

company store scheme of this and other big corporations.

Curtis:—The company still continues to run its business in its own way, regardless of criticism. It declines to recognize any union or other organization; it employs both union and nonunion labor on equal terms, just as it employs representatives of all races and religions—Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Gentiles, Mormons and pagans, works them eight hours and a half a day and pays them a scale of wages adopted in conference with committees representing the men.

Facts:—The company does recognize the union. How could it help doing so? The men in the tonnage departments of all parts of the mill work on the Pittsburgh scale, which is a sliding scale, fixed by a conference of owners and members of Shaffer's organization (the Amalgamated Iron Workers, I believe it is). The company could not profitably make steel rails or merchant iron in any other manner, and in this department it certainly employs only "card" men. It "recognizes the union," if I understand the meaning of that expression.

Curtis:—It provides not only hospitals, but libraries, reading rooms, lecture courses, schools, concerts, manual training teachers, gymnasiums, playgrounds and various other educational institutions and amusements, at its mills and mines; but requires the men to pay their share of the expense.

Comment:—It has always been a wonder to me why the company did not pay its proper share of school tax, and take the consequences, as all other citizens have to do. This is the only place where a private corporation is permitted to interfere with the conduct of the public schools. Can it be only for the benefit of the schools?

Curtis:—The sanitary and medical service at its mills and mines is performed by 42 salaried surgeons, and each employe is taxed one dollar a month to pay a part of the expense. That entitles him and his family to medical attendance and all the other privileges offered. Last year 82,821 patients were treated.

Comment:—The company employs about 16,000 persons. This means that every person in the employ of the company was treated for something or other during the year five and one-eighth times. But many persons were not treated at all. Most of the treatment was for accidents. It would appear from this that accidents are singularly numerous.

Curtis:—The sociological department is also under the supervision of Dr. Corwin, but under direct charge of Walter Merrill, and is very comprehensive in its work. The corporation provides schools in all its mining camps and mills, and has a corps of teachers who have been educated especially for the work. For example, every teacher has spent two weeks at the St. Louis exposition this summer, at the expense of the company, studying particularly the educational and sociological exhibits; and each has been required to make a report upon them and their application to the schools and benevolent work of the company.

Facts:—The corporation does not provide schools in all the mining camps and mills. There are only two mills—not that many. It's nearly like Josh Billings' hatrack. It had two pegs. One was broke off and the other was lost out. Now while this work of the company is really a good one, the men furnish the money. They pay it in for hospital dues. There is so much more of it than is necessary to conduct the hospital that some of it is used for other purposes. To collect money for one purpose and use it for another goes against the grain; and if labor unions do not protest against it they ought to.

Recently many Japanese have been brought to Pueblo to find places in the works. Americans will not work in such a place till they are driven to it by lack of employment elsewhere. I have no statistics as to the average length of time an employe stays with the steel works. I fear no such statistics exist. But from a personal observation as to length of time men stay at the steel works and the length of time they stay at work on a railroad grading camp, I should say that the time is about the same. Statistics show that the average time a man stays on a railroad grade is eight days. A good man once told me that labor at the steel works was only a little better than "bumming;" that the only difference was that in "bumming" you were not always sure of a place to sleep at night, whereas at the works you were sure of a place to sleep at night, but at the end of the month you had no money—you had only had during the month enough to eat, and you could always get that at "bumming."

I have no desire to criticize the works, but I think that some competent and trustworthy person ought to be given a chance to describe the true inwardness of that whole concern. It never has appeared to me to be a really legitimate business enterprise. I suspect that it is more a stock gambling concern for the benefit of New York speculators.

OTTO F. THUM.

principal work done was listening to the official reading of the President's annual message.

Beginning with the statement that while our "noteworthy prosperity" as a nation "is of course primarily due to the high individual average of our citizenship, taken together with our great natural resources," President Roosevelt's message declares that "an important factor therein is the working of our long continued governmental policies," of the underlying principles whereof, "the people have emphatically expressed their approval" and "their desire that these principles be kept substantially unchanged, although of course applied in a progressive spirit to meet changing conditions."

Proceeding from this introduction the message discusses the industrial question at great length in various aspects, especially with reference to organized labor and organized capital. Organization of labor is defended, subject to interference by State and national governments, in their respective spheres, in cases of lawlessness. For great corporations national supervision is urged, and strict laws against discrimination on railroads is recommended. "The government must," says the message, in this connection, "in increasing degree supervise and regulate the workings of the railways engaged in inter-State commerce, and such increased supervision is the only alternative to an increase of the present evils on the one hand or a still more radical policy on the other. In my judgment the most important legislative act now needed as regards the regulation of corporations is this act to confer on the Inter-State Commerce Commission the power to revise rates and regulations, the revised rate to at once go into effect and to stay in effect unless and until the court of review reverses it."

To the question of urban poverty considerable space is given in the message, and Congress is advised to make of Washington a municipality which shall be a model for all others regarding methods of ameliorating the suffering and degradation of poverty.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Dec. 8.

The third session of the 58th Congress of the United States began on the 5th with Speaker Cannon in the chair of the House, and Senator Frye, as president pro tem., presiding in the Senate. Beyond the introduction of numerous bills and the adoption of resolutions of respect to the memory of the late Senators Hoar and Quay, no business was done in either House. On the 6th the prin-

Discussing this subject the message proceeds:

The death rate statistics show a terrible increase in mortality, and especially in infant mortality, in overcrowded tenements. The poorest families in tenement houses live in one room and it appears that in these one room tenements the average death rate for a number of given cities at home and abroad is about twice what it is in a two-room tenement, four times what it is in a three-room tenement and eight times what it is in a tenement consisting of four rooms or over. These figures vary somewhat for different cities, but they approximate in each city those given above; and in all cases the increase of mortality, and especially of infant mortality, with the decrease in the number of rooms used by the family and with the consequent overcrowding is startling. The slum exacts a heavy toll of death from those who dwell therein; and this is the case not merely in the great crowded slums of high buildings in New York and Chicago, but in the alley slums of Washington. In Washington people cannot afford to ignore the harm that this causes. No Christian and civilized community can afford to show a happy-go-lucky lack of concern for the youth of to-day; for, if so, the community will have to pay a terrible penalty of financial burden and social degradation in the to-morrow.

The Congress has the same power of legislation for the District of Columbia which the State legislatures have for the various States. The problems incident to our highly complex modern industrial civilization, with its manifold and perplexing tendencies both for good and for evil, are far less sharply accentuated in the city of Washington than in most other cities. For this very reason it is easier to deal with the various phases of these problems in Washington, and the District of Columbia government should be a model for the other municipal governments of the nation, in all such matters as supervision of the housing of the poor, the creation of small parks in the districts inhabited by the poor, in laws affecting labor, in laws providing for the taking care of the children, in truant laws and in providing schools.

In this connection the message recommends for Washington, juvenile courts, a systematic investigation into and improvement of housing conditions, and compulsory school attendance.

After dealing with such departmental matters as the work of the Department of Agriculture, including the irrigation of arid lands; the forest reserve policy, the Indian problem, and the postal service, the message disposes

of the currency question as follows:

The attention of Congress should be especially given to the currency question and that the standing committees on the matter in the two Houses charged with the duty take up the matter of our currency and see whether it is not possible to secure an agreement in the business world for bettering the system; the committees should consider the question of the retirement of the greenbacks and the problem of securing in our currency such elasticity as is consistent with safety. Every silver dollar should be made by law redeemable in gold at the option of the holder.

To this is added the following brief recommendation with reference to ship subsidies:

I especially commend to your immediate attention the encouragement of our merchant marine by appropriate legislation.

Immigration, naturalization, honest elections, and Alaskan conditions are then considered and followed with an explanation of the President's foreign policy.

In dealing with matters of foreign policy, the message stands for what it describes as peace with justice, and on the question of regulating the affairs of other peoples says:

All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly and prosperous. Any country whose people conduct themselves well can count upon our hearty friendship. If a nation shows that it knows how to act with reasonable efficiency and decency in social and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, it need fear no interference from the United States. Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation; and in the western hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power.

The message concludes with an expression on the Philippine question, after devoting some attention to the rights of citizens abroad, and the strengthening of our navy. Of the Filipinos the message says:

The Philippine people, or, to speak more accurately, the many tribes, and even races, sundered from one another more or less sharply, who go to make

up the people of the Philippine islands, contain many elements which we have a right to hope stand for progress. At present they are utterly incapable of existing in independence at all or of building up a civilization of their own. I firmly believe that we can help them to rise higher and higher in the scale of civilization and of capacity for self-government and I most earnestly hope that in the end they will be able to stand, if not entirely alone, yet in some such relation to the United States as Cuba now stands. This end is not yet in sight and it may be definitely postponed if our people are foolish enough to turn the attention of the Filipinos away from the problems of achieving moral and material prosperity, of working for a stable, orderly and just government, and toward foolish and dangerous intrigues for a complete independence for which they are as yet totally unfit. On the other hand, our people must keep steadily before their minds the fact that the justification for our stay in the Philippines must ultimately rest chiefly upon the good we are able to do in the islands. I do not overlook the fact that in the development of our interests in the Pacific ocean and along its coasts the Philippines have played and will play an important part and that our interests have been served in more than one way by the possession of the islands. But our chief reason for continuing to hold them must be that we ought in good faith to try to do our share of the world's work, and this particular piece of work has been imposed upon us by the results of the war with Spain. The problem presented to us in the Philippine islands is akin to, but not exactly like, the problems presented to the other great civilized powers which have possessions in the Orient. There are points of resemblance in our work to the work which is being done by the British in India and Egypt, by the French in Algiers, by the Dutch in Java, by the Russians in Turkestan, by the Japanese in Formosa; but more distinctly than any of these powers we are endeavoring to develop the natives themselves so that they shall take an ever-increasing share in their own government; and, as far as prudent, we are already admitting their representatives to a governmental equality with our own. There are commissioners, judges and governors in the islands who are Filipinos and who have exactly the same share in the government of the islands as have their colleagues who are Americans, while in the lower ranks, of course, the great majority of the public servants are Filipinos. Within two years we shall be trying the experiment of an elective lower house in the Philippine legislature. It may be that the Filipinos will misuse this Legislature, and they certainly will misuse it if they are misled by foolish persons here at home into starting an agitation for their