

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The past and increasing business of the Government has been transacted by the several departments during the year with faithful, energy and success. The revenues amounting to \$450,000,000, have been collected and disbursed without revealing, so far as I can ascertain, a single case of defalcation or embezzlement. An earnest effort has been made to stimulate a sense of responsibility and public duty in all officers and employees of every grade, and the work done by them has almost wholly escaped unfavorable criticism. I speak of these matters with freedom because the credit of this good work is not mine, but is shared by the heads of the several departments with the great body of faithful officers and employees who serve under them. The closest scrutiny of Congress is invited to all the methods of administration and to every item of expenditure.

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH EUROPE.

The friendly relations of our country with the nations of Europe and of the East have been undisturbed, while the ties of good will and common interest that bind us to the States of the Western Hemisphere have been notably strengthened by the conference held in this capital to consider measures for the general welfare. Pursuant to the invitation authorized by Congress, the representatives of every independent State of the American continent and of Hayti met in conference in this capital in October, 1889, and continued in session until the 19th of last April. This important convocation marks a most interesting and influential epoch in the history of the Western Hemisphere. It is noteworthy that Brazil, invited while under an imperial form of government, shared as a republic in the deliberations and results of the conference. The recommendations of this conference were all transmitted to Congress at the last session.

THE KILLING OF BARRUNDA.

The killing of General Barrunda on board the Pacific mail steamer *Capitola*, while en route in transit in the port of San Jose de Guatemala, demanded careful inquiry. Having failed in a revolutionary attempt to invade Guatemala from Mexican territory, General Barrunda took passage at Acapulco for Panama. The consent of the representatives of the United States was sought to effect his seizure, first at Champerico, where the steamer touched, and afterward at San Jose. The captain of the steamer refused to give up his passenger without a written order from the United States. The Minister at San Jose furnished the desired letter, stipulating, as the condition of his action, that General Barrunda's life should be spared, and that he should be tried only for offenses growing out of his insurrectionary movements. This letter was produced to the captain of the *Capitola* by the military commander at San Jose, who warranted to take the passenger from the steamer. General Barrunda resisted capture and was killed. It being evident that the Minister, Mr. Mizner, had exceeded the bounds of his authority in intervening, in compliance with the demand of the Guatemalan authorities, to authorize and effect, in violation of precedent, the seizure on a vessel of the United States of a passenger in transit charged with political offenses, in order that he might be tried for such offenses under what was described as a law of the United States, the Government has been constrained to disavow Mr. Mizner's act and recall him from his post.

THE NEW EXTRADITION TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The new treaty of extradition with Great Britain, after due ratification, was proclaimed on the 25th of last March. Its beneficial working is already apparent.

The difference between the two governments touching the question of extradition in the Behring Sea is not yet adjusted, as will be seen by the correspondence which will soon be laid before Congress. The offer to submit the question to arbitration, as proposed by Mr. Bayard, has been declined, and the Government is not thought to be calculated to assure a conclusion satisfactory to either party. It is sincerely hoped that before the opening of another session some arrangement may be effected which will adjust to the United States a property right, derived from Russia, which was not disregarded by any nation for more than eighty years preceding the outbreak of the existing trouble.

INJUNCTION TO HAWAII.

In the tariff act a wrong was done to the Kingdom of Hawaii which I am bound to presume was wholly unintentional. Duties were levied on the commerce of the islands included in the reciprocity treaty now existing between the United States and the Kingdom of Hawaii, without indicating the necessary exception in favor of that Kingdom. I hope Congress will repair what might otherwise be a serious blot on the part of this Government.

UNCLE SAM'S POCKETBOOK.

The revenues of the Government from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, were \$463,968,080.55, and the total expenditures for the same period were \$368,618,584.52. The postal receipts have not heretofore been included in the statement of these aggregates, and for the purpose of comparison the sum of \$60,382,097.92 should be deducted from both sides of the account. The surplus for the year, including the amount applied to the sinking fund, was \$108,344,496.03. The receipts for 1890 were \$16,080,923.79, and the expenditures were \$15,738,000.00 of those of 1889. The customs receipts increased \$3,838,842.88 and the receipts from internal revenue \$11,726,191.80, while, on the side of expenditures, that for pensions was \$19,312,075.99 in excess of the preceding year.

The Treasury statement for the current fiscal year, partly actual and partly estimated, is as follows: Receipts from all sources, \$408,000,000; total expenditures, \$354,000,000, leaving a surplus of \$54,000,000. Not taking the postal receipts into the account on either side, the loss of revenue from customs for the last quarter is estimated at \$25,000,000, but from this is deducted a gain of about \$16,000,000, realized during the first four months of the year. For the year 1890 the total estimated receipts are \$373,000,000 and the estimated expenditures \$357,852,309.42, leaving an estimated surplus of \$15,147,690.58, with a cash balance of \$92,000,000 at the beginning of the year, will give \$27,147,690.58 as the sum available for the redemption of outstanding bonds or other uses. The estimates of receipts and expenditures for the Postoffice Department, being equal, are not included in this statement on either side.

THE CIRCULATION OF TREASURY NOTES.

The act "directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of Treasury notes thereon," approved July 14, 1890, has been administered by the Secretary of the Treasury with an earnest purpose to get into circulation at the earliest possible date the full monthly amounts of Treasury notes contemplated by its provisions and at the same time to give to the market for silver bullion such support as the law contemplates. The recent depreciation in the price of silver has been observed with regret. The rapid rise in price which anticipated and followed the passage of the act was influenced in some degree by speculation, and the recent reaction in part the result of the same cause and in part the result of the recent monetary disturbance. Some months of further trial will be necessary to determine the permanent effect

of the recent legislation upon silver values, but it is gratifying to know that the increased circulation secured by the act has exerted and will continue to exert a most beneficial influence upon business and upon general values.

While it has not been thought best to renew formally the suggestion of an international conference looking to an agreement touching the full use of silver for coinage and for the Western Hemisphere, the act has served closely any change in the situation abroad, and no favorable opportunity will be lost to promote a result which it is confidently believed would confer very large benefits upon the commerce of the world.

The recent monetary disturbances in England are not unlikely to suggest a re-examination of opinions upon this subject. Our very large supply of gold will, if not lost by impulsive legislation in the supposed interest of silver, give us a position of advantage in promoting a permanent and safe international agreement for the free use of silver as a coin metal.

The efforts of the Secretary to increase the volume of money in circulation by keeping down the Treasury surplus to the lowest practicable limit have been unmitigatedly successful in a very high degree. The tables presented by him, showing the increase of money in circulation during the last two decades, and especially the table showing the increase during the administration of the late President, are interesting and instructive. The increase of money in circulation during the nine months has been in the aggregate \$38,890,813, or about \$1.50 per capita, and of this increase only \$1,000,000 was due to the recent silver legislation. That this substantial and needed aid given to commerce resulted in an enormous reduction of the public debt and of the annual interest charge is matter of increased satisfaction.

There have been purchases and redemptions since March 4, 1889, of 4 and 4½ per cent bonds to the amount of \$311,835,430, at cost of \$340,620,741, resulting in the reduction of the annual interest charge of \$8,967,609 and a total saving of interest of \$51,570,769.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits several gratifying results attained during the year by wise and unostentatious methods. The percentage of desertions from the army (an evil for which both Congress and the Government have long been seeking a remedy) has been reduced during the past year 24 per cent, and for the months of August and September, during which time the favorable effects of the act of June 26 were felt, 33 per cent, as compared with the same months of 1889.

I concur in the recommendations of the Secretary that adequate and regular appropriations be continued for coast defense works and ordnance. Plans have been practically agreed upon, and there can be no good reason for delaying the execution of a ready-made plan. The defenseless state of our great seaports furnishes an urgent reason for great exertion.

The encouragement that has been extended to the militia of the States, generally and most appropriately designated as "National Guard," should be continued and enlarged. These military organizations constitute, in a large sense, the army of the United States, while about five-sixths of the annual cost of their maintenance is defrayed by the States.

PUNISHMENT OF VIOLATORS OF THE LAW. The report of the Attorney-General is under the law submitted directly to Congress, but as the Department of Justice is one of the executive departments, it is proper to bring to the work done is appropriate here. A vigorous and, in the main, an effective effort has been made to bring to trial and punish all violators of the law; but at the same time, care has been taken that no technical offenses should be used to swell the fees of officers or to harass well-disposed citizens. Especial attention is called to the facts connected with the prosecution of violations of the election laws and of offenses against United States officers. The number of convictions secured, and the number of them upon pleas of guilty, will, it is hoped, have a salutary restraining influence. There have been several cases where postmasters appointed by me have been subjected to violent interference in the discharge of their official duties, and in some of the most extreme character. Some of these cases have been dealt with through the Department of Justice, and in some cases the postoffices have been closed or suspended. I have directed the Postmaster-General to pursue this course in all cases where other efforts failed to secure for any postmaster, not himself in fault, an opportunity peacefully to exercise the duties of his office. But such action will not plant the seeds of the Department of Justice to bring the particular offenders to punishment.

WORK OF THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT. The report of the Postmaster-General shows the most gratifying progress in the important work committed to his direction. The business methods have been greatly improved, and the economy in expenditures and an increase in receipts have been realized. The deficiency this year is \$3,786,300, as against \$6,350,183 last year, notwithstanding the great enlargement of the service. Mail routes have been extended and quickened, and great accuracy and dispatch in distribution and delivery have been attained.

The passage of the act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, approved September 19, 1890, has been received with great and deserved popular favor. The Postoffice Department and the Department of Justice at once entered upon the enforcement of the law with sympathetic vigor, and already the public mails have been largely freed from the fraudulent and demoralizing appeals and literature emanating from the lottery companies.

OUR NEW NAVY. The construction and equipment of the new ships for the navy have made very satisfactory progress. Since March 4, 1889, nine new vessels have been put in commission, and during this winter four more, including one monitor, will be added. The construction of the other vessels authorized is being pushed, both in the government and private yards, with energy, and watched with the most scrupulous care.

The experiments conducted during the year to test the relative resisting power of armor plates has been so valuable as to attract great attention in Europe. The only part of the work upon the new ships that is threatened by unusual delay is the armor plating, and every effort is being made to reduce that to the minimum. It is a source of congratulation that the anticipated influence of these modern vessels upon the esprit de corps of the officers and seamen has been fully realized. Confidence and pride in the ship among the crew are equivalent to a secondary battery. Your favorable consideration is invited to the recommendations of the Secretary.

SETTLEMENT OF THE INDIAN TROUBLES. The several acts of Congress looking to the reduction of the larger Indian reservations, to the more rapid settlement of the In-

dians upon individual allotments, and the restoration to the public domain of lands in excess of their needs, have been largely carried into effect, so far as the work was confined to the Executive. Agreements have been entered into since March 4, 1889, involving the cession to the United States of about 14,730,000 acres of land. These contracts have, as required by law, been submitted to Congress for ratification, and for the appropriation necessary to carry them into effect. Those with the Sisseton, and Wahpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Pottawatomie and Abenaki Shawnee and Cour d'Alene tribes have not yet received the sanction of Congress. Attention is also called to the fact that the appropriations made in the case of the Sioux Indians have not covered all the stipulated payments. This should be promptly corrected. If an agreement is confirmed, all of its terms should be complied with without delay, and full appropriations should be made.

LANDS TO SETTLERS.

The policy outlined in my last annual message as to the settlement of lands to be settled upon the public domain has been carried out in the administration of the Land Office. No general suspicion or imputation of fraud has been allowed to influence the hearing and adjustment of individual claims. The purpose has been to perfect the title of honest settlers with such promptness that the value of the entry might not be swallowed up by the expense and extortion to which delay subjected the claimant. The average monthly issue of agricultural patents has been increased about six thousand.

THE PENSIONS.

The Disability Pension act, which was approved on the 27th of June last, has been put into operation as rapidly as was practicable. The increased clerical force provided was selected and assigned to work, and a considerable part of the work engaged in examinations in the field. The average monthly issue of agricultural patents has been increased about six thousand.

THE CENSUS.

An enumeration of the people of the United States under the provisions of the act of March 1, 1889, has been completed, and the result will be at once officially communicated to Congress. The completion of this decennial enumeration devolves upon Congress the duty of making a new apportionment of Representatives "among the several States according to their respective numbers."

AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Secretary of Agriculture deserves special attention in view of the fact that the year has been marked in a very unusual degree by agricultural depression and organization among the farmers looking to an increase in the profits of their business. It will be found that the efforts of the department have been intelligently and zealously devoted to the promotion of the interests entrusted to its care.

A very substantial improvement in the market prices of the leading farm products during the year is noticed. The price of wheat advanced from 81 cents in October, 1889, to 101½ cents in October, 1890; corn from 31 cents to 50½ cents; oats from 19½ cents to 45 cents, and barley from 23 cents to 78 cents. Most showed a substantial but not so large an increase. The export trade in live animals and fowls show a very large increase; the total value of such exports for the year ending June 30, 1890, was \$35,000,000, and the increase over the preceding year was \$10,000,000. Nearly 300,000 more cattle and over 45,000 more hogs were exported than in the preceding year. The export trade in beef and pork products and in dairy products was very largely increased, the increase in the value of beef alone being from 15,504,978 pounds to 20,748,043 pounds, and the total increase in the value of meat and dairy products exported being \$34,000,000. This trade, so directly helpful to the farmer, it is believed will beget further and very largely increased when the system of inspection and sanitary supervision now provided by law is brought fully into operation.

The efforts of the Secretary to establish the healthfulness of our meats against the disparaging imputations that have been put upon the products of our country have been successful. Veterinary surgeons sent out by the department are now allowed to participate in the inspection of the live cattle from this country landed at the English docks, and during the several months they have been on duty no case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia has been reported. This inspection abroad, and the domestic inspection of live animals and pork products, provided for by the act of August 30, 1890, will afford as perfect a guaranty for foreign consumption of our meats as could be desired, and it is anywhere given to any food product, and its non-acceptance will quite clearly reveal the real motive of any continued restriction of their use; and, that having been made plain, the duty of the Executive will be very plain.

THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The information given by the Secretary of the progress and prospects of the beet sugar industry is full of interest. It has already passed the experimental stage and is a commercial success. The area over which the sugar beet can be successfully cultivated is large, and another field of great value is opened to the farmer.

The Secretary of the Treasury concurs in the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture that the official supervision provided by the Tariff law for sugar of domestic production shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The law relating to the Civil Service has, so far as I can learn, been executed by those having the power of appointment in the classified service with fidelity and impartiality, and the service has been increasingly satisfactory. The report of the commission shows a large amount of good work done during the year with very limited appropriations.

WORK OF THE FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS. I congratulate the Congress and the country upon the passage at the first session of the Fifty-first Congress of an unusual number of laws of very high importance. That the results of this legislation will be the quickening and enlargement of our manufacturing industries, larger and better markets for our breadstuffs and provisions both at home and abroad, more constant employment and better wages for our working people, and an increased supply of a safe currency for the transaction of business, I do not doubt. Some of these measures were acted at so late a period that the beneficial effects upon commerce which were by the contemplation of Congress have as yet but partially manifested themselves.

IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

The general trade and industrial conditions throughout the country during the year have shown a marked improvement. For many years prior to 1889 the merchandise trade

of foreign trade had been largely in our favor, but during that year and the year following they turned against us. It is very gratifying to know that the last fiscal year again shows a balance in our favor over \$200,000,000. The bank clearings, which furnish a good test of the volume of business transacted, for the first ten months of the year 1890 show, as compared with the same months of 1889, an increase for the whole country of about 8.4 per cent. Those with the Sisseton, and Wahpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Pottawatomie and Abenaki Shawnee and Cour d'Alene tribes have not yet received the sanction of Congress. Attention is also called to the fact that the appropriations made in the case of the Sioux Indians have not covered all the stipulated payments. This should be promptly corrected. If an agreement is confirmed, all of its terms should be complied with without delay, and full appropriations should be made.

INCREASE IN EXPORTS.

The value of our exports of domestic merchandise during the last year was over \$15,000,000,000, the preceding year being only \$14,000,000,000. This was only exceeded once in our history. About \$100,000,000 of this excess was in agricultural products. The production of pig iron—always a good gauge of general prosperity—is shown by a recent census bulletin to have been 100 per cent greater than in 1889, and the production of steel 200 per cent greater. Mining in coal has had no limitation except that resulting from deficient transportation. The general testimony is that labor everywhere fully employed, and the report of the year shows smaller number of employees affected by strikes and lockouts than in any year since 1884. The depression in the prices of agricultural products had been greatly relieved, and a buoyant and hopeful tone was breathed by all our people.

These promising influences have been in some degree checked by the surprising and very unfavorable monetary events which have recently taken place in England. It is gratifying to know that these did not grow out of the financial relations of the United States to London with our people, or out of any discredit attached to our securities held in that market. The return of our bonds and stocks was caused by a money stringency in England, not by any loss of value or discredit attached to our securities. These influences, however, wholly escape the ill effects of a foreign monetary agitation accompanied by such extraordinary incidents as characterized this. It is not believed, however, that these evil incidents which have time and again occurred in the past, and which have been so long withstanding the strong, safe and wholesome influences which are operating to give to our people profitable returns in all branches of legitimate trade and industry. 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