

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S  
MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

(Continued from page one.)

points. To make it effective as regards the others it only remains for the two governments to appoint, each on its own behalf, one or more scientific experts, who, with all convenient speed, proceed together to lay down the boundary line in accordance with the decision of the majority of the tribunal. The government of the United States makes adequate provision for the appointment, compensation, and expenses of the members to serve on this joint boundary commission on the part of the United States.

## CLAIMS AGAINST VENEZUELA.

## How Employment of Force for Collection Was Abandoned.

It will be remembered that during the second session of the last Congress Great Britain, Germany, and Italy formed an alliance for the purpose of blockading the ports of Venezuela and using such other means of pressure as would secure settlement of claims due, as they alleged, to certain of their subjects. Their employment of force for the collection of these claims was terminated by the president's message about through the offices of the diplomatic representatives of the United States at Caracas and the government at Washington, thereby creating a situation which was bound to cause increasing friction, and which jeopardized the peace of the continent. Under this agreement Venezuela agreed to set apart a certain percentage of the customs receipts of two of her ports to be applied to the payment of whatever obligations might be ascertained by mixed commissions appointed for this purpose to be due from her, not only to the three powers already mentioned, whose proceedings against her had resulted in a state of war, but also to other States, France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, and Mexico, who had not employed force for the collection of the claims alleged to be due to certain of her citizens.

## DEMAND OF BLOCKADING POW.

A demand was then made by the so-called blockading powers that the sums ascertained to be due to their citizens by such mixed commissions should be recorded payment in kind, and that the balance was paid upon the claims of any of the so-called peace powers, Venezuela, on the other hand, insisted that all her creditors should be paid upon a basis of exact equality.

## REFERRED TO PRESIDENT.

During the efforts to adjust this dispute it was suggested by the powers in interest that it should be referred to me for decision, but I was clearly of the opinion that the matter should be referred to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague. It seemed to me to offer an admirable opportunity to settle the practice of private armed settlement of disputes between nations and to secure for The Hague tribunal a memorable increase of its practical importance. The nations interested in the controversy were so numerous and in many instances so powerful as to make it evident that beneficial results would follow from the settlement of the dispute before the bar of that august tribunal of peace.

## ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

Our hopes in that regard have been realized. Russia and Austria are represented in the persons of the learned and distinguished jurists who compose the tribunal, while Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, Mexico, the United States and Venezuela are represented by their respective agents and counsel. Such imposing concourse of nations presenting their arguments to and invoking the decision of that high court of international justice and peace, which peace can hardly fail to secure a like submission of many future controversies. The nations now appearing there will find it far easier to approach the tribunal a second time, while no nation can imagine its just pride will be lessened by following the example now presented. This triumph of the principle of international arbitration as a subject of warm congratulation and offers a happy augury for the peace of the world.

## THE HAGUE COURT.

There seems good ground for the belief that there has been a real growth among the civilized nations of a sentiment which will permit a gradual substitution of the method of arbitration for the method of war in the settlement of disputes. It is not pretended that as yet we are near a position in which it will be possible wholly to prevent war, or that a just regard for national interest and honor will in all cases permit of the settlement of international disputes by arbitration, but by a mixture of the two methods, and by the wisdom with which it is possible to do away with the method of war, and by the wisdom with which it is possible to do away with the method of arbitration, it should be encouraged in every way.

## PRIVATE PROPERTY IN WAR.

## Mr. McKinley's Recommendation Renewed.

In President McKinley's annual message of Dec. 4, 1898, he made the following recommendation: "The experience of the last year has brought forcibly home to us a sense of the burdens and the waste of war. We desire, in common with most civilized nations, to reduce to the lowest possible point the damage sustained by the war by peaceful trade and commerce. It is true we may suffer in such cases less than other communities, but all nations are damaged by the war, and the state of uneasiness and apprehension into which an outbreak of hostilities throws the entire commercial world. It should be our object, therefore, to minimize, so far as practicable, this inevitable loss and disturbance. This purpose can probably best be accomplished by an international agreement to regard all private property at sea as exempt from capture or destruction by the forces of belligerent powers. The United States government has for many years advocated this humane and beneficent principle, and is now in a position to recommend it to other powers without the imputation of selfish motives. I therefore suggest your consideration that the executive be authorized to correspond with the governments of the principal maritime powers with a view to securing agreement to the permanent law of civilized nations the principle of the exemption of all private property at sea, not contraband of war, from capture or destruction by belligerent powers."

## U. S. SUPREME COURT'S VIEW.

The supreme court, speaking on Dec. 31, 1899, through Peckham, J., said: "It is, we think, historically accurate to say that in its view, among the most advanced of the governments of the world in favor of mitigating, as to all non-combatants and the harmless and horrors of war. To accomplish that object it has always advocated those rules which would in most cases do away with the capture of the private property of an enemy on the high seas."

## A MATTER OF HUMANITY.

I advocate this as a matter of humanity and morals. It is anachronistic

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when private property is respected on that it should not be respected at sea. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that shipping represents, internationally speaking, a much more general species of private property than is the case with ordinary property on land—that is, property found at sea is much less apt than is the case with property found on land really to belong to any one nation. Under the modern system of corporate ownership the flag of a vessel often differs from the flag of the vessel's owner, and the nationality of the vessel and the cargo may belong to individuals of yet a different nationality. Much American capital is now invested in foreign ships, and among foreign nations it often happens that the capital of one is largely invested in the shipping of another. Furthermore, as a practical matter, it may be mentioned that while commerce destroying may cause serious loss and great annoyance, it can never be more than a subsidiary factor in bringing to terms a resolute foe. This is now well recognized by all of our naval experts. The fighting ship, not the commerce destroyer, is the vessel whose foundation is the nation's history, and establish her place among the great powers of the world.

## INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION.

Last year the Interparliamentary Union for International Arbitration met at Vienna, 600 members of the different legislatures of civilized countries attending. It was provided that the next meeting should be in 1904 at St. Louis, subject to our Congress extending an invitation. Like The Hague tribunal, the Interparliamentary union is one of the forces tending towards peace among the nations of the earth, and it is entitled to our support. I trust the invitation can be extended.

## RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

## They Are Friendly But Our Claims Are Still Unsettled.

Early in July, having received intelligence that the Turkish government was about to make an announcement of our vice-consul at Beirut, I dispatched a small squadron to that port for such service as might be found necessary on arrival. The Turkish government is in the life of our vice-consul had not been successful, yet the outrage was symptomatic of a state of excitement and disorder which demanded immediate attention. The arrival of the vessels had the happiest result. A feeling of security at once took the place of the former alarm and dissatisfaction. The officers were cordially welcomed by the consular body and the leading merchants, and ordinary business resumed. The government of the Ottoman Empire gave immediate hearing to the representations of our minister; the official who was regarded as responsible for the disturbed condition of affairs was removed from office, and the Turkish government remains friendly. Our claims founded on inequitable treatment of some of our schools and missions are being in process of amicable adjustment.

## RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

## New Commercial Treaty Granting Many Privileges Signed.

The signing of a new commercial treaty with China, which took place at Shanghai on the 24th of October, is a cause for satisfaction. This act, the result of long discussion and negotiation, places our commercial relations with the great oriental empire on a more satisfactory footing than they have ever heretofore enjoyed. It provides not only for the ordinary rights of commerce, but also for the recognition of our missionaries, the recognition of their right to rent and lease in perpetuity such land as they may require for their churches, and the recognition of our missionaries' right to engage in commerce in Manchuria, the capital of the province of Manchuria, and Antung, an important port on the Yalu river, on the road to Korea. The full measure of development which our commerce may rightfully expect can hardly be looked for until the settlement of the present abnormal state of things in the empire; but the foundation for such development has at last been laid.

## CONSULAR SERVICE.

## Cost of Maintaining It Has Been Greatly Reduced.

I call your attention to the reduced cost in maintaining the consular service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, as shown in the annual report of the auditor for the state and other departments, as compared with the previous year. For the year under consideration the excess of expenditures over receipts on account of the consular service amounted to \$28,125.32, as against \$96,972.59 for the year ending June 30, 1902, and \$147,040.16 for the year ending June 30, 1901.

## All Humors

Are impure matters which the skin, liver, kidneys and other organs can not take care of without help, there is such an accumulation of them.

They litter the whole system.

Pimples, boils, eczema and other eruptions, loss of appetite, that tired feeling, bilious turns, fits of indigestion, dull headaches and many other troubles are due to them.

## Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Remove all humors, overcome all their effects, strengthen, tone and invigorate the whole system.

"I had salt rheum on my hands so that I could not work. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla and it drove out the humor. I continued its use till the sores disappeared." Mrs. J. O. Brown, Rumford Falls, Me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

June 30, 1901. This is the best showing in this respect for the consular service for the past 14 years, and the reduction in the cost of the service to the government has been made in spite of the fact that the expenditures for the year in question were more than \$20,000 greater than for the previous year.

## RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

## Attention of Congress Invited—Pay for Carriers and Clerks.

The rural free delivery service has been steadily extended. The attention of Congress is drawn to the question of the compensation of the letter carriers and clerks engaged in the postal service, especially on the new rural free-delivery routes. More routes have been installed since the first of July last than in any like period in the department's history. While a due regard to economy must be kept in mind in the establishment of new routes, yet the extension of the rural free-delivery system must be continued, for reasons of sound public policy. The government's policy of disposal of the public lands is not followed by corresponding increase in home building. There is a tendency to mass in large holdings public lands, especially timber and grazing lands, and thereby retard settlement. I renew and emphasize my recommendation of last year that so far as they are available for agriculture in its broadest sense, and to whatever extent they may be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, the remaining public lands should be held rigidly for the home builder. The attention of the Congress is especially directed to the timber and stone law, which in their operation have in many respects conflicted with wise public policy. The discussion in Congress and elsewhere has made it evident that there is a wide divergence of opinion between those holding opposite views on the subject, and that the opposing sides have strong and convinced representatives of weight both within and without the Congress; the difference being not only as to matters of opinion but as to matters of fact.

## EXPOSITIONS.

## Says a Good Word for St. Louis And Portland Fairs.

I trust that the Congress will continue to favorably consider the Louisiana Purchase exposition. This exposition commemorates the Louisiana purchase, which was the first great step in the expansion which made us a continental power. The expedition of Lewis and Clark across the continent followed thereon, and marked the beginning of the process of our national development. The Louisiana purchase, including the present states of Oregon and Washington, was a factor of immense importance in our history; first giving us our place on the Pacific seaboard, and making ready the way for our ascendancy in the commerce of the great western ocean. The centennial of our establishment upon the western coast by the expedition of Lewis and Clark is to be celebrated at Portland, Oregon, by an exhibition in the summer of the coming year. The government should recognize and support from this national government.

## TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

## Is Growing Rapidly and Needs Many Laws.

I call your special attention to the territory of Alaska. The country is developing rapidly, and it has an assured future. The mineral wealth is great and the fisheries are being developed. The fisheries, if wisely handled and kept under national control, will be a business as permanent as any other. The territory is important to the people. The forest is a property guarded will form another great source of wealth. Portions of Alaska are fit for farming and stock raising, although the climate is not ideal. The peculiar conditions of the country, Alaska is situated in the far north; but so are Norway and Sweden and Finland, and they are prosperous and play its part in the new world just as those nations have prospered and played their parts in the old world. Proper land laws should be enacted; and the survey of the territory should be immediately begun. Coal-laws should be provided whereby the coal-land entryman may make his location and secure his rights in the coal-land to those now prescribed for homestead and mineral entrymen. Salmon hatcheries, exclusively under government control, should be established. The cable should be extended from Sitka westward. Wagon roads and trails should be built, and the building of railroads promoted in all legitimate ways. Lighthouses should be built along the coast. Attention should be paid to the needs of the Alaska Indians; provision should be made for an officer with domestic and social knowledge of the Indians, to study their needs, relieve their suffering, and help them to adapt themselves to the new conditions. The commission appointed to investigate, during the season of 1903, the condition and needs of the Alaska salmon fisheries, has finished its work, and is preparing a detailed report thereon. A preliminary report reciting the needs of the territory for the protection and preservation of the salmon industry has already been submitted to the secretary of commerce and labor for his attention and for the needed action.

## INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

## All of Them Are Making Good and Steady Progress.

I recommend that an appropriation be made for building lighthouses in Hawaii, taking possession of those already built. The territory should be reimbursed for whatever amounts it has already expended for lighthouses. The governor should be empowered to suspend or remove any member appointed by him, without submitting the matter to the legislature.

## PHILIPPINES AND PORTO RICO.

Of our insular possessions the Philippines and Porto Rico it is gratifying to say that their steady progress has been as such as to make it unnecessary to spend much money in improving them. Yet the Congress should ever keep in mind that a peculiar obligation rests upon us to further in every way the progress of these communities. The Philippines should be kept closer for by tariff arrangements. It would of course, be impossible suddenly to raise the people of the islands to the high standard of civilization and of governmental efficiency to which we will in the end by degrees attain; and the caution and moderation shown in the main reasons why this progress has hitherto gone on so smoothly. Scrupulous care has been taken in the choice of governmental agents, and the entire elimination of partisan politics from the public service. The condition of the islands is in material things far better than ever before, while their material, intellectual, and moral advance has kept pace with their material advance. No one people ever benefited another people more than we have benefited the Philippines by taking possession of the islands.

## THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

## So Far as Possible Should Be Rigidly Held for the Home Builders.

The cash receipts of the general land office for the fiscal year were \$11,024,465, an increase of \$4,762,816.47 over the preceding year. Of this sum, ap-

proximately \$3,461,493 will go to the credit of the fund for the reclamation of arid and desert lands, the total of this fund up to the 30th of June, 1903, approximately \$16,191,836.

## UNLAWFUL ENCLOSURES.

A gratifying disposition has been evinced by those having unlawful enclosures of public land to remove their fences. Nearly two million acres so inclosed have been opened up to demand. In but comparatively few cases has it been necessary to go into court to accomplish this purpose. This all unlawful inclosures have been removed.

Experience has shown that in the western states themselves as well as in the rest of the country there is widespread conviction that certain of the public land laws and the resulting administrative practice no longer meet the present needs. The character and the uses of the remaining public lands differ widely from those of the public lands which Congress had especially in view when these laws were passed. The rapidly increasing rate of disposal of the public lands is not followed by corresponding increase in home building. There is a tendency to mass in large holdings public lands, especially timber and grazing lands, and thereby retard settlement. I renew and emphasize my recommendation of last year that so far as they are available for agriculture in its broadest sense, and to whatever extent they may be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, the remaining public lands should be held rigidly for the home builder. The attention of the Congress is especially directed to the timber and stone law, which in their operation have in many respects conflicted with wise public policy. The discussion in Congress and elsewhere has made it evident that there is a wide divergence of opinion between those holding opposite views on the subject, and that the opposing sides have strong and convinced representatives of weight both within and without the Congress; the difference being not only as to matters of opinion but as to matters of fact.

## COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE.

In order that definite information may be available for the use of the Congress, a commission composed of W. A. Richards, commissioner of the general land office; Gifford Pinchot, chief of the bureau of forestry of the department of agriculture; and H. H. Henshaw, chief geographer of the geological survey, to report at the earliest practical moment upon the condition, operation, and effect of the present land laws and on the one, condition, disposal, and management of the public lands, and the commission will report especially what changes in organization, laws, regulations, and administrative practice are needed to effect the largest practicable disposition of the public lands to actual settlers who will build permanent homes upon them, and to secure in permanence the fullest and most effective use of the resources of the public lands; and it will make such other reports and recommendations as it deems of the Congress to be of importance. The commission is to report immediately upon those points concerning which its judgment is clear; on any point upon which it has doubt it will take the time necessary for full investigation and reach a final judgment.

## ARID LAND RECLAMATION.

The work of reclamation of the arid lands of the west is progressing steadily and satisfactorily under the terms of the law setting aside the proceeds from the sale of public lands for the purpose of engineering known as the reclamation service, which is conducting the surveys and examinations, has been thoroughly organized, special pains being taken to secure the fullest and most efficient men of skill, experience, and efficient men.

## PREPARING PLANS.

Survey and examinations are progressing throughout the arid states and territories, plans for reclaiming works being prepared and passed upon by the secretary of the interior. In Arizona and Nevada, in localities where such work is pre-eminently needed, construction has already begun. In other localities the work is well advanced towards the drawing up of contracts, these being delayed in part by necessities of reaching agreement with the Indians as regards rights of way or acquisition of real estate.

## NATION THE GAINER.

Most of the works contemplated for construction are of national importance, involving interstate questions, or the securing of stable, self-supporting communities in the midst of vast tracts of waste land. The nation as a whole is to gain by the creation of these homes, adding as they do to the wealth and stability of the country, and furnishing a home market for the products of the nation.

## PRESERVATION OF FORESTS.

The study of the opportunities of reclamation of the extent of arid land is done by individuals, corporations, or the state, the sources of water must be effectively protected, and the reservoirs guarded by the

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preservation of the forests at the headwaters of the streams. The engineers making the preliminary examinations continually emphasize this need and urge that the remaining public lands at the headwaters of the important streams of the west be reserved to insure permanency of water supply for irrigation. Much progress in forestry has been made during the past year. The necessity for perpetuating our forest resources, whether in public or private hands, is recognized now as never before.

## DEMAND FOR RESERVES.

The demand for forest reserves has become insistent in the west, because the west must use the water, wood, and game supply. Progressive lumbermen are striving, through forestry, to give their business permanence. Other great business interests are exclaiming for the preservation of the forests as a business matter. The government's forest work should receive from the Congress hearty support, and especially support adequate for the protection of the forest reserves against fire. The forest reserve policy of the government has passed beyond the experimental stage and has reached a condition where scientific methods are essential to its successful prosecution. The administrative features of forest reserves are at present unsatisfactory, being divided between three bureaus of two departments. It is therefore recommended that all matters pertaining to forest reserves, except those involving or pertaining to land titles, be consolidated in the bureau of forestry of the department of agriculture.

## COTTON WEEVIL.

The cotton-growing states have recently been invaded by a weevil that has done much damage and threatens the entire cotton industry. I suggest to the Congress the prompt enactment of such remedial legislation as in its judgment may approve.

## PATENTS FOR FOREIGNERS.

In granting patents to foreigners the proper course is to give the country to foreigners here that the countries in which these foreigners dwell extend in return to our citizens that is, to return the articles would be patentable in the foreign countries concerned, where an American citizen could get a corresponding patent in such countries.

## INDIAN AGENTS.

The Indian agents should not be dependent for their appointment or tenure of office upon consideration of political parties, and the practice of appointing, when possible, ex-army officers or bonded superintendents to the vacancies that occur is working well. At the same time, the widespread illiteracy due to lack of public schools in the Indian Territory. Prompt heed should be paid to the need of education for the children in this territory.

## SAFETY APPLIANCES.

In my last annual message the attention of the Congress was called to the necessity of enlarging the safety-appliance law, and it is gratifying to note that the law is now being amended to include the practice of appointing, when possible, ex-army officers or bonded superintendents to the vacancies that occur is working well. At the same time, the widespread illiteracy due to lack of public schools in the Indian Territory. Prompt heed should be paid to the need of education for the children in this territory.

## PENSIONS.

## Bureau Commended for Expediting and Disposing of Claims.

No other class of our citizens deserves so well of the nation as those to whom the nation owes the very best of its services. The veterans of the Civil War are the veterans of the Civil War. Special attention is asked to the excellent work of the pension bureau in expediting and disposing of pension claims. During the fiscal year ending July 1, 1903, the bureau settled 251,982 claims, an average of 825 claims for each working day of the year. The number of settlements since July 1, 1903, has been in excess of last year's average, reaching 1,000 claims for each working day, and it is believed that the work of the bureau will be current at the close of the present fiscal year.

## CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

During the year ended July 31 last, 25,566 persons were appointed through competitive examinations under the civil-service rules. This was 12,682 more than during the preceding year, and 40 per cent of those who passed the examination. The abnormal growth was largely occasioned by the extension of classification to the rural free-delivery service and the appointment last year of the civil service rules to the post on April 15 last, which has greatly improved their operation. The complete

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tion of the reform of the civil service is recognized by good citizens everywhere as a matter of the highest public importance, and the success of the merit system largely depends upon the effectiveness of the rules and the machinery provided for their enforcement. A very gratifying spirit of friendly cooperation exists in all the departments of the government in the enforcement and uniform observance of both the letter and spirit of the civil service act.

## UNCLASSIFIED LABORERS.

Executive orders of July 3, 1902; March 26, 1903, and July 8, 1903, require that appointments of all unclassified laborers in the departments at Washington and in the field service, shall be made with the assistance of the United States civil service commission, under a system of registration to test the relative fitness of applicants for appointment or employment. This system is competitive, and is open to all citizens of the United States qualified in respect to age, physical ability, moral character, industry and adaptability for manual labor; except that in case of veterans of the Civil War the element of age is omitted. This system of appointment is distinct from the classified service and does not classify positions of mere laborer under the civil service act and rules. Regulations in aid thereof have been put in operation in several of the departments and are being gradually extended in other parts of the service. The results have been very satisfactory, as extravagance has been checked by decreasing the number of unnecessary positions and by increasing the efficiency of the employees remaining.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHARITIES.

The Congress, as the result of a thorough investigation of the charities and reformatory institutions in the District of Columbia, by a joint select committee of the two houses, which made its report in March, 1898, created in the act approved June 6, 1900, a board of charities for the District of Columbia, presided by the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, each for a term of three years, to serve without compensation. President McKinley appointed five men who had been active and prominent in the public charities of Washington, all of whom upon taking office in 1901, signed for the different charities with which they had been connected. The members of the board have been reappointed in successive years. The board serves under the commissioners of the District of Columbia. The board gave its first year to a careful and impartial study of the special problems before it, and has continued that study every year in the light of the latest practice in public charities elsewhere. Its recommendations in its annual reports to the Congress through the commissioners of the District of Columbia, are of a practical and efficient administration of the charities and reformatories of the District of Columbia, as required by the principles contained in the joint select committee of the Congress in its report of March, 1898, and approved by the best administrators of public charities, and in part of the desired systematization and improvement of the affairs under its supervision. They are worthy of favorable consideration by the Congress.

## THE ARMY.

## Stress Laid on Need of New Rules For Promotion of Officers.

The effect of the laws providing a general staff for the army and for the more effective use of the national guard has been excellent. Great improvement has been made in the efficiency of our

## THE NAVY.

## Steady Progress of Building it Up Must Go On.

Shortly after the enunciation of that famous principle of American foreign policy known as the "Monroe doctrine," President Monroe, in a special message to Congress on Jan. 30, 1823, spoke as follows: "The navy is the arm from which our government will always derive most aid in support of our rights. Every power engaged in war will know the strength of our naval power, the number of our ships, the promptitude with which we may bring them into service, and will pay due consideration to that argument."

## MUST NOT LET-UP.

I heartily congratulate the Congress upon the steady progress in building up the American navy. We cannot afford to let-up in this great work. We stand still means to go back. There

(Continued on page three.)

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