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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Roosevelt's message was read in both houses of Congress Tuesday at noon. We are sorry we haven't room to publish it in full, but the document is quite lengthy and would require more space than we have at our command, so we are giving our readers the most important features of the message.

One of the most important features of the President's message was his advocacy of government control of railroad rates. This does not mean to take the authority of fixing rates out of the hands of the railroads altogether but to have a commission to see that no one is overcharged or discriminated against. The President also calls attention to the necessity for legislation requiring the use of block signals upon railroads engaged in interstate commerce and states that Congress should provide, by appropriate legislation, for the introduction of block signals upon all such railroads at the earliest practical date, as a measure of increased safety to the traveling public. Further important recommendations of the President were, the urgent need of action to make our criminal law more effective, the need of a greater merchant marine, the necessity of a law to regulate interstate commerce in misbranded and adulterated foods, drinks and drugs. Such a law would protect the legitimate manufacturer and the consuming public. The President also recommends that Indian Territory and Oklahoma be admitted as one State, and that New Mexico and Arizona be admitted as one State. Mr. Roosevelt states that nothing has taken up more time in Congress during the past few years than the question as to the statehood to be granted the four territories mentioned above, and recommends that they be immediately admitted as two States.

LAW SHOULD BE ENFORCED OR REPEALED

The Winston Daily Sentinel (democratic) is of the opinion that the next legislature should spend a part of its time in repealing the needless laws now on the statute books. The Sentinel says:

"One of the best things the next legislature could do would be to take from the statute books some of the laws now contained therein. We have very many excellent laws and some very needless ones and the latter should be repealed. It is easy to see that disrespect for one law breeds contempt for all law. There can be little doubt of the fact that we have too many laws and every legislature naturally increases the number. Of course new conditions are constantly arising and these necessitate new laws, but we hope the next legislature will confine new laws to the minimum. We also hope that the next legislature will take action to have provision made for the care of all the insane of the State, no matter how much it costs. This trouble about inadequate space at the State hospitals is constantly arising, and we believe the condition complained of should be remedied once for all."

The Sentinel is right. Many of the laws now on the statute books should be repealed because other laws have been passed in their stead, while there are many more that have been passed by recent legislatures that are obsolete for the reason that they have never been enforced. They should either be repealed or the officers of the law should be fined for not enforcing them. If a man can violate one law and go unpunished he naturally concludes he can break other laws and escape punishment. As the Sentinel says: "Disrespect for one law breeds contempt for all law."

An exchange says that the "lawless may expect to be punished." Well, if they do, many of the lawless don't get what they expect.

Water-Rate Decision

The Supreme Court of Florida decided that an ordinance passed by the city of Tampa, regulating water rates in that city, is valid. The plant in Tampa is owned by a corporation and the city passed an ordinance fixing certain rate charges for water. The water company appealed and the court upholds the city.

"LEADING A WEAK LOT."

The Raleigh Evening Times (democratic) thinks the democratic contingent in Congress is a weak lot. The Times, in looking over the "lot," takes this view of the situation:

"The nomination of John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, for Speaker by the Democratic members of the House of Representatives, means that he will again officiate as the minority leader, and indeed no other arrangement would have been satisfactory to the party. Mr. Cannon, of course, will be the real speaker. In Congress the democrats cut a very sorry figure in quantity and quality, for it seems to be a rule in some parts of the South and West to pick up a man without ability and elect him simply because he has the 'pull' with the politicians. There are constant changes from almost every district and before a member has had time to familiarize himself with conditions, he is left at home and another stranger is sent to Washington to set the woods on fire; soon he returns."

The Greenville Reflector says: "We notice that a veteran in Virginia has refused a pension and back pay amounting to upwards of \$15,000. If he was in North Carolina he would be sent up about Raleigh."

The Reflector doesn't make it plain whether the man would have been sent to the penitentiary or to the insane asylum. But that wouldn't have made much difference, as there are many in the prisons who should be in the asylums, and it is safe to say there are some in the asylum who should be in the penitentiary.

Where the Trouble Lies as to Taking Care of the Insane

In discussing the agitation concerning the indigent insane of the State, which shows an alarming and shameful condition of things relative to these poor unfortunates, the Charlotte Observer, getting off on the line that we have spoken on before, says:

"But what we started out to say is that the present agitation is in reality out of season at present; it should have occurred just before or during a session of the legislature. The State Hospital authorities have never in recent years failed to acquaint the members of the legislature with the true condition of affairs and urge them to do whatever was necessary for the care of all the insane in the State, always laying emphasis upon the condition of those who could not be admitted for lack of room. There is no evidence that conditions are worse now than they have been for some years—and certainly they are a great deal worse than they should be. The legislature alone can remedy present conditions, and it does not meet for over a year yet."

"We have repeatedly called attention to the very facts that are now being made use of; indeed to such extent that we were fearful of wearying our readers. The legislature, however, failed to act, and until it does no relief that is worthy of the name is to be expected."

"As to the hospital authorities, there is no doubt that they have done their duty, despite assertions to the contrary. The responsibility for present conditions lies with the members of the legislature."

The appeals to the Governor in behalf of the indigent insane during off years by some of the political organs do not win much applause from the people as to their good intentions or statesmanship. Neither has the recent management of the State Hospitals merited much esteem from our recent legislatures. They have gone off after "strange gods," as it were, and neglected these unfortunates at the time that they could have provided for them. They have thought of the reassessment of property, of providing for special and higher taxes, of raising salaries and of creating new offices, of giving place to political favorites and of perpetuating the power of the Democratic party, and in the windup they have consumed all the taxes that have been raised and there is no money left for the many needed purposes. This has been the program each time the legislature has met, and there is no use to mince words about it, the blame should go where it belongs. The next campaign will be waged on the idea of re-electing Simmons to the United States Senate—and its correlative, perpetuating the Democratic machine—and we will not hear a word about the poor indigent insane then.—Union Republican.

His Peculiarity

The Washington Mirror tells of a surprise that came to a man that remarked to a stammerer: "You must find that impediment in your speech rather inconvenient at times, Mr. Biggs." "Oh, no; everybody has his peculiarity. Stammering is mine; what is yours?" "Well, really, I am not aware that I have any." "Do you stir your tea with your right hand?" "Why, yes, of course." "Well, that is y-your p-peculiarity; most p-people u-use a t-teaspoon."

FROM OUR EXCHANGES

Some Squibs of Interest We Have Gathered with our pen-and-ink and Shears.

There is a new clamor for the punishment of the fools who point "unloaded guns" at people. We are agreed. And while we are at it, why not say a word in favor of punishing those who deliberately kill their fellow-man?—Raleigh Enterprise.

Mr. W. J. Bryan, the American democratic party, is traveling in Japan. He tried to buy the old war stool upon which Admiral Togo sat when he attended the shinto ceremonial in Ueno park, at Tokio, to celebrate the naval triumph. The stool which has been used for centuries (since 1607) has been handed down in the Ogasawara family of shinto priests. What did Mr. Bryan want with the old stool? While he is over there he had better be looking about the junk shop for a cheap second hand platform. His people over here need that more than they do the stool.—People's Paper.

More Official Brutality

At Wilmington, Jas. M. Wade, a deputy sheriff, arrested a woman for disorderly conduct. She cursed the officer and the brute beat her until she had to be sent to the hospital. He was fined \$50 and costs and made to resign his office. A good thrashing should have been added.

We publish this to show that Democratic officials sometimes do wrong as well as Republicans. Our Democratic friends have a spasm whenever a Republican officer goes wrong, but they tread lightly on the toes of the brutes of their own party. We believe in condemning wrong wherever it exists, regardless of party. Democratic officials in the East are being criticized for not enforcing the provisions of the Ward and Watts laws,—blockade distilleries are greatly on the increase in the East, but revenue officers are expected to do all the cutting up.—Davie Record.

A Farce in the Name of Justice

Progressive Farmer | The following dispatch was printed in last week's Progressive Farmer: "Fayetteville, Nov. 21st: Messrs. John C. Haigh and George Myrover, formerly cashier and teller of the Bank of Fayetteville, plead guilty to the charge of embezzlement in the Superior Court today and judgment was suspended on payment of costs, restitution having been made to the bank."

Fair Play

A group of drummers were trading yarns on the subject of hospitality, when one, a little Virginian with a humorous eye and a delightful drawl, took up his parable thus:

"I was down in Louisiana last month travelin' 'cross country with S. J. Carey (the same being Stonewall Jackson C. at your service) when we kinder got lost in a mighty lonesome sort of road just about dark. We rode along a right good piece after sundown, and when we saw a light ahead, I tell you it looked like a house, and when I hollored like a lost calf the man came out and we asked him to take us in for the night? He looked at us mighty hard, then said, 'Wall, I reckon I can stand it if you kin.' So we unhitched, went in, and found 'twas only a two-room shanty and just swarmin' with children. He had six from four to eleven years old, and as there didn't seem to be but one bed, me an' Stony was wonderin' what in thunder would become of us."

"They gave us supper, good hog and hominy, the best they had, and then the old woman put the two youngest kids to bed. They went straight to sleep. Then she took those out, laid them over in the corner, put the next two to bed, and so on. After all the children were asleep on the floor, the old folk went in the other room and told us we could go to bed if we wanted to, and, 'bein' powerful tired out, we did."

A Reckless Stewardship

The Democratic party has been in power in this State for years and all at once the people stand aghast at the announcement that there are hundreds of insane persons who cannot gain admission to the State institutions. Unfortunately Democratic Legislatures have been too busy raising salaries, multiplying offices, passing Water liquor laws which their own officials won't enforce, finding negroes in every wood pile, reckless appropriation of funds until nothing is left but a bankrupt State Treasury, enacting fool private laws and many of a public nature, which the Supreme Court sets aside in a majority of appeals, while the poor and helpless insane are kept in pens like cattle, or in jails like criminals, for lack of accommodation at Raleigh and Morganton. Now there is a terrible blow and bluster about the unfortunates and it is well. But why, at this late date? Simply because patience has ceased to be a virtue, and there is a demand all over North Carolina which the Democratic party cannot any longer cast aside at will to patch the holes in their extremely rotten political fences in order to carry the State and keep machine Democracy with its legion of bonds and bankruptcy in power.—Union Republican.

For the Railway Kings, or for the People?

Congress, assembling early this month, must grant or deny the nation's demand for a square deal in railway freight rates. The people have become convinced that private control of rates on the public highways—the railways—is the main factor in building up the great trust that strangle competition and rob consumers. This conviction is the power behind the urgent popular demand that railway rates should be regulated by the Federal government. Ray Stannard Baker in McClure's Magazine for November shows us exactly how a dozen private citizens, responsible only to railway managers, intent on charging the public not a fair rate but all that it possibly can pay, make rates in secret and in violation of law. President Roosevelt will ask Congress this winter to enact a law which the people who support the railways can, through federal officials, get prompt and sure protection against extortionate and inequitable charges upon these highways of the nation's commerce. When House and Senate vote on this proposition we shall know exactly which members serve the people, and who are the others that give their first allegiance to the railway kings. They must toe the mark or quit the track.—Frank Putnam in National Magazine for December.

PREDICTS FIFTEEN-CENT COTTON

W. P. Brown Estimates Crop at 10,175,000 Bales.

New Orleans, Dec. 8.—W. P. Brown, former bull leader, tonight issued his estimate of this year's cotton crop, which he places at 10,175,000 bales (commercial). The estimate includes this year's growth, linters, city crop and what old cotton may have been carried over from last year. He declares cotton will go to 15 cents, and adds:

"I contend that prices are only relative and that the world today is better able to buy goods made of 7 and 8 cent cotton. The planters of the South can market the balance of this crop on an average of 15 cents if they stand together."

"My investigation shows that we have practically a crop disaster in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, three-fourths of Texas and Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Alabama have fared somewhat better, though the yield in those States is very light. Georgia, the Carolinas and Florida have good crops."

Thirteen Thousand Acres of Trees Bought in Swain and Graham Counties

Asheville, N. C., Dec. 4.—An announcement was made today of the sale by an Asheville agency of the timber on thirteen thousand acres of land, lying in Swain and Graham counties, and the timber is said to be some of the finest in Western North Carolina. The purchasers of the properties are C. H. and W. A. Rexford, of Pennsylvania. One of the tracts is known as the Thomas land, while the other tract is along the waters of the Whitewater river. It is estimated that the timber on the two tracts is worth several hundred thousands of dollars. The consideration was not divulged, though it is said that the timber was bought on stumpage basis.

What a Trained Nurse Says

"If nervous people would only drink more water they would not be so nervous," remarked a train nurse the other day. "Nearly every physician will recommend to a woman who is suffering from nervous prostration or nervous exhaustion to drink lots of water between meals; but many women who do not come under a doctor's care would feel better and look better if they would drink, say, a quart of water in the course of the day. Water seems to be a nerve food, and it has a distinctly soothing effect, when sipped gradually, as one can best test for herself."

Convinced He Was Sick

An Irishman had appendicitis. They took him to the hospital, laid him on the operating table, gave him ether, and tied a small monkey on a shelf where he would see it when he regained consciousness. He saw it grinning and chattering. "Phat's that?" "Sh—be quiet!" That's what we took you for."

How He Died

It is said of Representative Adamson, of Georgia, while on his way to Washington, one day not long ago, noticed a crowd around the depot at one of the stations on the Southern, down in North Carolina, and peered his head out of a car window and asked of a negro:

"Adam, what's the matter?" "Jim Johnson's dead, ah," was the answer. "Somebody shoot him?" "No, ah; nobody done nuthin' to him; he jus' died all at once unanimsously."—Philadelphia Ledger

Brighten Up Your Home

It is wonderful how much a little paint and whitewash will do towards brightening up a country place. These will not only add to the appearance but to the healthfulness also. Buildings kept well painted will not only last much longer without repair, but will lead an air of cheerfulness to the place that will have a beneficial effect on the occupants also.—Home and Farm.

Quite the Thing

"That's a queer design you have in the corner of your billhead," remarked Sloopy. "It's merely a little flower," replied the tailor. "Think it's appropriate, eh?" "Yes, it's a fangs-me-not."

A True Daughter of Eve

The hotel building was a seething mass of flames. At an upper window appeared the form of a woman, the only guest who had not succeeded in getting out before danger became imminent. An heroic fireman sprang nimbly up the tall ladder to her rescue. He reaches the topmost round, and extends his arms to take her down. "Come!" he commands hoarsely; "there's no time to lose."

The woman leans toward him. Then with a shriek she darts back and plunges into the smoke-laden room. The heroic fireman follows. Evidently she has gone back for some dear one—perhaps her child. Grooping about in the gloom, he at last stumbles over her prostrate form and hastily bears her to the window. The fresh air revives her, and she speaks to her rescuer. "Pardon me," she says, "as they begin to descend the ladder, 'but I had to go back. I had left my powder rag!' A true daughter of Eve.—Woman's Magazine.

The Wrong Corpse Given to a Father at Roxboro

Mr. Robert Stephens, the general agent of the Norfolk and Western Railroad here had quite an unusual experience last Friday night. It seems that two bodies were shipped from the same express office in West Virginia on the same train. One was that of a grown person and the other a child. The child was to go to North Wilkesboro, both were marked correctly. Mr. Stephens' consternation cannot be imagined or expressed when the father of the little child came forward to claim the corpse and found that a mistake had been made. Bob said he fairly made the wires burn till he got the matter straightened out. It was a terrible blunder of some one. The mistake was made in Roanoke, hence the officials on this division were not responsible.

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TORTURE OF A PREACHER

The story of the torture of Rev. O. D. Moore, pastor of the Baptist church, of Harpersville, N. Y., will interest you. He says: "I suffered agonies, because of a persistent cough, resulting from the grip. I had to sleep sitting up in bed. I tried many remedies, without relief, until I took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Coughs and Colds, which entirely cured my cough and saved me from consumption." A grand cure for diseased conditions of Throat and Lungs. At all druggists; price 50c and \$1.00, guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

Not Unless They Are Willing

You can fool all of the men some of the time, and some of the men all the time, but you can't fool any of the women any of the time—if they don't wish to be fooled.—Ex.

FURIOUS FIGHTING

"For seven years," writes George W. Hoffman, of Harper, Wash., "I had a bitter battle, with chronic stomach and liver trouble, but at last I won, and cured my diseases, by the use of Electric Bitters. I unhesitatingly recommend them to all, and don't intend in the future to be without them in the house. They are certainly a wonderful medicine, to have cured such a bad case as mine." Sold, under guarantee to do the same for you. All druggists, at 50c. a bottle. Try them today.

Provoking Thing

Husband—You don't try to make home attractive. Look at that table, now; no luxuries to tempt the appetite. Wife—Why, you provoking thing, you told me last night you had no appetite.—Ex.

Heart Weakness

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure has made many hearts well after they have been pronounced hopeless. It has completely cured thousands, and will almost invariably cure or benefit every case of heart disease. Short breath, pain around heart, palpitation, fluttering, dizzy, fainting and smothering spells should not be neglected. Take Dr. Miles' Heart Cure and see how quick you will be relieved. It cannot make a new heart, but will restore a sick one by strengthening the heart nerves and muscles, relieving the unnatural strain, and restoring its vitality.

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