

SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST.

CALVIN H. WILEY,
WILLIAM D. COOKE, EDITORS.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER—NEUTRAL IN POLITICS.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

William Claiborne of the Senate

and of the House of Representatives:

The brief space which has elapsed since the close of our last session has been marked by no extraordinary political event. The quadrennial election of Chief Magistrate has passed off with less than the usual excitement. However individual and parties may have been disappointed in the result, it is nevertheless a subject of national congratulation that the choice has been effected by the independent suffrages of a free people, undisturbed by those influences which in other countries have too often affected the purity of popular elections.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-mighty Providence, not only for staying the pestilence which in different forms has desolated some of our cities, but for crowning the labor of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and the nation generally with the blessings of peace and prosperity.

DEATH OF MR. WEBSTER.
Within a few weeks the public mind has been deeply affected by the death of Daniel Webster, filling at his decease the office of Secretary of State. His associates in the Executive government have since been sympathized with his family and the public generally on this mournful occasion. His commanding talents, his great political and professional eminence, his well-ripened patriotism, and his long and faithful services, in the most important public trusts, have caused his death to be lamented throughout the country, and have earned for him a lasting place in our history.

THE FISHERIES.
In the course of the last summer considerable anxiety was caused for a short time by an official intimation from the government of Great Britain that orders had been given for the protection of the fisheries upon the coasts of the British provinces in North America against the alleged encroachments of the fishing vessels of the United States and France. The shortness of this notice and the season of the year seemed to make it a matter of urgent importance. It was at first apprehended that an increased naval force had been ordered to the fishing grounds to carry into effect the British interpretation of those provisions in the convention of 1818, in reference to the true intent of which the two governments differ. It was soon discovered that such was not the design of Great Britain and satisfactory explanations of the real objects of the measure have been given both here and in London.

The misapprehension, however, between the two governments as to the interpretation of the first article of the convention of 1818 is still a matter of importance. American fishing vessels within time or ten years have been excluded from waters to which they had free access for twenty-five years after the negotiation of the treaty. In 1845, this exclusion was relaxed so far as concerns the Bay of Fundy, but the just and liberal intention of the British government, in compliance with what we think the true construction of the convention, to open all the other waters to our fishermen, has been abandoned, in consequence of the opposition of the colonies. Notwithstanding this, the United States have, since the Bay of Fundy was reopened to our fishermen in 1845, pursued the most liberal course toward the colonial fishing interests.

Besides the wish to aid in reconciling the differences between the two republics, I engaged in the negotiation from a desire to place the great work of a treaty canal between the two oceans under one jurisdiction, and to establish the important port of San Juan de Nicaragua under the government of a citizen of the United States.

The proposition in question was assented to by Costa Rica and the Mosquito Indians, but it is to be hoped that the further negotiations on the subject which are in train will be carried on in that spirit of conciliation and compromise which ought always to prevail on such occasions, and that they will lead to a satisfactory result.

VENEZUELA.
I have the satisfaction to inform you that the executive government of Venezuela has acknowledged some claims of citizens of the United States, which have for many years past been urged by our charge here at Caracas. It is hoped that the same difficulties of justice will actuate the Congress of that Republic in providing the means for their payment.

BUENOS AYRES.
The recent revolution in Buenos Ayres and the confederated States having opened the prospect of an improved state of things in that quarter, the governments of Great Britain and France confederated to negotiate with the chief of the new party for the free access of their commerce to the extensive countries watered by the tributaries of the La Plata; and they gave a friendly notice of this to the United States, that we might if we pursued the course we have taken.

CUBA.
The affairs of Cuba formed a prominent topic in my last annual message. They remain in an uneasy condition, and a feeling of alarm and irritation on the part of the Cuban authorities appears to exist. This feeling has interfered with the regular commercial intercourse between the United States and the island, and led to some acts of which we have reason to complain. But the Captain General of Cuba is clothed with no power to treat with foreign governments, nor is he in any degree under the control of the Spanish Minister at Washington. Any communication which he may hold with an agent of a foreign power is informal and matter of courtesy. Anxious to put an end to a misapprehension, (which seemed to have been suggested) I directed the newly appointed Minister to Mexico to visit Havana, on his way to Vera Cruz. He was respectfully received by the Captain General, who conferred with him freely on the relations of our two countries; but no permanent arrangement was effected.

In the mean time, the refusal of the Captain General to allow passengers and the mail to be landed in certain cases, for a reason which does not furnish in the opinion of this Government even a good presumptive ground for such a prohibition, has been made the subject of a serious remonstrance at Madrid; and I have no reason to doubt that due respect will be paid by the government of Her Catholic Majesty to the representations which our Minister has been instructed to make on the subject.

It is but justice to the Captain General to add, that his conduct toward the steamers employed to carry the mails of the United States to Havana, was, with the exceptions above alluded to, marked with kindness and liberality, and indicates no general purpose of interfering with the commercial correspondence and intercourse between the island and this country.

Early in the present year official notes were received from the Ministers of France and England, inviting the Government of the United States to become a party with Great Britain and France to a tripartite Convention, in virtue of which the three powers should severally and collectively disclaim, now and for the future, all intention to obtain possession of the Island of Cuba, and should bind themselves to discontinue all attempts to that effect on the part of any power or individual whatever. This invitation has been respectfully declined, for reasons which it would occupy too much space in this communication to state in detail, but which led me to think that the proposed measure would be of doubtful constitutionality, impolitic, and unavailing. I have, however, in common with several of my predecessors, directed the Ministers of France and England to be assured that the United States entertain no designs against Cuba; but that, on the contrary, I should regard its incorporation into the Union at the present time as fraught with serious peril.

Were this island comparatively destitute of inhabitants, or occupied by a kindred race, I should regard it, if voluntarily ceded by Spain, as a most desirable acquisition. But, under existing circumstances, I should look upon its incorporation into our Union as a very hazardous measure. It would bring into the Confederacy a population of a different national stock, speaking a different language, and not likely to harmonize with the other members. It would probably affect in a prejudicial manner the industrial interests of the South; and it might revive those conflicts of opinion between the different sections of the country, which lately shook the Union to its centre, and which have been so happily compromised.

TEHANTEPEC.
The rejection by the Mexican Congress of the Convention which had been concluded between that Republic and the United States, for the protection of a transit way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and of the interests of those citizens of the United States who had become proprietors of the rights which Mexico had conferred on one of her own citizens in regard to that transit, has created a serious obstacle in the way of the attainment of a very desirable national object. I am still willing to hope that the differences on the subject which exist, or may hereafter arise, between the governments, will be amicably adjusted. This subject, however, has already engaged the attention of the Senate of the United States, and requires no further comment in this communication.

NICARAGUA.
The settlement of the question respecting the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and of the controversy between the republics of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in regard to their boundaries, was considered indispensable to the commencement of the ship canal between the two oceans, which was the subject of the treaty of the 20th April, 1850. Accordingly a proposition for the same purpose addressed to the two governments in that quarter and to the Mosquito Indians, was agreed to in April last by the Secretary of State and the Minister of her Britannic Majesty.

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to those islands have been removed; and I have deemed it just that the temporary wrong which had been unintentionally done her, from want of information, should be repaired by an unreserved acknowledgment of her sovereignty.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the course pursued by Peru has been creditable to the liberality of her government. Before it was known by her that her title would be acknowledged at Washington, her Minister of Foreign Affairs had authorized our chargé d'affaires at Lima to announce to the American vessels which had gone to the Lobos for guano, that the Peruvian Government was willing to freight them on its own account. This intention has been carried into effect by the Peruvian Minister here, by an arrangement which is believed to be advantageous to the parties in interest.

THE JAPAN EXPEDITION.
Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific have already given a great extension, and in some respects a new direction, to our commerce in that ocean. A direct and rapidly-increasing intercourse has sprung up with Eastern Asia. The waters of the Northern Pacific, even into the Arctic sea, have of late years been frequented by our whalers.—The application of steam to the general purposes of navigation is becoming daily more common, and makes it desirable to obtain fuel and other necessary supplies at convenient points on the route between Asia and our Pacific shores. Our unfortunate countrymen who from time to time suffer shipwreck on the coasts of the eastern seas are entitled to protection. Besides these specific objects, the general prosperity of our States on the Pacific requires that an attempt should be made to open the opposite regions of Asia to a mutually beneficial intercourse. It is obvious that this attempt could be made by no power to so great advantage as by the United States, whose constitutional system excludes every idea of distant colonial dependencies.

I have accordingly been led to order an appropriate naval force to Japan, under the command of a discreet and intelligent officer of the highest rank known to our service. He is instructed to endeavor to obtain from the government of that country some relaxation of the inhospitable and antiquated system which it has pursued for about two centuries. He has been directed particularly to remonstrate in the strongest language against the cruel treatment to which our shipwrecked mariners have often been subjected, and to insist that they shall be treated with humanity. He is instructed, however, at the same time, to give that government the simplest assurance that the objects of the United States are such and such only as I have indicated, and that the expedition is friendly and peaceful.

Notwithstanding the jealousy with which the governments of Eastern Asia regard all overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes of a beneficial result of the expedition. Should it be crowned with success, the advantages will not be confined to the United States, but, as in the case of China, will be equally enjoyed by all the other maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in stating that in all the steps preparatory to this expedition the Government of the United States has been materially aided by the good offices of the King of the Netherlands, the only European power having any commercial relations with Japan.

STATE DEPARTMENT.
In passing from this survey of our foreign relations, I invite the attention of Congress to the conditions of that department of the Government to which this branch of the public business is entrusted. Our intercourse with foreign powers has of late years greatly increased, both in consequence of our own growth and the demands "in this way" made by the recent establishment of the Department of the Interior, been relieved of some portion of the domestic business.

If the residue of the business of that kind, such as the distribution of Congressional documents, the keeping, publishing and distribution of the laws of the United States, the execution of the copyright law, the subject of revivals and pardons, and some other subjects relating to interior administration, should be transferred from the Department of State, it would unquestionably be for the benefit of the public service. I would also suggest that the building appropriated to the State Department is not fire-proof; that there is reason to think there are defects in its construction, and that the archives of the Government in charge of the Department, with the precious collections of the manuscript papers of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and Monroe, are exposed to destruction by fire. A similar remark may be made of the buildings appropriated to the War and Navy Departments.

FINANCES.
The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year, ending on the 30th June last, exclusive of trust funds, were forty-nine millions seven hundred and eighty-eight thousand three hundred and eighty-six dollars and eighty-nine cents, (\$49,728,386.89), and the expenditures for the same period, likewise exclusive of trust funds, were forty-six millions seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars and twenty cents, (\$46,007,896.20) of which nine millions four hundred and fifty-five thousand eight hundred and fifteen dollars and eighty-three cents, (\$9,455,815.83) was on account of the principal and interest of the public debt, including the last instalment of the indemnity to Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leaving a balance of \$14,922,136.37 in the Treasury on the first day of July last. Since this latter period, further portions of the principal of the public debt have been made to the extent of two millions four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars and forty-nine cents, (\$2,456,547.49), and the surplus in the Treasury will continue to be applied to that object, whenever the stock can be procured within the limits, as to price, authorized by law.

The value of foreign merchandise imported during the last fiscal year was two hundred and seven millions two hundred and forty thousand one hundred and one dollars, (\$207,240,101), and the value of domestic productions exported was one hundred and forty-nine millions eight hundred and sixty-one thousand nine hundred and eleven dollars, (\$149,861,911), besides seventeen millions two hundred and four thousand and twenty-six dollars, (\$17,204,026) of foreign merchandise exported; making the aggregate of the entire exports one hundred and sixty-seven million six hundred and thirty-seven thousand and thirty-seven dollars, (\$167,065,937); exclusive of the above there was exported forty-two millions five hundred and seven thousand two hundred and eighty-five dollars, (\$42,507,285) in specie; and imported from foreign ports five millions two hundred and sixty-two thousand six hundred and forty-three dollars, (\$5,202,643).

INDIAN AFFAIRS.
In my annual message to Congress I called your attention to what seemed to me some defects in the present tariff, and recommended such modifications as in my judgment were best adapted to remedy its evils and promote the prosperity of the country. Nothing has since occurred to change my views on this important question.

Without repeating the arguments contained in my former message, in favor of discriminating protective duties, I deem it my duty to call your attention to one or two other considerations affecting this subject. The first is the effect of large importations of foreign goods upon our currency. Most of the gold of California, as far as it is coined, finds its way directly to the mint in payment for goods purchased.

In the second consideration, during establishments, and in some respects, is lost, thousands of our own citizens are thrown out of employment by the sale of the surplus of our own manufactures to foreign countries. The farmer is stimulated to exertion by finding a ready market for his surplus products, and benefited by being able to exchange them, without loss of time or expense of transportation, for the manufactures which his comfort or convenience requires. This is always done to the best advantage where a portion of the community in which he lives is engaged in other pursuits. But most manufactures require an amount of capital and a practical skill which cannot be commanded, unless they be protected for a time from ruinous competition from abroad.

Hence the necessity of laying those duties upon imported goods which the Constitution authorizes for revenue, in such a manner as to protect and encourage the labor of our own citizens. Duties levied upon the foreigner in our own markets, to exclude the foreign article, but should be so graduated as to enable the domestic manufacturer fairly to compete with the foreigner in our own markets, and by the competition to reduce the price of the manufactured article to the consumer to the lowest rate at which it can be produced. This policy would place the mechanic by the side of the farmer, create a mutual interchange of their respective commodities, and thus stimulate the industry of the whole country, and render us independent of foreign nations for the supplies required by the habits or necessities of the people.

Another question, wholly independent of protection, presents itself, and that is, whether the duties levied should be upon the value of the article at the place of shipment, or upon its quantity, as ascertained by weight or measure, or upon its value as ascertained by price. All our duties are at present levied upon quantity at the port of shipment.

Most of the duties, however, whenever the quantity is the basis, are levied upon weight or measure, as to which the question should be as to whether the duties should be levied upon the gross weight, or upon the net weight, or upon the value of the goods as ascertained by price in the foreign country.

Yet the law requires that they should levy the duty according to such weight. They are, therefore, compelled to resort to very unsatisfactory evidence to ascertain what that cost was. They take the invoice of the importer, attested by his oath, as the best evidence of which the nature of the case admits. But every one must see that the invoice may be fabricated, and the oath by which it is supported false, by reason of which the dishonest importer pays a part only of the duties which are paid by the honest one, and thus indirectly receives from the treasury of the United States a reward for his fraud and perjury.

The reports of the Secretary of the Treasury heretofore made on this subject show conclusively that these frauds have been practiced to a great extent. The tendency is to destroy that high moral character for which our merchants have long been distinguished; to defraud the Government of its revenue; to break down the honest importer by a dishonest competition; and, finally, to transfer the business of importation to foreign and irresponsible agents, to the great detriment of our own citizens. I therefore again most earnestly recommend the adoption of specific duties, wherever they are practicable, or a home valuation, to call your attention to the fact that the present tariff in some cases imposes a higher duty upon the raw material imported than upon the article manufactured from it, the consequence of which is that the duty operates to the encouragement of the foreigner and the discouragement of our own citizens.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.
For full and detailed information in regard to the general condition of our Indian Affairs, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and the accompanying documents.

The Senate not having thought proper to ratify the treaties which had been negotiated with the tribes of Indians in California, Oregon, and Utah, and relations with them have been left in a very unsatisfactory condition.

In other parts of our territory particular districts of country have been set apart for the exclusive occupation of the Indians, and their right to the lands within those limits has been acknowledged and respected. But in California and Oregon there has been no recognition by any part of the exclusive right of the Indians to their lands at settlement, and they are therefore more tenacious of the same, and liable to be driven from place to place, at the pleasure of the whites.

The treaties which have been rejected proposed to remedy this evil by allotting to the different tribes, districts of country suitable to their habits of life, and sufficient for their support. This pro-

vision, more than any other, it is believed, led to their rejection; and as no substitute for it has been adopted by Congress, it has not been deemed advisable to attempt to enter into new treaties of a permanent character, although no effort has been spared by temporary arrangements to preserve friendly relations with them.

If the desire of Congress to remove them from the country altogether, or to assign to them particular districts more remote from the settlements of the whites, it will be proper to set apart by law the territory which they are to occupy, and to provide the means necessary for removing them to it. Justice alike to our own citizens and to the Indians requires the prompt action of Congress on this subject.

The amendments proposed by the Senate, to the treaties which were negotiated with the Sioux Indians of Minnesota, have been submitted to the tribes, who were parties to them, and have received their assent. A large tract of valuable territory has thus been opened for settlement and cultivation, and all danger of collision with these powerful and warlike bands has been happily removed.

The removal of the remnant of the tribe of Seminole Indians from Florida has long been a cherished object of the Government, and it is one which my attention has been steadily directed. Admonished by past experience of the difficulty and cost of the attempt to remove them by military force, resort has been had to conciliatory measures.

By the invitation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs several of the principal chiefs, recently visited Washington, and whilst here acknowledged in writing the obligation of their tribe to remove with the least possible delay. Late advices from the special agent of the Government represent that they adhere to their promise, and that a council of their people has been called to make their preliminary arrangements. A general emigration may therefore be confidently expected at an early day.

PUBLIC LANDS.
The report from the General Land Office shows increased activity in its operations. The survey of the northern boundary of Iowa has been completed with unexampled despatch. Within the year 9,522,943 acres of public land have been surveyed, and 8,032,463 acres brought into market.

In the last fiscal year there were sold—1,553,071 acres Located with bounty land warrants.... 3,201,311 " Located with other certificates..... 115,682 "

Making a total of..... 4,570,067 " Reported under swamp land grants..... 1,887,116 " Reported under swamp land grants..... 2,918,188 " For internal improvements, railroads, &c. 3,025,940 "

Making an aggregate of..... 13,115,175 "

Being an increase in the amount of lands sold and located under land warrants of 569,250 acres over the previous year.

The whole amount thus sold, located under land warrants, reported under swamp land grants, and selected for internal improvements, exceeds that of the previous year by 3,342,372 acres; and the sales would, without doubt, have been much larger but for the extensive relocations for railroads in Missouri, Mississippi and Alabama.

For the quarter ending 30th September, 1852, there were sold—212,253 acres Located with bounty land warrants.... 1,887,116 " Located with other certificates..... 15,619 " Reported under swamp land grants..... 2,918,188 "

Making an aggregate for the quarter of..... 4,131,253 "

THE CENSUS.
Much has been said and written upon the subject of making the necessary provision for the publication of the results in such form as shall be deemed best. The apportionment of representatives on the basis of the next census, has been made by the Secretary of the Interior in conformity with the provisions of law relating to that subject, and the recent elections have been made in accordance with it.

PATENTS.
I commend to your favorable regard the suggestion contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior that provision be made by law for the publication and distribution, periodically, of an analytical digest of all the patents which have been or may hereafter be granted for useful inventions and discoveries, with such descriptions and illustrations as may be necessary to present an intelligible view of their nature and operation. The cost of such publications could easily be defrayed out of the patent fund, and I am persuaded that it could be applied to no object more acceptable to inventors and beneficial to the public at large.

ISSUANCE ASYLUM.
An appropriation of \$100,000 having been made at the last session for the purchase of a suitable site, and for the erection, furnishing, and fitting up of an Asylum for the Insane of the District of Columbia, and of the Army and Navy of the United States, the proper measures have been adopted to carry this beneficent project into effect.

BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS.
By the latest address from the Mexican Boundary Commission it appears that the survey of the Rio Gila, from its confluence with the Colorado to its supposed intersection with the western line of New Mexico, has been completed. The survey of the Rio Grande has also been finished from the point agreed on by the Commissioners as the point where it strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico to a point one hundred and thirty-five miles below Eagle Pass, which is about two-thirds of the distance along the course of the river to its mouth.

ern line of New Mexico. But as the Department had no exact information as to the amount of provisions and money which remained unexpended in the hands of the commissioner and surveyor, it was left discretionary with them to continue the survey down the Rio Grande as far as the means at their disposal would enable them, or at once to disband the commission.

A special messenger has since arrived from the officer in charge of the survey of the river, with information that the funds subject to his control were exhausted, and that the officers and others employed in the service were destitute alike of the means of prosecuting the work and of returning to their homes.

The object of the proviso was doubtless to arrest the survey of the southern and western lines of New Mexico, in regard to which different opinions have been expressed; for it is hardly to be supposed that there could be any objection to that part of the line which extends along the channel of the Rio Grande. But the terms of the law arose broad as to forbid the use of any part of the money for the prosecution of the work, or even for the payment of the officers and agents, of the arrangements which are justly due to them.

I earnestly invite your prompt attention to this subject, and recommend a modification of the terms of the proviso so as to enable the Department to discharge the existing obligations of the Government, and to complete the survey of the Rio Grande to the mouth.

It will also be necessary to make further provision for the fulfillment of our treaty with Mexico by running and marking the residue of the boundary line between the two countries.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
Permit me to invite your particular attention to the interests of the District of Columbia, which are confided by the Constitution to your particular care.

Among the measures which seem to me of the greatest importance to its prosperity are the introduction of a copious supply of water into the city of Washington, and the construction of suitable bridges across the Potomac to replace those which were destroyed by high water in the early part of the present year.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation was made to defray the cost of the surveys necessary for determining the best means of affording an unimpeded supply of good and wholesome water.

Some progress has been made in the survey, and as soon as it is completed the result will be laid before you.

Further appropriations will also be necessary for grading and paving the streets and avenues, and enclosing and embellishing the public grounds within the city of Washington.

I commend all these objects, together with the charitable institutions of the District, to your favorable regard.

THE FRONTIER.
Every effort has been made to protect our frontier, and that of the adjoining Mexican States, from the incursions of the Indian tribes. Of about 11,000 men of which the army is composed, nearly 8,000 are employed in the defence of the newly acquired territory, (including Texas,) and of emigrants proceeding thereto. I am gratified to say that these expeditions have been eminently successful. With the exception of a few outbreaks in California and Oregon, no serious depredations on a portion of the frontier have since been committed.

Experience has shown, however, that collisions between the two races are brought into contact, collisions which inevitably occur, and which, if not prevented, will inevitably occur. It is therefore necessary to resort to some plan for the exclusive occupation of the Indian tribes. A difficulty occurs, however, in the provisions of law relating to that subject, and the recent elections have been made in accordance with it.

The government of that State, it is understood, has assigned no portion of her territory to the Indians; but as fast as her settlements advance she lays it off into counties, and proceeds to survey and sell it. This policy manifests a tendency not only to alarm and irritate the Indians, but to compel them to resort to plunder for subsistence. It also deprives the government of that influence and control over them without which no durable peace can ever exist between the two races and the whites.

I trust, therefore, that a due regard for her own interests, apart from considerations of humanity and justice, will induce that State to assign a small portion of her vast domain for the exclusive occupation of the last remnants of the tribes within her borders, subject of course to her ownership and eventuality jurisdiction. If she should fail to do this, the fulfillment of our treaty stipulations with Mexico, and our duty to the Indians themselves, will, it is feared, become a subject of serious embarrassment to the Government. It is hoped, however, that a timely and just provision by Texas may avert this evil.

No appropriation for fortifications were made at the two last sessions of Congress. The cause of this omission is, probably, to be found in a growing belief that the system of fortifications adopted in 1816, and heretofore acted on, requires revision. The subject certainly deserves careful and careful investigation; but it should not be delayed longer than can be avoided. In the meantime there are certain works which have been commenced—some of them merely for the purpose of protecting our principal seaports from Boston to New Orleans, and a few other important points. In regard to the necessity for these works, it is believed that little difference of opinion exists among military men.

I earnestly invite your attention to the remarks on this subject, and on others connected with the report of the Secretary of War.

RIVERS AND HARBORS.
Measures have been taken to carry into effect the law of the last session making provision for the improvement of certain rivers and harbors, and the improvement that the arrangements made for that purpose will combine efficiency with economy. Owing chiefly to the advanced season when the act was passed, little has yet been done in regard to the preparations. With respect to a few of the improvements, the sums already appropriated will suffice to complete them, but most of them will