

PRESIDENT TELLS OF CONDITIONS IN PORTO RICO

Special Message the Result of Chief Executive's Recent Visit.

MUCH GOOD WORK DONE

Progress Made Under American Administration is Pointed to with Pride—Last Year the Most Prosperous the Island Has Ever Known—Congress Urged to Confer Full American Citizenship Upon the Porto Ricans—Would Have All Insular Governments Placed in One Bureau.

Washington.—President Roosevelt's message, describing conditions in Porto Rico, and making recommendations for legislation he believes necessary, was read to the congress. It is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

On November 21 I visited the island of Porto Rico, landing at Ponce, crossing by the old Spanish road by Cayey to San Juan, and returning next morning over the new American road from Arecibo to Ponce; the scenery was wonderfully beautiful, especially among the mountains of the interior, which constitute a veritable tropic Switzerland. I could not embark at San Juan because the harbor has not been dredged out and can not receive an American battleship. I do not think this fact creditable to us as a nation, and I earnestly hope that immediate provision will be made for dredging San Juan harbor.

I doubt whether our people as a whole realize the beauty and fertility of Porto Rico, and the progress that has been made under its admirable government. We have just cause for pride in the character of our representatives who have administered the tropic islands which came under our flag as a result of the war with Spain; and of no one of them is this more true than of Porto Rico. It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government.

I stopped at a dozen towns all told, and one of the notable features in every town was the gathering of the school children. The work that has been done in Porto Rico for education has been noteworthy. The main emphasis, as is eminently wise and proper, has been put upon primary education; but in addition to this there is a normal school, and agricultural school, three industrial and three high schools. Every effort is being made to secure not only the benefits of elementary education to all the Porto Ricans of the next generation, but also as far as means will permit to train them so that the industrial, agricultural and commercial opportunities of the island can be utilized to the best possible advantage. It was evident at a glance that the teachers, both Americans and native Porto Ricans, were devoted to their work, took the greatest pride in it, and were endeavoring to train their pupils, not only in mind, but in what counts for far more than mind in citizenship, that is, in character.

I was very much struck by the excellent character both of the insular police and of the Porto Rican regiment. They are both of them bodies that reflect credit upon the American administration of the island. The insular police are under the local Porto Rican government. The Porto Rican regiment of troops must be appropriated for by the congress. I earnestly hope that this body will be kept permanent. There should certainly be troops in the island, and it is wise that these troops should be themselves native Porto Ricans. It would be from every standpoint a mistake not to perpetuate this regiment.

In traversing the island even the most cursory survey leaves the beholder struck with the evident rapid growth in the culture both of the sugar cane and tobacco. The fruit industry is also growing. Last year was the most prosperous year that the island has ever known before or since the American occupation. The total of exports and imports of the island was \$45,000,000, as against \$18,000,000 in 1901. This is the largest in the island's history. Prior to the American occupation the greatest trade for any one year was that of 1896, when it reached nearly \$23,000,000. Last year, therefore, there was double the trade that there was in the most prosperous year under the Spanish regime. There were 219,273 tons of sugar exported last year, of the value of \$14,186,319; \$3,555,163 of tobacco, and 28,290,322 pounds of coffee of the value of \$3,481,102. Unfortunately, what used to be Porto Rico's prime crop—coffee—has not shared this prosperity. It has never recovered from the disaster of the hurricane, and, moreover, the benefit of throwing open our market to it has not compensated for the loss inflicted by the closing of

the markets to it abroad. I call your attention to the accompanying memorial on this subject of the board of trade of San Juan, and I earnestly hope that some measure will be taken for the benefit of the excellent and high grade Porto Rican coffee.

In addition to delegations from the board of trade and chamber of commerce of San Juan, I also received delegations from the Porto Rican Federation of Labor, and from the Coffee Growers' association.

There is a matter to which I wish to call your especial attention, and that is the desirability of conferring full American citizenship upon the people of Porto Rico. I most earnestly hope that this will be done. I can not see how any harm can possibly result from it, and it seems to me a matter of right and justice to the people of Porto Rico. They are loyal, they are glad to be under our flag, they are making rapid progress along the path of orderly liberty. Surely we should show our appreciation of them, our pride in what they have done, and our pleasure in extending recognition for what has thus been done, by granting them full American citizenship.

Under the wise administration of the present governor and council, marked progress has been made in the difficult matter of granting to the people of the island the largest measure of self-government that can with safety be given at the present time. It would have been a very serious mistake to have gone any faster than we have already gone in this direction. The Porto Ricans have complete and absolute autonomy in all their municipal governments, the only power over them possessed by the insular government being that of removing corrupt or incompetent municipal officials. This power has never been exercised save on the clearest proof of corruption or of incompetence—such as to jeopardize the interests of the people of the island; and under such circumstances it has been fearlessly used to the immense benefit of the people. It is not a power with which it would be safe, for the sake of the island itself, to dispense at present. The lower house is absolutely elective, while the upper house is appointive. This scheme is working well; no injustice of any kind results from it, and great benefit to the island, and it should certainly not be changed at this time. The machinery of the elections is administered entirely by the Porto Rican people themselves, the governor and council keeping only such supervision as is necessary in order to insure an orderly election. Any protest as to electoral frauds is settled in the courts. Here again it would not be safe to make any change in the present system. The elections this year were absolutely orderly, unaccompanied by any disturbance; and no protest has been made against the management of the elections, although three contests are threatened where the majorities were very small and error was claimed; the contests, of course, to be settled in the courts. In short, the governor and council are cooperating with all of the most enlightened and most patriotic of the people of Porto Rico in educating the citizens of the island in the principles of orderly liberty. They are providing a government based upon each citizen's self-respect, and the mutual respect of all citizens; that is, based upon a rigid observance of the principles of justice and honesty. It has not been easy to instill into the minds of people unaccustomed to the exercise of freedom the two basic principles of our American system; the principle that the majority must rule, and the principle that the minority has rights which must not be disregarded or trampled upon. Yet real progress has been made in having these principles accepted as elementary, as the foundations of successful self-government.

I transmit herewith the report of the governor of Porto Rico, sent to the president through the secretary of state.

All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of war or the department of state. It is a mistake not to arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another.

In conclusion let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with its administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well-nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

White House, Dec. 11, 1906.

Aristocratic French Cabman.

One of the vicissitudes of life has been revealed by the death of an old cabman at St. Germain-en-Laye, France. It transpires that the unfortunate old fellow was entitled to style himself the marquis de Loz de Goubet-Gourand. It is an old Spanish peerage and in his earlier days the last unfortunate holder of the title had lived in circumstances befitting his rank. But the latter part of his life was clouded by constant misfortune and at last, two years ago, poverty compelled him in his old age to take to driving a cab to eke out a wretched existence.

Bound to Keep Boys Busy.

The Burgess Hill (England) group of council school managers, not being allowed to encourage rifle shooting among the boys, have decided to seek consent of the East Sussex education authority to give instruction in gardening.

THIS IN NEBRASKA

EVENTS OF INTEREST OF MORE OR LESS IMPORTANCE.

Some Figures on the Corn Crop in Nebraska—Custer County First in Production.

Nebraska Corn Crop Figures.

LINCOLN—According to statistics issued by the state labor bureau, the total production of corn in Nebraska the present year is 241,383,537 bushels, as compared with 243,713,244 bushels in 1905, or a decrease this year of 2,329,707 bushels. There was an increase in the acreage of corn this year of 368,418 acres over 1905, but in spite of this the total production of the crop was lessened by hail in various sections, together with a period of dry weather at a critical time in the crop's growth. The average yield last year of 37.65 bushels per acre was extremely high and the yield of 35.23 bushels is nearer normal, but a high yield also. This decrease in the production decreases the total value \$8,173,388.92 from the value of the 1905 crop, which reached a total of \$79,485,297.60. The 1906 crop is valued at \$89,311,908.92.

Lancaster county ranks first in acreage with 243,475 acres, and an average yield of 32.2 bushels per acre.

Custer county ranks first in production, with 8,251,158 bushels, and Lancaster county takes second place, with a production of 7,839,895 bushels. Saunders county takes third place, with 7,434,003 bushels produced.

County.	Acreage.	Yield, Bush.	Production, Bush.
Antelope	80,764	31.7	2,560,221
Banner	118,588	31.7	3,748,336
Blaine	2,927	18.3	53,504
Boone	5,515	28.7	158,280
Box Butte	102,422	35.5	3,638,581
Boyd	4,108	28.6	117,570
Brown	60,009	36.8	2,205,331
Buffalo	23,535	30.7	722,524
Butler	81,273	39.0	3,209,413
Cadiz	7,564	34.7	264,493
Cass	121,581	35.1	4,267,493
Central	125,059	37.5	4,689,712
Chadron	123,583	38.6	4,784,493
Chase	39,184	35.8	1,398,579
Cherry	24,223	28.1	680,566
Cheyenne	7,900	28.1	221,990
Clay	109,873	32.5	3,571,331
Colfax	74,379	40.0	2,975,160
Cuming	102,448	42.1	4,313,060
Custer	232,427	35.5	8,251,158
Dakota	44,175	45.1	1,985,292
Dawes	4,282	29.0	124,286
Dawson	131,947	40.8	5,382,437
Deuel	18,491	33.8	623,395
Dixon	72,375	40.2	2,909,475
Dodge	99,775	37.1	3,701,652
Douglas	68,191	38.2	2,604,896
Dundy	42,110	24.2	1,019,062
Fillmore	121,726	37.6	4,576,897
Franklin	85,493	35.6	3,044,493
Frontier	122,575	35.4	4,345,597
Furnas	106,757	37.1	3,960,684
Gage	185,531	32.5	6,015,783
Garfield	29,843	30.5	900,910
Gosper	87,105	35.0	3,048,675
Grant	42	25.0	1,050
Greeley	58,882	38.8	2,276,161
Hall	2,496	15.5	38,693
Hamilton	113,173	38.3	4,334,525
Harlan	129,875	42.0	5,454,750
Havens	52,494	25.0	1,312,350
Jefferson	72,292	35.6	2,586,894
Jones	98,513	38.2	3,761,913
Holt	93,223	28.3	2,651,744
Hooker	2,205	20.0	44,100
Howard	78,690	37.6	2,958,714
Kimberly	112,292	32.6	3,660,895
Johnson	79,013	32.8	2,591,626
Kearney	84,554	35.3	2,984,756
Keith	12,308	32.5	400,010
Kearney	85,805	42.2	3,632,913
Kimball	828	17.5	14,490
Knox	224,323	31.5	7,068,379
Lancaster	243,475	29.2	7,139,895
Lincoln	1,424	35.8	51,165
Logan	10,494	38.5	400,581
Loup	13,766	31.1	428,122
Madison	96,580	31.4	2,993,980
McPherson	77,306	31.0	2,417,486
Merrick	67,968	36.7	2,481,395
Nance	70,752	38.2	2,702,726
Nemaha	75,282	37.0	2,794,236
Nichols	143,568	37.0	5,312,016
Otoe	71,374	32.1	2,291,195
Park	17,393	25.8	448,729
Pawnee	85,805	42.2	3,632,913
Pierce	81,636	30.0	2,440,080
Platte	136,020	38.2	5,195,964
Polk	86,122	38.8	3,343,533
Red Willow	72,292	28.6	2,068,894
Richardson	98,747	38.0	3,752,386
Rock	15,028	28.4	426,795
Saline	118,639	35.1	4,166,334
Sarpy	52,865	32.8	1,745,432
Saunders	180,876	41.1	7,434,003
Scott's Bluff	2,196	30.0	65,880
Seward	119,301	37.0	4,416,337
Sheridan	14,249	30.0	429,470
Sherman	58,592	34.5	2,018,319
Sioux	2,006	19.5	38,715
Stanton	78,290	34.5	2,701,005
Thayer	114,599	29.7	3,405,590
Thomas	1,925	25.0	48,125
Thurston	66,789	38.4	2,564,697
Valley	72,301	38.7	2,811,145
Washington	18,490	32.8	607,432
Wayne	92,664	37.2	3,447,100
Webster	109,945	34.3	3,771,113
Wheeler	13,780	29.5	406,510
York	120,792	37.6	4,541,778
Totals	6,840,905	35.28	241,383,537

Consolidating Two Homes.

An effort will be made this year to consolidate the Girls' Industrial home at Milford with the Home for the Friendless at Lincoln, the united home to be at Milford. This will leave the entire building now used for the Friendless and the Orthopedic hospital for the use of the latter. The Orthopedic hospital needs more room, and Superintendent Lord will recommend a large appropriation for a new building, but as a lot of legislators will object to this expenditure, the consolidation likely will be effected.

Change in the State Normal.

LINCOLN—A resolution will be offered at the next meeting of the State Normal board which, if adopted, probably will make unnecessary the appropriation asked for to increase the capacity of the Kearney Normal school. This resolution, which will be offered by State Treasurer Mortensen, will provide no students can be admitted to the normal school who have not passed the tenth grade.

Nebraska Insurance Companies.

Blanks asking for information in regard to the business of the last year are being sent out to all insurance companies by Insurance Auditor John L. Pierce. Life companies receive blanks containing thirty-six pages. Minute explanations as to the manner of conducting business may be made by companies which have been in the state only one year. They must tell how their money is invested, give an itemized account of their gains and losses and show the exact cost of obtaining new business.

NEBRASKA BRIEFS.

The Fremont poultry show, held last week, was highly successful.

The Catholics of Beatrice have taken initiatory steps for building a church.

Sutherland is doing so much building that the carpenters cannot take care of it all.

The revival meetings in Fremont were so successful that they were extended another week.

Several fatal cases of diphtheria have occurred near Arberville and in the vicinity of Clarks.

The remains of Mrs. Mildred Horne, who died at Kirksville, Mo., were brought to Blue Hill for burial.

Corn stalk disease is again among the cattle of Platte county. John H. Wilke has lost eight head with the disease.

An epidemic of diphtheria has caused the temporary dismissal of the school in district No. 10, Richardson county.

The Beatrice Gas & Power company, with a capital of \$150,000, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state.

A horse stolen from the barn of John Hebebrand, near Hooper, returned home after several days' absence, nearly starved.

Three bloodhounds were received by City Marshal Owens of Geneva by express from Texas. They are thoroughbred and carefully trained.

Wilke C. Coble's ranch house, nine miles south of Hyannis, burned to the ground. The building was just completed at a cost of \$1,200.

The Berwyn State bank of Custer county has received a charter from the state banking board. The capital stock of the new bank is \$50,000.

Deputy Sheriff Yates served tax notice on the C. & Q. railway agents at Fairmont and Grafton, and the sheriff served a notice on the agent at Geneva.

A judgment of \$3,000, given in the district court of Platte county in favor of Minnie Edmondson, administratrix, and against the Union Pacific Railroad company, has been affirmed by the supreme court.

Charges of such a serious nature have been made against the management of the Kearney Normal school, implicating some members of the Normal board, that a legislative investigation seems imperative.

Nicholas Gentleman, who was convicted of murder in the second degree in Platte county nearly six years ago, has filed an application for pardon. Governor Mickey will hear the case December 24 at 11 a. m.

A requisition has been issued by Governor Mickey for the return to Nebraska from Delaware county, New York, of Vagas Stenbeck. Rome Miller of Omaha accuses the man of the embezzlement of \$162.50.

County Treasurer Bowlby of Saline county has been notified by telegraph that an order has been issued by Judge Munger in the federal court to restrain him from collecting delinquent taxes for 1906 from the C. B. & Q. railroad.

Charles Scribner was arrested at Beatrice on a complaint sworn out by Mrs. Maggie Scribner, charging him with wife desertion. Scribner has been working for Swift & Co. at Wichita, Kas., and was arrested soon after his arrival in town.

State Deputy Land Commissioner H. M. Eaton and his deputy, J. M. Shively, are the first officials to file their bonds with the governor for the coming two years. Both instruments are signed by the American Surety company of Baltimore. Mr. Eaton's being for \$50,000 and Mr. Shively's for \$10,000.

Adjutant General Culver has received official information to the effect that the new cannon demanded for the marksmen of Nebraska cannot be furnished by the war department at this time. The secretary of war stated that the battery at Wymore has not reached a sufficient degree of efficiency to merit new guns.

William Campion of Seward was found guilty of deserting the illegitimate child of Nellie Lattimer, after a trial of three days. Governor Mickey had pardoned Campion out of jail under the charge of being the father of the child, but Judge Good remanded the young man to jail because the \$1,000 judgment had not been paid.

The sum of \$3,000 is asked by Miss Lydia McMahon, superintendent of the Geneva Industrial school, for the maintenance of the school during the coming two years. Her biennial report, which has been filed with Governor Mickey, shows that the cost of maintenance per capita during the last two years has been less than 50 cents per day.

In the potato industry Sheridan county leads the state in acreage and total production, having an acreage of 5,326 and a production of 335,528 bushels. Box Butte county takes second rank, with 4,867 acres and 257,951 bushels produced. Dawes county ranks third in acreage with 2,725, but is passed by Scott's Bluff in production, the latter having produced 243,360 bushels.

At Grand Island, in the case of the state against Snyder for burglary, the defendant was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail. The man, while intoxicated some months ago, tried to break into the home of Mr. Garver, an express agent.

Peter Hedman was accidentally killed near Stromsburg. He was hauling manure to the dump at the creek bank and while driving close to the edge to get near enough to unload the wagon wheel dropped into a hole concealed by rubbish and the wagon fell over upon him.

THE FALL OF JERICO

A STORY OF THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher.

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Scripture Authority:—Joshua, chapter 6.

SERMONETTE.

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor."

God gives men visions of great victories that are possible of realization because his omnipotence is behind them.

Men dream of conquest. Men plan large things apart from God. But the dream never becomes anything but a dream and the plans "gang aft a-glee."

What disappointments life holds for those who plan and work and strive apart from God. Solomon, the man of rare gifts, and wonderful achievements, turns at last from the sphere of human endeavor, which is temporal, and cries: "I know that whatsoever God desireth, it shall be forever."

Joshua early in his career as leader of the children of Israel caught this vision of the sure working of God, and to him God gave the assurance of victory along the lines of his will.

There was Jericho great and strong, her massive walls seemingly impregnable; there was her king, proud and defiant; there were the mighty men of valor ready to die in defense of the city.

This was what Joshua saw perhaps before he sought out the Lord and obtained a vision from the Divine viewpoint.

But after that it was no longer the strong walled city and the powerful king and the mighty men of valor which he saw, but rather that city low in the dust, that king and his army within his power.

Such was the vision; such was the promise of God. But as Joshua went out the next day the city was still there, the king was still on his throne, the mighty men of valor still watching on the wall.

There was much to do to make the vision a reality; to claim the promise of God. But the vision and the promise were the goal ahead towards which unhesitatingly and unyieldingly Joshua strove. He knew he should attain, because God had willed it.

Look up, O Christian! Catch the heaven-born vision! Hear the God-given promise of victory.

There is many a Jericho in thy life that must be conquered before you can enter into the full possession of the land God has purposed to give you.

THE STORY.

THE day on which the children of Israel crossed Jordan was a day of terror in Jericho. The spies which the king had sent out to watch the movements of the Israelites had returned in haste telling strange stories of how the waters of the Jordan had divided and the people and all their flocks and herds had crossed over on the dry bed of the river, and were even on their way to attack the city.

In their excitement and alarm the 40,000 fighting men which had crossed the river in advance had been magnified into a great army, and quickly the orders were given that the city gates be closed tight and a double guard be placed upon the wall. All the fighting men of the city were speedily summoned and slept upon their arms that night, expecting that an assault might be made upon the walls under cover of darkness.

That was a terrible night in Jericho. People ran through the streets like mad, cursing and fighting with each other in their wild terror, and alternately shouting maledictions upon the Israelites and their God, and calling upon their gods to hear them and help them.

Rahab and her kinsfolk gathered with her in her little house upon the wall listened to the tumult without and wondered if already the Israelites had taken the city. But no, it could not be, for that evening as the sun had set and Rahab had gone to the window to see that the scarlet cord, the pledge of her deliverance, was still in its place at the side of the casement, she had looked out across the plain and had seen the Israelites peacefully encamped.

"But they will come to-morrow," she thought, and as the tumult without increased, she turned to reassure her relatives gathered about her, when a loud pounding upon her outer door was heard. Tremblingly she went to the door, and without drawing the bar shouted to know who was there and what was wanted.

"The Israelites be upon us, Rahab," shouted a gruff voice, which she recognized as that of the captain over the guard which kept the wall, and who had been a frequent visitor to her house in times past. "Flee into the heart of the city, where the women

and children are being gathered, for in your place here upon the wall you will surely perish in the first assault which is made upon the city."

"Nay, I will stay here," Rahab shouted back.

"But thou must not! Make haste! I cannot longer parley with thee," and the captain hurried off to direct the preparations which were being made to strengthen the defenses of the city.

As Rahab went back to the little frightened circle of relatives the doubt crept into her heart: "Suppose the Israelites in their excitement and in the rage and tumult of battle did not see the sign in the window, after all. Suppose they did not remember in the fierce rush of the conflict. But she brushed aside the thought and spoke out bravely:

"We will stay here where we were bid. The scarlet cord is in the window. The God of the Israelites will remember. He will not let harm come to those who are sheltered under this sign, which is the token of his pledge of mercy."

Thus in Jericho that night while the terror was upon the city, there was in the home of Rahab the whisperings of peace, because of the slender faith which reached out after the true God and the people of the true God.

But dawn came at last, and with it a reassurance to the people of the city, which was quickly dispelled when the lookouts in the towers on the walls reported an unusual activity in the camp of Israel, and that the armed men were gathering and marching towards the city. Instantly the alarm spread throughout the city, and again the fighting men sprang to their arms. The archers stood ready at the word of command to send their swift darts into the ranks of the enemy as soon as they drew near enough, and the double line of guards upon the wall were ready to hurl their spears and the great rocks down upon the heads of the army when it should attempt to storm the walls.

So intent were the men of Jericho in making doubly sure the defenses of the city that they had not noticed what was going