

545,905, against \$266,110,729 for the corresponding months last year, an increase of \$27,435,176. This, again, is overbalanced by the growth of expenditures, which have advanced to \$291,254,038, against \$254,965,874 last year, an increase of \$36,288,164, of which \$24,434,249 is found in the pensions item. Notwithstanding this enormous addition to the expenditures, there is for the nine months a surplus of \$2,291,867, in comparison with a surplus of \$11,144,855 for the same period last year—a good showing on the whole.

The expectation indulged in last winter that an extra session of Congress would have to be called to deal with the situation has already been dissipated; and it is now certain that if one should be convened it would be for a purpose nearly if not exactly at variance with that spoken of; that is, it would be for the purpose of revising the tariff and thereby curtailing rather than increasing revenue.

### FOR PEACE ON EARTH.

The court of arbitration now in session in Paris to settle the dispute between the United States and Great Britain concerning the Bering seal fishing has decided not to admit "for the present" the British supplementary report. So far the controversy has been conducted more with a view of agreeing upon the proper manner of proceeding than determining the real merits of the case, for each side has interposed objections to the class of evidence offered by the other. The decision by the court is decidedly in favor of the United States and augurs well for the final issue.

It is a grand testimony to the progress of the age in the direction of peace and good will, which some time are to become universal, that the two greatest nations of the earth resort to the rational mode of settling a dispute by peaceful means instead of sacrificing thousands of lives and millions of property over a comparatively small matter. It may be that, as yet, a court of arbitration between nations can be applied as a remedy only where the interests involved are small, but when it has once been demonstrated that the decision of such a court is just and for the best of both parties interested, it cannot take ages until the nations become willing to submit even more important questions to arbitration. And why not? There was a time when every individual had to depend on his own physical strength or the alliance with stronger neighbors for protection. But civilization has long ago altered that state, and all questions can in an organized society be settled by reference to a common law. There can be no real obstacle in the way of nations being governed in their relations to each other by the principles which govern the conduct of individuals. Universal peace is, notwithstanding the opinion to the contrary of the late General Moltke, more than a dream. It is an ideal within the reach of mankind.

THE RATE at which the guillotine is being applied to fourth-class postmasters causes the suggestion that perhaps Mr. Maxwell has his eye on the Vice Presidency.

### JEFFERSON'S DAY.

Just why our Democratic friends should celebrate today as the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth is not clear. The best biographers give the date as April 2, 1743, and in this no reckoning is made of the eleven days added to the calendar by Pope Gregory, an event which occurred a long time before that. That it is proper not only for Democrats but for Americans of all shades of political opinion to observe some day with which that great man's name is associated is altogether proper, his authorship of the immortal Declaration alone entitling his memory to such consideration. But apart from this, he was a patriot in the stormy days of the Revolution—a time when the paradoxical condition of rebels being the only patriots prevailed. He was the right hand of Washington during the eight years' Presidential career of the Father of his Country, and soon after became President himself. Of aristocratic birth and training, much more so than his distinguished rival Hamilton, he nevertheless advocated the cause and upheld the claims of the "common people," and sheltered them from the encroachments sought to be imposed by half-hearted supporters of a republican government who called themselves Federalists. Disdaining the pomp and ceremony which obtained and still prevail at royal courts, Jefferson threw down all barriers between the people and the executive and made the White House as accessible as any other in the land. When inaugurated there was no glittering pageant, no showy ceremonies, nothing even faintly suggestive of royalty or aristocracy, while the dignity and consequence of the occasion were upheld as conspicuously and decidedly as though it were a matter involving hundreds of thousands of dollars' expense instead of none at all worth naming. Riding to the executive mansion on horseback, he dismounted, tied the animal to the fence and walked in unattended, the doors thereafter being as wide open to the humble toiler as to the man of millions—all corners were treated as citizens possessing equal rights until by their own act they forfeited such rights. Jefferson was strictly and truly a Democrat, nationally and politically, though his party at that time went under the name of Republican. He was a great man from any point of view, made one of the best of our Presidents, and his followers can do him no honor that his record does not justify; but, as previously suggested, the demonstrations should not partake altogether of partisanship and not at all of exclusiveness.

### DAMAGE BY STOCK.

Mr. John Done communicates to the News a grievance which has been spoken of in these columns before. It is regarding depredations by sheep and stock through the acts of their owners, or rather their failure to act. These, our correspondent says, claim they have a right to turn their animals on their own land at any time of the year, either with or without a fence sufficient to keep them there, or to herd

them there, and this notwithstanding their neighbors may have thousands of dollars worth of crops that these animals could destroy in a few moments by just running over it. "While I admit," he says, "that the sheep and stock business is a very important one, I do not admit this proposition. I submit that the farmer has a right to the protection of his property, as much as possible, from its liability to be destroyed; and this in justice he can ask of the owners of animals. It is no protection at all as the law stands now, only a source of litigation and costs."

We are shown that there are a great many industrial enterprises of great benefit and importance to the community and more or less a damage to property and health. Mr. Done proposes that we discuss the copper refinery that is about to be established near this city. Almost any one will admit that the fumes and smoke from the process of extracting and refining would be injurious to vegetation, also the health of the people in close proximity to the plant; therefore, he says, the people can in justice demand that this company shall endeavor to reduce by every known appliance of modern science those destructive effects. He goes on: "The same principle is involved between the farmer and stockman, only there is a feature in the latter that don't exist in the former, namely: the benefit derived by the owners of these animals from all they get is from their neighbors. I can tell you that these animals in the hands of men who have no regard for the rights of others are a terror to the farmer, and where allowed will certainly reduce him to pauperism."

The News cordially concurs in the suggestion that the farmer be protected. He is our chief reliance—our *sine qua non*, so to speak—and others are therefore as much concerned in his welfare as he is himself.

### IN MEMORIAM.

Twenty-eight years ago this evening Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President of the United States, was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's theater, Washington, D. C. He died the following morning.

A great deal has been spoken and said of the murdered President that is fulsome and maudlin, thus subverting to a great extent the dignity which should surround the subject. The plain facts in relation to him contain enough that is instructive, historic and pathetic. He was a typical westerner, of gigantic stature but raw-boned, angular and awkward in his movements; his countenance was singularly homely but always presented an appearance of goodness and meekness strongly allied to firmness of the most decided type. His education was neither good nor bad—not good as related to the classics and the higher branches of modern study, and not bad as regards complete familiarity with the ordinary lines of scholastic training and that wider and more comprehensive department of mental acquirements—an intelligent comprehension of subjects and things with which he came in contact. His