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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message to Congress has been published in full in the Deseret News. It was so divided and sub-headed that the hasty reader could select such portions as he desired particularly to study, and that persons who had not time to digest the entire document could understand each subject treated, sufficiently to grasp its meaning. There is no need therefore to summarize the message fully. But we will add a few comments on its general purport and composition.

The universal opinion seems to be that the document is unnecessarily lengthy. This view is confirmed on a full perusal. Not that it is superfluous as to language or redundant in style. Every subject touched upon is set forth in simple phrases and sentences, and the writer's meaning is conspicuous and easily comprehended. But many of the chapters in the message are treatises that would add the pages of a literary magazine, and will no doubt be quoted by authors and orators when touching on similar topics. They therefore appear less suitable in an executive address to a legislative body, which is supposed to have for its chief purpose recommendations for consideration and action.

Yet with these criticisms fully in view, it must be admitted that each subject is fairly and intelligently discussed, and a temperate yet decisive spirit is exhibited throughout. The President's counsels are prudent and timely, and deserving of respect not only by the Congress but by the people. There is nothing partisan in the entire state paper, no glorification of personal or party, no boasting of achievements, or extravagant promises for the future. The questions of the hour that need immediate solution are frankly stated, and there is no need to mistake the President's desires in relation to them.

The chief topics of the message are these: The regulation of railroad and other corporations by national rather than state laws, especially in the fixing of maximum rates for transportation and the abolition of rebates. The relations between capital and labor, excessive working hours and the settlement of disputes, including the power of injunction, the right of which he maintains. The decline in marriages and the birthrate, which he attributes largely, and we think incorrectly, to the entrance of woman into the sphere of masculine employment. The establishment of a system of inspection for insurance and other corporations like that of bank examiners, which will no doubt be vigorously resisted as "invading private business." The abolition of some unnecessary land officials, and of needless public printing. The continuance of the Peace congress at The Hague and the organization of an international board of arbitration, but the retention of efficient armies and navies as necessary means of protection, disarmament being unwise and impracticable. The maintenance of the Monroe doctrine. Revision of the naturalization laws, and of the criminal laws so that they will not favor the accused to the extent of defeating justice. Reform in the land laws for the benefit of the bona fide settler instead of the land speculator and the forest reserves. Inspection and distribution of immigrants including the Chinese question. The adulteration of foods. The sale of liquor to Indians. The Philippines question, which is presented in a favorable light; the removal of the tariff from their products is advocated. The extension of the franchise on insular possessions. The admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one state and of New Mexico and Arizona as another is strongly recommended. The speedy construction of the Panama canal and the readjustment of salaries in the department of state close the President's suggestions to Congress.

We have mentioned only the principal topics presented by the President. The message should be folded away and preserved by people who take interest in the affairs of the nation. They may need it for future reference, and it will bear and repay perusal at their leisure. President Roosevelt is evidently in earnest in all his efforts for the welfare of the country, and this is made clearly manifest in his address to the Congress, as it is in all his works and his words on public matters. He has proven an admirable executive—the representative of the entire people of the United States of all classes and parties, and the spirit that has animated him throughout his official career, shines forth in the document which we have thus very briefly reviewed.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

One of the questions that will shortly demand the attention of the country, is the immigration problem. A national conference on the subject will be held

in a few days in Washington, for the purpose of influencing Congress in favor of suitable legislation. The President has directed the attention of Congress, pointedly, to this important subject.

It must be admitted that the immigration problem has become one of the utmost importance. Aliens are now coming to the United States at the rate of over a million a year, and the number will probably increase, as long as prosperous conditions prevail here and revolution, famine, and poverty render life in many foreign countries a burden.

To what enormous proportions immigration has grown may be seen from the following data gathered by the Boston Herald: From the time our republic was founded and recognized, up to the year 1820, it was estimated that the immigration did not amount to more than 250,000—that is, for 32 years the annual immigration, and as late as 1843 the annual immigration, although it had previously exceeded that figure, did not amount to much over 50,000. Again, in the years 1881 and 1882, when we might be said to have been in need of men to fight out battles, the number of incoming aliens was about 80,000 for each of these years, while in 1884 the volume of immigration had swelled to the figure of 427,000. More recently, in the fiscal years of 1897 and 1898, the number of immigrants for each 12 months was about 220,000, or less than a quarter of what it was in the fiscal year that has just passed.

A great many laborers now come to this country only for the purpose of earning enough to live in comparative comfort at home. They never intend to become bona fide American citizens. This is clearly proved by the large number of steerage passengers who every year leave this country for Mediterranean ports.

Some are very much exercised about the immigration from Asia, but that was, last year, very insignificant as compared to the influx from other countries. The number who came from China last year was only a little over 2,000; 10,000 came from Japan, 6,000 from Turkey in Asia and 5,000 from all other parts of the continent of Asia. This represented a marked falling off both in the Chinese and Japanese immigration. The former fell off more than a quarter as compared with the previous year, and the latter nearly a third.

The facts embodied in the figures produced, prove the necessity of dealing with the immigration problem in a patriotic spirit. It is one of the most difficult to settle right. On the one hand, our own laborers and industrial interests must be protected against killing competition; on the other hand, full opportunity should be given for those willing and able to help developing the country, to do so. Immigration from all parts of the world has been rendered easy, through the modern means of communication and the low steerage rates. In former times the long, tedious journey across oceans and continents, the inevitable hardships and the large expenses deterred all but the most enterprising and ambitious, from leaving their native countries for America. Conditions are changed, and legislators must take cognizance of that fact.

FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

The demand for universal suffrage in Austria, which the government seems inclined to grant as a means of reconciling the opposing elements, means a great deal more than appears at first sight. By universal suffrage the legislative power will actually be shifted from a small class of favored citizens to the people generally.

The Austrian parliament consists of a particularly aristocratic upper house, or senate, and a lower house which should represent the people, but which does not, on account of the intricate election laws. As now constituted it has 85 representatives of the large landed proprietors, twenty-one of various chambers of commerce, 118 of the cities, as cities, 123 of the rural districts, in which the peasants and small proprietors are the voters, and only 72 of the whole body of male citizens. That is to say, the general electorate of 5,042,222 voters chooses only 72 members of parliament, while 492,804 qualified voters in the cities choose 118.

It will be seen that universal suffrage, as understood in modern countries, will transform the empire into a democracy. It will, it is thought, diminish the German influence in Austria and the Magyar power in Hungary, and serve to strengthen the union. Whether this result will follow, remains to be seen, though.

Austria belongs, both logically and historically to the German federation. Originally it was but a buffer state between Bavaria and the Asiatic hordes that threatened to overrun Germany. The decline of the German Bund became Austria's opportunity for independent development, but its mission is really done, and Germany has again risen to more than former power and importance. Every consideration seems to point to a re-approachment of German Austria to the "Vaterland," and the dissolution of the rather weak union with the Hungarians. Somehow different needs do not affiliate with one another, and compulsory union intensifies antagonism rather than mollifying it.

The idea of a universal brotherhood has not taken very deep root among the sentiments of nations. And until it does, strife will continue. Universal suffrage will not terminate the struggle in the so-called dual empire.

The population is a great mixture of diverse elements. Considering the spoken languages alone, there are no less than nine groups. The German or Teutonic; the Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak, who together use the Czech language; the Polish; the Ruthenian; the Slovene; the Serbian and Croatian; the Italian and Latin, whose speech is a corruption of the ancient Latin; the Roumanian, and the Magyar. Each of these groups is a separate entity in aspirations, thought, and as regards many of them, in geographical location. Then, sprinkled among the population are Jews, Russians, Swiss, Turks, Bosnians, Herzegovinians, Montenegrins, Greeks, and Bulgarians, speaking among

each other still other languages. In such a country it is inevitable that unrest and agitation should be strong. Hitherto the one controlling factor has been the personality of the Emperor Francis Joseph. But he is an old man. All the world has prophesied that when the Emperor dies there will be a great break-up in Austria. But recent events make it doubtful whether the catastrophe can be averted a few more years, even. Time will tell.

RUSSIA'S NEXT MOVE.

Lieutenant-General von Alten, an officer of the German army, evidently believes that the present chaotic conditions of Russia will be overcome, and that the country will continue its policy of aggression in order to reach the sea coast, in one direction, or another. In an able article in the North American Review he sets forth his views on this subject. He believes Russia's next effort will be in the direction of the mouths of the Indus, and that success will follow this effort. The alliance with Japan he does not regard as an obstacle. For when Russia is prepared to move upon India, he argues, she will threaten Korea, and thus prevent Japan from joining her ally. He concludes:

"Russia's goal still lies in the far distance, and decades will possibly pass before it is attained. But Great Britain seems determined to prevent the first step towards it; and this is the reason why Russia and Great Britain are already said to constitute the focal-point of Asiatic affairs. For the idea that has recently been advanced that Russia, whom we have treated with hostility, may be turned from her goal by the renunciation on the part of that country of all opposition to the opening of the Dardanelles—does not appear to promise any tangible results. Great Britain can no more make a present of the Dardanelles than she could of Morocco. Russia would be obliged, in order to reach the Dardanelles, first to overcome the dominion of the Sultan; and she will presumably elect to follow the Central Asian route, rather than engage in a new war of conquest against Turkey. Neither diplomats nor arms, money, threats, nor even the British army on the Indian coast can avert the fate of the Buffer State, Afghanistan, which civilized Great Britain would deprive of the blessings of roads and railways."

"The ultimate victory is on the side of the spirit of progress, which, moving forth from the Russian steppes, is destined to bind Afghanistan, with girders of iron, irrevocably to the Empire of the Czar."

Some Germans would, no doubt, be pleased to see Russia and Great Britain involved in a deadly combat about India. That would leave Germany the prospective master of the Turkish estate, in case of the sudden demise of the "sick man." But it is not likely to occur. When Russia is ready to move in any direction, Japan will have China for a powerful ally to protect Manchuria and Korea, and she will not permit Russia to establish herself on the Indus. Japan has declared herself as favoring the policy of Asia for the Asiatics. It is more probable that Russian aggression, whenever that country is ready for a vigorous policy, will be in the direction of Turkey, or the Scandinavian peninsula. But Russia will not for a long time be in a position to make war. Her internal troubles must first be adjusted.

The President made his message so long last we forget.

What an adjunct to Carrie Nation Mrs. Barry would make.

It is some days since a black flag was raised in the Black Sea.

Kubelik carries a muf to keep his fingers warm and nimble. The muf!

Complete anarchy and intensely cold weather prevail in the Russian Baltic provinces.

The Panama canal has been heard from. An emergency appropriation is asked for it.

The preamble and constitution of the Isle of Pines republic seem to have been pigeon-holed.

There were many comments on the message, the most common one being, "How long, oh Lord!"

Andy Hamilton finds the French climate much healthier than that of New York. Hence he will not return.

When it came to the test Cassie Chadwick's memory failed her. And it wasn't a life insurance investigation, either.

Governor La Follette of Wisconsin has decided to accept the United States senatorship to which he was elected last month. He is worthy of his higher.

George Edward Adams, the defaulting cashier of the government assay office at Seattle, owns a drug store. He had a gold mine right there, and still he stole gold dust.

So Burnham, president of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance company, paid fifteen thousand dollars to have a suit to oust him stopped. Were he engaged in evangelical work that would be called simony, but in the life insurance business it is simply altruism.

THE AMERICAN JEW.

The Pittsburgh Times.

The American Jew is the best type of the Jew in existence. American institutions have enabled him to reach a standard of intelligence and material prosperity far surpassing what is attainable by his kinsmen in other lands. His environment has reacted upon him. His exclusiveness has nearly vanished. He may retain true to the essential dogmas of his faith, but he has abandoned his scruples. The privileges of the broadest citizenship have enlarged his mental view. He is tolerant and he is wide in his intellectual conceptions. In the average he is a worthy member of the community, and to be more than that is not required of any man.

"GRAFT" BOILS.

Nebrauka Journal.

The boil is a sign of hope, though an uncomfortable one. Yet we incline to hide this evidence of cleansing, perhaps because it is also evidence of a former state of uncleanness. Every boil our fathers used to tell us, is worth \$10 to its sorry possessor. The Burton boil, the Mitche

boil, all have their value as signs of promise to the body social, but they also suggest former laxness and corruption that fairly subject us to deep humiliation while not conveying the assurance of healthier future conditions.

PEACE.

Correspondence London Spectator.

The Peace is forbidden by the Peace Preservation act to erect any memorial or indulge in any eulogy of the war. Only two years ago a school girl in Cape Colony was fined \$1 for wearing a "Christian de Wet" feather in her hat! A small booklet of "Poems of the Veldt," recording some noble deeds, is not allowed to enter the colonies.

THE REIGN OF BRUTALITY.

New York World.

Brutality in football is not an episode but an indication of a vicious code of honor prevalent in many schools and colleges. The killing of a midshipman at Annapolis in a fist fight, the tying of a Kenyon College student to the railroad tracks, where he was killed by a train, are all manifestations of the same spirit, which has extended even to the sophomores and freshmen in girls' boarding schools and colleges.

MYSTERY OF LIFE.

Pittsburg Times.

Prof. Jacques Loeb, of the University of California, is still at work on the mystery of life. A little while ago he came to the conclusion that the discoveries he had made were physical; now he is convinced that they are chemical. He is likely to have learned all there is to know about death before he gets any farther into the puzzle of life than he is right now.

NEW PROCESS OF DISINFECTING.

New York Tribune.

A Galveston, Texas, chemist and bacteriologist, J. F. Horton, has discovered a new way of killing mosquitoes and bacteria. It is endorsed by the Texas board of health. It consists of a new process of generating formaldehyde gas. Mr. Horton thus explains it in a local newspaper: "The process is very simple. A washbowl or any similar vessel of glass or metal is placed in the center of the room, car or ship to be fumigated; the powder formalin is put into the vessel and the formaldehyde solution poured on it. It only requires a second to generate the gases, which is done by a chemical reaction without aid of any appliance whatever or the use of fire. The gases thus generated fill the room in the short space of 35 seconds, and effectively kill micro-organisms as well as insect life in the short space of one hour. It is a reliable and safe method, and its use is of the utmost importance to commerce as well as to the general public at large."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The December number of the North American Review is a strong and interesting number. Henry James contributes "New York and the Hudson; a Spring Impression." Lieutenant-General von Alten of the German army, discusses the situation and prospects of "The Powers in Asia." Dr. Isidore Singer describes the "Condition of the Jews in the Past and Present." Alice Meynell writes charmingly of "The English Women-Humorists." Albert S. Bolles, lecturer on commercial law in Haverford college, points out the "Difficulties and Dangers of Governmental Rate-Making." General Rush C. Hawkins expounds "The Why of Rural Free Delivery." W. D. Howells continues his comments "English Idiosyncrasies." Theodore Morison explains the significance of "The Indian Tour of the Prince of Wales." Frank A. Vanderlip urges the social and economic importance of establishing a system of "Insurance for Working-men," after the German fashion. Senator Francis G. Newlands records the impressions which, as "A Democrat in the Philippines," he received during his recent visit to our far eastern dependency with the so-called "Taft party." In the department of World Politics are communications from London, St. Petersburg, Berlin and Washington.—New York.

Bob Taylor's Magazine for December has a number of excellent short stories, poems, and papers on timely topics. Among the features are "The Legend of Bonkonkoma," "Landmarks of the Old South," "Children of Foreign Embassies at Washington," "Persecution of the Jews," and "The Story of the 'Savage'." The illustrations are numerous and add interest to the text.—Taylor Publishing company, Vanderbilt Law Building, Nashville, Tenn.

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25c Hemstitched Emb. Linen Hdks. 16c-3c
40c Sheer Linen Hemstitched Hdks. 25c
Children's Handkerchiefs, 5c each 50c dozen
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Women's Golf Gloves, all colors 35c, 50c, 60c and 75c

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