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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE U. S. CONGRESS

Will Not Enforce Retaliatory Legislation Against
Canada--Speaks of Fisheries Dispute.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 7.—Congress presented the usual animated scene this forenoon, in anticipation of the presidential message. Much of its contents had been foretold, but it contained a reference to the threatening tariff war with Canada of considerable moment. Especially it showed the head of the executive to be lenient in his interpretation of the large powers entrusted to him, and indicated that while his government may enter into negotiations with Ottawa, there is no risk of a tariff war.

This statement was as follows: The features of the new tariff act calls for special reference by virtue of the clause known as the "maximum and minimum" clause. It is the duty of the executive to consider the laws and practices of other countries with reference to the importation into these countries of the products and merchandise of the United States, and if the executive finds such laws and practices are not to be unduly discriminated against the United States the minimum duties provided in the bill are to go into force, unless the president makes such a finding, then the maximum duties provided in the bill, that is, an increase of 25 per cent. ad valorem over the minimum duties are to be enforced. For has been expressed that this power conferred and duty imposed on the executive is likely to lead to a tariff war.

I beg to express the hope and belief that no such result need be anticipated. The discretion granted to the executive by the terms "unduly discriminatory" is wide. In order that the maximum duty shall be charged against the imports of any country it is necessary that they shall find on the part of that country not only discriminations in its laws, or the practice under them, against the trade of the United States, but that the discriminations found shall be undue, that is, without good and fair reason. I conceive that this power was imposed in the president with the hope that the maximum duties might never be applied in any case, but that the power to apply them would enable the President and state department, through friendly negotiation, to secure the elimination of the laws and practice under them of any foreign country, of that which is unduly discriminatory. No one is seeking a tariff war, or a condition in which the spirit of retaliation shall be aroused.

NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES
Referring to the question of the North Atlantic Fisheries, the message says:

"Pursuant to the general treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and Great Britain, April 4, 1908, a special agreement was entered into between the two countries on January 27, 1909, for the submission of questions relating to the fisheries on the North Atlantic coast to a tribunal to be formed from members of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

"In accordance with the provisions of the special agreement, the printed case of each government was on Oct. 4 submitted to the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, and the counter case of the United States is now in course of preparation. "The American rights under the fisheries article of the treaty of 1818 have been the cause of difference between the United States and Great Britain for nearly 70 years. The interests involved are of great importance to the American fishing industry, and the final settlement of the controversy will remove a source of constant irritation and complaint. This is the first case involving such great international questions which has been submitted to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

PRESERVATION OF SEALS
Dealing with the question of the St. John river, and of the seal fishing industry, the message proceeds: "Commissioners have been appointed to act jointly with commissioners on the part of Canada in examining into the question of the obstructions in the St. John River between Maine and New Brunswick, and to make recommendations for the uses thereof, and are now engaged in the work.

"Negotiations for an international conference to consider and reach an agreement providing for the preservation of fur seals in the North Pacific are in progress.

THE FAR EAST
In connection with the policy of the United States in the Far East, Mr. Taft says:

"In the Far East this government preserves the policy of supporting the principles of equality of opportunity and respect for the integrity of the Chinese empire, to which policy are pledged the interested powers of both East and West. By the treaty of 1906 China has undertaken the abolition of Likin, with a moderate and proportionate raising of the customs tariff along with currency reform. These reforms are of manifest advantage to foreign countries, as well as to the interests of China. This government is endeavoring to facilitate these measures and the needful acquiescence of the treaty powers."

FINANCES OF U. S.
On the country's finances Mr. Taft has the following:

"Perhaps the most important question presented to this administration is that of economy in expenditure

and sufficiency of revenue. The report of the secretary of the treasury shows that the ordinary expenses for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, will exceed the estimated receipts by \$34,076,890. If to this deficit is added the sum to be expended for the Panama canal, amounting to \$38,000,000, and one million to be paid on the public debt, the deficit of ordinary receipts and expenditures will be increased to a total of \$73,076,890.

"The secretary proposes to meet this deficit by the proceeds of bonds issued to pay the cost of constructing the Panama canal. I approve of this proposal.

"The policy of paying for the construction of the Panama canal by bond issue was adopted in the Spooner act of 1902, and there seems to be no good reason for departing from the principle by which a part of the burden shall fall upon our posterity, who are to enjoy it, and there is all the more reason for this view because of the actual cost to date of the canal, which is now half done, and which will be completed by January 1, 1915, shows that the cost of engineering and construction will be \$287,766,000 instead of only \$139,705,800 as originally estimated.

WAR DEPARTMENT

"In the interests of immediate economy and because of the prospect of a deficit, I have requested a reduction in the estimates of the war department for the coming fiscal year which will bring the total estimate to an amount \$45,000,000 less than the corresponding estimates for last year. This could only be accomplished by cutting off new projects and suspending for the period of one year all progress in military matters. For the same reason I have directed that the army shall not be recruited up to its present authorized strength. These measures can hardly be more than temporary.

"The return of the battleship fleet from its voyage around the world in more efficient condition than when it started was a noteworthy event of interest alike to our citizens and the naval authorities of the world. Besides the beneficial and far-reaching effects upon our personnel and diplomatic relations in the countries which the fleet visited, the market success of the cruise has increased respect of our navy and has added to our natural prestige.

"Owing to the necessity of economy in expenditures, I have directed the curtailment of recommendations for naval appropriations, so that they are \$8 millions less than the corresponding estimate last year, and the request for new naval construction is limited to two first-class battleships and one repairs vessel.

ALASKA

"With respect to the territory of Alaska, I recommend legislation shall provide for the appointment by the president of a governor and also of an executive council, the members of which, shall during their term of office, reside in the territory, and which shall have legislative powers sufficient to enable it to give to the territory local laws adapted to its present growth. I strongly deprecate legislation looking to the election of a territorial legislature in that vast district.

NATURAL RESOURCES

"In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the conservation of our natural resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take the opportunity to send a special message to congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways, upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid and swamp lands, upon the preservation of our forests and the reforestation of suitable areas; upon the reclassification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement, mineral, coal and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power."

Railways in 1909.

In accordance with an order of the House, Hon. J. A. Calder, brought down a return showing the number of miles of railway construction in the province from 1906 to 1908. The following statistics show the increase in the mileage on the different systems in the province:

C.P.R.—Increase 1906, 71.3 miles; 1907 increase 74.45 miles; 1908 increase 292.99 miles. Total 438.74 miles.
C.N.R.—Increase 1906, 142.41 miles; 1907 increase 250.23 miles; 1908 increase 150.27 miles. Total increase 542.91 miles.

G.T.P.—Increase 1907, 154.08 miles; increase 1908, 269.77 miles. Total increase 423.85 miles.

Total on the three systems, 1,396.40 miles.

The following are the figures from Jan. 1, 1909, to Nov. 23, 1909:

C.P.R.—Amount of track laid 128 miles; amount of grade 38 miles.
C.N.R.—Number of miles operating 92.57; amount of track laid 140 miles; amount of grade 356 miles.
G.T.P.—Amount of track laid 50.40 miles; amount of grade 58.30 miles.

In addition to the foregoing 293 miles are being operated for construction purposes. The department has no information at present as to the

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increase in the number of miles operating in the province from September 1, 1906, to December 31st, of the same year.

Message Well Received.

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—With President Taft's message to congress in so far as it relates to affairs between Canada and the United States, satisfaction is great in political circles here. The president's announcement was awaited with considerable interest, and it is felt that there is nothing in it which justifies the assumption that there is to be a tariff war. It is stated authoritatively that the government is gratified at what it considers to be the broad manner in which the president has discussed the administration of the maximum clause of the American tariff. Mr. Taft's statement that the term "unduly discriminatory" gives the president great latitude in determining what really constitutes such undue preference. It is officially stated to be exactly the interpretation given the law by the members of the government at Ottawa. Had the president's attitude been more menacing in character, it would doubtless have exercised an influence on the character of the finance minister's budget deliverance.

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