

pay taxes and demanding the election of a ruler by native suffrage. Mataafa, an aspirant to the throne, and a large number of his native adherents, were in open rebellion on one of the islands. Quite lately, at the request of the other powers and in fulfillment of its treaty obligation, this government agreed to unite in a joint military movement of such dimensions as would probably secure the surrender of the insurgents without bloodshed. The warship Philadelphia was accordingly put under orders for Samoa but before she arrived the threatened conflict was precipitated by King Malletoa's attack upon the insurgent camp. Mataafa was defeated and a number of men killed. The British and German vessels present subsequently secured the surrender of Mataafa and his adherents. The defeated chief and ten of his principal supporters were deported to a German island of the Marshall group, where they are held as prisoners under the joint responsibility and cost of the three powers. This incident and the events leading up to it signally illustrate the impolicy of entangling alliances with foreign powers.

It is hardly necessary for me to state that the questions arising from our relations with Hawaii have caused serious embarrassment. Just prior to the installation of the present administration, the existing government of Hawaii had been suddenly overthrown and a treaty of annexation had been negotiated between the provisional government of the islands and the United States and submitted to the Senate for ratification. The treaty I withdrew for examination, and dispatched Hon. James H. Blount, of Georgia, to Honolulu as a special commissioner to make an impartial investigation of the circumstances attending the change of government and of all the conditions bearing upon the subject of the treaty. After a thorough and exhaustive examination, Mr. Blount submitted to me his report, showing beyond all question that the constitutional government of Hawaii had been subverted with the active aid of our representative to that government and through the intimidation caused by the presence of an armed naval force of the United States which was landed for that purpose at the instance of our minister. Upon the facts developed, it seemed to me that the only honorable course for our government to pursue was to undo the wrong that had been done by those representing us, and to restore as far as practicable the statutes existing at the time of our forcible intervention. With a view of accomplishing this result within the constitutional limits of executive power, and recognizing all our obligations and responsibilities growing out of any changed conditions brought about by our unjustifiable interference, our present minister at Honolulu has received appropriate instructions to that end. Thus far, information of the accomplishment of any definite results has not been received from him. Additional advices are soon expected. When received they will be promptly sent to the Congress, together with all other information at hand, accompanied by a special executive message fully detailing the acts necessary to a complete understanding

of the case and presenting a history of all the material events leading up to the present situation.

The recent repeal of the provision of the law requiring the purchase of silver bullion by the government as a feature of our monetary scheme has made an entire change in the complexion of our currency affairs. I do not doubt that the ultimate result of this action will be most salutary and far-reaching. In the nature of things, however, it is impossible to know at this time precisely what conditions will be brought about by the change, or what, if any, supplementary legislation may, in the light of such conditions, appear to be essential or expedient. Of course after the recent financial perturbation, time is necessary for the re-establishment of business confidence. When, however, through this restored confidence the money which has been frightened into the hoarding places is returned to trade and enterprise, a survey of the situation will probably disclose a safe path leading to a permanently sound currency abundantly sufficient to meet every requirement of our increasing population and business. In the pursuit of this object we should resolutely turn away from alluring and temporary expedients, determined to be content with nothing less than a lasting and comprehensive financial plan. In these circumstances I am convinced that a reasonable delay in dealing with this subject instead of being injurious will increase the probability of wise action. The monetary conference which assembled at Brussels upon our invitation was adjourned to the 30th day of November in the present year. The considerations just stated, and the fact that a definite proposition from us seemed to be expected upon the re-assembling of the conference, led me to express a willingness to have the meeting still further postponed. It seems to me that it would be wise to give general authority to the President to invite other nations to such a conference at any time when there should be a fair prospect of accomplishing an international agreement on the subject of coinage. I desire also to earnestly suggest the wisdom of amending the existing statutes in regard to the issuance of government bonds. The authority now vested in the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds is not as clear as it should be, and the bonds authorized are disadvantageous to the government both as to the time of their maturity and the rate of interest.

The Superintendent of Immigration, through the Secretary of the Treasury, reports that during the last fiscal year there arrived at our ports 440,793 immigrants; of these 1063 were not permitted to land under the limitations of the law, and 577 were returned to the countries from whence they came by reason of their having become public charges. The total arrivals were 140,084 less than for the previous year.

The Secretary of the Interior has the supervision of so many important subjects that his report is of especial value and interest. The 30th day of June, 1893, there were on the pension rolls 966,012 names, an increase of 89,944 over the number on the rolls June 30, 1892. Of these there were 17 widows and

daughters of revolutionary soldiers; 86 survivors of the war of 1812; 5425 widows of soldiers of that war; 21,518 survivors and widows of the Mexican war; 3882 survivors and widows of Indian wars; 284 army nurses; and 475,645 survivors and widows and children of deceased soldiers and sailors of the War of the Rebellion. The latter number represents those pensioned on account of disabilities and death resulting from army and navy service. The number of persons remaining on the rolls June 30, 1893, who were pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, which allows pensions on account of death and disabilities not chargeable to army service, was 4,591,555. The number added to the rolls during the year was 123,634, and the number dropped was 33,690. The first payments on pensions allowed during the year amounted to \$33,576,549.98. This includes arrears or accumulations between the time from which the allowance of pension dates and the time of actually granting the certificate. Although the law of 1890 permits pensions for disability now related to military service, yet as a requisite to its benefits a disability must exist incapacitating applicants from the performance of manual labor to such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support. The execution of this law in its early stages does not seem to have been in accord with its true intention, but toward the close of the last administration an authoritative construction was given to the statute and since that time this construction has been followed. This has had the effect of limiting the operation of the law to its intended purpose. The discovery having been made that many names had been put upon the pension roll by means of wholesale and gigantic frauds, the Commissioner suspended payments upon a number of pensions which seem to be fraudulent or unauthorized pending a complete examination, giving notice to the pensioners in order that they might have an opportunity to establish, if possible, the justice of their claims notwithstanding apparent invalidity. This, I understand, is the practice which has for a long time prevailed in the pension bureau. But after entering upon these recent investigations, the Commissioner modified this rule so as not to allow, until after complete examination, interference with the payment of a pension apparently not altogether void, but which had been fixed at a rate higher than that authorized by the law. I am unable to understand why frauds in the pension rolls should not be exposed and corrected with thoroughness and vigor. Every name fraudulently put upon these rolls is a wicked imposition upon the kindly sentiment in which pensions have their origin. Every fraudulent pensioner has become a bad citizen. Every false oath in support of a pension has made perjury more common; and false and undeserving pensioners rob the people, not only of their money, but of the patriotic sentiment which the survivors of the war, who fought for the preservation of the Union, ought to inspire. Thousands of neighborhoods have their well-known fraudulent pensioners and recent developments by the bureau