

THE MESSAGE.

President Harrison's Advice to Congress.

Revision of the Laws and Extension of the Free List Recommended.

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

There are few transactions in the administration of the government that are even temporarily held in the confidence of those charged with the conduct of the public business. Every step taken under the observation of an intelligent and watchful people...

It is a matter of high significance, and no less of congratulation, that the first year of the second century of our constitutional existence finds us honored guests within our borders...

Another international conference, having great possibilities for good, has lately assembled in Washington in this capital. An invitation was extended by the government...

On the part of the Government of the Dominion of Canada an effort has been apparent during the season just ended to administer the laws and regulations applicable to the fisheries...

It is a source of great satisfaction that the internal disturbances of the Republic of Haiti are at last happily ended, and that an apparently stable government has been constituted...

The recent revolution in Brazil in favor of the establishment of a Republican form of government is an event of great interest to the United States. Our minister at Rio de Janeiro was at once instructed to maintain friendly diplomatic relations with the provisional government...

Our minister has been further instructed to send on the part of this government a formal and cordial recognition of the new Republic so soon as the majority of the people of Brazil shall have signified their assent to its establishment and maintenance.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, has been prepared and will be presented to Congress. It presents with clearness the financial operations of the government, and I avail myself of it to obtain some facts for use here.

The aggregate receipts from all sources for the year were \$87,959,938.41, derived as follows: From customs, \$23,832,741.60; from internal revenues, \$40,881,513.92; from miscellaneous sources, \$3,245,682.89.

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ing the receipts of the Treasury to the needs of the government as closely as may be. This collection of moneys not needed for public uses imposes an unnecessary burden upon our people and the presence of large surpluses in the public vaults is a disturbing element in the conduct of private business.

The improvement of our important rivers and harbors should be promoted by the necessary appropriations. The protection of Federal officers.

The assault made by David S. Terry upon the person of Justice Field, of the Supreme Court of the United States, last year, in August last, and the killing of the assassin by a deputy United States marshal who had been deputed to accompany Justice Field and to protect him from anticipated attack at the hands of Terry, in connection with the legal proceedings, allowed, suggest questions which, in my judgment, are worthy the attention of Congress.

The subject of an international copyright has been frequently commended to the attention of Congress, and the enactment of such a law would be eminently wise and just.

The necessary reduction in our public revenue can be made without making the smaller burden more onerous than the larger by reason of the disabilities and limitations which the process of reduction puts upon both capital and labor.

The coinage of silver dollars was, on November 1, 1899, \$343,683,021, of which \$288,589,321 were in the Treasury vaults and \$55,093,700 were in circulation.

I have always been an advocate of the use of silver in our currency. It was a large product of our country and should not be discarded. To the plan which will be presented by the Secretary of the Treasury for the issuance of notes or certificates upon the deposit of silver bullion at its market value I have been given a hearty examination.

The enforcement of the Chinese exclusion act has been found to be very difficult on the Northwestern frontier. Chinamen landing at Victoria find it easy to pass our border, owing to the impossibility, with the force at the command of the customs officers, of guarding so long a stretch of line.

Judged by modern standards, we are practically without coast defenses. Many of the structures we have would enhance rather than diminish the perils of their garrisons if subjected to the fire of improved guns.

The security of our coast cities against foreign attack should not rest altogether upon the friendly disposition of other nations. There should be a second line wholly in our own keeping. I very urgently recommend an appropriation at this session for the construction of such works in our most exposed harbors.

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have been settled can appreciate the serious and often the fatal consequences to the settler of a policy that puts his title under suspicion, or delays the issuance of his patent. While cases taken to prevent and to expose fraud, it should not be imported without reason.

The law now provides a pension for every soldier and sailor who was mustered into the service of the United States during the civil war and is now suffering from wounds or disease having an origin in the service and in the line of duty.

The attention of the Interstate Commerce Commission has been called to the urgent need of Congressional legislation for the better protection of the lives and limbs of those engaged in operating the great interstate freight lines of the country, and especially of the yardmen and brakemen.

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The creation of an executive department, to be known as the Department of Agriculture, by the act of February 9 last, was a long and important step toward the betterment of the country.

The proposition to observe the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by the opening of a world's fair or exposition in some one of our great cities will be presented for the consideration of Congress.

The purpose of the Civil Service law was absolutely to exclude any other consideration in connection with appointments under it than that of merit tested by the examinations.

The reform of the civil service will make no safe or satisfactory advance until the present law and its equal administration are well established in the confidence of the people.

The duty of appointment is devolved by the Constitution or by the law, and the appointing officers are properly held to a high responsibility in the exercise of the power.

discharge of it must be added before the argument is complete. When those holding administrative offices so conduct themselves as to convince just political opponents that they are not to be removed, the only way the discharge of their public duties, we can more easily stay the demand for removals.

I am satisfied that both in and out of the classified service great benefit would accrue from the adoption of some system by which the officer would receive the distinction and benefit that, in all private employments, comes from exceptional faithfulness and efficiency in the performance of duty.

The largest participation of our people in the carrying trade, the new and increased markets that will be opened for the products of our farms and factories and the fuller employment of our mechanics, which will result from a national policy of our foreign commerce, insure the widest possible diffusion of benefit to all the States and to all our people.

Such aid should be, as it always has been, suggested by some exceptional conditions. The sudden emancipation of the slave of the South, the bestowal of the suffrage, which soon followed, and the impairment of the ability of the States where these new citizens were chiefly found to adequately provide educational facilities, presented a condition which was exceptional and unexampled.

The colored people did not intrude themselves upon us; they were brought here in chains and held in the communities where they are now chained by a cruel and unexampled proceeding upon some general lines, he applied to the need that suggested it.

But, notwithstanding all this, in many parts of our country where the colored population is large the people of that race are, by various devices, deprived of any effective exercise of their political rights and many of their civil rights.

It has been the hope of every patriot that a sense of justice and of respect for the law would work a gradual cure of these evils. Surely, no one supposes that the present can be accepted as a permanent condition.

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the sea. It was not always so, and our people are agreed, I think, that it shall not continue to be so. It is not possible in this communication to discuss the causes of the decay of our shipping interests or the differing methods by which it is proposed to restore them.

I recommend that such appropriations be made for ocean mail service, in American steamships, between our ports and those of Central and South America, the development of a sufficient number of the great oceans, as will be liberally remunerative for the service rendered, and as will encourage the establishment and in some fair degree equalize the chances of American steamship lines in the competition which they must meet.

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