PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deals with Questions of Document Importance to the Nation

TRUSTS AND THE TARIFF DEALT WITH

Fittul Changes of Import Duties a Menace to the Business Interests of the Country - Reciprocity Treaties Desirable - Monetary Legislation - Relations of Labor and Capital.

To the Senate and House of Represensilves: We still continue in a period of uneunded prosperity. This prosperity is not the creature of law, but undoubtthe laws under which we work have on instrumental in creating the condilone which made it possible, and by unwhen legislation it would be easy enough destroy & There will undoubtedly he periods of depression. The wave will recede: but the tide will advance. This nation is seated on a continent flanked by two great sceams. It is composed of men the descendants of pioneers, or in a sense, pieneers themselves; of men winnewed out from among the nations of the old world by the energy, boldness. and love of adventure found in their own eager hearts. Such a nation, so placed, will surely wrest success from fortune. As a people we have played a large part in the world, and we are bent upon making our future even larger than the nat. In particular, the events of the last four years have definitely decided that, for wee or for weal, our place must be great among the nations. We may either fall greatly or succeed greatly; but we nnot avoid the endeavor from which elther great failure or great success must come. Even W we would, we cannot play a small part. If we should try all that would tollow would be that we should play a large part ignobly and

No country has ever occupied a higher dans of material well-being than ours the present moment. This well-being a due to no sudden or accidental causes. but to the play of the economic forces in this country for over a century; to car laws, our sustained and continuous clear above all, to the high individand average of our citizenship. Great fortunes have been wen by those who have taken the lead in this phenomenal dustrial development, and most of these ertunes have been won not by doing avil, but as an incident to action which has benefited the community as a whole. Never before has material well-being sen so widely diffused among our peo-Great fortunes have been accumd and yet in the aggregate these ertunes are small indeed when comto the wealth of the people as a The plain people are better off an they have ever been before. The murance companies, which are pracically mutual benefit societies-especially ful to men of moderate means-repsent accumulations of capital which are mg the largest in this country. There are more deposits in the savings banks. more owners of farms, more well-paid wage werkers in this country now than ever before in our history. Of course. when the conditions have favored the with of so much that was good, they have also favored somewhat the growth of what was swil. It is eminently necessary that we should endeavor to cut ou his avil, but let us keep a due sense of portion; let us not in fixing our gase the looser avil forget the greater rood. The svile are real and some of them are menacing, but they are the growth, not of misery or decadence. sperity-of the progress of our is industrial development. This in development must not pagreesive regulation as will the oville. We should fall in me duty if we did not try to remedy the wile, but we shall succeed only if we patiently, with practical common ones as well as recolution, separating sed from the bad and holding on to the former while endeavoring to get rid

and Action to Control Trusts. in my measure to the present Congress a lite first massion I discussed at length he question of the regulation of those de corporations commonly doing an intate business, often with some tenmy to monopoly, which are popularly m as trusts. The experience of the year has emphasized, in my opinthe desirability of the steps I then A fundamental base of civilthe inviolability of property out this is in no wise inconsistent with at of society to regulate the exof the artificial powers which an upon the owners of property, unthe name of corporate franchises, in ch a way as to prevent the misuse se powers. Corporations, and espesinations of corporations he managed under public regulaan Experience has shown that under mr system of government the necessary It must therefore be achieved matienal action. Our aim is not to do with corporations; on the contrary, here big aggregations are an inevitable reforment of modern industrialism, and a effect to destroy them would be futile less accomplished in ways that would hief to the entire thic. We can do nothing of good ray of regulating and supervising sporations until we fix clearly in that we are not attacking the but andeavoring to do away th any svil in them. We are not hos all be so handled as to sube public good. We draw the line misconduct, not against wealth. performs so We wish to favor su

possible, exactly as, on the other hand the stubborn defense alike of what is good and what is bad in the existing system. the resolute effort to obstruct any attempt at betterment, betrays blindness to the historic truth that wise evolution is the sure safeguard against revo-

importance of the Subject. No more important subject can come before the Congress than this of the regulation of interstate business. The country cannot afford to sit supine on the plea that under our peculiar system of government we are helpless in the presence of the new conditions, and unable to grapple with them or to cut out whatever of evil has arisen in connection with them. The power of the Congress to regulate interstate commerce is an absolute and unqualified grant, and without limitations other than those prescribed by the constitution. The Congress has constitutional authority to make all laws necessary and proper for executing this power, and I am satisfied that this power has not been exhausted by any legislation now on the statute books. It is evident, therefore, that evils restrictive of commercial freedom entail ing restraint upon national commerce fail within the regulative power of the Congress, and that a wise and reasonable law would be a necessary and proper exercise of congressional authority to the end that such evils should be eradicated.

Evils Can Be Done Away With. I believe that monopolies, unjust discriminations, which prevent or cripple competition, fraudulent overcapitalization, and other evils in trust organizations and practices which injuriously affect interstate trade, can be prevented under the power of the Congress to "regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states" through regulations and requirements operating directly upon such commerce, the instrumentalities thereof, and those engaged

I earnestly recommend this subject to the consideration of the Congress with a view to the passage of a law reasonable in its provisions and effective in its operations, upon which the questions can be finally adjudicated that now raise doubts as to the necessity of constitutional amendment. If it prove impossible to accompileh the purposes above set forth by such a law, then, assuredly, we should not shrink from amending the constitution as to secure beyond peradventure the

The Tariff Question.

One preposition advocated has been the reduction of the tariff as a means of reaching the evils of the trusts which fall within the category I have described. Not merely would this be wholly ineffective, but the diversion of our ef forts in such a direction would mean the abandonment of all intelligent attempt to do away with these evils Many of the largest corporations, many of those which should certainly be included in any proper scheme of regulation, would not be affected in the slightest degree by a change in the tariff, save as such change interfered with the general prosperity of the country. The only relation of the tariff to big corporations as a whole is that the tariff makes manufactures profitable, and the tariff remedy proposed would be in effect simply to make manufactures unprofitable. To remove the tariff as a punitive measure directed against trusts would inevitably result in ruin to the weaker competitors who are struggling against them. Our aim should be not by unwise tariff changes to give foreign products the advantage over domestic products, but by proper regulation to give domestic com petition a fair chance; and this end can not be reached by any tariff changes which would affect unfavorably all domestic competitors, good and bad alike The question of regulation of the trusts stands apart from the question of tariff

Fitful Tariff Changes Decried. Stability of economic policy must al ways be the prime economic need of this country. This stability should not be fossilization. The country has acquiesced in the wisdom of the protective tariff principle. It is exceedingly undesirable that this system should be destroyed or that there should be violent and radical changes therein. Our past experience shows that great prosperity in this country has always come under a protective tariff; and that the country cannot prosper under fitful tariff changes at short intervals. Morever, if the tariff laws as a whole work well, and if business has prospered under them and is prospering, it is better to endure for a time slight inconveniences and inequalities in some schedules than to upset business by too quick and too radical changes. It s most earnestly to be wished that we could treat the tariff from the standpoint solely of our business needs. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that partisanship may be entirely excluded from consideration of the subject, but at least it can be made secondary to the bustness interests of the country-that is, to the interests of our people as a whole, Inquestionably these business interests will best be served if together wiff fixity of principle as regards the tariff we combine a system which will permit us from time to time to make the ne sary reapplication of the principle to the shifting national needs. We must take scrupulous cars that the reapplicat shall be made in such a way that it is not amount to dislocation of our system, the mere threat of which (not be speak of the performance) would preof the community. The first consideration ity. We can only average only

One way in which the readjustment sought can be reached is by reciprocity treaties. It is greatly to be desired that such treaties may be adopted. They can be used to widen our markets and to give a greater field for the activities our producers on the one hand, and the other to secure in practical shape the lowering of duties when they are longer needed for protection among our own people, or when the minimum damage done may be disregarded for the sake of the maximum of good accomplished. If it prove impossible to ratify the pending treaties, and if there seem to be no warrant for the endeavor to treaties so that they can be ratified, then the same end-to secure reciprocityshould be met by direct legislation.

For Expert Tariff Commission. Wherever the tariff conditions are such that a needed change cannot with advantage be made by the application of the reciprocity idea, then it can be made outright by a lowering of duties on a given product. If possible, such change should be made only after the fullest consideration by practical experts, who should approach the subject from business standpoint, having in view both the particular interests affected and the commercial well-being of the people, as a whole. The machinery for providing such careful investigation can readily be supplied. The executive department has already at its disposal methods of col lecting facts and figures; and if the congress desires additional consideration to that which will be given the subject by its own committees, then a commission of business experts can be appointed whose duty it should be to recommend action by the Congress after a deliberate and scientific examination of the various schedules as they are affected by the changed and changing conditions. The unhurried and unbiased report of this commission would show what changes should be made in the various schedules. and how far these changes could go without also changing the great prosperity which this country is now enjoying, or upsetting its fixed economic pol-

The cases in which the tariff can pro duce a monopoly are so few as to constitute an inconsiderable factor in the question: but of course if in any case it be found that a given rate of duty does promote a monopoly which works ill, no protectionist would object to such reduction of the duty as would equalize competition.

in my judgment, the tariff on anthra tte coal should be removed, and anthra cite put actually, where it now is nominally, on the free list. This would have no effect at all save in crises; but in crises it might be of service to the peo-

Monetary Legislation.

Interest rates are a potent factor in business activity, and in order that these rates may be equalized to meet the vary ing needs of the seasons and of widely separated communities, and to prevent the recurrence of financial stringencies which injuriously affect legitimate busi ness, it is necessary that there should be an element of elasticity in our mone tary system. Banks are the natural ser vants of commerce, and upon them should be placed, as far as practicable, the burden of furnishing and maintaining circulation adequate to supply the needs of our diversified industries and of our domestic and foreign commerce; and the issue of this should be so regulated that a sufficient supply should be always available for the business interests of the country.

It would be both unwise and unnecessary at this time to attempt to reconstruct our financial system, which has been the growth of a century; but some additional legislation is, I think, desirable. The mere outline of any plan suffciently comprehensive to meet these requirements would transgress the appropriate limits of this communication. It is suggested, however, that all future legislation on the subject should be with the view of encouraging the use of such instrumentalities as will automatically supply every legitimate demand of productive industries and of commerce, not only in the amount, but in the character of circulation, and of making all kinds of money interchangeable, and, at the will of the holder, convertible into the established gold standard.

Relations of Labor and Capital. How to secure fair treatment alike for labor and for capital, how to hold in check the unscrupulous man, whether employer or employe, without weakening individual initiative, without hampering and cramping the industrial development of the country, is a problem fraught with great difficulties and one which it is of the highest importance to solve on lines of sanity and far-sighted common sense as well as of devotion to the right. This is an era of federation and combination. Exactly as business men find they must often work through corporations, and as it is a constant tendency of these corporations to grow larger, so it is often necessary for laboring men to work in federations, and these have become important factors of modern industrial life, Both kinds of federation, capitalistic and labor, can do much good, and as a necessary corrollary they can both do evil Opposition to each kind of organization should take the form of opposition to whatever is bad in the conduct of any given corporation or union-not of at tacks upon corporations as such nor upon unions as such; for some of the most far-reaching beneficent work for our people has been accomplished through both corporations and unions. Each must refrain from arbitrary or tyrannous interference with the rights of others. Organized capital and organized labor alike should remember that in the long run the interest of each must be brought into harmony with the interest of the general public: and the conduct of each must conform to the fundamental rules of obedience to the law, of individual freedom, and of justice and fair dealing toward all. Each should remember that in addition to power, it must strive after the realisation of healthy, lofty and generous ideals Every employed, every wage worker, must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor so long as he does not infringe upon the right of others. It is of the highest im portance that employer and employe alike should endeavor to appreciate each the viewpoint of the other and the sure disaster that will come upon both in the long run if either grows to take as manittrust toward the other. Few people deserve better of the country than those representatives both of capital and labor continually to bring about a good standing of this kind, based upon wisdom and upon broad and kindly sympathy beestble, even more wicked, even more destructive to national welfare,

clead in confermity with the principle above set forth.

Department of Commerce Needed. It is earnestly hoped that a Secretary of Commerce may be created, with a seat in the Cabinet. The rapid multiplication of questions affecting labor and capital, the growth and complexity of the organizations through which both labor and capital now find expression, the steady tendency toward the employment of capital in huge corporations, and the wonderful strides of this country toward leadership in the international business world justify an urgent demand for the creation of such a position. Substantialexecute others, or to amend the pending | ly all the leading commercial bodies in this country have united in requesting its creation. It is desirable that some such measure as that which has already passed the Senate be enacted into law. The creation of such a department would in itself be an advance toward dealing with and exercising supervision over the whole subject of the great corporations doing an interstate business: and with this end in view, the Congress should endow the department with large powers, which could be increased as experience might show the need.

Cuba Must Have Consideration. I hope soon to submit to the Senate a reciprocity treaty with Cuba. On May 20 last the United States kept its promise to the island by formally vacating Cuban soil and turning Cuba over to those whom her own people had chosen as the first

officials of the new republic. Cuba lies at our doors, and whatever affects her for good or for ill affects us also. So much have our people felt this that in the Platt amendment we definite ly took the ground that Cuba must here after have closer political relations with us than with any other power. Thus in a sense Cuba has become a part of our international political system. This makes it necessary that in return she should be given some of the benefits of becoming part of our economic system It is, from our own standpoint, a shortsighted and mischievous policy to fail to recognize this need. Moreover, it is unworthy of a mighty and generous nation. itself the greatest and most successfu republic in history, to refuse to stretch out a helping hand to a young and weak sister republic just entering upon its career of independence. We should always fearlessly insist upon our rights in the face of the strong, and we should with ungrudging hand do our generous duty by the weak. I urge the adoption of reciprocity with Cuba not only because it is eminently for our own interests to control the Cuban market and by every means to foster our supremacy in the tropical lands and waters south of us. but also because we, of the giant republic of the North, should make all our sister nations of the American continent feel that whenever they will permit it we desire to show ourselves disinterestedly and effectively their friend.

International Arbitration.

As civilization grows, warfar becomes less and less the normal condition of foreign relations. The last century has seen a marked diminution of wars between civilized powers; wars with uncivilized powers are largely mere matters of international police duty, essential for the welfare of the world. Wherever possible. arbitration or some similar method should be employed in Heu of war to settle difficulties between civilized nations, al though as yet the world has not progressed sufficiently to render it possible. or necessarily desirable, to invoke arbi tration in every case. The formation of the international tribunal which sits at The Hague is an event of good omen from which great consequences for the welfare of all mankind may flow. It is far better, where possible, to invoke such a permanent tribunal than to create special arbitrators for a given purpose. It is a matter of sincere congratulation

to our country that the United States and Mexico should have been the first to use the good offices of The Hague court. This was done last summer with most satisfactory results in the case of a claim at issue between us and our sister republic. It is earnestly to be hoped that this first case will serve as a precedent for others, in which not only the United States, but foreign nations may take advantage of the machinery already in existence at The Hague, I commend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the Hawaiian fire

claims, which were the subject of careful investigation during the last session

Panama Canal Favored. The Congress has wisely provided that we shall build at once an isthmian canal, if possible at Panama. The attorney y acquire good title from the French Panama Canal Company. Negotiations are now pending with Colombia to sesure her assent to our building the canal. This work should be carried out as a continuing policy without regard to change of administration; and it should be begun under circumstances which will make it a matter of pride for al administrations to continue the policy. The canal will be of great benefit to America, and of importance to all the world. It will be of advantage to us industrially and also as improving our military position. It will be of advantage to the countries of tropical America. It is earnestly to be hoped that all of these countries will do as some of them have already done with signal success, and will invite to their shores commerce and improve their material conditions by recognizing that stability and order are the prerequisites of successful development. No independent nation in America need have the slightest fear of aggression from the United States. It behooves each one to maintain order within its own borders and to discharge its just obligations to foreigners. When this is done, they can rest assured that, be they strong weak, they have nothing to dread from outside interference. More and more the increasing interdependence and complexity of international political and economic relations render it incumbent on all civilized and orderly powers to insist on the proper policing of the world.

Pacific Cable Assured. During the fall of 1901 a communication

was addressed to the Secretary of State, asking whether permission would be granted by the President to a corperation to lay a cable from a point on the California coast to the Philippine islands by way of Hawaii. A statement of confitions or terms upon which such corporation would undertake to lay and operate a cable was volunteered.

Inasmuch as the Congress was shortly to convene, and Pacific cable legislation had been the subject of consideration by the Congress for several years, it seemed to me wise to defer action upon the application until the Congress had first an opportunity to act. The Congress adlourned without taking any action, leav ing the matter in exactly the same condition in which it stood when the Con-

Meanwhile it appears that the Compromptly proceeded with preparations for erfirciples upon which this nation was laying its cable. It also made applica-founded, and judge each man not as a tion to the President for access to and use of soundings taken by the U.S. S. All that we have a right to ask Nero, for the purpose of discovering a practicable route for a trans-Pacific ca-ble, the company urging that with ac-cess to these soundings it could complete its cable much sconer than if it were required to take soundings upon its own

alterations or additions thereto imposed by the Congress. This was deemed prop er, especially as it was clear that a cable connection of some kind with China, a foreign country, was a part of the com-

pany's plan. These conditions prescribed, among other things, a maximum rate for commercial messages and that the company should construct a line from the Philippine islands to China, there being a present, as is well known, a British line from Manila to Hong-Kong.

The representatives of the cable company kept these conditions long under consideration, continuing, in the meantime, to prepare for laying the cable. They have, however, at length acceded to them, and an all-American line between our Pacific coast and the Chinese empire, by way of Honolulu and the Philippine islands, is thus provided for, and is expected within a few months to be ready for business.

Philippine Policy Vindicated.

On July 4 last, on the one hundred and

twenty-sixth anniversary of the declaration of our independence, peace and amnesty were promulgated in the Philippine islands. Some trouble has since from time to time threatened with the Mohammedan Moros, but with the late insurrectionary Filipinos the war has entirely ceased. Civil government has now been introduced. Not only does each Filipino enjoy such rights to life. liberty and the pursuit of happiness as he has never before known during the recorded history of the islands, but the people taken as a whole now enjoy a measure of self-government greater than that granted to any other orientals by any foreign power and greater than that enjoyed by any other orientals under their own governments, save the Japanese alone. We have not gone too far granting these rights of liberty and selfgovernment; but we have certainly gone to the limit that in the interests of the Philippine people themselves it was wise or just to go. To hurry matters, to go faster than we are now going, would entail calamity on the people of the islands. No policy ever entered into by the Amercan people has vindicated itself in mor signal manner than the policy of holding the Philippines. The triumph of our arms, above all the triumph of our laws and principles, has come sooner than we had any right to expect. Too much praise cannot be given to the army for what it has done in the Philippines, both in warfare and from an administrative standpoint in preparing the way for civil government; and similar credit belongs to the civil authorities for the way in which they have planted the seeds of self-gov ernment in the ground thus made ready for them. The courage, the unflinching endurance, the high soldierly efficiency and the general kind-heartedness and humanity of our troops have been strikingly manifested. There now remain only some 15.000 troops in the islands. Al told, over 100,000 have been sent there Of course, there have been individual instances of wrongdoing among them. They warred under fearful difficulties of climate and surroundings; and under the strain of the terrible provocations which they continually receive from their foes. occasional instances of cruel retaliation occurred. Every effort has been made to prevent such crueities, and finally these efforts have been completely successful. After making all allowance for these misdeeds. It remains true that few indeed have been the instances in which war has been waged by a civilized power against semi-civilized and barbarous forces where there has been so little wrongdoing by the victors as in the Philippine islands. On the other hand, the amount of difficult, important, and beneficient work which has been done in well-nigh incalculable.

Praise for Friendly Filipinos.

Taking the work of the army and the civil authorities together, it may be questioned whether anywhere else in modern times the world has seen a better example of real constructive statesmanship than our people have given in the Philippine islands. High praise should also be given those Filipinos, in the aggregate very numerous, who have accepted the new conditions and joined with our representatives to work with hearty good will for the welfare of the islands.

National Guard Reorganization.

The measure providing for the reorganisation of the militia system and for securing the highest efficiency in the national guard, which has already passed the House, should receive prompt attention and action. It is of great imporguard to the militla and volunteer forces of the United States should be defined. and that in place of our present obsolete laws a practical and efficient system should be adopted.

Irrigation in the West.

Few subjects of more importance have been taken up by the Congress in recent years than the inauguration of the gratem of nationally sided irrigation for the arid regions of the far West. A good beginning therein has been made. Now that this policy of national irrigation has been adopted, the need of thorough and ectentific forest protection will grow more rapidly than ever throughout the public-land states.

So far as they are available for agriculture, and to whatever extent they may be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, the remaining public lands should be held rigidly for the home builder, the settler who lives on his land, and for no one else. In their actual use the desert-land law, the timber and stone law, and the commutation clause of the homestead law have been so perverted from the fatention with which they were enseted as to permit the acquisition of large areas of the public domain for others than actual settlers and the consequent prevention of settlement. The sound and steady development of the West depends upon the building up of homes therein. Much of our prosperity as a nation has been due to the operation of the homestead law On the other hand, we should recognize the fact that in the grazing region the man who corresponds to the homesteader may be unable to settle permanently if only allowed to use the same amount of pasture land that his brother, the homestender, is allowed to use of stable land. One hundred and sixty acres of fairly rich and well watered soil, or a much smaller amount of irrigated last, may keep a family in plenty, whereas no one could get a living from 160 acres of dry pasture land capable o supporting at the outside only one head o cattle to every ten acres. In the past great tracts of the public domain have been fenced in by persons having no title thereto, in direct defiance of the law forbidding the maintenance or construction of any such unlawful inclosure of public land. For various reasons there has been little interference with such inclosures in the past, but ample notice has now been given the trespassers, and all the resources at the command of the government will bereafter be used to put a stop to such trespassing.

Pressing Needs of the Navy.

For the first time in our history naval ma neuvers on a large scale are being held under the immediate command of the admiral of the navy. Constantly increasing attention is being paid to the gannery of the navy, but it is yet far from what it should be. I carnestly urge that the increase asked for by the Secretary of the Navy in the appropriation for improv ing the marksmanship be granted. In battle the only shots that count are the shots that hit. It is necessary to provide ample funds for practice with the great guns in time of peace. purchase of projectiles, but for allowances for prises to encourage the gun crews, and especially the gan pointers, and for perfecting an intelligent system under which slope it is possible to get good practice.

There should be no half in the work of build-

ing up the navy, providing every year addi-tional aghting craft. We are a very rich coun-try, vant in extent of territory and great in population; a country, moreover, which has an army diminutive indeed when compared with that of any other first-class power. We have deliberately made our own certain foreign policies which demand the possession of a first-class may. The inthinian canal will greatly should be treated to the emilian factual desired appearing foreign policy; but it would be a characteristics we introduce the policy of the contracters are introduced to the contracters are intended. then idle to ensert it unless we intended back it up, and it can be backed up only a thoroughly good bavy. A good may is a provocative of war. It is the suress guara

More Sallors Catted For I call your special attention to the most providing for the manning of the ships. rious trouble threatens us if we cannot do bet-ter than we are now doing as regards escuring the services of a sufficient number of the high est type of sailormen, of sea mechanics. It is no more possible to improvise a crew than I to possible to improvine a warship. To build the finest ship, with the deadliest battery, and to send it affoat with a raw crew, no matter how brave they were individually, would be to insure disaster if a fee of average capacity were encountered. Neither ships nor men car be improvised when war has begun. We need a thousand additional officers order to properly man the ships now provided for and under construction. The classes at the naval school at Annapolis should be greatly enlarged. At the same time that we thus add facilitate the retirement of those at the bead of

be kept efficient. There is not a cloud on the horizon at present. There seems not the slightest chance of trouble with a foreign power. We most earnestly hope that this state of things may contique; and the way to insure its continuance is to provide for a thoroughly efficient navy, The refusal to maintain such a navy would invite trouble, and if trouble came would insure disaster. Fatuous self-complacency or vanity, or short-sightedness in refusing to prepare for danger, is both feelish and wicked in such a nation as ours; and past experience has shown that such fatuity in refusing to recognize or prepare for any crisis in advance is usually succeeded by a mad panic of hysterical feur once the crisis has actually arrived.

the list whose usefulness has become impaired.

Promotion must be festered if the service is to

Rural Free Delivery a Success. The striking increase in the revenues of the

postoffice department shows clearly the prosperity of our people and the increasing activity of the business of the country. The receipts of the postoffice department for the fiscal year ending June 30 last amounted to \$121,848,047.26, an increase of \$10,216,953.87 over

the preceding year, the largest increase known

in the history of the postal service. The mag-

ultude of this increase will best appear from

the fact that the entire postal receipts for the year 1860 amounted to but \$8,518,067. Rural free delivery service is no lor the experimental stage; it has become a fixed policy. The results following its introduction have fully justified the Congress in the large appropriations made for its establishment and extension. The average yearly increase in postoffice receipts in the rural districts of the country is about two per cent. We are now able, by actual results, to show that where rural free delivery service has been established to such an extent as to enable us to make comparisons the yearly increase has been up-

ward of ten per cent. On Nov. 1, 1902, 11,650 rural free delivery routes had been established and were in operation, covering about one-third of the territory of the United States available for rural free delivery service. There are now awaiting the action of the department petitions and applicuttons for the establishment of 10,748 additional routes. This shows conclusively the want which the establishment of the service has met and the need of further extending it as rapidly as possible. It is justified both by the financial results and by the practical benethe to our rural population; it brings the men who live on the soil into close relations with the active business world; it keeps the farmer in daily touch with the markets; it is a potential educational force; it enhances the value of farm property, makes farm life far pleasanter and less incluted, and will do much to check the undesirable current from country to

It is to be hoped that the Congress will make liberal appropriations for the continuance of the service already established and for its further extension.

Need of Legislation for Alaska. I especially urge upon the Congress the need

of wise legislation for Alaska. It is not to our credit as a nation that Alaska, which has been ours for thirty-five years, should still have as poor a system of laws as is the case. Alaska needs a good land law and such provisions for homestends and pre-emptions as will encourage permanent settlement. We should shape legislation with a view not to the exploiting and abandoning of the territory, but to the building up of homes therein. The land laws should be liberal in type, so as to hold out inducements to the actual acttler whom we most draire to see take possession of the country. The forests of Alanka should be protected, and, as a secondary but still important matter, the game also, and at the same time it is imperative that the settlers should be allowed to cut timber, under proper regulations, for their own use. Alaska should have a delegate in the Congress. It would be well if a congressional committee could visit Alaska and investigate its needs on the ground.

The Indian Problem.

In dealing with the Indiana our aim should He their ultimate absorption into the body of our people. But in many cases this absorption must and should be very slow. The first and most important step toward the absorption of the Indian is to teach him to earn his living; get it is not necessarily to be assumed that in each community all Indians must become either tillers of the soil or stock raisers. Their industries may properly be diversified, and those who show special desire or adaptability for industrial or even commercial pursuits should be encouraged so far as practicable to follow out each his own best.

Scientific Aid to Farmers

In no department of governmental work is recent years has there been greater success than in that of giving scientific aid to the farming population, thereby showing them how most efficiently to help themselves. There is so need of insisting upon its importance, for the welfare of the farmer is fundamentally necessary to the welfare of the republic as a whole. In addition to such work as quarantine against animal and regetable plagues, and warring against them when here introduced, much efficient help has been rendered to the farmer by the introduction of new plants specially fitted for cultivation under the peculiar conditions existing in different portions of the country. In the Southwest the possibility of re-grassing overstocked range lands has been demonstrated; in the North many new forage crops have been introduced, while in the East It has been shown that some of our choicest fruits can be stored and shipped in such a way as to find a profitable market abroad.

Needs of Washington.

The District of Columbia is the only part of our territory in which the national government exercises local or municipal functions, and where in consequence the government has free hand in reference to certain types of social and economic legislation which must be essentially local or municipal in their character. The government should see to it, for instance, that the hygienic and sanitary logislation affecting Washington is of a high character. The city should be a model in every respect for all the cities of the country. Moreover, while Washington is not a great industrial city, there is some industrialism here, and our labor legislation, while it would no be important in itself, might be made a model for the rest of the nation. We should pass, for instance, a wise employer's liability act for the District of Columbia, and we need such an act in our savy-yards. Railroad companies in the district ought to be required by law to block their frogs.

Protection for Railway Men.

The safety-appliance law, for the better pretection of the lives and limbs of railway employes, which was passed in 1893, went into full effect Aug. 1, 1901. It has resulted in averting thousands of casualties. Experience shows, however, the necessity of additional legislation to perfect this law. A bill to pro vide for this passed the Senate at the last session. It is to be hoped that some such measure may now be enacted into law. Gratifying progress has been made during the year in the extension of the merit ayaten of making appointments in the government service. It is much to be desired that our corsular system be established by law on a basis providing for appointment and promotion only

Restoration of the White House. Through a wise provision of the Congress at its last session the white house, which has

at its last session the white house, which has become disfigured by incongruous additions and changes, has now been restored to what it was planned to be by Washington. The white house is the property of the nation, and so far as is compatible with living therein it should be kept as it originally was, for the same reasons that we keep Mount Verson as it originally was. It is a good thing to preserve such balldings as historia manuments which keep alive our name of continuity with the nation's past.

The reports of the several executive departments are ashinited to the Congress with the