

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION.

Upon Taking the Oath of Government He Discusses Various Subjects of Importance—Favors a Peace Treaty and International Bimetallism.

President McKinley's inaugural address, delivered immediately after he had taken the oath of office, is as follows:

Fellow Citizens:—In obedience to the will of the people and in their presence, by the authority vested in me by this oath, I assume the arduous and responsible duties of President of the United States, relying on the support of my countrymen and invoking the guidance of Almighty God. Our faith teaches that there is a reliance on God, who has so singularly favored the American people in every national trial and who will not forsake us so long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in His footsteps.

The responsibilities of the high trust to which I have been called—always of grave importance—are augmented by the prevailing business conditions, entailing idleness upon willing labor and loss of useful enterprises. The country is suffering from industrial disturbances from which speedy relief must be had. Our financial system needs some revision; our money is all good now, but its value must not further be threatened. It should all be put upon an enduring basis, not subject to easy attack, nor its stability to doubt or dispute. Our currency should continue under the supervision of the government. The several forms of our paper money offer, in my judgment, a constant embarrassment to the government and a safe balance in the treasury. Therefore, I believe it necessary to devise a system which, without diminishing the circulating medium or reducing a premium for its contraction, will present a remedy for these evils, which, temporary in their nature, might well in the years of our prosperity have been displaced by wiser provisions.

With adequate revenue secured, but not until the law can enter upon the changes in our fiscal laws as will, while insuring safety and volume to our money, no longer impose upon the government the necessity of maintaining so large a gold reserve, with its attendant and inevitable temptations to speculation. Most of our financial laws are the outgrowth of experience and trial and should not be amended without investigation and demonstration of the wisdom of the proposed changes. We must be sure we are right and "make haste slowly."

If, therefore, Congress in its wisdom shall deem it expedient to create a commission to take under early consideration the revision of our coinage, banking and currency laws, and give them that exhaustive, careful and dispassionate examination that their importance demands, I shall cordially concur in such action. If such power is vested in the President it is my purpose to appoint a commission of prominent, well-informed citizens of different parties who will command public confidence, both on account of their ability and special fitness for the work. Business experience and public training may thus be combined and the patriotic zeal of the friends of the country be so directed that such a report will be made as to receive the support of all parties and our finances cease to be the subject of mere partisan contention. The experiment, at all events, worth a trial, and in my opinion, it can but prove beneficial to the entire country.

International Bimetallism.
The question of international bimetallism will have early and earnest attention. It will be my constant endeavor to secure it by co-operation with the other great commercial powers of the world, until that condition is realized when the parity between gold and silver money springs from and is supported by the relative value of the two metals and the value of the silver already coined and of that which may hereafter be coined must be kept constantly at par with gold. The credit of the government, the integrity of its currency and the inviolability of its obligations must be preserved. This was the commanding verdict of the people, and will not be unheeded.

Economy is demanded in every branch of the government at all times, but especially in periods like the present depression of business and distress among the people. The severest economy must be observed in all public expenditures, and extravagance stopped wherever it is found and prevented wherever in the future it may be developed. If the revenues are to remain as now, the only relief that can come must be from decreased expenditures. But the present must not become the permanent condition of the government. It has been our uniform practice to retire, not increase, our outstanding obligations, and this policy must again be resumed and vigorously enforced. Our revenues should always be large enough to meet with ease and promptness not only our current needs and the principal interest of the public debt, but to make proper and liberal provisions for that most deserving body of public creditors, the soldiers and sailors, and the widows and orphans who are the pensioners of the United States.

The government should not be permitted to run behind, or increase its debt, in times like the present. Suitably to provide against this is the mandate of duty; the certain and easy remedy for most of our financial difficulties. A still indebtedness as long as the expenditures of the government exceeds its receipts. It can only be met by loans or an increased revenue. While a large annual surplus of revenue may invite waste and extravagance, inadequate revenue creates distrust and undermines public and private credit. Neither should be encouraged. Between more loans and more revenue, there ought to be but one opinion. We should have more revenue, and that without delay, hindrance or postponement. A surplus in the treasury created by loans is not a permanent or safe reliance. It will suffice while it lasts, but it cannot last long while the outlays of the government are greater than its receipts, as has been the case during the last two years. Nor must it be forgotten that however much such loans may temporarily relieve the situation the government is still indebted for the amount of the surplus thus accrued, which it must ultimately pay, while its ability to pay is not strengthened, but weakened, by a continued deficit. Loans are imperative in great emergencies to preserve the government, but a failure to supply needed revenue in time of peace for the maintenance of either has no justification.

The best way for the government to maintain its credit is to pay as it goes—not by resorting to loans, but by keeping out of debt through an adequate income secured by a system of taxation, external or internal, or both. It is the settled policy of the government, pursued from the beginning and practiced by all parties and administrations, to raise the bulk of our revenue

from taxes upon foreign productions entering the United States for sale and consumption—and avoiding for the most part every form of direct taxation, except in time of war. The country is clearly opposed to any needless additions to the subjects of internal taxation, and is committed by its latest popular utterance to the system of tariff taxation.

There can be no misunderstanding, either, about the principle upon which the tariff taxation should be based. Nothing has ever been made plainer at a general election than that the controlling principle in the raising of revenue on imports is zealous care for the American interests and American labor. The people have declared that each legislation should be had as will give ample protection and encouragement to the industries and the development of our country. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped and expected that Congress will, at the earliest practicable moment, enact revenue legislation that shall be fair, reasonable, conservative, and just, and which, while supplying sufficient revenue for public purposes, shall be significantly beneficial and helpful to every section and every enterprise of the people.

To this policy we are all, of whatever party, firmly bound by the voice of the people—a power vastly more potent than the expression of any political platform. The paramount duty of Congress is to stop deficiencies by the restoration of that protective legislation which has always been the firmest prop of the treasury. The passage of a law for such a purpose would strengthen the credit of the government both at home and abroad, and go far toward stopping the drain upon the gold reserve held for the redemption of our currency which has been heavy and well-nigh constant for several years.

Reciprocity.
In the revision of the tariff special attention should be given to the re-enactment and extension of the reciprocity principle of the law of 1890, under which so great a stimulus was given to our foreign trade in new and the vast markets for our surplus agricultural and manufactured products. The brief trial given this legislation amply justifies a further experiment and additional discretionary power in the making of commercial treaties, the end in view always to be the opening up of new markets for the products of our country by granting concessions to the products of other lands that we need and cannot produce ourselves, and which do not involve any loss of labor to our own people, but tend to increase their employment.

The depression of the last four years has fallen with especial severity upon the great body of the country, and upon none more than the holders of small farms. Agriculture has languished and labor suffered. The revival of manufacturing will be a relief to both. No portion of our population is more devoted to the institutions of free government nor more loyal in their support, while none bears more cheerfully or fully its proper share in the maintenance of the government or is better entitled to its wise and liberal care and protection. Legislation helpful to the producer is beneficial to all. The depressed condition of industry on the farm and in the mine and factory has lessened the ability of the people to meet the demands upon them, and

elections are dearer and more universally enjoyed today than ever before. These guarantees must be sacredly preserved and wisely strengthened. The constituted authorities must be cheerfully and vigorously upheld. Lynchings must not be tolerated in a great and civilized country like the United States; courts—not mobs—must execute the penalties of the law. The preservation of public order, the right of discussion, the integrity of courts and the orderly administration of justice must of such be forever the rock of safety upon which our government securely rests.

One of the lessons taught by the late election, which all can rejoice in, is that the citizens of the United States are both law-respecting and law-abiding people, not easily swayed from the path of patriotism and honor. This is in entire accord with the genius of our institutions, and but emphasizes the advantages of inculcating even a greater love for law and order in the future. Immunity should be granted to none who violates the laws, whether individuals, corporations or communities; and as the constitution imposes upon the President the duty of both its own execution and of the statutes and support of its provisions, I shall endeavor carefully to carry them into effect.

The declaration of the party now restored to power has been in the past that of "opposition to all combinations of capital organized in trusts or otherwise to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens," and it has supported "such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by unjust charges on their supplies, or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market." This purpose will be steadily pursued, both by the enforcement of the laws now in existence and the recommendation and support of such statutes as may be necessary to carry it into effect.

Naturalization and Immigration.
Our naturalization and immigration laws should be further improved to the constant promotion of a safer, better and a higher citizenship. A grave peril to the republic would be a citizenship too ignorant to understand or too vicious to appreciate the great value and benefit of our constitution and laws, and against all who come here to make war upon them our gates must be promptly and tightly closed. Nor must we be unmindful of the need of improvement among our citizens, but with the zeal of our fathers, we ought to encourage the spread of knowledge and free education. Illiteracy must be banished from the land if we shall attain that high destiny as the foremost of the enlightened nations of the world, which, under Providence, we ought to achieve.

Reforms in the civil service must go on, but the change should be real and genuine, not perfunctory or prompted by a zeal in behalf of any party, simply because it happens to be in power. As a member of Congress, I voted and spoke in favor of the present law, and I shall attempt its enforcement in the spirit in which it was enacted. The purpose in view was to secure the most efficient service of the best men who would accept appointment under the government, retaining faithful and devoted public servants in office, but shielding none under the authority of any rule or custom who is inefficient.

less; we must avoid the temptation of territorial aggression. War should never be entered upon until every agency of peace has failed; peace is preferable to war in almost every contingency.

Arbitration is the true method of settlement of international as well as local or individual difference. It was recognized as the best means of adjustment of differences between employers and employees by the forty-ninth Congress, in 1886, and its application was extended to our diplomatic relations by the unanimous concurrence of the Senate and House of the fifty-first Congress, in 1890. The latter resolution was accepted as the basis of negotiations with us by the British House of Commons in 1893, and upon our invitation a treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain was signed at Washington and transmitted to the Senate for its ratification in January last. Since this time, the result of our own initiative, since it has been recognized as the leading feature of our foreign policy throughout our entire national history—the adjustment of difficulties by judicial methods rather than by force of arms—has been the subject of the most glorious example of reason and peace, not passion and war, controlling the relations between two of the greatest nations of the world, an example certain to be followed by others, and especially in the early action of the Senate thereon, not merely as a matter of policy, but as a duty to mankind.

The importance and moral influence of the ratification of such a treaty can hardly be overestimated in the cause of advancing civilization. It may well engage the best thought of the statesmen and people of every country, and I cannot but consider it fortunate that it was reserved to the United States to have the leadership in so grand a work.

Extra Session of Congress.
It has been the uniform practice of each President to avoid, so far as possible, the convening of Congress in extraordinary session. It is an example of the ordinary circumstances and in the absence of a public necessity, is to be commended. But a failure to convene the representatives of the people in Congress in extra session when it involves neglect of a public duty, or the responsibility of such neglect upon the executive himself. The condition of the public treasury, as has been indicated, demands the immediate consideration of Congress. It alone has the power to provide revenue for the government. Not to convene it under such circumstances I can view in no other sense than the neglect of a plain duty.

I do not sympathize with the sentiment that Congress in session is dangerous to our general business interests. Its members are the agents of the people, and their presence at the seat of government in the execution of the sovereign will should not operate as an injury, but a benefit. There should be no excuse for the government upon a sound financial and economic basis than now. The people have only recently voted that this should be done, and nothing is more binding upon the agents of their will than the obligation of immediate action.

It has always seemed to me that the postponement of the meeting of Congress until more than a year after it has been chosen deprives Congress too often of the inspiration of the popular will and the country of the corresponding benefits. It is evident, therefore, that to postpone action in the presence of so great a necessity would be unwise on the part of the executive because of the just interests of the people. Our actions now will be from the mere partisan consideration that if the question of tariff revision was postponed until the regular session of Congress, we are nearly two years from a congressional election, and politics cannot so greatly distract us as it might. Congress was immediately pending. We can approach the problem calmly and patriotically, without fearing its effect upon an early election. Our fellow citizens who may disagree with us upon the character of this legislation prefer to have the question settled now, even against their preconceived views, and perhaps settled so reasonably, as I trust and believe it will be, as to insure great peace and harmony, and further uncertainty menacing the vast and varied business interests of the United States. Again, whatever action Congress may take will be given a fair opportunity for trial before the people, and will be subject to their judgment, and this I consider a great essential to the rightful and lasting settlement of the question.

In view of these considerations I shall deem it my duty as President to convene Congress in an extraordinary session on Monday, the 15th day of March, 1897.

In conclusion, I congratulate the country upon the fraternal spirit of the people and the manifest good will everywhere to be apparent. The recent election not only most fortunately demonstrated the obliteration of sectional or geographical lines, but to some extent also the prejudices which have long been distracting our people, and marked our true greatness as a nation. The triumph of the people, whose verdict is carried into effect today, is not the triumph of one section, nor wholly of one party, but of all sections and of all parties. The country is no longer divided on the old lines, but upon principles and policies; and in this fact surely every lover of the country can find cause for great felicitation. Let us rejoice in and cultivate the great peace and harmony which will be a gain and blessing to our beloved country.

It will be my constant aim to do nothing and permit nothing to be done that will arrest or disturb this growing sentiment of unity and co-operation, this revival of esteem and affiliation which now animates so many thousands in both the old and the antagonistic sections, but I shall cheerfully do everything possible to promote and increase it.

Let me again repeat the words of the oath administered by the chief justice, which, in their respective spheres, so far as applicable, I would have all my countrymen observe:

"I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

This is the obligation I have reverently taken before the Lord most high. To keep it will be my single purpose; my constant prayer; and I shall confidently rely upon the forbearance and assistance of all the people in the discharge of my solemn responsibilities.

Vice-President to the Senate.

As the chaplain closed Vice-President Hobart addressed the Senate for the first time, speaking in strong, well-modulated tones. He said:

Sensors: To have been elected to preside over the Senate of the United States is a distinction which no citizen would prize, and the manifestation of confidence which it implies is an honor which I sincerely appreciate. My gratitude and loyalty to the people of the country to whom I owe this honor and my duty to you, my fellow Senators, such a conservative, equitable and conscientious construction and enforcement of your rules as shall promote the well-being and prosperity of the people, and at the same time conserve the

time-honored precedents and established traditions which have contributed to make this tribunal the most distinguished of the legislative bodies of the world.

In entering upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen I feel a peculiar delicacy, for I am aware that your body, with whom for a time I am associated, has had but a small voice in the selection of its presiding officer, and that I am called upon to conduct your deliberations, while not perhaps your choice in point of either merit or fitness.

It will be my constant effort to aid you, so far as I may, in all reasonable expedition of the business of the Senate, and I may be permitted to express the belief that such expedition is the hope of the country. All the interests of good government and the advancement toward a higher and better condition of things call for prompt and positive legislation at your hands. To obstruct the regular course of wise and prudent legislative action, after the fullest and freest discussion, is neither consistent with true senatorial courtesy, conducive to the welfare of the people nor in compliance with their just expectations.

While assisting in the settlement of the grave questions which devolve upon the Senate it will be my endeavor to so guide its deliberations that its wisdom may be made fruitful in works, while at the same time exercising such fairness and impartiality within the rules of the Senate as shall deserve, at least, your good opinion for the sincerity of my effort.

Unfamiliar with your rules and manner of procedure, I can only promise that I will bring all the ability I possess to the faithful discharge of every duty as it may devolve upon me, relying always upon your suggestions, your advice and your co-operation, and I should feel unequal to the task did I not trustfully anticipate that the rules of the Senate as shall deserve, at least, your good opinion for the sincerity of my effort.

I trust that our official and personal relations may be alike agreeable; that the friendly and helpful form may be genuine and lasting, and that the work of the Senate may redound to the peace and honor of the country and the prosperity and happiness of all the people.

Church-going in Iceland.
Jessie Ackermann, in an article describing a recent visit to Iceland, tells how she attended a country church in the northern part of the island. "The Sabbath day was full of interest, for we had not attended service in the rural districts. In the early morning we took ourselves to the front of the house to watch the country folk assemble. In the distance we saw them fording the river in a long line, and in the other direction men, women and children rode slowly over the mountains down to the farm. What the Sabbath day means to these people few can realize! Some of them never see a face besides those of the members of the family from one church day to the other. What wonder, then, that they begin to assemble fully two hours before church time! A peculiar form of salutation prevails outside of the cities. With this we had not yet been made familiar, and our astonishment can well be imagined when we saw the men dismount, embrace and kiss each other. I learned later that this is the usual form of salutation among the men in the inland districts. The hour of service arrived, and in company with the preacher, who wore a high silk hat, a loose, flowing gown buttoned from chin to hem, and a great white Elizabeth ruff around his neck, we entered the church. From the back seat we had full view of the congregation, and not being familiar with the language, the time was passed in meditation on the situation. In the pulpit the pastor was assisted into a long white robe, which fell over the black one, and down his back hung a large surplice of bright velvet upon which a golden cross was wrought. On the altar two great candles about a yard long and three inches thick shed a dim light. These were the special charge of an official who gave out the hymns, and between times snuffed the candles with an old-time pair of "snuffers." After church the worshippers dispersed, and many of them did not reach their homes until night."

Navigating the Air.

Among the novel ideas in aerial navigation is the coupling together of a number of balloons in what might be called a tandem form. In the foremost is a machine which is supposed to do the propelling. These balloons are umbrella-shaped, and contain hydrogen gas. The car is suspended a long distance below the balloon proper, and is connected with it by a frame of aluminum. The relative positions of car and balloon would be not unlike a very long-handled umbrella fully spread, the car being attached to the lower end of the handle. The motive power is an engine operated by liquid fuel. The experiments with this form of navigation are being conducted at Montgomery, Ala., by men who are fully abreast with the best scientific ideas of the day.

Artistic.

Mrs. Pigment—Is not the frost work on the panes beautiful this morning, James? Mr. P.—Admirable. Mrs. P.—Oh! Art can never reach such perfection. Mr. P.—Never. Mrs. P.—Considered from the artistic standpoint, what kind of work would you call that? Mr. P.—I should call it a frieze.—Boston Courier.

His Version.

"Papa, what does this mean, 'It is better to give than to receive'?" asked a boy of his fond parent.

"It means, my son, that your mother finds more pleasure in lecturing me than I do in hearing her."—Tid-Bits.

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