in acceptable English. The company is good. Henry Koller is admirably fitted, both in appearance and temperament, to play the sergeant, and he makes of him a many fellow who indulges in neither heroics nor stalling, faults into which a less competent player might easily fall. The effect of his best scenes is heightened by the excellent acting of

ON THE SIXTH NIGHT

By C. B. LEWIS

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Overwork and worry had begun to tell on Milton Sharpless, the contractor on the Edgeware road. He was a single man of thirty, having a good reputation for honesty, sobriety and hard work. He had rooms in the house of a widow.

For a few nights he got a few hours' sleep; then came two nights in which he did not close his eyes. He had never been sick a day in his life, and had a contempt for people who were ailing, but as went to bed on this night he agreed with himself that if sleep did not come his case should be submitted to a doctor on the morrow. He went to bed at 9 o'clock, but at 11 he was still awake.

Thousands of sleepless persons have committed themselves to sleep or taken imaginary journeys to lose themselves in oblivion before the end was reached. Instead of this, Milton Sharpless settled down with his hands under his head and

Upon reaching the bureau Sharpless lighted a candle he had brought along and began work. He found it a baffling job. There was no picking the lock and no crevice in which to insert his jimmy. He was seeking for an advantage when he heard a movement upstairs, and a moment later both sisters came down, every body to insert his jimmy. He was seeking for an advantage when he heard a movement upstairs, and a moment later both sisters came down, every body to insert his jimmy.

As he struggled to his feet he realized that there was but one thing to do to save himself from capture and prison, and he attacked them with the iron bar. He struck to kill, and he did kill, and when he made his way out of the house he left the two sisters dead on the floor behind him. He did not return to his lodgings by the Edgeware road, but by way of Myrtle lane and Pentecost walk, and he had the good fortune to meet no one but a half intoxicated tramp. There was no blood on his clothes and there were no marks on his person, and he felt sure that he was the last man in London who would be suspected.

He sat down and smoked a pipe to give himself time to recover from the excitement, and the bells were striking 1 o'clock when he tumbled into bed and went to sleep.

At 7 o'clock next morning he was aroused by the rapping on his door, and he got up feeling that he had had a fairly good sleep. He ate his breakfast, went to his work, and it was only after he had been at his work for some time that he remembered the incident of the evening paper and received a shock that for a moment he was turned to stone. The Swift sisters had been found murdered.

Every detail of the case was known to Sharpless as he sat there, and every one of the tragedy, as gathered by the detectives, fitted in with his. The horror of it overcame him, and he fell to the floor, and should not be out until the morning. The murderer of the Swift sisters was captured this morning and has made a full confession.

So it was. The crime had been committed by a professional burglar, and it had been brought home to him so clearly that he had broken down and confessed to all details. It so happened that on that particular night Sharpless' landlady was ill from the time he went to bed until daylight, and he could not have left his room without being seen. Again, a fellow lodger looked in on him at midnight and found him sleeping. Very few people ever come to know of the case, and you will not wonder that they accounted it a strange one. Sharpless certainly planned and executed the double crime in his thoughts, while a man he had never heard of did the same thing in reality. It has been asked if it is possible for a person to leave his own identity for awhile and enter upon that of another. You may answer the question as you will, as it will settle nothing.

HE PLANNED A BURGLARY, FOLLOWED BY MURDER.

Two women had come down to meet their death at the hands of the desperate villain. Every detail of the case was known to Sharpless as he sat there, and every one of the tragedy, as gathered by the detectives, fitted in with his. The horror of it overcame him, and he fell to the floor, and should not be out until the morning. The murderer of the Swift sisters was captured this morning and has made a full confession.

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GERMAN TARIFF Baltimore Sun.

The report of Consul Monaghan, of Chemnitz, on the rates of duty proposed by the German government on certain goods in which American exporters are interested, shows that the large increases of duty are unsatisfactory to the agrarians who have secured further increases. The present tariff rate on 220 pounds of wheat is 33 cents. This the government proposed to increase to \$1.55, but the agrarians have forced an increase to \$1.75. Barley gets the present duty of 48 cents increased to \$2.41. Bacon, now and he got down on hands and knees and crawled across the floor, down a hall and into the sitting-room. In this room stood an old fashioned mahogany bureau, and he found the door locked, but after carefully working away for ten minutes he had the window up and crawled through into the kitchen. He knew the lay of the house, and he got down on hands and knees and crawled across the floor, down a hall and into the sitting-room. 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