PRESIDENT OUTLINES ISSUES OF THE DAY

Important Recommendations as to Legislation Made in Annual Message to Congress—Large Part of Document Devoted to Corporations and Railroad Rate Legislation—Relations of Labor and Capital Dealt With Fully.

The message of President Roosevelt, read at the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, congratulates the people on the continued prosperity of the nation. The close relationship and mutual dependence upon each other of capital and labor are pointed out, and the message continues:

Corporations.

Yet, while not merely admitting, but insisting upon this, it is also true that where there is no governmental restraint or supervision some of the exceptional men use their energies not in ways that are for the common good, but in ways which tell against this common good. The fortunes amassed through corporate organization are now so large and vest such power in those that wield them, as to make it a matter of necessity to give to the sovereign—that is, to the Government, which represents the people as a whole—some effective power of supervision over their corporate use. In order to insure a healthy social and industrial life, every big corporation should be held responsible by, and be accountable to, some sovereign strong enough to control its conduct. I am in no sense hostile to corporations. This is an age of combination, and any effort to prevent all combination will be not only useless, but in the end vicious, because of the contempt for law which the failure to enforce law inevitably produces. We should, moreover, recognize in cordial and ample fashion the immense good effected by corporate agencies in a country such as ours, and the wealth of intellect, energy, and fidelity devoted to their service and therefore normally to the service of the public, by their officers and directors. The corporation has come to stay, just as the trade union has come to stay. Each can do and has done great good. Each should be favored so long as it does good. But each should be sharply checked where it acts against law and justice.

The President shows the impossibility of the individual states dealing successfully with corporation greed, and the necessity of conferring power upon the general government even to the extent of a proper amendment to the constitution. He says:

It has been a misfortune that the national laws on this subject have hitherto been of a negative or prohibitive rather than an affirmative kind, and still more that they have in part sought to prohibit what could not be effectively prohibited, and have in part in their prohibitions confounded what should be allowed and what should not be allowed. It is generally useless to try to prohibit all restraint on competition, whether this restraint be reasonable or unreasonable; and where it is not useless it is generally hurtful. Events have shown that it is not possible adequately to secure the enforcement of any law of this kind by incessant appeal to the courts. The Department of Justice has for the last four years devoted more attention to the enforcement of the anti-trust legislation than to anything else. Much has been accomplished; particularly marked has been the moral effect of the prosecutions; but it is increasingly evident that there will be a very insufficient beneficial result in the way of economic change. The successful prosecution of one device to evade the law immediately develops another device to accomplish the same purpose. What is needed is not sweeping prohibition of every arrangement, good or bad, which may tend to restrict competition, but such adequate supervision and regulation as will prevent any restriction of competition from being to the detriment of the public—as well as such supervision and regulation as will prevent other abuses in no way connected with restriction of competition. Of these abuses, perhaps the chief, although by no means the only one, is overcapitalization—generally itself the result of dishonest promotion—because of the myriad evils it brings in its train; for such overcapitalization often means an inflation that invites business panic; it always conceals the true relation of the profit earned to the actual capital invested, and it creates a burden of interest payments which is a fertile cause of improper reduction or in limitation of wages; it damages the small investor, discourages thrift, and encourages gambling and speculation; while perhaps worst of all is the trickiness and dishonesty which it implies—for harm to morals and worse than any possible harm to material interests, and the debauchery of politics and business by great dishonest corporations is far worse than any actual material evil they do the public. Until the national government obtains, in some manner which the wisdom of the Congress may suggest, proper control over the big corporations engaged in interstate commerce—that is, over the great majority of the big corporations—it will be impossible to deal adequately with these evils.

The first consideration to be kept in mind is that the power should be affirmative and should be given to some administrative body created by the Congress. If given to the present Interstate Commerce commission, or to a reorganized Interstate Commerce commission, such commission should be made unequivocally administrative. I do not believe in the government interfering with private business more than is necessary. I do not believe in the government undertaking any work which can with propriety be left in private hands. But neither do I believe in the government flinching from overseeing any work when it becomes evident that abuses are sure to obtain therein unless there is governmental supervision. It is not my province to indicate the exact terms of the law which should be enacted; but I call the attention of the Congress to certain existing conditions with which it is desirable to deal. In my judgment the most important provision which such law should contain is that conferring upon some competent administrative body the power to decide, upon the case being brought before it, whether a given rate prescribed by a railroad is reasonable and just, and if it is found, to be unreasonable and unjust, then, after full investigation of the complaint, to prescribe the limit of rate beyond which it shall not be lawful to go—the maximum reasonable rate, as it is commonly called—this decision to go into effect within a reasonable time and to obtain from thence onward, subject to review by the courts. It sometimes happens at present not that a rate is too high but that a favored shipper is given too low a rate. In such case the commission would have the right to fix this already established minimum rate as the maximum and it would need only one or two such decisions by the commission to cure railroad companies of the practice of giving improper minimum rates. I call your attention to the fact that my proposal is not to give the commission power to initiate or originate rates generally, but to regulate a rate already fixed or originated by the roads, upon complaint and after investigation. A heavy penalty should be exacted from any corporation which fails to respect an order of the commission. I regard this power to establish a maximum rate as being essential to any scheme of real reform in the matter of railway regulation. The first necessity is to secure it; and unless it is granted to the commission there is little use in touching the subject at all.

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Continuing, the President earnestly disclaims any spirit of hostility to the railroads, pointing out the benefits to be derived by the fair-dealing roads in the even-handed administration of justice. In this both the honest railroad man and the honest shipper alike would be benefited. Ending the subject, the President says:

The question of transportation lies at the root of all industrial success, and the revolution in transportation which has taken place during the last half century has been the most important factor in the growth of the new industrial conditions. Most emphatically we do not wish to see the man of great talents refused the reward for his talents. Still less do we wish to see him penalized; but we do desire to see the system of railroad transportation so handled that the strong man shall be given no advantage over the weak man. We wish to insure as fair treatment for the small town as for the big city, for the small shipper as for the big shipper. In the old days the highway of commerce, whether by water or by a road on land, was open to all; it belonged to the public and the traffic along it was free. At present the railway is this highway, and we must do our best to see that it is kept open to all on equal terms. Unlike the old highway it is a very difficult and complex thing to manage, and it is far better that it should be managed by private individuals than by the government. But it can only be so managed on condition that justice is done the public. It is because, in my judgment, public ownership of railroads is highly undesirable and would probably in this country entail far-reaching disaster, that I wish to see such supervision and regulation of them in the interest of the public as will make it evident that there is no need for public ownership. The opponents of government regulation dwell upon the difficulties to be encountered and the intricate and involved nature of the problem. Their contention is true. It is a complicated and delicate problem, and all kinds of difficulties are sure to arise in connection with any plan of solution, while no plan will bring all the benefits hoped for by its more optimistic adherents. Moreover, under any healthy plan, rapidly. Finally, we must clearly understand that the public servants who are to do this peculiarly responsible and delicate work must themselves be of the highest type both as regards integrity and efficiency. They must be well paid, for otherwise able men can not in the long run be secured; and they must possess a lofty probity which will revolt as quickly at the thought of pandering to any gust of popular prejudice against rich men as the thought of anything even remotely resembling subserviency to rich men. But while I fully admit the difficulties in the way, I do not for a moment admit that these difficulties warrant us in stopping in our effort to secure a wise and just system. They should have no other effect than to spur us on to the exercise of the resolution, the even-handed justice, and the fertility of resource, which we like to think of as typically American, and which will in the end achieve good results in this as in other fields of activity. The task is a great one and underlies the task of dealing with the whole industrial problem. But the fact that it is a great problem does not warrant us in shrinking from the attempt to solve it. At present we face such utter lack of supervision, such freedom from the restraints of law, that excellent men have often been literally forced into doing what they deplored because otherwise they were left at the mercy of unscrupulous competitors. To rail at and assail the men who have done as they best could under the conditions accomplishes little. What we need to do is to develop an orderly system; and such a system can only come through the gradually increased exercise of the right of efficient government control.

The necessity for safety appliances on railroads, recommended in the President's message to the last Congress, is emphasized, together with the necessity for a law regulating the hours of labor of railroad men.

On the labor question, the message says:

There has been demand for depriving courts of the power to issue injunctions in labor disputes. Such special limitation of the equity powers of our courts would be most unwise. It is true that some judges have misused this power; but this does not justify a denial of the power any more than an improper exercise of the power to call a strike by a labor leader would justify the denial of the right to strike. The remedy is to regulate the procedure by requiring the judge to give due notice to the adverse parties before granting the writ, the hearing to be ex parte if the adverse party does not appear at the time and place ordered. What is due notice must depend upon the facts of the case; it should not be used as a pretext to permit violation of law, or the jeopardizing of life or property. Of course, this would not authorize the issuing of a restraining order or injunction in any case in which it is not already authorized by existing law.

I renew the recommendation I made in my last annual message for an investigation by the Department of Commerce and Labor of general labor conditions, especial attention to be paid to the conditions of child labor and child labor legislation in the several states. Such an investigation should take into account the various problems with which the question of child labor is connected. It is true that these problems can be actually met in most cases only by the states themselves, but it would be well for the nation to endeavor to secure and publish comprehensive information as to the conditions of the labor of children in the different states, so as to spur up those that are behind hand, and to secure approximately uniform legislation of a high character among the several states. In such a Republic as ours the one thing that we can not afford to neglect is the problem of turning out decent citizens. The future of the nation depends upon the citizenship of the generations to come; the children of to-day are those who to-morrow will shape the destiny of our land, and we can not afford to neglect them. The legislature of Colorado has recommended that the national government provide some general measure for the protection from abuse of children and dumb animals throughout the United States. I lay the matter before you for what I trust will be your favorable consideration.

In any great labor disturbance not only are employer and employe interested, but also a third party—the general public. Every considerable labor difficulty in which interstate commerce is involved should be investigated by the government and the facts officially reported to the public.

The question of securing a healthy, self-respecting, and mutually sympathetic attitude as between employer and employe, capitalist and wage-worker, is a difficult one. All phases of the labor problem prove difficult when approached. But the underlying principles, the root principles, in accordance with which the problem must be solved are entirely simple. We can get justice and right dealing only if we must face accomplished facts, and the principle of treating a man on his worth as a man rather than with reference to his social position, his occupation, or the class to which he belongs. There are selfish and brutal men in all ranks of life. If they are capitalists their selfishness and brutality may take the form of hard indifference to suffering, greedy disregard of every moral restraint which interferes with the accumulation of wealth, and cold-blooded exploitation of the weak; or, if they are laborers, the form of laziness, of sullen envy of the more fortunate, and of willingness to perform deeds of murderous violence. Such conduct is just as reprehensible in one case as in the other, and all honest and farseeing men should join in warring against it wherever it becomes manifest. Individual capitalist and individual wage-worker, corporation and union, are alike entitled to the protection of the law, and must alike obey the law. Moreover, in addition to mere obedience to the law, each man, if he be a really good citizen, must show broad sympathy for his neighbor and genuine desire to look at any question arising between them from the standpoint of that neighbor no less than from his own; and to this end it is essential that capitalist and wage-worker should consult freely one with the other, should each strive to bring closer the day when both shall realize that they are properly partners and not enemies. To approach the questions which inevitably arise between them solely from the standpoint which treats each side in the mass as the enemy of the other side in the mass is both wicked and foolish. In the past the most direful among the influences which have brought about the downfall of republics has ever been the growth of the class spirit, the growth of the spirit which tends to make a man subordinate the welfare of the public as a whole to the welfare of the particular class to which he belongs. This inevitably brings about a tendency to treat each man not on his merits as an individual, but on his position as belonging to a certain class in the community. If such a spirit grows up in this Republic it will ultimately prove fatal to us, as in the past it has proved fatal to every community in which it has become dominant. Unless we continue to keep a quick and lively sense of the great fundamental truth that our concern is with the individual worth of the individual man, this government cannot permanently hold the place which it has achieved among the nations. The vital lines of cleavage among our people do not correspond, and indeed run at right angles to, the lines of cleavage which divide occupation from occupation, which divide wage workers from capitalists, farmers from bankers, men of small means from men of large means, men who live in the towns from men who live in the country; for the vital line of cleavage is the line which divides the honest man who tries to do well by his neighbor from the dishonest man who does ill by his neighbor. In other words, the standard we should establish is the standard of conduct, not the standard of occupation, of means or of social position. It is the man's moral quality, his attitude toward the great questions which concern all humanity, his cleanliness of life, his power to do his duty toward himself and toward others, which really count; and if we substitute for the standard of personal judgment which treats each man according to his merits, another standard in accordance with which all men of one class are favored and all men of another class discriminated against, we shall do irreparable damage to the body politic. I believe that our people are too sane, too self-respecting, too fit for self-government, ever to adopt such an attitude. This government is not and never shall be government by a plutocracy. This government is not and never shall be government by a mob. It shall continue to be in the future what it has been in the past, a government based on the theory that each man, rich or poor, is to be treated simply and solely on his worth as a man, that all his personal and property rights are to be safeguarded, and that he is neither to wrong others nor to suffer wrong from others.

Insurance.

The great insurance companies afford striking examples of corporations whose business has extended so far beyond the jurisdiction of the states which created them as to preclude strict enforcement of supervision and regulation by the parent States. In my last annual message I recommended "that the Congress carefully consider whether the power of the Bureau of Corporations cannot constitutionally be extended to cover interstate transactions in insurance." Recent events have emphasized the importance of an early and exhaustive consideration of this question, to see whether it is not possible to furnish better safeguards than the several states have been able to furnish against corruption of the flagrant kind which has been exposed.

The Revenues.

Touching the question of tariff and revenue, the views of the President are as follows:

There is more need of stability than of the attempt to attain an ideal perfection in the methods of raising revenue; and the shock and strain to the business world certain to attend any serious change in these methods render such change inadvisable unless for grave reason. It is not possible to lay down any general rule by which to determine the moment when the reasons for will outweigh the reasons against such a change. Much must depend, not merely on the needs, but on the desires, of the people as a whole; for needs and desires are not necessarily identical. Of course no change can be made on lines beneficial to, or desired by, one section of one state only. There must be something like a general agreement among the citizens of the several states, as represented in the Congress, that the change is needed and desired in the interest of the people as a whole; and there should then be a sincere, intelligent, and disinterested effort to make it in such shape as will combine, so far as possible, the maximum of good to the people at large with the minimum of necessary disregard for the special interests of localities or classes. But in time of peace the revenue must on the average, taking a series of years together, equal the expenditures or else the revenues must be increased. Last year there was a deficit. Unless our expenditures can be kept within the revenues then our revenue laws must be readjusted. It is as yet too early to attempt to outline what shape such a readjustment should take, for it is as yet too early to say whether there will be need for it. It should be considered whether it is not desirable that the tariff laws should provide for applying as against or in favor of any other nation maximum and minimum tariff rates established by the Congress, so as to secure a certain reciprocity of treatment between other nations and ourselves. Having in view even larger considerations of policy than those of a purely economic nature, it would, in my judgment, be well to endeavor to bring about closer commercial connections with the other people of this continent. I am happy to be able to announce to you that Russia now treats us on the most favored nation basis.

Economy in Expenditures.

The necessity for economy and a rigid scrutiny of appropriations is made manifest, with this proviso:

Yet, in speaking of economy, I must in no wise be understood as advocating the false economy which is in the end the worst extravagance. To cut down on the navy, for instance, would be a crime against the nation. To fail to push forward all work on the Panama canal would be as great a folly.

Currency.

The currency question is dealt with as follows:

Every consideration of prudence demands the addition of the element of elasticity to our currency system. The evil does not consist in an adequate volume of money, but in the rigidity of this volume, which does not respond as it should to the varying needs of communities and of seasons. Inflation must be avoided, but some provision should be made that will insure a larger volume of money during the fall and winter months than in the less active seasons of the year, so that the currency will contract against speculation, and will expand for the needs of legitimate business. At present the Treasury department is at irregularly recurring intervals obliged, in the interest of the business world—that is, in the interests of the American public—to try to avert financial crises by providing a remedy which should be provided by Congressional action.

Federal Elections.

On the subject of federal elections, the President says:

"The power of the government to protect the integrity of the elections of its own officials is inherent and has been recognized and affirmed by repeated declarations of the Supreme court. There is no enemy of free government more dangerous and none so insidious as the corruption of the electorate. No one defends or excuses corruption, and it would seem to follow that none would oppose vigorous measures to eradicate it. I recommend the enactment of a law directed against bribery and corruption in federal elections. The details of such a law may be safely left to the wise discretion of the Congress, but it should go as far as under the constitution it is possible to go, and should include severe penalties against him who gives or receives a bribe intended to influence his act or opinion as an elector, and provisions for the publication not only of the expenditures for nominations and elections of all candidates, but also of all contributions received and expenditures made by political committees."

I desire to repeat this recommendation. In political campaigns in a country as large and populous as ours it is inevitable that there should be much expense of an entirely legitimate kind. This, of course, means that many contributions, and some of them of large size, must be made, and, as a matter of fact, in any big political contest such contributions are always made to both sides. It is entirely proper both to give and receive them, unless there is an improper motive connected with either gift or reception. If they are extorted by any kind of pressure or promise, express or implied, direct or indirect, in the way of favor or immunity, then the giving or receiving becomes not only improper but criminal. It will undoubtedly be difficult as a matter of practical detail to shape an act which shall guard with reasonable certainty against such misconduct; but if it is possible to secure by law the full and verified publication in detail of all the sums contributed to and expended by the candidates or committees of any political parties the result cannot but be wholesome. All contributions by corporations to any political committee or for any political purpose should be forbidden by law; directors should not be permitted to use stockholders' money for such purposes; and, moreover, a prohibition of this kind would be, as far as it went, an effective method of stopping the evils aimed at in corrupt practices acts. Not only should both the national and the several state legislatures forbid any officer of a corporation from using the money of the corporation in or about any election, but they should also forbid such use of money in connections with any legislation save by the employment of counsel in public manner for distinctly legal services.

Elaborating on the many reasons existing for the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, the message points out how the interests of our southern neighbors are identified with our own and the impossibility of the United States using the doctrine as a means for aggrandizement. The help afforded Santo Domingo in her escape from the importunities of foreign creditors and rapacious revolutionists at home is shown as a case in point.

Army and Navy.

The President insists upon the necessity for a well trained body of soldiers as a nucleus for an army in time of trouble, and that maneuvers of a practical kind should be undertaken to adapt the forces to actual conditions of warfare. An increase in the artillery force so that the coast fortifications can be adequately manned is also recommended, with liberal appropriations for the building and bringing to a state of perfection of the United States navy.

Naturalization Laws.

Of our present naturalization laws, the message says:

During the past year evidence has accumulated to confirm the expressions contained in my last two annual messages as to the importance of revising by appropriate legislation our system of naturalizing aliens. I appointed last March a commission to make a careful examination of our naturalizing laws, and to suggest appropriate measures to avoid the notorious abuses resulting from the improvident or unlawful granting of citizenship. This commission, composed of an officer of the Department of State, of the Department of Justice, and of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has discharged the duty imposed upon it, and has submitted a report, which will be transmitted to the Congress for its consideration, and, I hope, for its favorable action.

The distinguishing recommendations of the commission are:

First. A federal bureau of naturalization, to be established in the Department of Commerce and Labor, to supervise the administration of the naturalization laws and to receive returns of naturalizations pending and accomplished.

Second. Uniformity of naturalization certificates, fees to be charged and procedure.

Third. More exacting qualifications for citizenship.

Fourth. The preliminary declaration of intention to be abolished and no alien to be naturalized until at least ninety days after the filing of his petition.

Fifth. Jurisdiction to naturalize aliens to be confined to United States district courts and to such State courts as have jurisdiction in civil actions in which the amount in controversy is unlimited; in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants the United States district courts to have exclusive jurisdiction in the naturalization of the alien residents of such cities.

Merchant Marine.

On the subject of the merchant marine, the message says:

To the spread of our trade in peace and the defense of our flag in war a great and prosperous merchant marine is indispensable. We should have ships of our own and seamen of our own to convey our goods to neutral markets, and in case of need to reinforce our battle line. It cannot but be a source of regret and uneasiness to us that the lines of communication with our sister republics of South America should be chiefly under foreign control. It is not a good thing that American merchants and manufacturers should have to send their goods and letters to South America via Europe if they wish security and dispatch. Even on the Pacific, where our ships have held their own better than on the Atlantic, our merchant flag is now threatened through the liberal aid bestowed by other governments on their own steam lines. I ask your earnest consideration of the report with which the Merchant Marine commission has followed its long and careful inquiry.

Praise of the good work of the pension bureau with an acknowledgement of the debt the country owes to the veterans of the Civil war follows.

Immigration.

Continuing, the message shows clearly the necessity for checking the steamship companies in their activity in promoting the importation of undesirable immigrants, while pointing out how warmly welcome is the man of good health and moral character, who bids fair to add value to the community. An increase in the stringency of the immigration law is advocated.

On the subject of Chinese immigration the message urges the necessity for courteous treatment of the Chinese students, business and professional men who visit this country, while asserting unalterable opposition to the admission of coolies or skilled or unskilled labor from China.

Civil Service.

Some paragraphs of the message are devoted to an elucidation of the workings of the civil service law. The assertion is made that the effects of the law have been excellent.

The Philippines.

Despite the series of disasters which have afflicted the Philippine islands since the American occupation—the rinderpest, the locusts, and the drought—conditions are shown to have steadily improved and tranquillity is now almost universal. The Filipinos are beginning to realize the benefits of education, and a school attendance of 70 per cent is the result. Referring to trade between the islands and the United States, the message says:

A statute in force, enacted April 15, 1904, suspends the operation of the coastwise laws of the United States upon the trade between the Philippine islands and the United States until July 1, 1906. I earnestly recommend that this suspension be postponed until July 1, 1909. I think it of doubtful utility to apply the coastwise laws to the trade between the United States and the Philippines under any circumstances, because I am convinced that it will do no good whatever to American bottoms, and will only interfere and be an obstacle to the trade between the Philippines and the United States; but if the coastwise law must be thus applied, certainly it ought not to have effect until free trade is enjoyed between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippine islands in their respective products.

I do not anticipate that free trade between the islands and the United States will produce a revolution in the sugar and tobacco production of the Philippine islands. So primitive are the methods of agriculture in the Philippine islands, so slow is capital in going to the islands, so many difficulties surround a large agricultural enterprise in the islands, that it will be many, many years before the products of those islands will have any effect whatever upon the markets of the United States. The problem of labor is also a formidable one with the sugar and tobacco producers in the islands. The best friends of the Filipino people and the people themselves are utterly opposed to the admission of Chinese coolie labor. Hence the only solution is the training of Filipino labor, and this will take a long time. The enactment of a law by the Congress of the United States making provision for free trade between the islands and the United States, however, will be of great importance from a political and sentimental standpoint; and while its actual benefit has doubtless been exaggerated by the people of the islands, they will accept this measure of justice as an indication that the people of the United States are anxious to aid the people of the Philippine islands in every way, and especially in the agricultural development of their Archipelago. It will aid the Filipinos without injuring interests in America.

Discussing the needs of Alaska, the President recommends that the territory be given an elective delegate who will be able to speak with authority on the needs of that section of our country. The message concludes:

Admission to Statehood.

I recommend that Indian Territory and Oklahoma be admitted as one State and that New Mexico and Arizona be admitted as one State. There is no obligation upon us to treat territorial subdivisions, which are matters of convenience only, as binding us on the question of admission to statehood. Nothing has taken up more time in the Congress during the past few years than the question as to the statehood to be granted to the four Territories above mentioned, and after careful consideration of all that has been developed in the discussions of the question I recommend that they be immediately admitted as two States. There is no justification for further delay; and the advisability of making the four Territories into two States has been clearly established.

In some of the Territories the legislative assemblies issue licenses for gambling. The Congress should by law forbid this practice, the harmful results of which are obvious at a glance.

The Panama Canal.

The treaty between the United States and the Republic of Panama, under which the construction of the Panama canal was made possible, went into effect with its ratification by the United States Senate on Feb. 23, 1904. The canal properties of the French Canal Company were transferred to the United States on April 23, 1904, on payment of $40,000,000 to that company. On April 1, 1905, the Commission was reorganized, and it now consists of Theodore P. Shonts, chairman, Charles E. Magoon, Benjamin M. Harrod, Rear-Admiral Mordecai T. Endicott, Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hains and Col. Oswald H. Ernst. John F. Stevens was appointed chief engineer on July 1 last. Active work in canal construction, mainly preparatory, has been in progress for less than a year and a half. During that period two points about the canal have ceased to be open to debate. First, the question of route; the canal will be built on the isthmus of Panama. Second, the question of feasibility; there are no physical obstacles on this route that American engineering skill will not be able to overcome without serious difficulty, or that will prevent the completion of the canal within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost. This is virtually the unanimous testimony of the engineers who have investigated the matter for the government.

What is needed now and without delay is an appropriation by the Congress to meet the current and accruing expenses of the commission. The first appropriation of $10,000,000, out of the $135,000,000 authorized by the Spooner act, was made three years ago. It is nearly exhausted. There is barely enough of it remaining to carry the commission to the end of the year. Unless the Congress shall appropriate before that time all work must cease. To arrest progress for any length of time now, when matters are advancing so satisfactorily, would be deplorable. There will be no money with which to meet pay-roll obligations and none with which to meet bills coming due for materials and supplies; and there will be demoralization of the forces, here and on the isthmus, now working so harmoniously and effectively, if there is delay in granting an emergency appropriation. Estimates of the amount necessary will be found in the accompanying reports of the Secretary of War and the commission.

WISDOM IN CHINESE PROVERBS

Many Homely Truths Condensed Into Short Paragraphs.

The verbal wisdom of the Chinese has become proverbial and, appropriately enough, it shows intself prominently in their proverbs. Many of these have already been translated into English, but here are a few more, from a collection by Herr Bruno Navarra, published in Heidelberg, which may be welcome:

"It is better not to be than not to be anything." "Repentance is the dawn of virtue." "Even the highest tower stands on the ground." "Man thinks he knows everything, but woman knows better." "Even the mandarin of the first-class has poor relations." "The carver of idols never worships idols; he knows too well what they are made of." "A day of grief is longer than a year of joy." And so on.—T. P.'s Weekly.

Oldest English Working Clock.

Peterborough cathedral has the oldest working clock in England. This timepiece was erected about 1320 and is without doubt the work of some monastic clockmaker. It is the only one now known that is wound up over an old wooden wheel. This wheel is about twelve feet in circumference and the galvanized cable, about 300 feet in length, supports a leaden weight of three hundred-weight, which has to be wound up daily.

Brockton's Good Water Supply.

The following is told of "Port" Hancock's cousin in Maine. This cousin had never seen the modern conveniences of our city homes, and found that in the bathroom, much to his surprise, he could get both hot and cold water from the same faucet. While out driving, "Port" showed him the reservoir which supplied his bathroom with water. "Well, if that don't beat all!" said the visitor; "gettin' hot and cold water from the same pond."—Boston Herald.

Facts and Proof.

Hulett, Wyo., Dec. 4th (Special)—An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory and it is evidence founded on facts that backs up every box of Dodd's Kidney Pills. The evidence of people who know what they do. Mrs. May Taber, highly esteemed resident of Hulett, says:

"I know Dodd's Kidney Pills are a valuable medicine because I have used them. I took seven boxes and they cured me of a severe attack of Kidney Trouble. They relieved me from the first dose, and when I had finished the last box I had no pain and my Kidneys are now acting properly."

Dodd's Kidney Pills are now recognized all over the world as the greatest Kidney Remedy science has ever produced. They cure Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gout, Lumbago, Diabetes, Urinary and Bladder Troubles, Bright's Disease, and all disorders arising from any form of Kidney Disease.

Contrary Human Nature.

An amusing bit of human nature comes to light in Paris. The management of the underground railway until recently provided at every station a small box in an out-of-the-way corner for passengers to deposit their tickets in. As a natural result of this system, only one ticket in ten was deposited in the box; the rest fluttered about at will all over the station. The authorities noted this, and changed the small inaccessible box for a large one in a prominent position. The surprising sequel was that instead of one in ten, only one in a hundred tickets found its way into the new box. The easier it was to deposit the tickets the more careless were the passengers in disposing of them.

Sounds Through a Microphone.

A scientist who has listened to the voice of a housefly through the microphone says that it sounds much like the neighing of a horse. We would not care to listen to baby through the microphone, but he would probably sound like the trumpetings of a distressed elephant with half a ton of stomach ache aboard.—Minneapolis Journal.

Methodists Raising Jubilee Fund.

Methodists of this country have undertaken the task of raising $250,000 for an India jubilee fund. Bishop Thoburn is chairman of the committee on the fund, and will go to India to take part in the celebration, which is to be held at Bareilly.

THE "COFFEE HEART."

It Is as Dangerous as the Tobacco or Whisky Heart.

"Coffee heart" is common to many coffee users and is liable to send the owner to his or her long home if the drug is persisted in. You can run 30 or 40 yards and find out if your heart is troubled. A lady who was once a victim of the "coffee heart" writes from Oregon:

"I have been a habitual user of coffee all my life and have suffered very much in recent years from ailments which I became satisfied were directly due to the poison in the beverage, such as torpid liver and indigestion, which in turn made my complexion blotchy and muddy.

"Then my heart became affected. It would beat most rapidly just after I drank my coffee, and go below normal as the coffee effect wore off. Sometimes my pulse would go as high as 137 beats to the minute. My family were greatly alarmed at my condition and at last mother persuaded me to begin the use of Postum Food Coffee.

"I gave up the old coffee entirely and absolutely, and made Postum my sole table beverage. This was six months ago, and all my ills, the indigestion, inactive liver and rickety heart action, have passed away, and my complexion has become clear and natural. The improvement set in very soon after I made the change, just as soon as the coffee poison had time to work out of my system.

"My husband has also been greatly benefited by the use of Postum, and we find that a simple breakfast with Postum is as satisfying and more strengthening than the old heavier meal we used to have with the other kind of coffee." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason. Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

C. F. Daly, passenger traffic manager of the New York Central lines west of Buffalo, and Warren Lynch, general passenger agent of the Big Four, were called to New York recently for conference with President Newman. A plan is said to be on foot to transfer Mr. Daly to New York as passenger traffic manager of the New York Central, to give Mr. Lynch the Chicago post, to retire George Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central, and to make H. J. Rhein, now general passenger agent of the Lake Erie and Western, general passenger agent of the Big Four. Mr. Daniels has confirmed the report as to his retirement. He will be made general advertising manager of the system.

Cable Tolls to Japan.

It costs $1.76 a word to send a message to Japan; and, with war raging in the far East, the cable tolls for war news are something tremendous. But as the people will have the war news in connection with their morning dish of Pillsbury's Vitos, the cables are kept busy day and night.

MILK CRUST ON BABY.

Lost All His Hair—Scratched Till Blood Ran—Grateful Mother Tells of His Cure by Cuticura for 75c.

"When our baby boy was three months old he had the milk crust very badly on his head, so that all the hair came out, and it itched so bad he would scratch until the blood ran. I got a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. I applied the Cuticura and put a thin cap on his head, and before I had used half of the box it was entirely cured, his hair commenced to grow out nicely again, and he has had no return of the trouble. (Signed) Mrs. H. P. Holmes, Ashland, Or."

Rereading Business Letters.

While there is some question about the advisability of using it, the stamp "Not Reread" is frequently seen on the letters of the man who signs the mail. This shifts the responsibility of error on to the operator, whether to blame or not, and is also likely to leave the impression that the house has a heavy correspondence. It is a sign of shiftlessness rather than an indication of extensive business, and should be discouraged. The head of the business concern who countenances the practice misses the mark if he thinks it is a stamp of magnitude even if he does a large amount of business, and we would suggest that more help be employed if the present force does not permit of rereading the letters after they come from the typewriter.—Typewriter Topics.

Rest for Tired Brain.

Many are the suggestions offered as to resting, for, strange as it may seem, few people understand the art of resting properly. Thorough rest does not necessarily mean lying down or sitting; it means to relax the entire system, the mind and body. For a tired brain physical exercise is the best remedy rather than a resort to drugs. If a brisk walk in the fresh air can be taken, so much the better. A very good remedy for a weary brain is to rise slowly on the toes (lifting the heels from the floor) until the muscles at the calf of the leg ache, and then to kick vigorously a few times. Repeat this simple exercise several times and excellent results will follow.

Willing Homage.

In theory, common sense is admirable, but in practice men pay willing homage to the cap and bells, provided they surmount a pretty face and are jangled in a tiny hand.—Lady's Pictorial.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT CHANGED

Announcement of important changes in the traffic department of the Wabash and Wheeling and Lake Erie railroads and of the appointment of a new general manager for the eastern Gould line, the Western Maryland, have been made. Vice President B. A. Worthington of the Wabash lines east of Toeldo has issued circulars announcing the appointment of C. H. Newton to be joint agent of the Wheeling and Lake Erie and Wabash-Pittsburg terminal railroads at Toledo, effective on Dec. 1. It is also announced that the office of general freight agent of the Wabash at St. Louis is to be abolished, and S. B. Knight, the present incumbent, has been appointed industrial agent.

Horace Clark, general manager of the Western Maryland and West Virginia Central railroads, the Gould tidewater lines, has resigned, and Alexander Robertson, formerly general manager of the St. Louis Terminal railroad, has been appointed in his stead.

Kelly Gets Higher Position.

Instead of R. F. Kelly coming to Chicago to supersede Frank Palmer as assistant general passenger agent of the Wabash at Chicago, it was announced yesterday that Fred H. Tristram, formerly assistant general passenger agent at Pittsburg, will have the Chicago post, and Mr. Kelly will succeed Tristram at Pittsburg. This promotion will place Tristram next in authority to the general passenger agent of the Wabash.

Liquids Can Be Compressed.

It was believed at one time that liquids were incompressible; accurate experiments have proved this an error. Water subjected to a pressure of 15,000 pounds to the square inch loses one-twentieth of its volume.

To Prevent Chapped Hands.

Many women who do their own work are much annoyed in winter with chapped hands. This may be avoided by using Ivory Soap for dish washing and toilet purposes. Dry the hands thoroughly each time after they have been in water, and rub with a little oatmeal-water or some good lotion.

ELEANOR R. PARKER.

Motor Cars for Persians.

The Russian government has arranged to commence a series of motor cars in the Persian district of Tabriz, Hamadan and Kazvin.

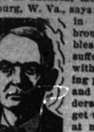
USE THE FAMOUS

Red Cross Ball Blue. Large 2-oz. package 5 cents. The Russ Company, South Bend, Ind.

A girl thinks a man is madly in love with her if he says her baby sister has a sweet disposition.

IN CONSTANT AGONY.

A West Virginian's Awful Distress Through Kidney Troubles.



W. L. Jackson, merchant, of Parkersburg, W. Va., says: "Driving about in bad weather brought kidney troubles on me, and I suffered 20 years with sharp, cramping pains in the back and urinary disorders. I often had to get up a dozen times at night to urinate. Retention set in, and I was obliged to use the catheter. I took to my bed, and the doctors failing to help, began using Doan's Kidney Pills. The urine soon came freely again, and the pain gradually disappeared. I have been cured eight years, and though over 70, am as active as a boy."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Chinese View of Law.

A San Francisco Chinaman, with the sententiousness of his kind, after some experience of American law, once remarked: "Chinese law, first-class; man killee man, China, head off; no ketchee him, somebody head off, mebbee cousin head off. English law, second-class; him ketchee man, mebbee allee same head off. Melican law, no good; too muchee stupleme court."

Submarine Cables.

There are 376 submarine cables in the world, the length of which amount to 178,919 miles. Most of these belong to private parties, only 25,000 miles being owned by the various governments. All, however, bring daily orders from every land on the globe, for Pillsbury's Vitos, the all-day food.

Memory of a Kiss.

Rev. Sidney Smith once said: "There is much virtue in a kiss when well delivered. We have the memory of one we received in our youth, which lasted us forty years, and we believe it will be one of the last things we shall think of when we die.

Many Go Abroad For Clothes.

European clothes are appreciated by fashionable New Yorkers. Some 200 women cross the Atlantic twice a year to replenish their wardrobes and the number of men who do the same is much larger.

Pulling a Bear's Tooth.

Some time ago a brown bear in the Bronx Zoological Park, New York, was suffering from toothache. It took the combined strength of four men to pull the molar, after which the bear's former amiability returned.

Lynching is becoming so common that after awhile a gentleman will be afraid to whip his wife.

GOOD BLOOD FOR BAD

Rheumatism and Other Blood Diseases are Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"In the lead mines I was at work on my knees with my elbows pressed against rock walls, in dampness and extremes of cold," said Mr. J. G. Meukel, of 2975 Jackson avenue, Dubuque, Iowa, in describing his experience to a reporter, "and it is not surprising that I contracted rheumatism. For three years I had attacks affecting the joints of my ankles, knees and elbows. My ankles and knees became so swollen I could scarcely walk on uneven ground and a little pressure from a stone under my feet would cause me so much pain that I would nearly sink down. I was often obliged to lie in bed for several days at a time. My friends who were similarly troubled were getting no relief from doctors and I did not feel encouraged to throw money away for nothing. By chance I read the story of Robert Yates, of the Klauer Manufacturing Co., of Dubuque, who had a very bad case of rheumatism. I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, the remedy he had used. In three or four weeks after beginning to use the pills, I was much better and in three months I was well. The swelling of the joints and the tenderness disappeared, I could work steadily and for eight years I have had no return of the trouble. My whole family believe in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Both my sons use them. We consider them a household remedy that we are sure about."

What Dr. Williams' Pink Pills did for Mr. Meukel they are doing for hundreds of others. Every dose sends galloping through the veins pure, strong, rich, red blood that strikes straight at the cause of all ill health. The new blood restores regularity, and braces all the organs for their special tasks. Get the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at your druggists' or direct from the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N.Y.

NOT YOUR HEART

If you think you have heart disease you are only one of a countless number that are deceived by indigestion into believing the heart is affected.

Lane's Family Medicine

the tonic-laxative, will get your stomach back into good condition, and then the chances are ten to one that you will have no more symptoms of heart disease.

Sold by all dealers at 25c. and 50c.

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