

A Comprehensive, Able and Pointed Document.

The Congress of the United States: As you assemble for the discharge of the duties you have assumed as the representatives of a free and generous people, your meeting is marked by an interesting and impressive incident.

With the expiration of the present session of Congress, the first century of our Constitutional existence as a nation will be completed. Our survival for one hundred years is not sufficient to assure us that we no longer have dangers to fear in the maintenance, with all its promised blessings, of a government founded upon the freedom of the people.

The citizen of our republic in its early days rigidly insisted upon full compliance with the letter of this bond, and saw stretching out before him a clear field for individual endeavor. His tribute to the support of his government was measured by the cost of its economical maintenance, and he was secure in the enjoyment of the remaining recompense of his steady and contented toil.

We view with pride and satisfaction, this bright picture of our country's growth and prosperity, while only a closer scrutiny develops a sombre shading. Upon more careful inspection we find the wealth and luxury of our cities mingled with poverty and wretchedness, and unremunerative toil. A crowded and constantly increasing urban population suggests the impoverishment of rural sections and discontent with agricultural pursuits.

As we view the achievements of aggregated capital, we discover the existence of trusts, combinations and monopolies, while the citizen is struggling far in the rear or is trampled to death beneath an iron heel.

Still, congratulating ourselves upon the wealth and prosperity of our country, and complacently contemplating every incident of change inseparable from these conditions, it is our duty as patriotic citizens to inquire, at the present stage of our progress, how the bond of government made with the people has been kept and performed.

the profits of a small but powerful minority. The people must still be taxed for the support of the government, under the operation of tariff laws. But to the extent that the mass of our citizens are inordinately burdened beyond any useful public purposes, and for the benefit of a favored few, the government, under the pretext of an exercise of its taxing power, enters gratuitously into partnership with these favorites to their advantage and to the injury of a vast majority of our people.

It cannot be denied that the selfish and private interests which are so persistently heard when efforts are made to deal in a just and comprehensive manner with our tariff laws are related to, if they are not responsible for, the sentiment largely prevailing among the people, that the general government is the fountain of individual and private aid; that it may be expected to relieve with paternal care the distress of citizens and communities and that from the fullness of its treasury it should, upon the slightest possible pretext of promoting the general good, apply public funds to the benefit of localities and individuals.

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TARIFF REVISION. A just and sensible revision of our tariff laws should be made for the relief of those of our countrymen who suffer under present conditions. Such a revision should receive the support of all who love that justice and equality due to American citizenship; of all who realize that in this justice and equality our government finds its strength and its power to protect the citizen and his property; of all who believe that the contented competence and comfort of the many, accord better with the spirit of our institutions than colossal fortunes unfairly gathered in the hands of a few; of all who appreciate that a forbearance and fraternity among our people, which recognize the value of every American interest, are the surest guaranty of our national progress, and of all who desire to see the products of American skill and ingenuity in every market of the world with a resulting restoration of American commerce.

The necessity of the reduction of our revenue is so apparent as to be generally conceded. But the means by which this end shall be accomplished and the sum of the direct benefit which shall result to our citizens present a controversy of the utmost importance. There should be no scheme accepted as satisfactory by only a few of the people or by those whose burdens are only apparently removed.

no cessation of the struggle until an appliance is perfected fair and conservative toward existing industries, but which will reduce the cost to the consumer of the necessities of life, while it provides for our manufacturer and permits no injury to the interests of American labor.

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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.

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 merchantmen have been adopted.

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By this plan bonds of the government not yet due have been purchased up to and including the 30th day of November, 1888, amounting to \$94,700,400, the premiums paid thereon amounting to \$17,508,613.08.

The premium added to the principal of these bonds represents an investment yielding about 2 per cent interest for the time they still had to run; and the saving to the government represented by the difference between the amount of interest at 2 per cent upon the sum paid for principal and premium, and which it would have paid for interest at the rate specified in the bonds if they had run to their maturity, is about \$27,165,000.

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crease of 6,124 in three years, and of 2,219 for the last fiscal year. In the railway mail service there has been an increase in one year of 163 routes, and in the number of miles traveled per annum an increase of 15,795,917.

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