

are planned in Germany. By order of the emperor all public schools will participate. The parliament building, one of the most magnificent in the world, will be properly decorated and the emperor himself will take a prominent part in the proceedings in honor of the great warrior, to whose superior statesmanship and at that time unequalled military tactics Germany owes so much.

Wilhelm is known to be an ardent admirer of the Swedish hero. As an evidence of this may be mentioned that his majesty has ordered a superb painting of him to be hung up in the imperial palace on the day of the anniversary. He has also prepared an oration to be read to the army corps in the palace, and is constantly referring the crown prince to the history of Gustavus.

The festivities will be of a truly international character. Even the Catholics in Germany and Austria propose to pay homage to the man, although they, of course, will refrain from participation in the religious part of the ceremonies. And even on this side of the Atlantic memorial services will be held in various places. Swedish societies all over the country have the past month been preparing for the event, and many Swiss, Danish, German and Norwegian organizations will join them.

The whole plan is arranged by the Gustavus Adolphus society, an organization of Protestants with representatives in all Protestant countries. The immediate object of this association is the support of numerically and financially weak sister churches, and the leaders of the society have taken this opportunity of bringing the cause for which Gustavus fought and died prominently before the world. After the tercentenary celebration mankind will know more about this savior of Protestantism—if the term be allowed—and better appreciate his work in the cause of liberty than ever before.

POSTAL LEGISLATION.

Among the features in President Cleveland's message to which Congress should give attention at an early date is the suggested correction of abuses connected with handling mail matter of the second class—newspapers, periodicals, etc. The improvement now asked for by the President was first recommended by the postoffice department in 1887, but nothing has been done in the way of legislation. President Cleveland now takes the subject up and points out that the transmission of second class matter costs the government about eight times as much as it receives, and that the deficiency in the department might be wholly obviated if the abuses complained of were corrected by modifying the present law so that the postal authorities could take the required action. It is stated that if the objectionable mail, which consists chiefly of advertising sheets and trashy literature, be removed from the second class list, and either be made to pay the eight cents per pound which would be required if the real intent of the law could be

applied, or be stopped all together, in the near future all legitimate newspapers and periodical magazines could be transmitted through the mails to subscribers free.

The report of Postmaster General Bissell, upon which the President founds his recommendations, estimates the time when such free transmission of legitimate papers and periodicals could be accomplished would be so close if the proposed reform were instituted, that one year from the time the change is made would be sufficient to inaugurate it. The probability that a result, so beneficial to the country at large, could be achieved so quickly and easily, in itself should be sufficient to demand for the suggestion the prompt attention of the law makers. And when the actually demonstrated saving of money to the government is considered, it would seem folly to longer delay the desirable action. The postmaster general's report shows that in 1887, when first complaint was entered, the total weight of second class matter handled was a little over 126,000,000 pounds; in 1893 it was over 254,000,000 pounds—having more than doubled in six years. These figures are exclusive of what is known as the "free county matter," or matter mailed free to subscribers living in the respective counties of publication. The cost of this 254,000,000 pounds, for transportation alone, independent of the cost of delivery, was \$20,320,000. The postage received for the same aggregated \$3,347,000. Thus it will be seen that, apart from the considerations of preventing the transmission of worthless or fraudulent publications, and of cheapening the delivery of legitimate periodicals, the government would save in transportation alone \$16,973,000, on the basis of the business of 1893.

The remedy advised is not a change of rates, but a classification that will prevent a large list of pretended periodicals from improperly enjoying postal facilities intended only for legitimate publications. Among those which encroach upon the field of these legitimate papers, Mr. Bissell designates certain serial paper-covered books, which he alleges are serial only in name, being given a general designation such as the "Fireside series," the "Detective series," etc.; also "house organs" devoted mainly to advertising some mercantile or other establishment, bogus "trade" publications, "sample copies," and many alleged fraternal and benevolent publications, which are mere advertising circulars. To most people it will appear that the President's advice to eliminate all these from the channels intended to facilitate the transmission of news and educational publications is in a line beneficial to the country at large, financially and otherwise.

Regarding the postal telegraph which has been urged so often and so persistently upon the country, the President makes no recommendation. This probably is due to the postmaster-general's report of the result of his investigation in this line. Mr. Bissell's predecessor strongly advocated this system, basing his view upon the fact that in some countries the postal-telegraph is a source of profit. The present head of the postoffice department,

however, takes a decided stand against the introduction of the system, chiefly on the ground that it could be operated only at a great loss. He suggests that the time may come when the country will be so thickly populated as to justify its adoption, but that for the present the wiser course is to wait until the full benefits are derived from the free delivery system, the railway mail, the money order, or the star service. Taking Great Britain for comparison, he points out that, with its large population, great commercial interests, and distribution of cities, it should furnish more favorable conditions than any presented in this country, where there are two postoffices over 6,000 miles apart. Yet in Britain, where a compact telegraph plant would cost about \$52,000,000, there was in 1893 a deficit of \$2,267,325; and in this country, with thirty times the area of the United Kingdom, the cost of plant and loss on its operation would be immeasurably greater.

There is still another proposed postal change which is being agitated, but which has received no mention from the executive or the postmaster general. This is what is known as the National Postage Movement, an organization effected for the purpose of securing a one cent letter postage. This movement is being urged throughout all the states. A bill is promised to be presented in Congress, and a vigorous effort made to secure its passage, fixing letter postage in the United States at the rate of one cent per ounce or fraction thereof. The financial basis for claiming the reduction is that the letter mail now costs for handling about one-fifteenth of what is received from letter postage. As the postoffice deficit is brought about largely by the handling of worthless and vicious publications, according to the report of the department and the statements in the President's message, it is claimed that business men and those engaged in legitimate correspondence should not be taxed in their postage for this loss or any part of it, but should receive an advantage from the profitable handling of this class of mail by reducing its cost to the public one-half. So far as first class mail is concerned, this claim for reform appears to have a foundation in justice, and it is not unlikely that in the not so distant future the agitation in this respect may be fruitful of desirable results. In any event, postal reform legislation probably will receive careful consideration in Congress before a great while.

DURING THE last fiscal year 285,630 immigrants landed on our shores, and of this number only about 12,000 went to the South. It ought to be worth the while of the brainy men of that section to ascertain why, with agricultural and other resources second to none in the Republic, the Southern States should be so straggly shunned by newcomers.

NOTING THE wonderful advancement made in the discovery of the cause and hence the cure of human disease, a Boston paper observes that "one of the days we shall live forever." The question that agitates most people of a serious mind is not when but where that time of eternal living is to be.