

# DAILY NEWS

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WM. A. HEARNE, EDITOR.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1881

## The President's Message.

The Message of President Arthur was sent to Congress Tuesday. It opens with an eloquent tribute to Garfield and proceeds to a review of our foreign relations, which are pronounced satisfactory. The action of Columbia, in seeking guarantees of foreign governments, the President thinks is unnecessary, and a modification of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty has been suggested. A restoration of the missions to Athens and Quito is recommended. The department reports are referred to and important recommendations are made—among them the adoption of the international code for the prevention of collisions at sea; the retirement of silver certificates; repeal of the Silver Coinage law; a law prohibiting retirement of national bank notes except on notice; no legislation on Windom bonds except for lower rate; reduction of taxation; revision of tariff laws; increase of the army; solution of Indian question by civilization; rehabilitation of the navy, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Board; vigorous prosecution of star route swindlers; relief for the overburdened courts; repeal of the army posse comitatus law; appropriations for internal improvements and an increased clerical force in the Pension office. The subject of civil service reform is exhaustively considered and legislation to increase our merchant marine suggested.

Secretary Folger in his annual report recommends a revision of the tariff, the abolition of all internal taxes, except those on whiskey and tobacco and the tax on the manufactures thereof. He recommends the retirement of the silver certificates, the suspension of the coinage of silver dollars and the passage of a law facilitating the reorganization of national banks where charters are about to expire.

## Expressions Regarding the Message.

The President's Message made an excellent impression upon Senators and representatives of both parties. It is regarded as a conservative and business like statement of public affairs. Some of its recommendations will, of course, be opened, those relating to subsidies for ships in particular. Some Democrats differ with him on the silver question and some of both sides on the question of refunding. But such differences are a matter of course, and those who most disagree with him say freely that Mr. Arthur's Message is a document of uncommon merit.

It is remarked by many shrewd observers to-day that the tone of the Message and of Secretary Folger's report will not fail to raise our credit abroad still higher than it is, because, say these people, these documents when they are read in Europe will show to the ablest financiers there that the new administration is in the hands of

men soundly instructed in finance and able to advise Congress and the country in clear language concerning subjects concerning which previous Presidents and Secretaries have been too crudely informed to give either definite or valuable advice.

Among the Democrats in the House there was not so much enthusiasm as among the Republicans. Mr. Hewitt said the general expression was favorable to most of the President's utterances. With a few exceptions his position on the silver question and national bank circulation was heartily commended as in accord with the sentiment of the Democratic party.

## The Cotton Crop of 1881-'2.

[Bradstreet's, Dec. 3.]

To obtain at the earliest date possible fairly complete returns on which to base an accurate estimate of each year's cotton crop is of the first importance. The planter should have such information in order that he may get a definite idea as to the value of his productions, and the general public should have it to the end that, so far as possible, blind speculation may be diminished. It is a well known fact that previous to this year trustworthy reports of the cotton crop were not at the command of the public. It is unnecessary to enter at length upon the causes of failure beyond remarking that successful crop reporting is essentially news getting, and therefore falls within the special province of the journalism of trade and finance. With the purpose of perfecting the machinery necessary for procuring such a report, we have used all requisite means and all the appliances at our command. In the expenditure of money we have not been sparing. Our present lists of correspondents, who are all located immediately in the cotton growing regions, have been judiciously selected from the thousands with whom we have had communication during the year. They are representatives of the best business men of the South. They are not of one class, but of several, and include cotton factors, cotton buyers, cotton planters, public ginners and general storekeepers. The men of business who have written us, while being in immediate communication with planters, stand sufficiently apart from them to sift and modify reports by intelligent and wide observation. The manifest care and precision given to the preparation of these reports cause us to have great confidence in the following summary. The reports have been sent us, and, relying upon the authorities indicated, we send forth the estimate to be tested by the final return and count of the crop.

Special returns to Bradstreet's from eleven hundred and thirty-four correspondents give reports for five hundred and thirty-six cotton growing counties, which produce over 91 per cent. of the entire crop, and give full returns of the weather between October 24, date of the last report, and November 21, the mail date of the present report. During the period between these dates the weather was moderately favorable for picking the crop. In the Atlantic States it was very favorable until about November 18, when a severe cold rain set in. In the Mississippi Valley and Texas, however, it was less favorable, there being too much rain, which not only delayed picking, but also did much to prevent the top crop and the second growth from maturing. The reports from Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee all agree that this sec-

ond growth has been killed by frost and has made little, if any, cotton. In parts of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama a fair top crop has been made, and more would have been secured but for the damage done by worms last month. Killing frosts are reported in nearly every State. In the northern cotton belt cotton had virtually stopped making before the date of our mail report.

The increase of the revenue on beer is something wonderful. In 1863 the sum derived from this source was \$1,500,000. But in 1881 this had grown to over \$14,000,000. Did anybody remark that the American people were not fond of beer?

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