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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

(CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE)

law of 1875 directing this coinage, the intrinsic value of the dollars thus coined was ninety-four and one-fourth cents each and that on the 31st day of July, 1886, the price of silver reached the lowest stage ever known, so that the intrinsic or bullion price of our standard silver dollar at that date was less than seventy-two cents. The price of silver on the 30th day of November last was such as to make these dollars intrinsically worth seventy-eight cents each. These differences in the value of the coins represent the fluctuations in the price of silver and they certainly do not indicate that compulsory coinage by the government enhances the price of that commodity or secures uniformity in its value. Every fair and legal effort has been made by the treasury department to distribute this currency among the people. The withdrawal of United States treasury notes of small denominations and the issuing of small silver certificates have been resorted to in the endeavor to accomplish this result in obedience to the sentiments of the representatives of the people in the Congress. On the 27th day of November 1886, the people held of these coins or certificates represented the nominal sum of \$108,873,041, and we still had \$79,454,845 in the treasury as against about \$142,894,255 coin in the hands of the people and \$72,865,876 remaining in the treasury one year ago. The director of the mint again urges the necessity of more vault room for the purpose of storing these silver dollars which are there needed for circulation by the people. I have seen no reason to change the views expressed in my last annual message on the subject of this compulsory coinage, and I again urge its suspension on all the grounds contained in my former recommendation, reinforced by the significant increase of our gold exports during the last year, as appear by the comparative statement herewith presented, and for the further reason that the more this currency is distributed among the people the greater becomes our duty to protect it from disaster: that we now have abundance for all our needs and that there seems but little propriety in building vaults to store such currency when the only pretense for its coinage is the necessity for its use by the people as a circulating medium.

THE REVENUE LAWS.

The great number of suits now pending in the United States court for the southern district of New York, growing out of the collection of customs and revenue at the port of New York, and the number of such suits that are almost daily instituted, are certainly worthy of the attention of Congress. These legal controversies based upon conflicting views by importers and the collector as to the interpretation of our present complex and indefinite revenue laws might be largely obviated by an amendment of those laws. But, pending such amendment, the present condition of this litigation should be relieved. There are now pending about twenty-five hundred of these suits. More than eleven hundred have been commenced within the past eighteen months, and many of the others have been at issue for more than twenty-five years. These delays subject the government to a loss of evidence and prevent the preparation necessary to defend unjust and fictitious claims, while constantly accruing interest threatens to double the demand involved. In the present condition of the dockets of the courts, well filled with private suits, and of the force allowed the district attorney no greater than is necessary for the ordinary and current business of his office, these revenue litigations cannot be considered in default of the adoption by Congress of a plan for the general reorganization of the Federal courts as has been heretofore recommended. I urge the propriety of passing a law, permitting the appointment of an additional Federal judge in the district where these government suits have accumulated, so that by a continuous session of the courts devoted to the trial of these cases they may be determined. It is entirely plain that an aggregate saving to the government would be accomplished by such a remedy, and the suitors who have honest claims would not be denied justice through delay.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the secretary of war gives a detailed account of the administration of his department and contains sundry recommendations for the improvement of the service which I fully approve. The army consisted at the date of the last consolidated return of two thousand one hundred and three officers and twenty-four thousand nine hundred and forty-six enlisted men. The expenses of the department for the last fiscal year were \$36,930,903.38, including \$620,430,548 for public works and the river and harbor improvements. I especially direct the attention of the Congress to the recommendation that the officers be required to submit to an examination as a preliminary to their promotion. I see no objection but many advantages in adopting this feature, which has operated so beneficially in our navy department as well as in some branches of the army.

So commended at once. The work has been thoroughly considered and laid out, the Secretary of War reports, but all is delayed in default of congressional action.

In September and October last the hostile Apaches who, under the leadership of Geronimo had for eighteen months been on the warpath, and during that time had committed many murders and been the cause of constant terror to the settlers of Arizona, surrendered to Gen. Miles, the military commander who succeeded Gen. Cook in the management and direction of their pursuit. Under the terms of their surrender as then reported, and in view of the understanding which these murderous savages seemed to entertain of the assurances given them, it was considered best to imprison them in such manner as to prevent them from ever engaging in such outrages again, instead of trying them for murder. Fort Pickett having been selected as a safe place of confinement, all the adult males were sent thither and will be closely guarded as prisoners. In the meantime the residue of the band, who, though still remaining upon the reservation were regarded as unsafe and suspected of furnishing aid to those on the warpath, had been removed to Fort Marion. The women and larger children of the hostiles were also taken there and arrangements have been made for putting the children of proper age in Indian schools.

The report of the secretary of the navy contains a detailed exhibit of the condition of his department with such a statement of the action needed to improve the same as should challenge the earnest attention of Congress. [The President then proceeds to enumerate the ships constituting our present navy.] All the vessels heretofore authorized are made under contract or in course of construction except the armored ships, the torpedo and dynamite boats and one cruiser. As to the last of these, the bids were in excess of the limit fixed by Congress. The production in the United States of armor and gun steel is a question which it seems necessary to settle as an early day if the armor and war vessels are to be completed with these materials of home manufacture. This has been the subject of investigation by two boards and by two special committees of Congress within the last three years. The report of the gun foundry made in 1884, of the board on fortifications made in January last, and the reports of the select committees of the two houses made at the last session of Congress, have entirely exhausted the subject so far as the preliminary investigation is involved and in their recommendations they are substantially agreed. In the event that the present invitation of the department for bids to furnish such of this material is not authorized shall fail to induce domestic manufacturers to undertake the large expenditures required to prepare for this new manufacture and no other steps are taken by Congress at its coming session, the Secretary contemplates with dissatisfaction the necessity of obtaining abroad the armor and the gun steel for the authorized ship of the army and navy in this regard should be reasonably met, and that by uniting their contracts, such inducements might be offered, as would result in securing the domestication of these important interests.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The affairs of the postal service show marked and gratifying improvement during the past year. A particular account of its transactions and condition is given in the report of the postmaster general which will be laid before you. The reduction of the rate of letter postage in 1885, rendering the postal revenue inadequate to sustain the expenditures, and business depression also contributing, resulted in an excess of cost for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1886, of eight and one third millions of dollars. An additional check upon receipts by doubling the measure of weight in raising sealed correspondence and diminishing one half the charge for newspaper carriage was imposed by legislation which took effect with the beginning of the last fiscal year, while the constant demand for our territorial development and growing population for the extension and increase of mail facilities and machinery necessitates a steady annual advance in outlay and the estimate of an advance upon the rates of expenditure then existing contemplated the unavoidable augmentation of the deficiency in the last fiscal year of nearly \$2,000,000. The anticipated revenue for the last fiscal year failed of realization by about \$640,000, but proper measures of economy have so satisfactorily limited the growth of expenditures that the total deficiency in fact falls below that of 1885 and at that time the increase of revenue is in a gaining ratio over the increase of cost, demonstrating the sufficiency of the present rates of postage ultimately to sustain the service. This is the more pleasing because our people enjoy now both cheaper postage proportionate to distance and a faster and more costly service than any other people upon the globe. Retrenchment has been effected in the cost of supplies, some expenditures, unwarranted by law, have ceased, and the outlays for mail carriage have been subjected to beneficial scrutiny. At the close of the last fiscal year the expense of transportation on star routes stood at an annual rate of cost less by over \$560,000 than at the close of the previous year, and steamboat and mail messenger service at nearly \$2,000,000 less. The service has been in the meantime enlarged and extended by the establishment of new offices, increase of routes of carriage, expansion of carrier delivery conveniences and additions to the railway mail facilities, in accordance

with the growing exigencies of the country and the long-established policy of the government. The postmaster-general calls attention to the existing law for compensating railroads, and expresses the opinion that a method may be devised which will prove more just to the carriers and efficient to the government, and the subject appears worthy of your early consideration. The differences which arose during the year with certain of the ocean steamship companies have terminated by the acquiescence of all in the policy of the government approved by Congress in the postal appropriation at its last session and the department now enjoys the utmost respect afforded by all vessels which sail from our ports upon either ocean, a service generally adequate to the needs of our intercourse. Petitions have, however, been presented to the department by numerous merchants and manufacturers for the establishment of a direct service to the Argentine Republic and for semi-monthly dispatches to the empire of Brazil and the subject is commended to your consideration. It is an obvious duty to provide the means of postal communication which our commerce requires and with prudent forecast of results, the wise extension of it may lead to stimulating intercourse and become the harbinger of a profitable traffic which will open new avenues for the disposition of the products of our industry. The circumstances of the countries at the far south of our continent are such as to invite our enterprise and afford the promise of sufficient advantage to justify an unusual effort to bring about the close relations which greater freedom of communication would tend to establish. I suggest that as distinguished from a grant or subsidy for the mere benefit of any line of trade or travel, whatever outlay may be required to secure additional postal service necessary and proper, and not otherwise attainable, should be regarded as within the limit of legitimate compensation for such service. The extension of the free delivery service as suggested by the postmaster-general has heretofore received my sanction and it is to be hoped a suitable enactment may soon be agreed upon. The request for an appropriation sufficient to enable the general inspection of the fourth-class offices has my approval. I renew my approval of the recommendation of the postmaster-general, that another assistant be provided for the postoffice department, and invite your attention to several other recommendations in his report.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The conduct of the department of Justice for the last fiscal year is fully detailed in the report of the attorney general and I invite the earnest attention of the Congress to the same and the consideration of the recommendations therein contained. In the report submitted by this officer to the last session of Congress he strongly recommended the erection of a penitentiary for the confinement of prisoners convicted and sentenced in the United States courts, and he repeats the recommendation in his report for the last year. This is a matter of very great importance and should at once receive congressional action. United States prisoners are now confined in more than thirty different state prisons and penitentiaries scattered in every part of the country. They are subjected to nearly as many different modes of treatment and discipline, and are far too much removed from the control and regulation of the government. So far as they are entitled to human treatment and opportunity for improvement and reformation, the government is responsible to them and society that these things are forthcoming. But this duty can scarcely be discharged without more absolute control and direction than is possible under the present system.

THE INTERIOR.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior presents a comprehensive summary of the work of the various branches of the public service connected with his department and the suggestions and recommendations which it contains for the improvement of the service should receive your careful consideration. The exhibit made of the condition of our Indian population and the progress of the work for their enlightenment notwithstanding the many embarrassments which hinder the better administration of this important branch of the service is a gratifying and hopeful one. The funds appropriated for the Indian service for the fiscal year just passed, with the available income from Indian land and trust money, amounting in all to \$7,850,775.13; and were ample for the service under the conditions and restrictions of laws regulating their expenditures. There remained a balance on hand on June 30th, 1886, of \$1,660,023.80, of which \$1,337,763.21 are permanent funds for the fulfillment of treaties and other like purposes, and the remainder, \$322,255.09, is subject to be carried to the surplus fund, as required by law. The estimates presented for appropriations for the ensuing year amount to \$5,608,873.64, or \$442,886.20 less than those laid before Congress last year.

The present system of agencies, while absolutely necessary and well adapted for the ends in view when it was adopted, is in the present stage of Indian management inadequate, standing alone for the accomplishment of an object which has become pressing in its importance—the more rapid transition from tribal organizations to citizenship, of such portions of the Indians as are capable of civilized life. When the existing system was adopted, the Indian race was outside of the limits of organized states and territories, and beyond the immediate reach and operation of civilization; and all efforts were mainly directed to the maintenance of

friendly relations, and the preservation of peace and quiet on the frontier. All this is now changed. There is no such thing as the Indian frontier. Civilization with the busy hum of industry and the influence of Christianity surround these people at every point. None of the tribes are outside of the bounds of organized government and society, excepting that the territorial system has not been extended over that portion of the country known as the Indian Territory. As a race the Indians are no longer hostile, but may be considered as submissive to the control of the government.

They are a portion of our people, are under the authority of our government, and have a peculiar claim upon and are entitled to the fostering care and protection of the nation. The government cannot relieve itself of this responsibility until they are so far trained and civilized as to be able wholly to manage and care for themselves.

The paths in which they should walk must be clearly marked out for them, and they must be led or guided until they are familiar with the way and competent to assume the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. Progress in the great work will continue only at the present slow pace and at great expense unless the system and management are improved to meet the changed conditions and urgent demands of the service. The agents having general charge and supervision in many cases of more than 5,000 Indians, scattered over large reservations, and burdened with the details of accountability for funds and supplies, have time to look after the industrial training and improvement of a few Indians only. The many are neglected and remain idle. The dependent conditions are not favorable for progress in civilization and the compensation allowed these agents is not calculated to secure for the workman fit competence and skill to properly plan and intelligently direct the methods best adapted to produce the most speedy results and permanent benefits. Hence the necessity for a supplemental agency or system directed to the end of promoting the general and more rapid transition of the tribes from the habit and custom of barbarism to the ways of civilization with the anxious desire to devise some plan of operation by which to secure the welfare of the Indians and to relieve the treasury as far as possible from the support of an idle and dependent population. I recommended in my previous annual message, the passage of a law authorizing the appointment of a commission as an instrumentality auxiliary to those already established for the care of the Indians. It was designed that this commission should be composed of six intelligent and capable persons, three to be detailed from the army, having practical ideas upon the subject of the treatment of Indians and interested in their welfare, and that it should be charged, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, with the management of such matters of detail as connect with the present organization being properly and successfully conducted, and which present different phases as the Indians themselves differ in their progress, needs, disposition and capacity for improvement, or immediate self-support. By the aid of such a commission much waste and useless expenditure of money, waste of materials, and unavailing efforts might be avoided and it is hoped that this or some measure which the wisdom of Congress may better devise to supply the deficiency of the present system may receive your consideration, and the appropriate legislation be provided. The time is ripe for the work of such an agency. There is less opposition to the education and training of the Indian youth.

system was a simple one. It commenced with an admirable scheme of public surveys by which the humblest citizen could identify the tract upon which he wished to establish his home. The price of lands was placed within the reach of all the enterprising, industrious and honest pioneer citizens of the country. It was soon, however, found that the object of the laws was perverted, under the system of cash sales, from a distribution of land among the people to an accumulation of land capital by wealthy and speculative persons. To check this tendency a preference right of purchase was given to settlers on the land, a plan which culminated in the general pre-emption act of 1841. The foundation of this system was actual residence and cultivation. Twenty years later the homestead law was devised to more surely place actual homes in the possession of actual cultivators of the soil. The land was given without price, the sole conditions being residence, improvement and cultivation. Other laws have followed, each designed to encourage the acquirement and use of land in limited individual quantities, but in later years these laws through vicious administrative methods and under changed conditions of communication and transportation have been so evaded and violated that their beneficent purpose is threatened with entire defeat. The methods of such evasions and violation are set forth in detail in the report of the Secretary of the Interior and commissioner of the general land office. The rapid appropriation of our public lands without bona-fide settlements or cultivation, and not only without intention of residence, but for the purpose of their aggregation in large holdings in many cases in the hands of foreigners, invites the services and immediate attention of Congress. The energies of the land department have been devoted during the present administration to remedy defects and correct abuses in the public land service. The results of the efforts are so largely in the nature of reforms in the process and methods of our land system as to prevent adequate estimate, but it appears by a compilation from the reports of the commissioner of the general land office that the immediate effect in trading cases which have come to a final termination, has been the restoration to the mass of public lands of 2,750,000 acres; but 2,370,000 acres are embraced in investigations now pending before the courts and that the action of Congress has been asked to effect their reservation of 2,790,000 acres, besides which 4,000,000 have been withheld from the reservation rights of entry thereon maintained. I recommend the repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture acts, and that the homestead laws be so amended as to better secure compliance with their requirements of residence, improvement and cultivation for the period of five years from the date of entry, without commutation or provision for speculative relinquishment. I also recommend the repeal of the desert land laws unless it shall suit Congress to amend these laws as to render them less liable to abuse. As the chief motive for an evasion of the laws and the principle cause of the result in land accumulation, instead of land distribution, is the facility with which transfers are made of the right intended to be secured to settlers: it may be deemed advisable to provide for legislation, some guards and checks upon the alienation of homesteads, rights and lands covered thereby until patents issue.

Much of the public land still remains within the lines of unlawful fences. The ingenious methods resorted to in order to continue these trespassers and the hardihood of the pretenses by which in some cases such inclosures are justified are fully detailed in the report of these enclosures. The removal of the fences still remaining which enclose public land will be forced with all the authority and means with which the executive branch of the government is or shall be invested by the Congress for that purpose.

The report of the commissioner of pensions contains a detailed and most satisfactory account of the operations of the pension bureau during the last fiscal year. The amount of work done was the largest in any year since the organization of the bureau, and it has been done at less cost than during the previous year in every division. On the 31st day of June, 1886, there were 365,788 pensioners on the rolls of the bureau. Since 1861 there have been 1,018,785 applications for pensions filed, of which 78,834 were based upon service in the war of 1812; there were 621,754 of these applications allowed including 60,178 to the soldiers of 1812 and their widows. The total amount paid for pensions since 1861 is \$20,882,491.157. The number of new pensions allowed during the year ended June 30, 1886, is 40,857, a larger number than has been allowed in any year save one since 1861. The names of 2,229 pensioners which had been previously dropped from the rolls were restored during the year, and after deducting those dropped within the same time for various causes a net increase remains for the year of 20,658 names from January 1861 to December 1, 1885. One thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven private pension acts had been passed since the last mentioned date, and during the last session of the Congress 664 such acts became laws—so it seems to me no one can examine our pension establishment and its operations without being convinced that through its instrumentality justice can be very nearly done to all who are entitled under the present laws to the pension bounty of the government. But it is undeniable that cases exist well entitled to relief in which the pension bureau is powerless to aid. The really worthy cases of this

class are such as only lack by misfortune the kind or quantity of proof which the law and regulations of the bureau require, or which, though their merit is apparent, for some other reason cannot be justly dealt with through the general laws. These conditions fully justify application to the Congress and a special enactment. But resort to the Congress for a special pension act to override the deliberate and careful determination of this pension bureau on the merits, or to secure favorable action when it could not be expected under the most liberal execution of the general laws, it must be admitted opens the door to the allowance of questionable claims, and presents to the legislative and executive branches of the government applications conceded to be not within the law and plainly devoid of merit but so surrounded by sentiment and patriotic feeling that they are hard to resist. I suppose it will not be denied that many claims for pensions are made without merit and that many have been allowed upon fraudulent representations. This has been declared from the pension bureau, not only in this but in prior administrations. The usefulness and justice of any system for the distribution of pensions depends upon the equality and uniformity of its operation. It will be seen from the report of the commissioner that there are now paid by the government one hundred and thirty-one different rates of pension. Estimates from the best information he can obtain is that nine thousand of those who have served in the army and navy of the United States are now supported in whole or in part from the public funds or by organized charities, exclusive of those in soldiers' homes under the direction and control of the government. Only thirteen percent of these are pensioners, while of the entire number of men furnished for the late war, something like twenty percent, including their widows and relatives, have been or now are in the receipt of pensions. The American people, with a patriotic and grateful regard for our ex-soldiers too broad and sacred to be monopolized by any special advocates are not only willing but anxious that equal and exact justice should be done to all honest claimants for pensions. In their right the friendless and destitute soldier dependent on public charity if otherwise entitled has precisely the same right to share in the provision made for those who fought their country's battles as those better able through friends and influence to push their claims. Every pension that is granted under the present plan upon any other grounds than actual service and injury or disease incurred in such service, and every instance of the many in which pensions are increased on other grounds than the merits of the claim, work an injustice to the brave and crippled, but poor and friendless soldier, who is entirely neglected or who must be content with the smallest sum allowed under general laws.

There are far too many neighborhoods in which are found glaring cases of inequality of treatment in the matter of pensions, and they are largely due to a yielding in the pension bureau to opportunity on the part of those other than the pensioners, who are especially interested or they arise from special acts passed for the benefit of individuals. The men who fought side by side should stand side by side when they participate in a grateful nation's kind remembrance. Every consideration of fairness and justice to our ex-soldiers and the protection of the patriotic instinct of our citizens from perversion and violation, point to the adoption of a pension system broad and comprehensive enough to cover every contingency and which shall make unnecessary an objectionable volume of special legislation. As long as we adhere to the principle of granting pensions for service and disability as the result of the service, the allowance of pensions should be restricted to cases presenting these features. Every patriotic heart responds to a tender consideration for those who have served their country long and well are reduced to destitution and dependence, not as an incident of their service, but with advancing age or through sickness or misfortune. We are all tempted by the contemplation of such a condition to supply relief, and often impatient of the limitations of public duty. Yielding to no one in the desire to indulge this feeling of consideration, I cannot rid myself of the conviction that if these ex-soldiers are to be relieved, they and their cause are entitled to the benefit of an enactment of law, and that such relief should be granted under the sanction of law, not in evasion of it. Nor should such worthy objects of care, all equally entitled, be remitted to the unequal operation of sympathy, or the tender mercies of social and political influence with their unjust discrimination. The discharged soldiers and sailors of the country are our fellow-citizens and interested with us in the passage and faithful execution of wholesome laws. They cannot be severed from their duty of citizenship by artificial appeals to their spirit of brotherhood born of common peril and suffering nor will they exact as a test of devotion to their welfare a willingness to neglect public duty in their behalf.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

On the 4th of March, 1885, the current business of the office was on an average five and a half months in arrears and in some divisions more than twelve months behind. At the close of the last fiscal year such current work was but three months in arrears and it is asserted and believed that in the next few months the delay in obtaining an examination of an application for a patent will be but nominal. The

number of applications for patents during the last fiscal year, including reissues, designs, trademarks and labels, equals 40,673, which is considerably in excess of the number received during any preceding year. The receipts of the patent office during the year aggregate 12,516,780, enabling the office to turn into the treasury a surplus revenue of about \$168,710.80. The number of patents granted during the last fiscal year, including reissues, trademarks, designs and labels was 26,619, a number also quite largely in excess of that of any preceding year. The report of the commissioner shows the office to be in a prosperous condition and constantly increasing in its business. No increase of force is asked for. The amount estimated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, was \$890,760. The amount estimated for the year ending June 30, 1887, was \$853,900. The amount estimated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, is \$778,770.

THE PACIFIC ROADS.
The secretary of the Interior suggests a change in the plan for the payment of the indebtedness of the Pacific subsidized roads to the government. His suggestion has the unanimous endorsement of the persons selected by the government to act as directors of these roads and protect the interests of the United States in the board of direction. In considering the plan proposed the sole matter which should be taken into account, in my opinion, is the situation of the government as a creditor, and the surest way to secure the payment of the principal and interest of its debt.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

By a recent decision of the supreme court of the United States it has been adjudged that the laws of the several states are imperative to regulate the rates of transportation upon railroads, if such regulation interferes with the rate of carriage from one state into another. This important field of control and regulation having been thus left entirely unoccupied the expediency of federal action upon the subject is worthy of consideration.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

The relations of labor to capital and of laboring men to their employers are of the utmost concern to every patriotic citizen. When these are strained and disturbed, unjustifiable claims are apt to be insisted upon by both interests, and in the controversy which results the welfare of all and the prosperity of the country are jeopardized. Any intervention of the general government within the limits of its constitutional authority to avert such a condition should be willingly accorded. In a special message transmitted to the Congress at its last session I suggested the enlargement of our present labor bureau, and adding to its present functions the power of arbitration in cases where differences arise between the employer and employed, when these differences reach such a stage as to result in the interruption of commerce between the States. The application of this remedy by the general government might be regarded as entirely within its constitutional powers and I think we might reasonably hope that such arbitrators, if carefully selected and if entitled to the confidence of the parties to be affected, would be voluntarily called to the settlement of controversies of less extent and not necessarily within the domain of federal regulation. I am of the opinion that this suggestion is worthy the attention of Congress, but after all has been done by the passage of laws, either federal or state, to relieve a situation full of solicitude, much more remains to be accomplished by the reinstatement and cultivation of a true American sentiment which recognizes the equality of American citizenship. This in the light of traditions and loyalty to the spirit of our institutions would teach that a hearty co-operation on the part of all interests is the surest path to national greatness and the happiness of all our people; that capital should in recognition of the brotherhood of our citizenship and in a spirit of American fairness, generously accord to labor its just compensation and consideration and that contented labor is capital's best protection and faithful ally. It would teach, too, that the diverse situations of our people are inseparable from our civilization, that every citizen should, in his sphere, be a contributor to the general good, that capital does not necessarily tend to the oppression of labor, and that violent disturbances and disorders alienate from their promoters true American sympathy and kindly feeling.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The department of agriculture, representing the oldest of our national industries, is subserving well the purposes of its organization. By the introduction of new subjects of farming enterprise, and by opening new sources of agricultural wealth and the dissemination of early information concerning production and prices, it has contributed largely to the country's prosperity. Through this agency, advanced thought and investigation touching the subject it has in charge, should, among other things, be practically applied to the home production of a low cost of articles of food which are now imported from abroad. Such an innovation will necessarily of course in the beginning be within the domain of intelligent experiment, and the subject in very stage should receive all possible encouragement from the government. The interests of millions of our citizens engaged in agriculture are involved in an enlargement and improvement of the results of their labor, and a zealous regard for their welfare should be a willing tribute to those whose productive returns are a main source of our progress and power.

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE)