

# PRESIDENT TAFT SENDS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

## Policy of the Administration Made Clear to the Country.

### FAVORS SHIP SUBSIDY BILL.

#### Chief Executive Gives Reasons for Desiring the Passage of Such a Measure—Postal Savings Banks—Plea for Conservation of National Resources.

Washington.—The president transmitted the following message to congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The relations of the United States with all foreign governments have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding, and are very generally satisfactory.

#### Latin America.

One of the happiest events in recent Pan-American diplomacy was the pacific, independent settlement by the governments of Bolivia and Peru of a boundary dispute between them, which for some weeks threatened to cause war and even to excite embitterments affecting other republics directly concerned. From various quarters, directly or indirectly concerned, the intermediation of the United States was sought to assist in a solution of the controversy. Desiring at all times to abstain from any undue meddling in the affairs of sister republics and having faith in the ability of the governments of Peru and Bolivia themselves to settle their differences in a manner satisfactory to themselves which, viewed with magnanimity, would assure all embitterment, this government steadily abstained from being drawn into the controversy and was much gratified to find its confidence justified by events.

My meeting with President Diaz and the greeting exchanged on both American and Mexican soil served, I hope, to signalize the close and cordial relations which so well bind together this republic and the great republic immediately to the south, between which there is so vast a network of material interests.

I am happy to say that all but one of the cases which for so long vexed our relations with Venezuela have been settled within the past few months and that, under the enlightened regime now directing the government of Venezuela, provision has been made for arbitration of the remaining case before The Hague tribunal.

Since the Washington conventions of 1907 were communicated to the government of the United States as a consulting and advisory party, this government has been almost continuously called upon by one or another, and in turn by all of the five Central American republics, to exert itself for the maintenance of the conventions. Nearly every complaint has been against the Zelaya government of Nicaragua, which has kept Central America in constant tension and turmoil. The responses made to the representations of Central American republics as due from the United States on account of its relation to the Washington conventions, have been at all times conservative and have avoided, so far as possible, any semblance of interference, although it is very apparent that the considerations of geographical proximity to the canal zone and of the very substantial American interests in Central America give to the United States a special position in the zone of these republics and the Caribbean sea.

I need not rehearse here the patient efforts of this government to promote peace and welfare among these republics, efforts which are fully appreciated by the majority of them, who are loyal to their true interests. It would be no less unnecessary to rehearse here the sad tale of unspeakable barbarities and oppression alleged to have been committed by the Zelaya government. Recently two Americans were put to death by order of President Zelaya himself. They were officers in the organized forces of a revolution which was in control of about half of the republic, and as such, according to the modern enlightened practice of civilized nations, they were entitled to be dealt with as prisoners of war.

At the date when this message is printed this government has terminated diplomatic relations with the Zelaya government, for reasons made public in a communication to the former Nicaragua change of affairs, and is intending to take such future steps as may be found most consistent with its dignity, its duty to American interests and its moral obligations to Central America and to civilization.

#### Department of State.

I earnestly recommend to the favorable consideration of the congress the estimates submitted by the department of state and most especially the legislation suggested in the secretary of state's letter of this date, whereby it will be possible to develop and make permanent the reorganization of the department upon modern lines in a manner to make it a thoroughly efficient instrument in the furtherance of our foreign trade and of American interests abroad. The plan to have divisions of Latin-American and Far-Eastern affairs and to institute a certain specialization in business with Europe and the near east will at once commend itself. These politico-geographical divisions and the detail from the diplomatic or consular service to the department of a number of men who bring to the study of complicated problems in different parts of the world practical knowledge recently gained on the spot, clearly is of the greatest advantage to the secretary of state in foreseeing conditions likely to arise and in conducting the great variety of corre-

spondence and negotiation. It should be remembered that such facilities exist in the foreign offices of all the leading commercial nations and that to deny them to the secretary of state would be to place this government at a great disadvantage in the rivalry of commercial competition.

The consular service has been improved under the law of April 5, 1906, and the executive order of June 27, 1906, and I commend to your consideration the question of embodying in a statute the principles of the present executive order upon which the efficiency of our consular service is wholly dependent.

#### Expenditures and Revenues.

Perhaps the most important question presented to this administration is that of economy in expenditures and sufficiency of revenue. The deficit of the last fiscal year, and the certain deficit to throw a greater responsibility on the executive and the secretary of the treasury than had heretofore been declared by statute. This declaration imposes upon the secretary of the treasury the duty of assembling all the estimates of the executive departments, bureaus and offices of the expenditures necessary in the ensuing fiscal year, and of making an estimate of the revenues of the government for the same period; and if a probable deficit is thus shown, it is made the duty of the president to recommend the method by which such deficit can be met.

The report of the secretary shows that the ordinary expenditures for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, will exceed the estimated receipts by \$24,975,626. If to this deficit is added the sum to be disbursed for the Panama Canal, amounting to \$35,000,000, and \$1,000,000 to be paid on the public debt, the deficit of ordinary receipts and expenditures will be increased to a total deficit of \$73,975,626. This deficit the secretary proposes to meet by the proceeds of bonds issued to pay the cost of constructing the Panama Canal.

In order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year, I directed the heads of departments to make their heads of their estimates to the president as low as possible consistent with imperative governmental necessities.

#### Civil Pensions.

I am aware that there is a strong feeling in both houses of congress, and possibly in the country, against the establishment of civil pensions, and that this has naturally grown out of the heavy burden of military pensions, which it has always been the policy of our government to assume; but I am strongly convinced that no other practical solution of the difficulties presented by the superannuation of civil servants can be found than that of a system of civil pensions.

#### 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 employes 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 suit against the beneficiary of the fraud, but there was an express 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 employes of the companies 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 probing 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.

#### The Tariff Act.

Two features of the new tariff act call for special reference. By virtue of the clause known as the "maximum and minimum" clause, it is the duty of the executive to consider the laws and practices of other countries with reference to the importation into those countries of the products and merchandise of the United States, and if the executive finds such laws and practices not to be unduly discriminatory against the United States, the minimum duties provided in the bill are to go into force. Unless the president makes such a finding, then the maximum duties provided in the bill, that is, an increase of 25 per cent. ad valorem over the minimum duties are to be in force. Fear has been expressed that this power conferred and duty imposed on the executive is likely to lead to a tariff war. I beg to express the hope and belief that no such result need be anticipated.

The discretion granted to the executive by the terms "unduly discriminatory" is wide. In order that the maximum duty shall be charged against the imports from a country, it is necessary that he 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. I conceive that this power was reposed in the president with the hope that the maximum duties might never be applied in any case, but that the power to apply them would enable the president and the state department through friendly negotiation to secure the elimination from the laws and the practice under them of any foreign country of that which is unduly discriminatory. That is, is seeking a tariff war or a condition in which the spirit of retaliation shall be aroused.

#### Needs of the Navy.

The return of the battleship fleet from its voyage around the world, in more than a noteworthy event of interest alike to our citizens and the naval authorities of the world. Besides the beneficial and far-reaching effects on our personal and diplomatic relations in the countries which the fleet visited, the marked success of the ships in steaming around the world in all weathers in schedule time

has increased respect for our navy and has added to our national prestige.

#### Injunctions Without Notice.

The platform of the successful party in the last election contained the following: "The Republican party will uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the courts, state and federal, and will ever insist that their powers to enforce their process and protect life, liberty and property shall be preserved inviolate. We believe, however, 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. The ends of justice will best be met and the chief cause of complaint against ill-considered injunctions without notice will be removed by the enactment of a statute forbidding hereafter the issuing of any injunction or restraining order, whether temporary or permanent, by any federal court, without previous notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard on behalf of the parties to be enjoined; unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court that the delay necessary to give such notice and hearing would result in irreparable injury to the complainant and unless also a court shall from the evidence make a written finding, which shall be spread upon the court minutes, that immediate and irreparable injury is likely to ensue to the complainant, and shall define the injury, state why it is irreparable and shall also endorse on the order issued the date and the hour of the issuance of the order. Moreover, every such injunction or restraining order issued without previous notice and opportunity by the defendant to be heard should be void by the statute to 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 the injunction or order is extended or renewed after previous notice and opportunity to be heard.

#### Second-Class Mail Matter.

The deficit every year in the post-office department is largely caused by the low rate of postage of one cent a pound charged on second-class newspapers and magazines and miscellaneous periodicals. The actual loss growing out of the transmission of this second-class mail matter at one cent a pound amounts to about \$23,000,000 a year. The average cost of the transportation of this matter is more than nine cents a pound.

It appears that the average distance over which newspapers are delivered to their customers is 291 miles, while the average haul of magazines is 1,943, and of miscellaneous periodicals 1,123 miles. Thus, the average haul of the magazine is three and one-half times and that of the miscellaneous periodical nearly four times the haul of the daily newspaper, yet all of them pay the same postage rate of one cent a pound. The statistics of 1907 show that second-class mail matter constituted 63.91 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, and congress may well consider whether radical steps should not be taken to reduce the deficit in the postoffice department caused by this discrepancy between the actual cost of transportation and the compensation exacted therefor.

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. They are much heavier than newspapers and contain a much higher proportion of advertising to reading matter, and the average distance of their transportation is three and a half times as great.

#### Postal Savings Banks.

The second subject worthy of mention in the postoffice department is the real necessity and entire practicability of establishing postal savings banks. The successful party at the last election declared in favor of postal savings banks, and although the proposition finds opponents in many parts of the country, I am convinced that the people desire such banks, and am sure that when the banks are furnished they will be productive of the utmost good.

#### Favors Ship Subsidy.

Following the course of my distinguished predecessor, I earnestly recommend to congress the consideration and passage of a ship subsidy bill, looking to the establishment of lines between our Atlantic seaboard and the eastern coast of South America, as well as lines from the west coast of the United States to the Philippines, China, Japan and the Hawaiian Islands. The profits measure of the expenditures which might first be tentatively applied to this method of inducing American capital to undertake the establishment of American lines of steamships in those directions in which we now feel it most important that we should have means of transportation controlled in the interest of the expansion of our trade. A bill of this character has once passed the house and more than once passed the senate, and I hope that at this session a bill framed on the same lines and with the same purposes may become a law.

#### Conserving National 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 on the subject of the improvement of our waterways, upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid, and swamp lands; upon the preservation of our forests and the reforestation of suitable areas; upon the reclassification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement mineral, coal, and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power.

#### Political Contribution.

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.

# GET COOK'S DATA

## COOK'S DATA HAS ARRIVED SAFELY AT COPEN HAGEN—NOW IN UNIVERSITY.

### CONTROVERSY ON AGAIN

#### Arrival of Papers in Europe Causes Revival of Cook-Pearry Controversy—Talk of Anti-Cook Press Campaign.

Copenhagen, Dec. 8.—The north polar observations of Dr. Frederick A. Cook reached here today on board the steamer United States.

Extraordinary precautions were taken to make sure that the long heralded data were delivered safely to the University of Copenhagen authorities. As soon as the United States was tied up at her pier, an iron box containing Dr. Cook's report and diaries in which his original entries were made, was brought ashore. The box was closely followed by Walter Lonsdale, Dr. Cook's secretary, who had stood guard over its contents since they left the hands of the explorer. Upon the pier Lonsdale and two detectives bundled the iron box into a motor car, and jumping in themselves were driven hastily to the University of Copenhagen.

At the university the papers were immediately turned over to the authorities there, and placed in a strong room, where they will be guarded closely, until the committee appointed to examine them is ready to begin.

The coming of Dr. Cook's papers is accompanied with signs of a revival of the Cook-Pearry controversy.

Boltiken asserts this morning that the supporters of Commander Peary were trying to enlist the services of Greenland explorers in the organization of an anti-Cook press campaign.

### BOTH SIDES MAKE CLAIMS.

#### Statements Directly Contradictory Are Still Issued.

St. Paul, Dec. 8.—"The strike is broken," and "the railroads are tied up tighter than ever," is representative of the status of the switchmen's strike of the northwest today.

The first assertion is that the railroad managers are making and the other is that of the strike leaders.

The railroads, however, have the advantage of being able to make a showing. They are delivering the goods.

They demonstrated to a party of business men yesterday that they were moving freight in the yards as well as out of the warehouses.

The business men are satisfied that the strike is broken. "We positively know this," said a well known manufacturer of pianos to the Associated Press today.

Pres. Frank T. Hawley, of the Switchmen's Union of North America, will leave for the east tonight and he will meet President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati on Friday, when the situation relative to the switchmen's strike in the northwest will be discussed. Mr. Gompers, it is said, has been kept informed daily as to the conditions in this territory and both he and Secretary Morrison have pledged the financial and moral support of the federation to the strikers.

### The Tin Plate Strike.

Pittsburg, Dec. 8.—The strike of the Amalgamated association of Iron, Steel and Tin workers against the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation, which has been in progress during the past five months, in the states of Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, is gradually assuming serious proportions.

Developments in the labor dispute today clearly demonstrated the temper of the participants. A house, occupied by non-union men at Struthers, Ohio, was dynamited and seven persons injured.

### President Sheldon Indicted.

New York, Dec. 8.—George P. Sheldon, who was recently deposed as president of the Phoenix Insurance Co. of Brooklyn and who is critically ill at his home in Greenwich, Conn., was indicted by a grand jury today for grand larceny, in connection with the alleged looting of the fire insurance company's treasury to the extent of \$1,000,000 or more.

### Girl Painted Red.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 8.—The state board of regents started an investigation today into the hazing of Miss Mattie Taylor, a student of Fairmont State normal school at Fairmont, W. Va. She was given an ice bath and painted red, it is alleged, because she rooted for the wrong football team recently. Miss Taylor is a daughter of a prominent attorney of Elkins, W. Va.

### Keeps Strick Censorship.

Panama, Dec. 8.—Passengers from Nicaragua say the people in that republic are kept in ignorance of what is happening in the country. So strict is the censorship maintained by President Zelaya that residents of the western part of Nicaragua have not learned of the breaking off of diplomatic relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

#### Daily Thought.

There's nothing like settling with ourselves, as there's a deal we must do without in this life.—George Elliot

#### HAVE YOU A COUGH, OR COLD?

If so take at once Allen's Lung Balm and watch results. Simple, safe, effective. All dealers. Popular prices—25c, 50c and \$1.00 bottles.

The main ingredients of true manliness are a forgetfulness of self and a constant regard for duty.—Butler.

#### WE PAY HIGH PRICE FOR HIDES

and furs & sell guns and traps cheap. N. W. Hyde & Fur Co., Minneapolis.

A giggling girl is apt to become a cackling woman.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Sugar-coated, tiny granules. Easy to take as candy.

As an eye-opener, what's the matter with an alarm clock.

# WESTERN CANADA

## What J. I. Hill, the Great Railroad Magnate, Says About its Wheat-Producing Power.

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were harvested in 1909. Average of the three provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will be upwards of 23 bushels per acre.

Free homesteads of 160 acres and adjoining pre-emptions of 160 acres at \$3 per acre, are to be had in the choicest districts. Schools convenient, climate excellent, soil the very best, railways close at hand, building lumber cheap. Fuel easy to get and reasonable in price, water easily procured; mixed farming a success. Write us to best place for settlement, settlers' low railway rates, descriptive literature. "Let West" sent free on application, and other information, to Dept. of Immigration, Ottawa, Can., or the Canadian Government Agent.

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