

rendering the existence of animal life impossible.

RELATIONS WITH POWERS.

Our relations with Great Britain have continued on the most friendly footing. Assenting to our request, the protection of Americans and their interests in Spanish jurisdiction was assumed by the diplomatic and consular representatives of Great Britain, who fulfilled their delicate and arduous trust with tact and zeal, eliciting high commendation. I may be allowed to make fitting allusion to the instance of Mr. Ramsden, her majesty's consul at Santiago de Cuba, whose untimely death, after distinguished service and untiring efforts after the siege of that city, was sincerely lamented.

In the early part of April last, pursuant to a request made at the instance of the secretary of state to the British ambassador at this capitol, the Canadian government granted facilities for the passage for United States revenue cutters from the great lakes to the Atlantic coast by way of the Canadian canal and St. Lawrence river. The vessels had reached Lake Ontario and were there awaiting the opening of navigation when war was declared between the United States and Spain. Her majesty's government thereupon, by a communication of the latter part of April, stated that the permission granted before the outbreak of hostilities would not be withdrawn, provided the United States government gave assurance that the vessel in question would proceed direct to a United States port without engaging in any hostile operation. This government promptly agreed to the stipulated condition, it being understood that the vessel would be prohibited from resenting any hostile attack.

CANADIAN QUIBBLES.

It will give me special satisfaction if I shall be authorized to communicate to you a favorable conclusion of the pending negotiations with Great Britain in respect to the Dominion of Canada. It is the earnest wish of this government to remove all sources of discord and irritation in relations with the neighboring dominion. The trade between the two countries is constantly increasing, and it is important to both countries that all reasonable facilities should be granted for its development.

The government of Greece strongly urges the onerousness of the duty here imposed upon the currents of that country, amounting to 100 per cent, or more of their market value. This fruit is stated to be exclusively a Greek product, not coming into competition with any domestic product. The question of reciprocal commercial relations with Greece, including the restoration of currents to the free list, is under consideration.

The long standing claim of Berard Campbell for damages for injuries sustained from a violent assault committed against him by military authorities in the island of Haiti has been settled by the agreement of that republic to pay him \$10,000 in American gold. Of this sum, \$5,000 has already been paid. It is hoped that other pending claims of American citizens against that republic may be amicably adjusted.

ANNEXATION OF HAWAII.

Pending the consideration by the Senate of the treaty signed June 16, 1897, by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and the Republic of Hawaii, providing for the annexation of the island, a joint resolution to accomplish the same purpose by accepting the offered cession and incorporating the ceded territory into the Union, was adopted by the Congress and approved July 7, 1898. I thereupon directed the United States steamer *Philadelpia* to convey Rear Admiral Miller to Honolulu and

entrusted to his hands this important legislative act to be delivered to the president of the Republic of Hawaii, with whom the admiral and the United States minister were authorized to make appropriate arrangements for transferring the sovereignty of the islands to the United States. This was simply but impressively accomplished on the 12th day of August last, by the delivery of a certified copy of the resolution to President Dole, who thereupon yielded up to the representative of the government of the United States the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands.

Pursuant to the terms of the joint resolution and in exercise of authority thereby conferred upon me, I directed that the civil, judicial and military powers heretofore exercised by the officers of the government of the Republic of Hawaii should continue to be exercised by those officers until Congress shall provide a government for the incorporated territory subject to my power to remove such officers and to fill vacancies. The president, officers and troops of the republic thereupon took the oath of allegiance to the United States, thus providing for the uninterrupted continuance of all the administrative and municipal functions of the annexed territory until Congress shall otherwise enact.

Following the further provision of the joint resolution, I appointed the Honorable Shelby A. Culom, of Illinois; John T. Morgan, of Alabama; Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois; Sanford B. Dole, of Hawaii, and Walter F. Grier, of Hawaii, as commissioners to confer and recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian islands as they should deem necessary or proper. The commissioners, having fulfilled the mission confided to them, their report will be laid before you at an early day. It is believed that their recommendations will have the earnest consideration due to the magnitude of the responsibility resting upon you to give such shape to the relationship of those mid-Pacific lands to our home union as will benefit both in the highest degree, realizing the aspirations of the community that has cast its lot with us and elected to share our political heritage, while, at the same time, justifying the foresight of those who for three quarters of a century have looked to the assimilation of Hawaii as a natural and inevitable consummation, in harmony with our needs and in fulfillment of our cherished traditions.

HAWAII AND JAPAN.

The questions heretofore pending between Hawaii and Japan, growing out of the alleged mistreatment of Japanese treaty immigrants, were, I am pleased to say, adjusted before the act of transfer by the payment of a reasonable indemnity to the government of Japan.

Under the provisions of the joint resolution, the existing customs relations of the Hawaiian islands with the United States and with other countries remain unchanged until legislation shall otherwise provide. The consuls of Hawaii, here and in foreign countries, continue to fulfill their commercial agencies, while the United States consulate at Honolulu is maintained for all proper services pertaining to trade and the revenue. It would be desirable that all foreign consuls in the Hawaiian islands should receive new exequators from this government.

U. S. CONSULATES CEASE.

The attention of Congress is called to the fact that our consular offices having ceased to exist in Hawaii, and being about to cease in other countries coming under the sovereignty of the United States, the provisions for the relief and transportation of destitute American seamen in these countries un-

der our consular regulations, will, in consequence, terminate. It is proper, therefore, that new legislation should be enacted upon this subject in order to meet the changed conditions.

The interpretation of certain provisions of the extradition convention of December 11, 1861, has been at various times the occasion of controversy with the government of Mexico.

MEXICAN EXTRADITION.

An acute difference arose in the case of the Mexican demand for the delivery of Jesus Guerrera, who having led a marauding expedition near the border with the proclaimed purpose of inciting insurrection against President Diaz, escaped into the United States. Extradition was refused on the ground that the alleged offense was political in its character and therefore came within the treaty proviso of non-surrender. The Mexican contention was that the exception only related to purely political offenses, and that as Guerrera's acts were admixed with the common crime of murder, arson, kidnapping and robbery, the option of non-delivery became void, a position which this government was unable to admit. In view of the received international doctrine and practice in the matter, The Mexican government in view of this gave notice on January 24, 1898, of the termination of the convention, to take effect twelve months from that date, at the same time inviting the conclusion of a convention toward which negotiations are on foot. In this relation I may refer to the necessity of some amendment of our existing extradition statute. It is a common stipulation of such treaties that neither party shall be bound to give up its own citizens, that the added proviso in one of our treaties, that with Japan, that it may surrender if it see fit. It is held in this country by an almost uniform course of decisions, that where a treaty negatives the obligation to surrender, the president is not invested with legal authority to act. The confirmation of such authority would be in the line of that sound morality which shrinks from affording secure asylum to the author of a heinous crime. Again, statutory provision might be well made for what is styled extradition by way of transit, whereby a fugitive surrendered by one foreign government to another may be conveyed across the territory of the United States to the jurisdiction of the demanding state. A recommendation in this behalf, made in the President's message of 1886, was not acted upon. The matter is presented for your consideration.

SMUGGLING LEGISLATION.

The problem of the Mexican free zone has been often discussed with regard to its inconvenience as a provocation of smuggling into the United States along an extensive line and thinly-guarded land border. The effort made by the joint resolution of March 1, 1895, to remedy the abuse charged by suspending the privilege of free transportation in bond across the territory of the United States to Mexico failed of good result as is stated in report No. 702 of the House of Representatives, submitted in the last session, March 11, 1898. As the question is one to be conveniently met by wise concurrent legislation of the two countries looking to the protection of the revenues by harmonious measures operating equally on either side of the boundary, rather than by conventional arrangements I suggest that Congress consider the advisability of authorizing and inviting a conference of representatives of the treasury departments of the United States and Mexico to consider the subject in all its complex bearings and make report, with pertinent recommendations to the respective govern-