

Fifty-Seventh Congress

Dec. 2, 1901 – Mar. 3, 1903

Second Administration of William McKinley /First Administration of Theodore Roosevelt*

*William McKinley was shot and fatally wounded on Sept. 6, 1901. After McKinley died of his wounds, Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him on Sept. 14, 1901

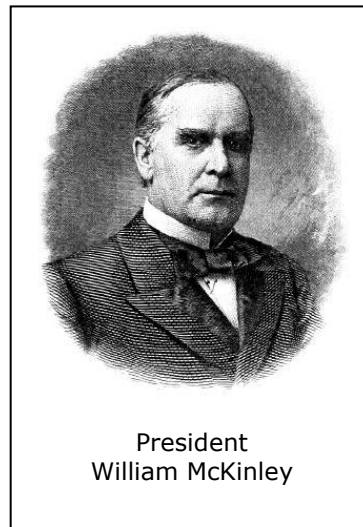
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Historical Background

The 57th Congress was a tumultuous one. Barely six months after his second inauguration, President William McKinley was assassinated by the anarchist Leon Czolgosz. His then Vice President, Theodore Roosevelt, succeeded him on September 14, 1901. Roosevelt had been nominated to the ticket during the 1900 Republican National Convention after the death of Vice President Garret Hobart created a vacancy. Roosevelt was the stalwart of the emergent progressive wing in the Republican Party, which advocated for a series of reforms in government and the commercial sector. Though President McKinley’s activist approach to foreign policy accorded with the views of progressives in Congress, their strident antipathy to trusts and monopolistic business practices clashed with McKinley’s more *laissez-faire* attitude toward regulating commerce. However, once Roosevelt took office, it wouldn’t be long before the progressive reformer would instigate a scandal over some of his more radical ideas.

In October 1901, President Roosevelt invited African American leader Booker T. Washington for an unprecedented dinner at the White House. The American South reacted angrily to the visit, and racial violence increased in the region to such an extent that even members of Congress came to blows. Senators Benjamin Tillman and John L. McLaurin, both of South Carolina, got into a fist fight on the Senate floor while Congress was in session.

Labor tensions were also on the rise during this period, and a series of labor actions gripped the country during this period. The most notable of these was the Coal Strike of 1902, that took place within the anthracite mining communities of eastern Pennsylvania from May-October 1902, prompting



the President to organize a fact-finding mission to suspend the strike. At the same time, the economy and financial markets were recovering from a stock market crash, while the western powers of Britain, Germany, and Italy had begun to intervene in the financially struggling South America.

This daunting series of crises and opportunities kept Congress busy during this time. One of the most significant acts of the 57th Congress was the approval of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which abrogated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850 with Great Britain and granted the United States the right to build, operate, and fortify a canal across the isthmus of Panama and articulated that the canal would be open freely and equally to all nations. Congress then passed the Spooner Act in June 1902, authorizing construction of the canal at a cost not to exceed \$40,000,000.

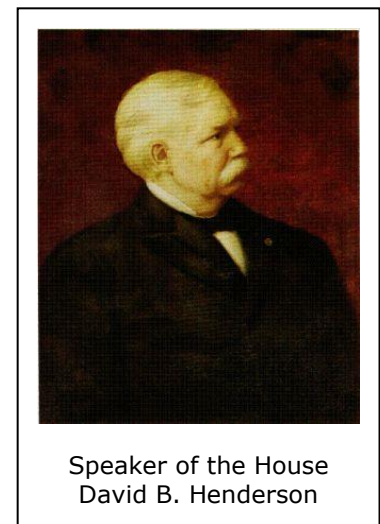
Adoption of the Permanent Census Act of March 1902 culminated some seventy years of recommendations and efforts to establish a permanent census organization. For the first time the Bureau of the Census was able to perform a diversified program of census and surveys. Between 1790 and 1900, Congress had relied upon temporary organizations and as a consequence was only able to compile the national decennial census. Congress also revised plans for a colonial government in the Philippines, created legislation against the immigration of alien anarchists, and instituted a new reclamation and irrigation system for western settlers.

In his first term of office, President Roosevelt also began what was to become his most enduring legacy: conservation of the nation's natural heritage. During the course of the 57th Congress, Roosevelt issued twenty executive orders designating public lands set aside for conservation, including Yellowstone and Teton Forest Reserves.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (200 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (53 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (151 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (26 seats)
Other Parties: Independent (6 seats)	Other Parties: Independent (10 seats)
Speaker of the House: David B. Henderson	President Pro Tempore: William P. -



War or Peace?

President Theodore Roosevelt continued the transformation of the United States' global profile which had begun with the swift defeat of Spain during the Presidency of William McKinley and the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt reasoned that the surest way to maintain American prerogatives in the western hemisphere was to position the United States as critical hub in the global balance of power. Roosevelt, therefore, was most keenly concerned with the rapid growth of German power globally and worried over the prospect of Germany establishing a base in the Caribbean. Roosevelt's concerns over Germany's rise informed the decision to cleave more closely to Great Britain and to settle the matter of constructing a canal across Central America by entering into the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Similar concerns would guide Roosevelt's response to a crisis in Venezuela that emerged during the 57th Congress.

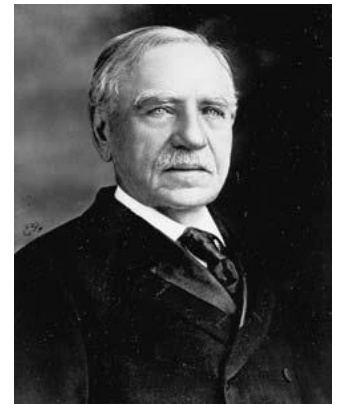
Crisis in Venezuela

Venezuela had experienced repeated periods of unrest and civil conflict throughout the latter half of the 19th century. Even as merchants from various nations jockeyed for access to Venezuelan markets, European bankers provided loans to finance the government's efforts to quash rebellions. In 1892, after the civilian government of Raimundo Andueza Palacios lost the critical support of the caudillos, a brief civil war brought Joaquín Crespo to power for the second time. The conflict, however brief, preceded a six-month period of virtual anarchy in Venezuela, resulting in substantial destruction and property loss among foreign commercial interests operating in the country. Seeking redress, foreign governments began issuing claims against the government of Venezuela on behalf of their citizens. Another brief civil war in 1898 only worsened the situation. When Cipriano Castro, another in Venezuela's long line of caudillo leaders, seized power in 1899, he immediately ordered a halt on foreign debt payments.

Despite previous calls by Germany and Britain to settle the matter via international arbitration in The Hague courts, Venezuela's president Cipriano Castro refused. In discussing the crisis in Venezuela and weighing the advantages of alternate strategies, the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, and Italy decided that a coordinated action had the best chance of meeting with success. In December 1902, vessels from the allied European states began a naval blockade of Venezuela, designed to bring Cipriano to his knees and force a solution to the crisis. Though wholly overmatched by the combined naval might of Germany and Britain, Castro reasoned that the European powers would ultimately forego a military intervention because of the threat of a U.S. response enforcing the Monroe Doctrine.

President Roosevelt was keenly aware of the dangers posed by a joint Anglo-German naval operation in the Caribbean. However, President interpreted the Monroe Doctrine to be chiefly concerned with territorial acquisitions and not in arbitrating disputes such as those behind the blockade. Castro turned to the United States to intervene with the powers enforcing the blockade and the U.S. forwarded a message from the Venezuelan president to the leaders of the blockade, inviting them to convene negotiations toward a settlement. However, in his message, Castro solely made reference to claims arising from the 1898 civil war, which was unacceptable to the blockading powers. As the blockade continued, public opinion as reflected in the British and American press was soundly in opposition to the blockade. At the same time, Castro proved to be a stubborn adversary, giving no ground beyond his invitation to settle the matter via arbitration. The blockading states had little choice but to relent and arbitration talks were held in Washington D.C. The four parties reached a settlement on February 13, 1903.

The incident proved to have an outsized impact on U.S. policy as President Roosevelt came away from the crisis with grave concerns over what he saw as unacceptable vulnerabilities to U.S. interests throughout Latin America. Moreover, he harbored qualms regarding the provision of the Washington Protocols that provided for the establishment of mixed commissions to hear and adjudicate claimants' cases against Venezuela. He outright rejected the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, which held that the blockading powers who brought the case were entitled to preferential



President Pro Tempore
William P. Frye

treatment in securing payment of their claims. While in both cases, it appeared as though Roosevelt was working against the interests of the United States, as Roosevelt saw it, the settlement of the economic aspects of the arbitration in favor of the states and their citizens risked encouraging further geopolitical adventurism in South America. These concerns would lead President Roosevelt to articulate a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine during the 58th Congress, which would establish that the United States will intervene in cases where European powers have claims against any American states and will be the conduit through which all claims, arbitration, and settlement will be conducted, rather than allowing European powers to press claims directly against other American states.

Sources:

Hay, John M. [*Correspondence, \[Foreign relations, 1902 \[following p. lxxx\] \[enclosed with 4440 H.doc.1\]\]*](#). House, Jan. 17, 1902. 57th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1/2 (S1.1:902). ProQuest Congressional, 4440 H.doc.1-2

Moore, John Bassett. [*A Digest of International Law as Embodied in Diplomatic Discussions, Treaties And Other International Agreements \[...\]*](#). House, May 24, 1906. 56th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.551 (S7.12:906/6). ProQuest Congressional, 4206-2 H.doc.551

Economic Trends and Conditions

In Scranton, Pennsylvania, in the heart of eastern Pennsylvania's anthracite coal country, members of the roughly 150,000 strong United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) led by John Mitchell, voted to strike on May 12, 1902. The union, emboldened by gains achieved in coal strikes in 1899 and 1900, demanded a 20% increase in wages and a reduction in the workday from ten to eight hours, in addition to recognition by the mine operators as the representative of the mine workers. There was hope at the beginning of the strike that negotiations could lead to a quick settlement. However, when maintenance and support workers joined the striking miners on June 2, these hopes were dashed.

Mine operators, still stinging from the concessions made in 1899 and 1900, refused to recognize the UMWA as the legitimate representative of the striking workers and rebuffed attempts to bring them to the table with union representatives. President Roosevelt sent his Labor Commissioner Carroll D. Wright to see if he could make any headway with the parties on June 8, but the coal producers refused to negotiate with the union and were otherwise suspicious of Federal interference. It took the intercession of financier J.P. Morgan to set up a commission that would make recommendations toward an arbitrated settlement. The strike finally ended in October, 1902, with the striking miners receiving a 10% wage increase, while still refusing to recognize the UMWA, thereby claiming victory.

On May 17, 1901 the U.S. stock market crashed when prominent businessmen J. P. Morgan, James J. Hill, Edward H. Harriman, and Jacob Schiff vied for financial control of the Northern Pacific Railroad and caused panic selling among other investors. As a result of the panic, thousands of small

investors were ruined. After reaching a compromise, the business moguls formed the Northern Securities Company to control Northern Pacific Railway, Great Northern Railway, and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, along with other associated lines. In February 1902, President Roosevelt sued the Northern Securities Company for violation of the Sherman Act in one of the administration's first anti-trust cases.

In keeping with the antitrust activities of the Roosevelt Administration, the Expedition Act was passed in February 1903 to speed up Federal prosecution of antitrust suits. The Department of Commerce and Labor was created later the same month with a Bureau of Corporations empowered to investigate and report upon the activities of corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Hoar, George Frisbie. [*Reply of the Attorney-General dated January 3, 1903, to a communication dated December 20, 1902, from the Hon. George F. Hoar, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate*](#). Senate, Jan. 6, 1903. 57th Congress, 2nd Session, S.doc.73. ProQuest Congressional, 4422 S.doc.73

Major Treaties

Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Abrogated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850 between the United States and Great Britain, and gave the United States the right to build, operate, and fortify a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. Declared that the canal would be kept open and free to ships of all nations on equal terms. Concluded November 18, 1901. Approved by the Senate Dec. 16, 1901. ([32 Stat. 1903](#))

Source:

["Great Britain, Isthmian Canal. Treaty between the United States and Great Britain to facilitate the construction of a ship canal. Signed at Washington November 18, 1901; ratification advised by the Senate December 16, 1901; ratified by the President December 26, 1901; ratified by Great Britain January 20, 1902; ratifications exchanged at Washington February 21, 1902; proclaimed February 22, 1902."](#) (32 Stat. 1903; Nov. 18, 1901). ProQuest Congressional

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock, declared that the "plenary power" of the United States Congress gave it authority to unilaterally abrogate treaty obligations between the United States and Native American tribes, 187 U.S. 553 (1903)

Bleistein v. Donaldson Lithographing Company, holding that advertisements were protected by copyright, 188 U.S. 239 (1903)

Giles v. Harris, upheld Alabama's constitutional requirements and qualifications for voter registration after finding the requirements applied to all citizens. Upholding the lower court's dismissal of the case, the Federal court ruled, furthermore, that the Eleventh Amendment prohibited the plaintiff from suing the State directly, and therefore it could not address accusations that the State's laws discriminated against black citizens in practice, 189 U.S. 475 (1903)

Source:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [*Constitution of the United States of America. Analysis and Interpretation*](#). CRS, Library of Congress, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1901 Events

- **Jan. 1:** The British colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia federate as the Commonwealth of Australia; Edmund Barton becomes first Prime Minister
- **Jan. 22:** [Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom dies at age 81, after more than 63 years on the throne, and her son the Prince of Wales formally succeeds her as King Edward VII](#)
- **Feb. 22:** [Senators Benjamin Tillman and John L. McLaurin, both of South Carolina, have a fist fight while Congress is in session and are later censured by the Senate on Feb. 28](#)
- **Feb. 25:** [U.S. Steel is incorporated by industrialist J. P. Morgan as the first billion-dollar corporation](#)
- **Mar. 2:** [Congress passes the Platt Amendment, limiting the autonomy of Cuba as a condition for the withdrawal of American troops](#)
- **Mar. 6:** Attempted assassination on Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany
- **May 3-9:** James Hill of the Great Northern Railway and E.H. Harriman of the Union Pacific Railroad begin a financial crisis in their feud to control the railroad hub in Chicago
- **June 2:** [The Anthracite Coal Strike by the United Mine Workers begin, continuing until Oct. 21, 1902](#)
- **June 12:** Cuba becomes a U.S. protectorate
- **July 2:** Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid rob a Montana train, stealing \$40,000
- **July 4:** *Philippine-American War* - Philippine-American War ended
- **Aug. 6:** [Robert Falcon Scott sets sail on the RRS Discovery to explore the Ross Sea in Antarctica](#)
- **Sept. 6:** [Leon Czolgosz shoots President William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York](#)
- **Sept. 7:** *Boxer Rebellion* - [The Boxer Rebellion in China officially ends with the signing of the Boxer Protocol](#)
- **Sept. 14:** [President William McKinley dies; Theodore Roosevelt becomes 26th President of the United States](#)
- **Oct. 2:** [The British Royal Navy's first submarine, *Holland 1*, is launched](#)

- **Oct. 12:** [President Roosevelt solidifies the renaming of the "Executive Mansion" to "The White House" when he has it engraved on stationery](#)
- **Oct. 16:** President Roosevelt invites African American leader Booker T. Washington to the White House, inciting an angry response from the American South and causing racial violence to increase in the region
- **Oct. 19:** The "Pomp and Circumstance" march by Edward Elgar premieres in England
- **Dec. 10:** [The first Nobel Prize ceremony is held in Stockholm on the fifth anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death](#)
- **Dec. 12:** [Guglielmo Marconi transmits the first successful transatlantic wireless signal from Poldhu, Cornwall to Newfoundland, Canada](#)
- **Dec. 31:** [Cuba elects their first President: Tomas Estrada Palma](#)

1902 Events

- **Jan.:** [International Bureau of the American Republics is established](#)
- **Jan. 1:** The first "Tournament East-West football game," later nicknamed the Rose Bowl, occurs in Pasadena, California
- **Jan. 28:** [The Carnegie Institution is founded in Washington, DC with a \\$10 million gift from Andrew Carnegie](#)
- **Apr. 19:** A magnitude 7.5 earthquake rocks Guatemala, killing 2,000
- **May 8:** [In Martinique, Mount Pelée erupts, destroying the town of Saint-Pierre and killing over 30,000](#)
- **May 20:** [Cuba gains independence from the U.S.](#)
- **May 31:** *Second Boer War* - The Treaty of Vereeniging ends the Second Boer War
- **July 4:** *Philippine-American War* - [Roosevelt proclaims amnesty and the Philippine-American War officially ends](#)
- **Aug. 9:** Edward VII is crowned King of the United Kingdom
- **Aug. 30:** [In Martinique, Mount Pelée erupts again, destroying the town of Morne-Rouge causing 1000 deaths](#)
- **Dec. 10:** [The first Aswan Dam on the Nile is completed](#)
- **Dec. 30:** Scott, Shackleton and Wilson reach the furthest southern point reached thus far by man, south of 82°S during the Discovery Expedition
- **Dec. - Feb. 1903:** [Venezuela Crisis occurs, in which Britain, Germany and Italy sustain a naval blockade on Venezuela to enforce collection of outstanding financial claims; prompts the development of the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine](#)

Sources:

[Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, \[...\] June 30, 1901.](#)
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 (SI1.1:901/[pt.1]). ProQuest Congressional, 4393 H.doc.707

[Anthracite Coal Strike Commission](#). Committee on Appropriations. House. Dec. 2, 1902. 57th Congress, 2nd Session, H.rp.2751. ProQuest Congressional, 4413 H.rp.2751

[Change of official designation of Executive Mansion \[to White House on Treasury Department documents\]](#). Department of Treasury, Oct. 23, 1901. Treas. Dept. Circ. No. 1901/93 (T1.4:901/93). ProQuest Congressional, T104-28.93

Committee on Rivers and Harbors. House. [Assuan Reservoir and Lake Moeris \[...\] Egypt, at a Meeting of the Khedivial Geographical Society, Cairo \[...\]](#). Jan. 16, 1904. 63rd Congress, 2nd Session, (Y4.R52:63/17). ProQuest Congressional, CMP-1904-RRH-0004

["Death of Queen Victoria."](#) Congressional Record, 56th Congress, 2nd Session (Jan. 22, 1901) Vol. 34, p. 1288. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1901-0122

Gage, Lyman J. [Claims of American citizens, sufferers from Boxer uprising in China. Letter \[...\] from the Secretary of State submitting an estimate of appropriation for claims of American citizens who suffered from the Boxer uprising in China](#). Committee on Appropriations. House, Dec. 10, 1901. 57th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.105. ProQuest Congressional, 4322 H.doc.105

[Incorporating the Carnegie Institution of Washington](#). Committee on the District of Columbia. House, Mar. 31, 1904. 58th Congress, 2nd Session, H.rp.2084. ProQuest Congressional, 4582 H.rp.2084

[Inquiry respecting claims of Great Britain and Germany against Venezuela, etc](#). Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, Dec. 18, 1902. 57th Congress, 2nd Session, H.rp.2908. ProQuest Congressional, 4413 H.rp.2908

[International Union of American Republics. Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics](#). Bureau of American Republics, House, Dec. 1, 1908. 60th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.1000. ProQuest Congressional, 5515 H.doc.1000

[Labor conference: Proceedings of conference with \[...\] Nobel Peace Prize for Foundation for Promotion of Industrial Peace\]](#). Department of Commerce and Labor, GPO. Jan. 1, 1909. (C1.2:L11). ProQuest Congressional, C102-16

Langley, S. P. [Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, \[...\] June 30, 1902](#). Smithsonian Institution, May 23, 1903. 57th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.484 (SI1.1:902/[pt.1]). ProQuest Congressional, 4548 H.doc.484

[Manufactures: Industrial combinations \[with data on establishments, finances, and operations, by industry and State: selected data shown by organization; and some detail for constituents of U.S. Steel Corp.\]](#). Department of Interior, Dec. 30, 1901. Census (12th, 1900) Bull. No. 122 (I13.3:122). ProQuest Congressional, I1303-122

[Monthly Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics](#). Bureau of American Republics. House, July 1, 1902. 57th Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.306. ProQuest Congressional, 4356 H.doc.306

Roosevelt, Theodore. [Announcing the death of William McKinley](#). Numbered Presidential Proclamations, 1789-Present, Sept. 14, 1901. Presidential Proclamation No. 465. ProQuest Congressional, 1901-PR-465

Roosevelt, Theodore. [Announcing the death of William McKinley: \[text and related correspondence\]](#). Numbered Presidential Proclamations, 1789-Present, Sept. 14, 1901. ProQuest Congressional, 1901-PR-465-A

Roosevelt, Theodore. [Pardon and amnesty to insurrectionists in Philippines](#). Numbered Presidential Proclamations, 1789-Present, July 4, 1902. Presidential Proclamation No. 483. ProQuest Congressional, 1902-PR-483

Roosevelt, Theodore. [Transfer of control and government of Island of Cuba](#). Miscellaneous Printed Sources, 1789-1936, May 10, 1902. ProQuest Congressional, 1902-52-1

'Sketch map showing the first year's work of the National Antarctic Expedition' in [*Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Institution for the year ending June 30, 1903*](#), May 12, 1904. 4740 H.doc.748. ProQuest Congressional, 4740 H.doc.748, map 5

Stewart, William Morris. [*Letter of Admiral George Dewey, United States Navy, addressed to Hon. William M. Stewart, dated January 28, 1901, testifying to the great value of the Holland submarine boat for coast and harbor defense, and repeating his testimony in favor of said boat given before the House Committee on Naval Affairs April 23, 1900*](#). Committee on Naval Affairs. Senate, Jan. 28, 1901. 56th Congress, 2nd Session, S.doc.122. ProQuest Congressional, 4039 S.doc.122

[*To censure Benjamin R. Tillman and John L. McLaurin, Senators from South Carolina, for altercation in open session*](#). Committee on Privileges and Elections. Senate. Feb. 28, 1902. 57th Congress, 1st Session, S.rp.574. ProQuest Congressional, 4260 S.rp.574

[*Translation of proposed constitution for Cuba, official acceptance of Platt Amendment, and electoral law*](#). Bureau of Insular Affairs, Department of War, GPO. Nov. 1, 1901. (W6.6:C76). ProQuest Congressional, W606-5

Major Acts

Permanent Census Office. Transformed the Census Bureau from temporary to permanent status, and for a Director of the Census to be appointed by the President, subject to Senate confirmation, whose responsibilities would center on the decennial population census, an annual compilation of vital statistics and a mid-decade collection of the statistics on manufacturers. Approved Mar. 6, 1902. ([32 Stat. 51, Chap. 139; PL57-27-1](#))

Newlands Reclamation Act. Authorized the Federal Government to devote almost the entire amount of the proceeds of sales of public lands in 16 western and southwestern States for the development of irrigation projects. The settlers in turn were to agree to repay the cost of construction, thus creating a permanent revolving fund for the construction of irrigation works. Approved June 17, 1902. ([32 Stat. 388, Chap. 1093; PL57-161-1](#))

Spooner Act. Provide for the purchase, at a cost of \$40 million the rights, privileges, franchises, concessions, grants of land, right of way, unfinished work, plants, and other property owned by the New Panama Canal Company of France on the Isthmus of Panama. Authorized the President to purchase from the Republic of Columbia under such terms as he might deem reasonable, perpetual control of a strip of land, not less than six miles wide, extending from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Approved June 28, 1902. ([32 Stat. 481, Chap. 1302; PL57-183-1](#))

Philippine Government Act. Declared the Philippine Islands to be an "unorganized" territory, and recognized the inhabitants of the Islands as citizens of the Philippine Islands and entitled to the protection of the U.S. Confirmed the President's action in creating the Philippine Commission to govern the Territory and provided for a Philippine Assembly consisting of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred members to be elected by qualified voters for two-year terms, each member to represent a constituency on the basis of population. Approved July 1, 1902. ([32 Stat. 691, Chap. 1369; PL57-235-1](#))

Expedition Act. Designed to expedite Federal prosecution of Federal antitrust suits, giving such proceedings precedence on the dockets of the circuit courts. Approved Feb. 11, 1903. ([32 Stat. 823, Chap. 544; PL57-82-2](#))

Department of Commerce and Labor Establishment. Established the Department of Commerce as the ninth Cabinet office, with a Bureau of Corporations empowered to investigate and report upon the activities of corporations engaged in interstate and foreign commerce. Approved Feb. 14, 1903. ([32 Stat. 825; PL57-87-2](#))

Elkins Act. Defined what constituted unfair discrimination between shippers engaged in interstate commerce and provided for the punishment of shippers and railway officials and agents, as well as railroad corporations, giving or received rebates. Approved Feb. 19, 1903. ([32 Stat. 847, Chap. 708; PL57-103-2](#))

Immigration Act of 1903. Also called the Anarchist Exclusion Act. Codified previous immigration law, and added four inadmissible classes: anarchists, people with epilepsy, beggars, and importers of prostitutes. Approved Mar. 3, 1903. ([32 Stat. 1213, Chap. 1012; PL57-162-2](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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