

Watauga Democrat.

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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT.

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[Presidents Message continued from last issue.]

The seventh President of the United States, the soldier and statesman and at all times the firm and brave friend of the people, in vindication of his course as the protector of popular rights and the champion of true American citizenship declared: "The ambition which leads me on is an anxious desire and fixed determination to restore to the people, unimpaired, the sacred trust they have confided to my charge; to heal the wounds of the Constitution and preserve it from future violation; to persuade my countrymen so far as I may that it is not in a splendid government supported by a powerful monopoly and aristocratic establishments that they will find happiness, or their liberties protection, but in a plain system void of pomp—protecting all and granting favors to none—dispensing its blessings like the dew of heaven unseen and unfeeling save the freshness and beauty they contribute to produce. It is such a government that the genius of our people requires; such a one only under which our States may remain for ages to come united, prosperous and free."

THE STATE OF THE UNION.

In pursuance of a Constitutional provision requiring the President from time to time to give to the Congress information of the State of the Union, I have the satisfaction to announce that the close of the year finds the United States in the enjoyment of domestic tranquility and at peace with all nations. Since my last annual message our foreign relations have been strengthened and improved by the performance of international good offices and by new and renewed treaties of amity, commerce and reciprocal extradition of criminals. Those international questions which still await settlement are all reasonably within the domain of amicable negotiation and there is no existing subject of dispute between the United States and any foreign power

that is not susceptible of satisfactory adjustment by frank diplomatic treatment.

Of the Fisheries treaty the President says: Having essayed in the discharge of my duty to procure by negotiation the settlement of a long standing cause of dispute, and to remove a constant menace to the good relations of the two countries; and continuing to be of the opinion that the treaty of February last, that failed to receive the approval of the Senate, did supply a satisfactory practical and final adjustment upon a basis honorable and just to both parties of the difficult and vexed question to which it related, and having subsequently and unavailingly recommended other legislation to Congress which I hoped would suffice to meet the exigency created by the rejection of the treaty, I now again invoke the earnest and immediate attention of Congress to the condition of this important question as it now stands before them and the country and for the settlement of which I am deeply solicitous.

THE SACKVILLE INCIDENT.

Near the close of the month of October last, occurrences of a deeply regrettable nature were brought to my knowledge which made it my painful but imperative duty to obtain with as little delay as possible a new person as the channel of diplomatic intercourse in this country with the government of Great Britain. The correspondence in relation to this incident will in due course be laid before you and will disclose the unpardonable conduct of the official referred to in his interference by advice and counsel with the suffrages of American citizens in the very crisis of the presidential election then near at hand, and also in his subsequent public declarations to justify his action superadding impugning of the Executive and Senate of the U. S. in connection with important questions now pending in controversy between the two governments. The offense thus committed was most grave, involving disastrous possibilities to the good relations of the United States and Great Britain, constituting a gross breach of diplomatic privilege and an invasion of the purely domestic affairs and essential sovereignty of the government to which the envoy was accredited.

Having first fulfilled the just demands of international comity by affording full opportunity for Her Majesty's government to act in relief of the situation, I considered prolongation of discussion to be unwarranted, and thereupon declined to further recognized the diplomatic character of the person whose continuance in such function would destroy that mutual confidence which is essential to the good un-

derstanding of the two governments and was inconsistent with the welfare and self-respect of the government of the United States. The usual interchange of communication has since continued through Her Majesty's legation in this city.

THE CHINESE EXCLUSION BILL.

In a message accompanying my approval on the 1st day of October last of a bill for the exclusion of Chinese laborers I laid before Congress full information and all correspondence touching the negotiation of the treaty with China concluded at this Capital on the 12th day of March, 1888, and which, having been confirmed by the Senate, with certain amendments, was rejected by the Chinese government. This message contained a recommendation that a sum of money be appropriated as compensation to Chinese subjects who had suffered injuries at the hands of lawless men within our jurisdiction. Such appropriation having been duly made, the fund awaits reception by the Chinese government. It is sincerely hoped that by the cessation of the influx of this class of Chinese subjects in accordance with the expressed wish of both governments, a cause of unkind feeling has been permanently removed.

A seizure of vessels under the American flag (in Hayti) has been reported, and in consequence, measures to prevent and redress any molestation of our innocent merchantment have been adopted.

No feature present stronger recommendation for Congressional action than the establishment of communication by sub marine telegraph with Honolulu.

The wisdom of commercial reciprocity with Mexico has been heretofore stated in my message to Congress and the lapse of time and growth of commerce with that close neighbor Republic confirm the judgment so expressed. * * * A comprehensive treaty of amity and commerce with Peru was proclaimed on Nov. 7th. last, and it is expected that under its operations mutual prosperity and good understanding will be promoted.

As authorized by the Congress, preliminary steps have been taken for the assemblage at this capital during the coming year of the representatives of the South and Central American States together with those of Mexico, Hayti and San Domingo to discuss sundry important topics. * * * It is believed that commercial policies inducing freer mutual exchange of products can be made advantageous by independent but co-operative legislation. In the model mentioned the control of our taxation for revenue will be always retained in our own hands unrestricted by conventional agreements with other governments.

In conformity also with

Congressional authority, the maritime powers have been invited to confer in Washington in April next upon the practicability of devising uniform rules and measures for the greater security of life and property at sea. * * * With the rapid increase of immigration to our shores and the facilities of modern travel, the abuses of the generous privileges afforded by our naturalization laws call for their careful revision. * * *

THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

The reorganization of the consular service is a matter of serious importance to our national interests. The number of existing principal consular offices is believed to be greater than is at all necessary for the conduct of the business. * * * I repeat the recommendation heretofore made by me that the appropriations for the maintenance of our diplomatic and consular service should be recast; and that the so-called notarial or unofficial fees which our representatives abroad are now permitted to treat as personal perquisites should be forbidden; that a system of consular inspection should be introduced and that a limited number of secretaries of legation at large should be authorized.

THE FINANCES.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury exhibits in detail the condition of our national finances and the operation of the several branches of the government related to this department. The total ordinary revenues of the government for the fiscal year ended Jan. 30th. 1884, amounted to \$379,256,074.76; of which \$219,091,173.63 were from customs duties and \$124,296,871.98 from internal revenue taxes. The total receipts from all sources exceeded those for the fiscal year ending June 30th. 1887 by \$7,862,797.10. The ordinary expenditures of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30th. 1888 were \$259,653,958.97, leaving a surplus of \$119,612,116.09. The decrease in these expenditures as compared with the fiscal year ended June 30th. 1887, was \$8,278,221.31, notwithstanding the payment of more than \$5,000,000 for pensions in excess of what was paid for that purpose in the latter mentioned years. The revenues of the government for the year ending June 30, 1889, ascertained for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 1888, and estimated for the remainder of the term, amount to \$377,000,000, and the actual and estimated ordinary expenditures for the same year are \$373,000,000 leaving an estimated surplus \$104,000,000. The estimated receipts for the year ending June 30 1890 are \$377,000,000 and the estimated ordinary expenses for the same time are \$275,867,488.32 showing a surplus of \$101,232,511.66.

[Con'td. on 4th. page.]

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