

# PRESIDENT TALK TO CONGRESS

## Message is of Great Length And Covers Multitude of Questions—Reference to Recent Fisheries Arbitration

### CONVENTION ON BOUNDARY MATTER

#### Reciprocity Negotiations Also Spoken of—Seal Question Briefly Noted—Construction of Panama Canal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Practically all the time in both houses of Congress today was occupied in reading Mr. Taft's message.

In the senate three new senators were sworn in. They are: Claude A. Swanson of Virginia, who succeeds the late John W. Daniel; John M. Terrell of Georgia, succeeding the late Senator A. S. Clay; and Lafayette Young of Iowa, who takes the seat made vacant by the death of Senator J. P. Dolliver.

In his message the president dealt at length with a great many questions, among them the following:

The year has been notable as witnessing the pacific settlement of two important international controversies before the permanent court of The Hague.

The arbitration of the fisheries dispute between the United States and Great Britain, which has been the source of nearly continuous diplomatic correspondence since the fisheries convention of 1878, has given an award which is satisfactory to both parties. This arbitration is particularly noteworthy not only because of the result, but also because it is the first arbitration held under the general arbitration treaty of April 4, 1908, between the United States and Great Britain and disposes of a controversy which has been the cause of friction between two countries whose common interest lies in maintaining the most friendly and cordial relations with each other.

The United States has ably represented before the tribunal, and it should be a great patriotic service if it did not refer to the fact that the analysis of the facts and the signal ability and force of argument—six days in length—presented to the court in support of our case, by Mr. Ethel Root.

The tribunal constituted at The Hague by the governments of the United States and Venezuela has completed its deliberations and has rendered an award in the case of the Orinoco Steamship company against Venezuela. The award may be regarded as satisfactory, since it has, pursuant to the contentions of the United States, recognized a number of important principles making for a judicial attitude in the determining of international disputes.

The president mentions the proposed establishment of an international prize court and the signing of a special protocol. He concludes that there is every reason to believe that the international prize court will be established. It is also likely to be endowed with the functions of an arbitral court of justice under and pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the last Hague conference.

With regard to the peace commission provided for by congress the president says: "I have not yet made appointments to this commission because I have invited and am awaiting the expression of foreign governments as to their willingness to cooperate with us in the appointment of similar commissions or representatives who would meet with our commissioners and by joint action seek to make their work effective."

#### Convention with Britain

"Several important treaties have been negotiated with Great Britain in the past twelve months. A preliminary diplomatic agreement has been reached regarding the arbitration of pecuniary claims which each government has against the other. This agreement, with the schedules of claims annexed, will, as soon as the schedules are arranged, be submitted to the senate for approval.

"The convention, concluded January 31, 1909, between the United States and Great Britain providing for the settlement of international differences between the United States and Canada, including the apportionment between the two countries of certain of the boundary waters and the appointment of commissioners to adjust certain other questions has been ratified by both governments and proclaimed."

#### Boundary Matter

In the course of his references to relations with Latin America the President says:

"There has been signed by the republics of the United States and Mexico a protocol submitting to the United States-Mexican Boundary Commission, whose membership for the purpose of this case is to be increased by the addition of a citizen of Canada) the question of sovereignty over the Chihuahua tract, which lies within the present physical boundary of the city of El Paso, Texas. The determination of this question will remove a source of no

little annoyance to the two governments."

#### Reciprocity

"The policy of closer trade relations with the Dominion of Canada, which was initiated in the adjustment of the maximum and minimum provisions of the tariff act of August, 1909, has proved mutually beneficial. It justifies further efforts for the readjustment of the commercial relations of the two countries, so that their commerce may follow the channels of continuous countries, and be commensurate with the ample expansion of trade and industry on both sides of the boundary-line. The recognition on the part of the Dominion government of the sentiment which was expressed by this government was followed in October, 1910, by the suggestion that it would be best to have negotiations which had been temporarily suspended during the summer, resumed. In accordance with this suggestion, the secretary of state, by my direction, dispatched two representatives of the department of state as special commissioners to Ottawa to confer with representatives of the Dominion government. Conferences were held by these commissioners with officials of the Dominion government in the early part of November.

"The conferences were adjourned to the resumption of negotiations in December, when it is hoped that the aspiration of both governments for a mutually advantageous measure of reciprocity will be realized."

#### Merchant Marine

"We can secure in no other quarter in the world, such immediate benefits in friendship and commerce as would flow from the establishment of direct lines of communication with the countries of Latin America.

"I alluded to this most important subject in my last annual message; it has often been before you, and I need not recapitulate the reasons for intercommunication. Unless prompt action be taken the completion of the Panama canal will find this the only great commercial nation unable to avail itself of this great contribution to the means of the world's commercial intercourse.

"Quite aside from the commercial aspect, unless we create a merchant marine where we can find the necessary population necessary as a naval reserve without which a naval fleet is armed without a body. For many reasons I strongly urge upon the congress the passage of a measure, by mail subsidy or other subvention adequate to guarantee the establishment and rapid development of an American merchant marine, the right of which to the American flag to its special place on the sea."

#### Finances

The final estimates for the year ending June 30, 1912, as they have been sent to the treasury, on November 29 of this year, for the ordinary expenses of the government, including those for public buildings, rivers, and harbors, amount to \$240,491,013. This is \$52,082,337 less than the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and \$15,885,153 less than the total estimates submitted to congress by the treasury for the year 1911, and is \$74,593 less than the original estimates submitted by the treasury for 1911.

"Against the estimated expenditures of \$240,491,013 the treasury has estimated receipts for next year \$280,000,000, making a probable surplus of ordinary receipts over ordinary expenditures of about fifty millions, or, taking into account the estimates for the Panama canal, which are \$16,920,447, and which ultimately will be paid in bonds, it will leave a deficit for the next year of about \$7,000,000, if congress shall conclude to fortify the canal. The cost of the fortification is about nineteen millions. Should there be appropriations this year for fortifications, then there would be even including the Panama canal, a surplus of about twenty millions, according to the treasury estimates."

#### Payne-Tariff Act

"The schedules of the rates of duty in the Payne tariff act have been subjected to a great deal of criticism, some of it just, more of it ungrounded, and to much misrepresentation. The act was adopted in pursuance of a declaration by the party which is responsible for it that a customs bill should be a tariff for the protection of home industries, the measure of protection to be the difference between the cost of producing the imported articles abroad and the cost of producing it at home, together with such addition to that difference as might secure a reasonable profit to the home producer. The basis for the criticism of this tariff is that in respect to a number of schedules the declared measure was not followed, but a higher difference retained or inserted by way of undue discrimination in favor of certain industries and manufactures. Little, if any, of the criticism of the protective principle above stated, but the main body of the criticism has been based on the charge that the attempt to conform to the measure of protection was not honestly and sincerely adhered to."

#### Panama Canal

"At the instance of Colonel Goethals, the army engineer officer in charge of the work on the Panama canal, I have just made a visit to the Isthmus to inspect the work done, and to consult with him on the ground as to certain problems, which are likely to arise in the near future. The progress of the work is most satisfactory. If no unexpected obstacle presents itself, the canal will be completed well within the time fixed by Colonel Goethals to wit, January 1, 1915, and within the estimate of cost, \$275,000,000.

"Press reports have reached the United States from time to time giving accounts of sides of earth of very large yardage in the Culbreth cut and elsewhere along the line, from which it might be inferred that the work has been much retarded, and that the time of completion has been necessarily postponed.

"The report of Doctor Hayes, of the geological survey, whom I sent within the last month to the Isthmus to make

an investigation, shows that this section of the canal zone is composed of sedimentary rocks of rather weak structure and subject to almost immediate disintegration when exposed to the air. Subsequent to the deposition of these sediments igneous rocks, harder and more durable have been thrust up, and being solid at the time of their intrusion, united, but in conformity with the sedimentary rock strata, so that the result of these conditions is that as the cut is deepened, causing subsidence pressures, slides from the sides of the cut have occurred. These are in part due to the flowing of surface soil and decomposed sedimentary rocks upon inclined surfaces of the underlying undecomposed rock, and in part to the crumbling of structurally weak beds under excessive pressure. The slides occur on the side of the other of the cut through a distance of four or five miles, and now that their character is understood, it is believed that their removal, and the greater slope that will have to be given to the bank in many places in order to prevent their recurrence, will require the removal of ten millions of yards. Considering that the number of yards removed from this cut in the past few months through the year in 1910, and that the total remaining to be excavated, including slides, is about 30,000,000 yards, it is seen that this additional excavation does not add a great reason for delay.

"While this feature of the material to be excavated in the cut will not be so serious as it might appear, the construction of a canal of the lock type, the increase of excavation due to such slides in the cut made fifty-five feet deeper for a sea level canal would certainly have been so great as to delay its completion to a time beyond the patience of the American people."

#### Injunction Bill

"I wish to renew my urgent recommendation made in my last annual message in favor of the passage of a law which shall regulate the issuing of injunctions in equity without regard to the best practice now in vogue in the courts of the United States. I regard this of special importance, first because it has been promulgated, and second, because it will deprive those who now complain of certain alleged abuses in the improper issuing of injunctions without notice of any real ground for further amendment, and will take away all semblance of due process, and the extreme radical legislation they propose, which will be most pernicious if adopted, will legalize the conditions of judicial power, and the secondary boycott."

#### Alaska

With reference to the government of Alaska, I have nothing to add to the recommendations I made in my last message on the subject, and I am convinced that the character of the government of the territory, and its smallness of territory, which the new census shows to be about 500,000 square miles, enormous expanse in relation to the territory, altogether impracticable to give to those people who are in Alaska today, and may not be there in a few years, power to elect a legislature to govern an immense territory to which they have a relation so little permanent, is far better for the territory, if the territory that it is committed to executive, with limited legislative powers, sufficiently broad to meet the needs of the territory, than to continue the present insufficient government, with few remedial powers, or to make a popular government where there is no proper foundation upon which to rest it."

#### Sealing Question

I am glad to note in the secretary's report the satisfactory progress which is being made in respect to the preservation of the seals of the Pribilof Islands. Very active steps are being taken by the department of marine to secure an arrangement which shall protect the Pribilof seals from the losses due to pelagic sealing. The government has secured seal pens of the seal herds, the killing of which does not result in the maintenance of the herd (with the maintenance of the herd) is expected to realize next month about \$450,000 in excess of the rental paid the previous contract."

#### The British Elections

Paragraphs pertinent and "wholesome" about personalities who emerge from the contest.

Most Unionists will join in congratulating "Honest John" Burns in winning his beloved Battersea with an insouciant and became a Socialist and person, he has espoused the administration of Government and Opposition alike. A born arbitrator and mediator, he works like a donkey through more work than any other man in the House. Even the aristocratic permanent officials at the Local Government Board, like and respect him, though they nearly died of shock when he was first appointed President. He is one of the very few men in politics who are not only men, but who should remain in office while the life is in him, and may do before very long, lawfully!

A popular Labor victory will be that at Woolwich, where Will Crooks has won like Waterloo last time. Will Crooks is liked for his transparent honesty and sincerity, though he does suffer from Socialist ideas, which, when he speaks, some people think spread to the head. Crooks is a good fellow, and he has a fine sense of humor, such as Mason, who secured such a surprising victory at Coventry, is the most conspicuous of this doubtful celebrity. Philip Moore, a

# THE VICTORIA COLONIST

welcome return to his side, having been brain and brawn. The Labor men have had a "kick" from St. Helen's where the Unionists did splendidly by being Tom Glover. One bright feature of the returns to date is the slump in Socialism.

Last week I announced two more Government gains at Christchurch and Christchurch, both of which are in the nature of things normally conservative. These victories are more than compensated for by

#### Three More Unionist Triumphs

In North Wellington, Birkenhead, and the Exchange Division of Liverpool. With the exception of "Tay Pay's" seat in the Scottish and Division, it is significant that Liverpool, the heart of Free Trade Lancashire, is sold for Unionist Reform. At Birkenhead, Henry Vivian, who has been in a Free Trade "rampage" out here, had been "put to sleep" by the Unionist and Tariff Reform forces, while another big working-class constituency in North Wellington has been converted to the cry of Empire.

Several live men have been returned to the new Parliament as a result of the latest pollings. One or two of the "live" members of the last House are now "dead." One of them, it is better to have run and lost than to have scratched and gained the entrance fee. Among the "dead" are the most rising men in the Unionist party, Mr. Johnson-Hicks, who defeated Winston Churchill at Manchester last election, has now to take the "G.O." from that seat. Mr. Johnson-Hicks is a leading socialist, one of the ablest young men in the House, and a most effective and best speaker on the opposition benches. He had earned a "safe" seat, but his Free Trade and total sympathies have, it appears, proved too much for some of his Unionist admirers. Mr. S. F. Ridley, the chairman of the Tariff Reform League—a regular "live wire" failed to win a seat at Newcastle, which remained true to its Free Trade lover, Shortt and Walter Huckerley, the latter the president of the Railwaysmen's Union, and one of the more responsible and energetic of the Labor men.

Of those elected, the most interesting are: Hamar Greenwood (Lab.), a Canadian Liberal. One of the most popular and effective speakers on the Free Trade platform. "Cute enough to know better."

J. W. Lowther, the Speaker of the House of Commons, is one of the best that has ever occupied the chair. Born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, he is a good and a model impartiality. Combines firmness with gentleness, and possesses a sense of humor which keeps him awake during the "all night" sittings that he thinks to be the foundation of the "Daily Mail" without and the ubiquity of the "Fishmen" within. He has become a pretty frequent sight in the House, which latter accomplishment helps him some in the discharge of his Parliamentary duties. A member of that great House, the Earl of Epsom.

Col. Hall-Walker (U.), and Col. Macdonald (U.), two gallant sportsmen and thereabouts. Frankly, neither on the racecourse than in the House, but that's saying heads of two of the most popular owners of racehorses in the country. The latter is the most in Deputy Grand Master of the Orangemen. Col. Hall-Walker's first achievement in life is marrying a descendant of Brinsley Sheridan, a brewer, but not on it, being a Lionel R. Rothschild (U). Another leading racehorse owner, and a member of the world-famous banking family, being a son of Leopold of that ilk. A fortnight younger than his friend and second cousin, Lord Rosebery (Lord Rosebery's son), he keeps alive the family tradition of a Rothschild for Mid-Buckinghamshire. His seat has been held unbrokenly by his family since 1865, and will probably remain loyal as long as Rothschilds are Rothschilds.

Sir R. Finlay (U), a former attorney, Bright as the Bar but rather dull in the House. He has kept opposition of Home Rule, however. The notorious Whittaker-Wright case did not add to his popularity.

George Carl and A. G. Saiter (U). Two brilliant Unionist K. C.'s without doubt among the best debaters and ablest men on either side of the House, particularly the member for Kingston. Mr. Carl, who distinguished himself by his assault on the Government last year, is a brilliant speaker.

C. C. Greig and W. Moore (U), two spry but brilliant Orangemen. Experts at Birrell-baiting. Frankly more in common use, but serve their party nobly.

Rowland Hunt (U). "Boadicea" Hunt is the pet joke of the House, but generally laughs last. As better a member for an agricultural district (St. Shropshire) is a great authority on "bulls"—at least the sort that raise general interest. The notorious edition of Sir Wilfred Lawson. Though not a teetotaler is often in hot water with his party's whip.

Sir Thomas Esmond and Sir Walter Nugent (N), aristocrats and Irishmen who leave the Nationalist lump with a little of the old Irish nobility. They sit for N. Westford and S. Westford, the famous family of Fitzgerald, has played at journalism in the United States, but now thinks that being safer. Sir T. Esmond is a descendant of the great Grattan. Developed "Sine Fein" tendencies in 1907, but his constituents helped him to get on quickly. He has been ever since a member of the House.

Sir C. A. Crispin (U). An eminent lawyer and High Churchman. An adroit dialectician—which is not so humorous. Wants a sense of general to the King, Vicar-General of the archbishops of Canterbury (though he has all sorts of serious things).

H. Mallaby Derry (U). A man with his eyes open. Said to be an American, which after his "Pleasantly" deal, he sounds a true Irishman. Has got his finger and thumb in the "Times" the new Unionist evening paper, which got a "confession" from

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Chippin, and several other wonderful things besides. Should like the paper an obstructionist with the abortive "Clancy compromise," and should be satisfied shortly. O'Donnell mystified Sir Birrell often slips. Whip of the Bisher quite ready and independent English as he tried to do in Irish. Ellis J. Griffin (L). An eloquent K. C. whose handsome appearance enforces a good practice as a leader advocate. Has been known to accept (Continued on Page 3.)