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TAFT'S MESSAGE TO SENATE AND HOUSE

ECONOMY KEYNOTE OF MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Urges Permanent Tariff Board--Opposes Another General Tariff Revision.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Congress gave respectful attention to President Taft's message today, but there were comparatively few members who were willing to concede the probability of favorable action to the present session of the many recommendations contained therein. The general opinion is that time would not permit of action in view of the fact that the session will close March 4.

The message was delivered to both houses by Secretary Latta soon after they convened at noon.

The reading of the document, which was of unusual length, was begun at 12.19 p. m., in the senate. At first most of the senators listened attentively to the reading, but gradually this attention ceased upon the part of the most of them. And those who remained in the chamber devoted themselves to printed copies before them.

In the house close attention at first was paid to the reading clerk. The interest soon lagged, however, and those who remained in their seats did so to study the printed copies that had been placed on every desk.

The outstanding features of President Taft's message, sent to congress today, are these:

He declares it is time to stop legislating with reference to regulation of corporations and to witness the effect of a vigorous execution of the laws already on the statute books. The exact limitation upon business methods imposed by law will doubtless be made clearer by pending decisions of the supreme court.

Just at this time the president says he believes the activities of the government, in addition to enforcement of the laws should be directed toward economy of administration, the enlargement of opportunities for foreign trade, the building up of home industry and the strengthening of confidence of capital in domestic investment.

Mr. Taft recommends strongly some

form of ship subsidiary to increase American shipping, especially to South America.

The tariff board is not ready to submit a report on any of the schedules of the Payne law and Mr. Taft says he will not recommend any tariff legislation until the new congress convenes in December, 1911.

He urges that the tariff board be made permanent and that all future revisions be made schedule by schedule. He vigorously opposes another general revision.

The Panama Canal should by all means be fortified. An appropriation of \$19,000,000 is recommended for this purpose.

There must be no more "pork barrel" methods in river and harbor and public building bills. The latter should be based upon the report of a commission of experts. The past congress has appropriated too much for buildings not needed and not enough for buildings badly needed.

Recommendation for anti-injunction and Federal incorporation laws are renewed.

It is proposed that second-class mail rates should be readjusted so as to charge magazines a much higher rate on their advertising sections.

Strong representations are made for the establishment of a new banking and currency system.

Two new battleships and several auxiliary vessels are urged for the navy.

The president recommends that coal, phosphate and oil lands and water power sites be disposed of in the future by leasing.

Estimates for government expenditures during the next fiscal year have been cut to \$630,494,013.12, which is \$52,964,887.36 less than the actual appropriations for the current year. The estimated receipts for the next fiscal year were \$80,000,000.

The president urges the extension of the civil service principle to all classes of postmasters and to the diplomatic and consular corps, and the acquisition by the government of residences and offices for its diplomatic officers.

Some criticisms of the Payne Tariff act are just, says the president, but more are unfounded.

There should be more officers for the army. The engineer corps should be increased by sixty.

Regarding the Panama Canal the

president says:

"The progress of the work is most satisfactory. It will be completed well within the time set, January 1, 1915, and within the estimated cost of \$375,000,000. The slides in Culebra Cut offer no great reason for delay."

Failure to fortify the canal would leave the United States powerless to enforce the universal and equal use of the waterway against a desperate and irresponsible enemy, and would defeat the object of the canal in increasing the military effectiveness of the American army.

The tolls should not exceed \$1 per net ton. The president should be authorized to adjust the rates as necessity arises. The government should include in its management of the canal the furnishing not only to the navy, but to the public as well, dry dock and repair facilities and the sale of coal, oil and other ship supplies.

Inter-State railroads should be prevented from owning or controlling ships trading through the canal.

Regarding the courts the president declares the crying need of the United States is cheapening the cost of litigation by simplifying judicial procedure and expediting final judgment. The supreme court should be relieved from unnecessary appeals. The salaries of Federal judges should be increased.

Postal savings banks will be established in a number of cities January 1. A parcels post on rural delivery routes is recommended. Postmaster General Hitchcock is given high praise for putting the postoffice department on a self-sustaining basis.

The president recommends that congress give some fitting recognition of the polar discoveries of Commander Robert E. Peary. The secretary of navy suggests that Peary be made a rear admiral and placed on the retired list.

The stupendous value of agricultural products amounting to \$8,926,000,000 this year, indicates a good prospect for business throughout the country.

The present census promises to be the best ever taken, but is not perfect. The census takers are to be vigorously prosecuted.

A bureau of health should be established.

The Southern Pacific Railroad should be reimbursed for its expenditures in fighting the floods in the imperial valley of California several years ago.

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Heavier fines should be imposed against steamship companies for violating the immigration laws. The facilities at Ellis Island, New York, should not be so increased as to offer an inducement to the steamship companies to concentrate their immigrant business at one port. Immigrants are needed in the rural districts.

Some provision should be made for retiring superannuated government clerks.

The only amendments suggested in the interstate commerce law are an appropriation to enable the interstate commerce commission to ascertain the valuation of railroads and fixing the responsibilities of public carriers in the issuance of bills of lading.

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