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No. 43

THE ECONOMY PLEA.

President Taft Urges Curtailment of Expenses in all Departments.

SOME SUBJECTS OMITTED.

President's Message a Surprise—He Will Probably Send Special Messages to Congress to Cover the Important Subjects Omitted in Regular Message—The Sugar Trust Frauds—Strongly Urges Establishment of Postal Savings Banks—To Change the Date of Inauguration.

(Special to The Caucasian.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 7, 1909.—Both Houses of Congress assembled yesterday, but adjourned promptly out of respect to the memory of Senator Johnson of North Dakota and Representatives Lassiter of Virginia and De Armond of Missouri, all of whom have died since the adjournment of the special session last summer.

It was announced that the President's message would not be sent to Congress until to-day. There was, however, the usual expectant interest as to what the message would contain, because the members of Congress as well as the people of the country generally felt that the President had outlined in detail the substance of the message in his many speeches made in his recent long tour around the circle through the North, West, and South. Hence, the conversation between members of Congress was in fact directed more to the remarkable political situation in England than to our own affairs.

The astonishing action of the House of Lords in rejecting the budget passed by the House of Commons was the uppermost topic of conversation, the general opinion being that the House of Lords had committed rash and dubious action which might threaten the overthrow of that hereditary body.

The President's Message a Surprise.

But this evening the one topic of conversation among members of Congress is the President's message, which is being discussed more for what it does not contain than for what it does contain.

The interest as to the President's message, it may be said, centered chiefly around how far the President would go in his recommendation for advanced legislation on the three great cardinal policies of the Roosevelt administration, namely, the trusts, the railroad control, and the conservation of natural resources. The extreme conservatives were hoping that the President would touch lightly on these questions, while the progressives were hoping that he would come out at least as strong along the Roosevelt lines as indicated by the President's speeches in the West. But to the surprise of everyone, the message contains no recommendations on these three great questions. A Western Congressman said it is a case of "Hamlet" with "Hamlet" left out.

The friends of the administration are pointing out that the President will take up these three questions and deal with them more effectively in special messages, while others take the position that even if he should do this, that much valuable time will be wasted, and that if such messages are not soon sent to Congress it will be too late for any effective legislation along these lines to be enacted at the present session. It is understood that the President's reasons for omitting these most important domestic questions were that he was not able to decide upon a middle course between the views urged upon him by the reactionaries on the one side and the progressives on the other. But it is certain the President will speak out on these questions later.

Foreign Questions Chiefly Dealt With.

Nearly half of the President's message is devoted to foreign affairs. Of course, the situation in Nicaragua is discussed, but most of the message on foreign affairs deals with the Far Eastern situation.

The Sugar Trust Frauds.

A number of members of Congress had prepared resolutions looking to a Congressional investigation of the enormous and multifarious frauds perpetrated upon the Government by the Sugar Trust, to say nothing of the robbery of the public. These are much disappointed that the President in his message should ask Congress not to investigate these frauds, but to leave the whole matter to the Attorney-General's Office. However, it is thought that the President's request will be acceded to and the Attorney-General will be given time to prosecute the criminals with the belief that the higher criminals will not be allowed to escape.

The Economy Plea.

The President strongly urges in his message that expenses of the Government in all departments shall be cut down to the lowest possible notch. A Western insurgent Congressman, commenting upon this recommendation, said that his country was too big and too rich to begin a cheese-paring policy at the expense of national growth and development, in-

cluding the beautification of the national capital. He asked significantly if such a recommendation was made because it was believed that the tariff bill placed the duties so high on imports that not enough revenue would be received from it to conduct the Government in a way fitting to its size, dignity, and growth!

Strong for Postal Savings Banks.

The friends of postal savings banks are very much gratified that the President in his message spoke out in strong and positive terms for the establishment of a system of postal savings banks. The President pointed out that it was not necessary to wait to see what the monetary commission recommends and what Congress does for currency reform before passing a law to establish a system of postal savings banks similar to systems that have already been adopted in nearly every other civilized country in the world and which are working with such success and popularity.

The President might even have gone further and pointed out that no one step could be taken by the Government that would be a greater check and preventive for panics than such a system, besides the great benefits to result in encouraging the poor to save up sufficient capital for investing in enterprise or to make a substantial stake of some kind in the country.

To Change the Date of Inauguration.

The District Commissioners have in their report to Congress strongly urged that the date of the inauguration of the President be changed from March 4th to the last Thursday in April, and sentiment in Congress seems to be strongly in favor of this date or even a later date in May.

The Commissioners have also urged that with the retrocession of that part of the District of Columbia lying south of the Potomac and within the State of Virginia, which was receded by Congress in 1846, it should be again taken over. The Washington Board of Trade has passed a resolution raising squarely the question as to whether or not such retrocession by Congress was not unconditional, and to-day the chairman of that Board presented these resolutions to President Taft. It is understood that the President is interested in the question and may later send a special message to Congress upon this subject.

It will be remembered that when the Government was founded it was provided that there should be a ten-mile square strip on the north and south side of the Potomac, one-half to be ceded by Maryland and the other half by Virginia, to be known as the District of Columbia, to be the site of the Federal Government and entirely under its control. The Virginia part of this cession was receded, as already stated, in 1846. It is now seen that the capital will soon outgrow the reduced District and will need the entire ten miles square.

Two Other Congresses in Session.

There met in Washington on yesterday two other congresses besides the Congress of the United States, the proceedings of which will be of no small interest. One is the Southern Commercial Congress and the other is the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. Both are well represented by a large body of fine-looking delegates.

SENSATIONAL RAID IN BURKE COUNTY.

A Deputy Sheriff and Magistrate Arrested for Operating a Blockade Distillery.

Hickory, Dec. 3.—The most sensational revenue raid that ever occurred in this section was made yesterday when special employe C. F. Blacklock and posseman H. W. Jones captured Carl Swink, deputy sheriff of Burke County; Laywood Swink, his son, and Timothy Lall, a magistrate, operating an illicit distillery.

Several days ago the officers received word that a still was in operation in the South Mountain district of Burke County. Leaving Hickory yesterday at 8.30 o'clock they drove 20 miles, and on their arrival at the place described in their information, it is said they found the still running full blast, with the above-named men operating it.

The 50-gallon copper still, the cap and worm, with nine fermenters, about 1,000 gallons of beer and four gallons of low wines were destroyed. A shotgun and one and a half gallons of corn whiskey were confiscated.

The men were taken into custody and brought back to Hickory, where they were given a hearing to-day before United States Commissioner L. R. Whitener, who bound them over to the spring term of Federal Court. In default of \$500 justified bond each they were committed to jail at Newton to await trial in Statesville next spring.

In the month of November, 1908, Mr. Blacklock destroyed a still near the home of Carl Swink. Swink was tried for this, but judgment was withheld against him for two terms of court on condition that he let blockade alone. A warrant was issued for his son at the same time, but up to yesterday the officers had never been able to lay hands on him.

The Baptist State Convention is in session in Wadesboro this week, and much interest is being taken in the meeting.

TAFT'S MESSAGE.

President's Message Read in Both Houses of Congress Tuesday.

ECONOMY IN DEPARTMENTS.

The President Advocates the Establishment of Postal Savings Banks, Ship Subsidy, Civil Pensions, and Also Urges That a Bill Be Passed Requiring Congressmen to File With the Government a Statement of the Contributions Received and Expenditures Made in Their Campaigns—The Nicaraguan Affair.

The message of President Taft was communicated to both houses of Congress Tuesday. The message is a lengthy document which we have condensed for our readers.

Of Central Affairs the President Says:

"I need not rehearse here the patient efforts of this government to promote peace and welfare among these republics, efforts which are fully appreciated by the majority of those who are loyal to their true interests. It would be no less unnecessary to rehearse here the sad tale of unseemly barbarians and oppression alleged to have been committed by the Zelaya government. Recently two Americans were put to death by order of President Zelaya himself.

"At the date when this message is printed, this government has terminated diplomatic relations with the Zelaya government. . . . It may later be necessary for me to bring this subject to the attention of Congress in a special message.

"Our traditional relations with the Japanese empire continue cordial as usual. . . . The matter of a revision of the existing treaty between United States and Japan which is terminated in 1912 is already receiving the study of both countries.

Government Expenditures and Revenues.

Perhaps the most important question presented to this administration is that of economy in expenditures and sufficiency of revenue. . . . The report of the secretary shows that the ordinary expenditures for the current year ending June 30, 1910, will exceed the estimated receipts by \$34,075,620. If to this deficit is added the sum to be disbursed for the Panama Canal, amounting to \$38,000,000, and \$1,000,000 to be paid on the public debt, the deficit of ordinary receipts and the expenditures will be increased to a total deficit of \$73,075,620. This deficit the Secretary proposes to meet by the proceeds of bonds issued to pay the cost of constructing the Panama Canal. I approve this proposal. . . .

"In order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year, I directed the heads of departments in the preparation of their estimates to make them as low as possible, consistent with imperative governmental necessity. The result has been as I am advised by the Secretary of the Treasury that the estimates for the expenses of the government for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, are less than the appropriations for this current fiscal year by \$42,818,000. So far as the Secretary of the Treasury is able to form a judgment as to future income and compare it with the expenditures for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and excluding payments on account of the Panama Canal, which will doubtless be taken up by bonds, there will be a surplus of \$35,931,000. . . .

Most of the great industrial organizations, and many of the well-conducted railways of this country are coming to the conclusion that a system of pensions for old employees, and the substitution thereof of younger and more energetic servants promotes both economy and efficiency of the administration.

I am strongly convinced that no other practical solution of the difficulties presented by the superannuation of civil servants can be found than that of a system of civil pensions.

Frauds in the Collection of Customs.

I regret to refer to the fact of the discovery of extensive frauds in the collection of customs revenue at New York City, in which a number of the subordinate employees in the weighing and other departments were directly concerned, and in which the beneficiaries were the American Sugar Refining Company and others. The frauds consisted in the payment of duty on underweights of sugar. The government has recovered from the American Sugar Refining Company all that it is shown to have been defrauded of. The sum was received in full of the amount due.

Criminal prosecutions are now proceeding against a number of the government officers. The Treasury Department and the Department of Justice are exerting every effort to discover all the wrongdoers, including the officers and employees of the companies who may have been privy to the fraud. It would seem to me that an investigation of the frauds by Congress at present, pending the probing of the Treasury Department and the De-

partment of Justice, might by giving immunity and otherwise prove an embarrassment in securing conviction of the guilty parties.

In the interest of immediate economy and because of the prospect of a deficit, I have required a reduction in the estimates of the War Department for the coming fiscal year. 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 coast defenses of the United States proper are generally all that could be desired. . . . There is, however, one place where additional defense is badly needed, and that is at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, where it is proposed to make an artificial island for a fort which shall prevent an enemy's fleet from entering the most important strategic base of operations on the whole Atlantic and Gulf coasts. I hope that appropriate legislation will be adopted to secure the construction of this defense.

THE MACHINE VIEW.

Collector Brown, According to Patronage Machine, Will Not be Re-Appointed.

WANT MACHINE FAVORITES.

Question Is, Who Will Have Presidential Ear?—The Organization Does Not Favor Some Recommendations Made by Congressmen Grant and Morehead—Is it a Plan to Down These Two Enterprising Congressmen?

The following Washington special first appeared in a leading Democratic daily, and now it appears in one of the Republican patronage machine organs, under a Washington date line, and as a brand new special. It seems to be the machine view of the situation:

Department of Justice.

The deplorable delays in the administration of civil and criminal law have received attention of committees of the American Bar Association and of many State Bar Associations, as well as the considered thought of judges and jurists. In my judgment, a change in judicial procedure, with a view to reducing its expense to private litigants in civil cases and facilitating the dispatch of business and final decision in both civil and criminal cases, constitutes the greatest need of our American institutions. I do not doubt for one moment that much of the lawless violence and cruelty exhibited in lynchings is directly due to the uncertainties and injustice growing out of the delays in trials, judgment, and the executions thereof by our courts.

Of course these remarks apply quite as well to the administration of justice in State courts as to that in Federal courts, and without making invidious distinction it is perhaps not too much to say that, speaking generally, the defects are less in the Federal courts than in the State courts. . . . (Here the President recommends that appropriate legislation be enacted to remedy the matter in accordance with the planks in the Republican platform.)

Postoffice Department.

The deficit every year in the postoffice Department is largely caused by the low rate of postage of 1 cent a pound charged on second-class mail matter, which includes not only newspapers but magazines and miscellaneous periodicals. The actual loss growing out of the transmission of this second-class mail matter at 1 cent a pound amounts to about \$62,000,000 a year. The average of the transportation of this matter is more than 9 cents a pound.

A great saving might be made, amounting to much more than half of the loss, by imposing upon magazines and periodicals a higher rate of postage. They are much heavier than newspapers, and contain a much higher proportion of advertising to reading matter, and the average distance of their transportation is three and a half times as great.

Postal Savings Bank.

The second subject worthy of mention in the Postoffice Department is the real necessity and entire practicability of establishing postal savings banks. . . . The rate of interest upon deposits to which they would be limited would be so small as to prevent their drawing deposits away from other banks.

Ship Subsidy.

Following the course of my distinguished predecessor, I earnestly recommend to Congress the consideration and passage of a ship subsidy bill, looking to the establishment of lines between our Atlantic seaboard and the eastern coast of South America, as well as lines from the west coast of the United States to South America, China, Japan, and the Philippines.

Conservation of National Resources.

In several departments there is presented necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our National resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to Congress on the subject if improvement of our waterways.

"Political Contributions."

"I urgently recommend to Congress that a law be passed requiring that candidates in election of members of the House of Representatives and committees in charge of their candidacy and campaign, file in a proper office of the United States Government a statement of the contributions received and of the expenditures incurred in the campaign for such elections, and that similar legislation be enacted in respect to all other elections which are constitutionally within the control of Congress."

The plant of the Michael Cheens Manufacturing Company, at Lincoln, N. C., manufacturers of all kinds of wooden products, was burned Friday morning, the loss being \$20,000.

BILKINS IN JAPAN.

A Wonderful Record of Progress in the Past Fifty Years.

BUT THEY MUST LEARN.

Missionary Work Active on the Islands—Facts About the Educational Work, and the Leading Religious Bodies—The Temple at Nara—A Wonderful Bell—A Great Deer Park—Nikko, the Finest Temple in Existence Today—The Form of Government.

Correspondence of The Caucasian—Enterprise.

Tokio, Japan, Nov. 24, 1909.

I have tried to tell something of the wonderful progress the Japanese have made in the past fifty years—how they have jumped from the position of condition of an ignorant race of people to the very front ranks, how they have climbed from the bottom round of the great ladder of international fame to a round not far from the top—awful in about fifty years. There is a reason. The thirst for knowledge and the grim determination to gain it, bit by bit at the bottom or bit a way.

But there will be a reaction. The old saying "a new broom sweeps clean," can be applied to things other than brooms. Japan is now intoxicated with success. Her people air ready to believe that they are greater than they are, and that they will learn to fly. Possibly they will learn that they are not so far ahead; that other nations air greater. Possibly the smart little rascals will learn in time. But the chances air that hit will take a Jolt, a jar, to bring them back to the point whar they will hev to start life anew.

Missionary work is goin' forward actively in Japan, which is proof that education is not a failure in the country. The Presbyterians hev three boardin' schools for boys and twelve for girls; awso a number of primary schools. The Baptists, Congregationalists, and Methodists each hev a number of schools in connection with the missionary work bein' done. Some of these schools air really colleges. The Japanese government supports nearly thirty thousand primary schools, attended by more than five million pupils. In addition to primary schools the government conducts about two hundred and sixty high schools for advanced pupils with an attendance of about one hundred thousand. With such a start, awl accomplished in about thirty years, who will say that Japan is not doin' wonders along educational lines? No wonder she hev caught up with, even surpassed, some of the sleepy old countries of earth.

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The Louisville and Nashville and the Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis Railroads, and the American Tobacco Company have been indicted in the Federal court at Louisville, Ky., for rebating.

Robt. K. Abbott, a traveling salesman, attempted to commit suicide at Asheville Friday night by drinking poison and then jumping headlong from a third story window of his hotel. His skull was crushed in the fall, but he still lives.

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Collector Brown's successor is being kept close under cover but it is said here there will be a new collector.

So far as the east is concerned, that is a matter that is up to National Committeeman E. C. Duncan. He has a death-like grip on the Republican political situation throughout the east, and the administration, realizing that it may need delegates very badly at the next Republican National Convention, will, in all probability, give Mr. Duncan a free hand in shaping the political slate in the east.

No Love for Skinner.

Mr. Duncan has no deep-seated love for District Attorney Harry Skinner, who is completing his third term. It was current gossip during the judgeship fight that Mr. Duncan had promised Iredell Meares the District Attorneyship, but that was denied. Now it is said that he will recommend the appointment of T. T. Hicks of Henderson. Herbert Seawell, who was Duncan's persistent candidate for the judgeship, is not to be overlooked in this contest for the position held by Harry Skinner. However, Duncan feels very kindly also towards Hicks, whom he endorsed for the judgeship after he ascertained that there was no hope for his man Seawell. The President having personally inspected all of the candidates for the District Attorneyship when he was casting around for material for the Eastern Carolina judgeship, it will not be necessary for the various candidates to subject themselves to another personal inspection. Although he found that they were all spavined or short-winded when they made their dash for the judicial handicap, Mr. Taft may be able to find one of the number who is able to cover the short distance District Attorney course.

As for the marshaling in the east, it is best opinion that Claudius Dockery will get a second term.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

Alabama reports fifty deaths from pellagra during the past 9 months.

William Hauser was killed at Cox's saw mill, near Shoal, Surry County a few days ago.

William J. Calhoun, a prominent attorney of Chicago, has been offered the post of Minister to China.

Barbee's school, three miles from Durham, on the Fayetteville road, was destroyed by fire Sunday night.

A dispatch from Chicago tells of a severe blizzard and snow-storm that is delaying traffic throughout Illinois.

It has been reported that Congressman Morehead will recommend Mr. W. P. Ragan for postmaster at High Point.

The Dukes have donated a half-million dollars to Trinity College for a pharmaceutical and dental department.

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John Allen Stackhouse, was tried at Laurinburg Saturday for wife murder, and sentenced to die in the electric chair at the State penitentiary, on February 15th. Will Waddell, another negro, was found guilty of second degree murder.

The 3-year-old child of Mr. Jno. Hall, who lives at Kannapolis, in Cabarrus County, was burned to death a few days ago. The child upset an oil can near the fire-place, and was burned before assistance could reach it.

The Southern Commercial Congress was in session in Washington, D. C., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, of this week. The object of the meeting was to exploit the South as a region of opportunity. The Congress was addressed by Ambassador Bryce and Jusserand.

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