

# PRESIDENT WILSON SUBMITS HIS FINAL ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

RECOMMENDS REVISION OF TAX LAWS AND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE INCOME AND PROFITS TAXES; ALSO A LOAN TO ARMENIA AND INDEPENDENCE OF PHILIPPINES.

## DOES NOT ENDORSE BONUS FOR SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR

Nowhere Did the President Refer to the League of Nations or the Peace Treaty Fight, Except Perhaps by Inference in Opening When He Quoted Abraham Lincoln's "Let Us Have Faith that Right Makes Might, &c."

Washington.—President Wilson's concrete recommendations to Congress in his annual message were:

Revision of the tax laws with simplification of the income and profits taxes.

Independence for the Philippines.

A loan to Armenia.

Economy in government appropriations and expenditures and creation of a "workable" budget system.

Cold storage and other laws affecting the cost of living, and the federal licensing of corporations as recommended in previous messages.

Rehabilitation and training of disabled soldiers and sailors. The President did not endorse a bonus.

Nowhere did the President refer to the League of Nations or peace treaty fight, except perhaps, by inference in his opening when he quoted Abraham Lincoln's "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

The President's message was transmitted by messenger, the President adhering to his decision not to address Congress in person.

The President's message was not read immediately in the senate, which waited until it had disposed of routine business. Secretary Tumulty was among the spectators in the senate, occupying a seat on the floor. Public galleries again were filled, and several diplomats were present.

Washington. — President Wilson's annual message to Congress follows:

When I addressed myself to performing the duty laid upon the president by the constitution to present to you an annual report on the state of the Union, I found my thought dominated by an immortal sentence of Abraham Lincoln:

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

A sentence immortal because it embodies in a form of utter simplicity and purity the essential faith of the nation, the faith in which it was conceived and the faith in which it has grown to glory and power. With that faith and the birth of a nation, the faith in which it was conceived and the faith in which it has grown to glory and power. With that faith and the birth of a nation founded upon it came the hope into the world that a new order would prevail throughout the affairs of mankind, an order in which reason and right would take precedence over covetousness and force, and I believe that I express the wish and purpose of every thoughtful American when I say that this sentence marks for us in the plainest manner the part we should play alike in the arrangement of our domestic affairs and in our exercise of influence upon the affairs of the world. By this faith and by this faith alone, can the world be lifted out of its present confusion and despair. It was this faith which prevailed over the wicked force of Germany.

This is the mission upon which democracy came into the world. The democracy is an assertion of the right of the individual to live and to be treated justly as against any attempt upon the part of any combination of individuals to make laws which will overburden him or which will destroy his equality among his fellows in the matter of right or privilege, and I think we all realize that the day has come when democracy is being put upon its final test. The old world is just now suffering from a wanton rejection of the principle of democracy and a substitution of the principle of autocracy as asserted in the name but without the authority and sanction of the multitude. This is the time of all others when democracy should purve its purity and its spiritual power to prevail. It is surely the manifest destiny of the United States to lead in the attempt to make this spirit prevail.

There are two ways in which the United States can assist to accomplish this great object: First, by offering the example within her own borders of the will and power of democracy to make and enforce laws which are unquestionably just and which are equal in their administration—laws which secure its full right to labor and let at the same time safeguard the integrity of property, and particularly of that property which is devoted to the development of industry and the increase of the necessary wealth of the world. Second, by standing for right and justice as towards individual nations. The law of democracy is for the protection of the weak, and the influence of every democracy in the world should be for the protection of the weak nation, the nation which is struggling towards its right and towards its proper recognition and privilege in the family of nations.

Recovery from the disturbing and sometime disastrous effects of the late war has been exceedingly slow on the other side of the water and has given promise. I venture to say, of early completion only in our own fortunate country; but even with us the recovery halts and is impeded at times and there are immediately serv-

iceable acts of legislation which it seems to me we ought to attempt, to assist recovery and to prove the indestructible recuperative force of a great government of the people. One of these is to prove that a great democracy can keep house as successfully and in as business-like a fashion as any other government. It seems to me that the first step towards proving this is to supply ourselves with a systematic method of handling our estimates and expenditures and bringing them to the point where they will not be an unnecessary strain upon our income or necessitate unreasonable taxation; in other words, a workable budget system, and I respectfully suggest that two elements are essential to such a system; namely, not only that the proposal of appropriations should be in the hands of a single body, such as a single appropriations committee in each house of the congress, but also that this body should be brought into such co-operation with the departments of the government and with the treasury of the United States as would enable it to act upon a complete conspectus of the needs of the government and the resources from which it must draw its income. I reluctantly vetoed the budget bill passed by the last session of the congress because of a constitutional objection. The house of representatives subsequently modified the bill in order to meet this objection. In the revised form, I believe that the bill, coupled with action already taken by the congress to revise its rules and procedure, furnishes the foundations for an effective national budget system. I earnestly hope, therefore, that one of the first steps taken by the present session of the congress will be to pass the budget bill.

The nation's finances have shown marked improvement during the past year. The total ordinary receipts of \$6,694,000,000 for the fiscal year 1920 exceeded those for 1919 by \$1,542,000,000 while the total net ordinary expenditures decreased from \$18,514,000,000 to \$6,403,000,000. The gross public debt, which reached its highest point on August 31, 1919, when it was \$26,596,000,000, had dropped on November 30, 1920, to \$24,175,000,000.

The fundamental fact which at present dominates the government's financial situation is that seven and a half billions of its war indebtedness mature within the next two and a half years. Of this amount, two and a half billions are floating debt and five billions victory notes and war savings certificates. The fiscal program of the government must be determined with reference to these maturities. Sound policy demands that government expenditures be reduced to the lowest amount which will permit the various services to operate efficiently and that government receipts from taxes and requirements, including interest and sinking fund charges on the public debt, and at the same time retire the floating debt and part of the victory loan before maturity. With rigid economy vigorous salvage operations and adequate revenues from taxation, a surplus of currency receipts over current expenditures can be realized and should be applied to the floating debt. All branches of the government should co-operate to see that this program is realized.

I cannot over-emphasize the necessity of economy in government appropriations and expenditures and the avoidance by the congress of practices which take money from the treasury by indefinite or revolving fund appropriations. The estimates for the present year show that over a billion dollars of expenditures were authorized by the last congress in addition to the amounts shown in the usual compiled statements of appropriations. This strikingly illustrates the importance of making direct and specific appropriations. The relation between the current receipts and current expenditures of the government during the present fiscal year, as well as during the last half of the last fiscal year, has been disturbed by the extraordinary burdens thrown upon the treasury by the transportation act

in connection with the return of the railroads to private control.

Closely connected with this, it seems to me, is the necessity for an immediate consideration of the revision of our tax laws. Simplifying of the income and profits taxes has become an immediate necessity. These taxes performed an indispensable service during the war. The need for their simplification, however, is great in order to save the tax payer inconvenience and expense in order to make his liability more certain and definite. Others and more detailed recommendations with regard to taxes will no doubt be laid before you by the secretary of the treasury and the commissioners of internal revenue.

It is my privilege to draw to the attention of congress for very sympathetic consideration the problem of providing adequate facilities for the care and treatment of former members of the military and naval forces who are sick or disabled as the result of their participation in the war. These heroic men can never be paid in money for the service they patriotically rendered the nation. Their reward will lie rather in realization of the fact that they vindicated the rights of their country and aided in safeguarding civilization. The nation's gratitude must be effectively revealed to them by the most ample provision for their medical care and treatment as well as for their vocational training and placement. The time has come when a more complete program can be formulated and more satisfactorily administered for their treatment and training, and I earnestly urge that the congress give the matter its early consideration. The secretary of the treasury and the board for vocational education will outline in their annual reports proposals covering medical care and rehabilitation which I am sure will engage your earnest study and command your most generous support.

Permit me to emphasize once more the need for action upon certain matters upon which I dwell at some length in my message to the second session of the sixty-sixth congress: The necessity, for example, of encouraging the manufacture of dyestuffs and related chemicals; the importance of doing everything possible to promote agricultural production along economic lines, to improve agricultural marketing to make rural life more attractive and healthful; the need for a law regulating cold storage in such a way as to limit the time during which goods may be kept in storage, prescribing the method of disposing of them if kept beyond the permitted period, and requiring goods released from storage in all cases to bear the date of their receipt. It would also be most serviceable if it were provided that all goods released for interstate shipment should have plainly marked upon each package the selling or market price at which they went into storage, in order that the purchaser might be able to learn what profits stood between him and the producer or the wholesale dealer. Indeed, it would be very serviceable to the public if all goods destined for interstate commerce were made to carry upon every packing case whose form made it possible a plain statement of the price at which they left the hands of the producer. I respectfully call your attention, also, to the recommendations of the message referred to with regard to a federal license for all corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

In brief, the immediate legislative need of the time is the removal of all obstacles to the realization of the best ambitions of our people in their several classes of employment and the strengthening of all instrumentalities by which difficulties are to be met and removed and justice dealt out, whether by law or by some form of mediation and conciliation. I do not feel it to be my privilege at present to suggest the detailed and particular methods by which these objects may be attained but I have faith that the inquiries of your several committees will discover the way and the method.

In response to what I believe to be the impulse of sympathy and opinion throughout the United States, I earnestly suggest that the congress authorize the treasury of the United States to make to the struggling government of Armenia such a loan as was made to several of the allied governments during the war; and I would also suggest that it would be desirable to provide in the legislation itself that the expenditure of the money thus loaned should be under the supervision of a commission, or at least a commissioner, from the United States, in order that revolutionary tendencies within Armenia itself might not be afforded by the loan a further tempting opportunity.

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that the people of the Philippine islands have succeeded in maintaining a stable government since the last action of the congress in their behalf, and have thus fulfilled the conditions set by the congress as precedent to a consideration of granting independence to the islands. I respectfully submit that this condition precedent having been fulfilled, it is now our liberty and our duty to keep our promise to the people of those islands by granting them the independence which they so honorably covet.

I have not so much laid before you a series of recommendations, gentlemen, as sought to utter a confession of faith, of the faith in which I was bred and which it is my solemn purpose to stand by until my last fighting day. I believe this to be the faith of America, the faith of the future, and of all the victories which await national action in the days to come, whether in America or elsewhere.

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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### LESSON FOR DECEMBER 19

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 2:1-20.  
GOLDEN TEXT—For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.  
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Matt. 1 and 2.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Gift of the Baby Jesus.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Shepherd and the Angels.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—A Savior Born.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Significance of the Incarnation.

I. The Birth of the Savior (vv. 1-7).  
1. The time of (vv. 1, 2). It was at a time when the Jews were coming under control of the Roman power. In the providence of God, the birth of Christ occurred at a time when all the systems of religion and morality were tottering upon their foundations. It was at a time, indeed, when a new force was needed to be brought into the world. Furthermore, it occurred at a time which was the most suitable for the introduction of the gospel. The whole world being under one rule made it possible for ministers to move from city to city and from country to country without molestation.

2. The place of (vv. 3, 4). It took place at Bethlehem as the prophet had foretold some seven hundred years before (Micah 5:2). A little while previous to this it seemed very unlikely that the words of Micah would come true. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was in Galilee, miles away from Jerusalem. God moved the emperor to enforce the decree of taxation just at the time to cause Mary to be at Bethlehem at the proper time. Little did the emperor realize that he was an instrument in the hands of God to carry this out.

3. The circumstances of His birth (v. 7). The surroundings were the most humble sort. The Almighty Creator condescended to take upon Himself humanity—to be born in a manger, becoming the poorest of the poor, that none might be hindered from coming to Him.

II. The Birth of the Savior Announced (vv. 8-14).  
1. To whom (v. 8). His birth was announced to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night. The glorious gospel message was first sounded forth to them. This shows that poverty is no barrier to the reception of the blessed gospel. God does not reveal Himself mainly to the princes and great men of the earth, but oftentimes these things are concealed from such, and disclosed to the poor. "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5). Their being busy with the duties of this life did not prevent them from being favored with this glorious message from God. Moses, Gideon, Amos and Elisha were called by the Lord from the busy activities of life. The Lord never calls the idle; he has no use for the lazy man.

2. By whom (v. 9). The first gospel sermon was preached by the angel of the Lord. This exalted being has part in the announcement of the plan of salvation. No doubt angels earnestly sympathize with poor, fallen, sin-cursed men.

3. The nature of the message (vv. 10-14). It was good tidings of great joy. Surely this was a gladsome message. It was good tidings because the darkness of heathendom which had for so long covered the earth was beginning to vanish. The casting out of Satan, the prince of the world, was about to take place. Liberty was now soon to be proclaimed to those who were in bondage. The way of salvation was now about to be opened to all. No longer was the knowledge of God to be confined to the Jews, but offered to the whole world. So glorious was this good news that a multitude of the heavenly hosts appeared, joining in the song of praise.

III. The Prompt Investigation of the Shepherds (vv. 15, 16).  
They did not stop to argue or question, though no doubt these things seemed passing strange to them, but they hastily went to Bethlehem where they found everything just as represented. They had the privilege of first gazing upon the world's Savior, the Lord of glory. They returned with gratitude in their hearts, praising God for all these wonderful things which He had revealed to them.

IV. The Shepherds Witnessing (vv. 17-20).  
They could not remain silent. They were impelled to tell the good news. All who have truly heard the good tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ must tell it to others. These shepherds went back to their work praising God.

Christian Faith.  
Christian faith is a grand cathedral, with divinely pictured windows—standing without you can see no glory, nor can imagine any, but standing within every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable splendors.

Praying.  
No one will pray for the perfected heart earnestly, perseveringly, believingly, until he accepts God's Word fully that it is a positive command and an immediate duty to be perfect.—Rev. Andrew Murray.

# Unto Us a Son Is Given

by ALICE MEYNELL



GIVEN, not lent,  
And not withdrawn—once sent,  
This Infant of mankind, this One,  
Is still the little welcome Son.

NEW every year,  
New born and newly dear,  
He comes with tidings and a song,  
The ages long, the ages long;

EVEN as the cold  
Keen winter grows not old,  
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,  
And spring in the familiar green.

SUDDEN as sweet  
Come the expected feet.  
All joy is young, and new all art,  
And He, too, whom we have by heart.

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



(Luke 2: 1-14)

AND IT came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David).

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there was in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them; Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people.  
For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.