that would be thus occasioned can outbreaks. In defiance of the presi- partment, comprise the construction public and an advantage to paoduce in sufficiency, and it is to them scarcely be overestimated. I hope that dential proclamation of July 1st, 1884, of one steel cruiser of 4,500 tons, one the postal service. It is more that the surplus production of our the Secretary's suggestions respecting certain intruders sought to make set- cruiser of 3,000 tons, two heavily arm- than self-supporting, and for the rea- fields, our mills, and workshops should the withdrawal from circulation of the tlements in the Indian Territory. They ed gunboats, one light cruising gun- sons urged by the Postmaster General, flow; and under conditions that will \$1 and \$2 notes will receive your ap- were promptly removed by a detach- boat, one dispatch vessel armed with may properly be extended. It is the equalize or favor them in comparison proval. It is likely that a considerable ment of troops. During the past ses- Hotchkiss cannon, one armored ram opinion of that officer that it is proper with foreign competition, four paths portion of the silver now encumbering sion of Congress, a bill to provide a and three torpedo boats. The general to provide a and three torpedo boats. The general to provide a and three torpedo boats. the vaults of the Treasury might thus suitable fireproof building for the army designs, all of which are calculated to dispatch in dealing with letters in free First-A series of reciprocal commerfind its way into the currency.

TRADE DOLLARS.

While trade dollars have ceased for the present, at least, to be an element of active disturbance in our currency system, some provision should be made for their surrender to the Government in view of the circumstances under which they were coined, and of the steps may be taken to secure a place of fact that they have never had a legal tender quality there should be offered for them only a slight advance over their bullion value. The Secretary in the course of his report considers the propriety of beautitying the designs of our subsidary silver coins, and of so increasing their weight that they may bear their due ratio of value to the standard dollar. His conclusions in this regard are cordially approved. In my annual message of 1882, I recommended the abolition of all excise taxes except those relating to distilled spirits. This recommendation is now renewed. In case these taxes shall be abolished, the revenues that will still remain to government will in my opinion not only suffice to meet its reasonable expenditures, but will afford a surplus large enough to permit such tariff reduction as may seem to be ad- report of the Chief of Engineers as to consisted of the steam sealer Thetis, visable, when the results of recent the probability of protecting our imrevenue laws and commercial treaties shall have shown in what quarters these reductions can be most judicially effected.

FOREIGN TRADE.

One of the gravest of the problems which appeal to the wisdom of Congress for solution, is the ascertainment of the most effective means of increasing our foreign trade, and thus relieving the depression under which our industries are now languishing. The Secretary of the Treasury advised that the duty of investigating this subject be given in the first instance, to a competent commission. While recognizing the considerations that may be urged against this course, I am nevertheless of the opinion that upon the whole no other would be likely to effect speedier or better results; that portion of the Secretary's report which concerns the condition of our shipping interests cannot fail to command your attention. He emphatically recommends that as an incentive to the investment of American capital in American steamships, the Government shall by liberal payments for mail transportation or otherwise, lend its active assistance to individul enterprise, and declares his belief that If that course be not pursued, our foreign carrying trade must remain as it is to-day, almost exclusively in the hands of foreigners. One phase of this subject is now especially prominent, in view of the repeal of the act of June 26, 1884, of all salutary provisions arbitrarily compelling American vessels to carry the mails to and from the United States, as it is necessary to make provision to compensate the owners of such vessels for performing that service after April, 1885. It is hoped that the whole subject will should be established for the fabrica- of efficiency which formerly chatacterreceive an early consideration that will lead to the enactment of such measures for the revival of our merchant marine as the wisdom of Congress may devise.

BONDS REDEEMED.

ernment to the amount of nearly \$100,- vided at present with the necessary 000,000 has since my last annual mes- plant, are willing to construct the same sage been redeemed by the Treasury. and to make bids for contracts with The bonds of that issue still outstand- the government for the supply of ing amount to a little over \$200,000,000, the requisite material for the ral acquaints you with the present about one-fourth of which will be re- heaviest guns adapted to modern condition and needs of the postal sertired through the operation of the warfare. If a guaranteed order vice. It discloses the gratifying fact sinking fund during the coming year. of sufficient magnitude accom- that the mass of revenue from the re-As these bonds still continue to be the panied by a positive appropriation ex- duction in the rate of letter postage, as chief basis for circulation of the na- tending over a series of years should recommended in my message of Detional banks, the question of how to be made by Congress, all doubts as to cember, 1882, and effected by the act of avert the contraction of the currency | the feasibility of the plan being thus | March 3d, 1883, has been much less reference has more than once been caused by their retirement is of con- removed. I renew my recommenda- than was generally anticipated. My made to the policy of this Government stantly increasing importance. It tion that such action be taken by Con- recommendation of the reduction was as regards the extention of our foreign seems to be generally conceded that gress as will enable the government to based upon the belief that the actual trade. It seems proper to declare the the law governing this matter exacts construct its own ordinance upon its falling off in receipts from letter post- general principles that should, in my from the banks excessive security, and own property. upon their present bond deposits a larger circulation than is now allowed may be granted with safety. I hope The report of the Secretary 275,000. This is a trustworthy indica- We are a people much interested in the heads of the several executive that the bill which passed the Senate of the Navy exhibits the pro- tion that the revenue will soon be mechanical pursuits and fertile in in- departments of the government, reat the last session, permitting the is- gress which has been made on the restored to its former volume by the vention. We cover a vast extent of specting the practical workings of the sue of notes equal to the face value of new steam cruisers authorized by the natural increase of sealed correspond- territory rich in agricultural products, law under which the commission has deposited bonds, will commend itself acts of August 3d, 1882, and March 3d, ence. I confidently repeat, therefore, and in nearly all the raw materials been acting. The good results therein to the approval of the House of Repre- 1883, of the four vessels under con- the recommendation of my last annual necessary for successful manufacture: foreshadowed have been more than sentatives.

ment, the Secretary reports a decrease lanta, 5,000 tons, has been successfully to one cent wherever the pay- supply our own demands. The wages in securing competent and faithful of more than \$9,000,000, of which re- launched, and her machinery is now ment of two cents is now required of labor are nowhere else so great. public servants, and in protecting the duction \$5,600,000 was effected in the fitting. The Boston, also of 3,000 tons, by law. The double rate is only ex- The scale of living of our artisan appointing officers of the government expenditures for rivers and harbors, is ready for launching, and the Dolphin acted at offices where the carrier sys- classes is such as tends to secure their from the pressure of personal imporand \$2,700,000 in the expenditures for a dispatch boat of 2,500 tons, is ready tem is in operation, and it appears personal comfort and the develop- tunity and from the labor of examining the quartermaster's department. Out- for delivery. Several adverse criti- that at these offices the increase in ment of those higher morals and pretensions of rival side of that department, the annual cisms upon the designs of these cruis- tax upon local letters defrays the cost intellectaal qualities that go candidates for public employment. The expenses of all the army bureaus pro- ers are discussed by the Secretary who not only of its own collection and de- to the making of good citizens. law has had the unit and elsap ort of per (except, possibly, the ordinance insists that the correctness of the con- livery, out the collection and delivery Our system of tax and tariff legislation the President and or the heads of the bureau) are substantially fixed charges | clusions reached by the Advisory of all other mail matter. This is an in- is yielding a revenue which is in excess | several departments, and the members of the army. The expenditures in the ments in ship-building. quartermaster's department can readi-ly be subjected to administrative dis-ly be subjected to administrative discretion, and it is reported by the Sec- phitrite, contracted for under the act of one-half ounce as it now is. In view Our national marine should de raised the existing statute as shall commend retary of War, that as a result of ex- March 3d, 1884, are in process of con- of the statistics furnished by the de- from its enfeebled condition and new themselves to the executive and the ercising such discretion in reducing struction. No work has been done partment, it may well be doubted markets provided for the sale beyond commissioners with its administration. the number of draught and pack ani- during the past year on their armor whether the change would result in our borders of the manifold fruits of In view of the general and persistent mals in the army, the annual cost of for lack of the necessary appropria- any loss of revenue; that it would our industral enterprises. The prob- demand throughout a commercial comis now \$1,108,080.90 less than it was in still remains unfinished at the navy the public is beyond dispute. The free no single measure of innovation or re- hope the differences of sentiments

THE INDIANS.

show that the last year has been not- moh. The reconstructions of the Navai adoption, under proper conditions, that source we should obtain what we two years has been raging in the counable for its entire freedom from Indian Advisory Board, approved by the de- is equally accommodating to the do not produce, or what we do not tries of the East recently made its ap-

Representatives by one of the com- cessary authority. mittees, is still pending before that body. It is hoped that during the coming sesssion the measure may become law, and that thereafter immediate safe deposit for these valuable collections, now in a state of insecurity. The funds with which all the works for the improvement of rivers and harbors were prosecuted during the past year were derived from the appropriation of the act of August 2d, 1882, together with such few balances as were on hand from previous appropriations. The balance in the Treasury subject to requisition, July 1st, 1883, was \$10,021,-694.55. The amount appropriated during the fiscal year of 1884. was \$13,963,-462, and the amount drawn from the Treasury during the fiscal year was \$2,238,703.51, leaving a balance of \$3,-112,780.63 in the Treasury, subject to requisition July 1st, 1884.

COAST DEFENCES.

The Secretary of War submits the portant cities on the seaboard by fortifications and other defences able to repel modern methods of attack. The they will not prove abortive, and when the possible result of delay in making the most important cities, those whose destruction or capture would be a national humiliation, adequate defences, inclusive of guns, may be made by the sum much less than a victorious enemy could levy as a contribution. An ap-Department is proceeding with the conversion of 10-inch smooth-bore guns into 8-inch rifles, by lining the former with tubes of forged or of coiled converted within the year. This, howproviding means for the construction of guns of the highest power, both for the purpose of coast defence and for the armament of war vessels.

HEAVY ORDNANCE.

March 26, 1884, I called attention to tributed to its success. the recommendation of the board that the required material for heavy cannon | cannot too strongly urge on their atand that two government factories, one tention the duty of restoring our navy sure its ultimate payment. for the army and one for the navy, as rapidly as possible to the high state tion of guns, from such material. No ized it. As the slong peace that has The report of the Utah commission will action having been taken the board lulled us into a sense of fancied securwas subsequently re-convened to de- ity may at at any time be disturbed, it termine more fully the plans and esti- is plain that the policy of strengthenmates necessary for carrying out its ing this arm of the service is dictated recommendations. It has received in- by considerations of use, economy, of formation which indicates that there just regard for our future tranquility, are responsible steel manufacturers in and of a true appreciation of the dig-The three per cent bonds of the gov- this country, who although, not pro- nity and honor of the republic.

THE NAVY.

THE GREELY RELIEF EXPEDITION.

The act of Congress approved August 7, 1882, authorized the removal to the United States of the bodies of Lieutenant Commander George W. De-Long and his companions of the Jeannette expedition. This has been successfully accomplished by Lieutenants Herber and Schutze. The remains were taken from their grave in the Lena delta in March, 1883, and were retained at Yakutsk until the following winter, the season being too far advanced to admit of their immediate transportation. They arrived at New York on February 20, 1884, where they were received with suitable honors.

In pursuance of the joint resolution of Congress, approved February 1, 1884, a naval expedition was fitted out for the relief of Lieutenant A. W. Greeley, of the United States Army, and the party who had been engaged under his command in scientific observations at Lady Franklin Bay. The fleet purchased at St. Johns, N. F., and the laws. Alert, which was generously provided by the British government. Preparatime has now come when such defences tions for the expedition were promptly can be prepared with confidence that made by the Secretary of the Navy with the active co-operation of the Secretary of War. Commander George sidered, delay seems inexcusable. For the Alert, and Lieutenant W. H. Emory in command of the Bear. The Thetis was entrusted to Commander Winfield s. Copeland, to whom was, also, assigned the superintendency of the engradual expenditure of \$60,000,000, a tire expedition. Immediately upon its arrival at Upernavik, the fleet began the dangerous navigation of Melville propriation of about one-tenth that Bay, and in spite of every obstacle amount is asked to begin the work, and reached Littleton Island on June 22nd, I concur with the Secretary of War in a fortnight earlier than any vessel beurging that it be granted. The War fore had obtained that point. On the one of unbroken peace. In this cirsame day it crossed over to Cape Sabine, where Lieut. Greely and the survivors of his party were discovered. After taking on board the living and the wrought iron. Fifty guns will be thus bodies of the dead, the relief ships sailed views which were fully expressed in for St. Johns, where they arrived on his first communion to the Fortyever, does not obviate the necessity of July 17th. They were appropriately seventh Congress. The Secretary received at Portsmouth, N.H., on Aug. 1st, and at New York on August 8th. for the punishment of crimes commit-One of the bodies was landed at the ted on Indian reservations, and recomformer place, the others were put on shore at Governor's Island, and with ing in the House of Representatives the exception of one which was inter- for the purchase of a tract of 1,800 The report of the gun foundry board | red in the National Cemetery, were forappointed April 2, 1883, in pursuance of warded thence to the destination indithe act of March 3, 1883, was transmit- cated by friends. The organization of approval. I concur with him also ted to Congress in the annual message and conduct of this relief expedition in advising the repeal of the preempof February 8, 1884. In my message of reflects great credit upon all who con- tion law, the enactment of statutes re-

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The report of the Postmaster-Gene-000,000. It has proved to be only \$2,these vessels, and to provide also an offices in which it is now in operation for the United States the natural mar- session. The reports of military commanders armament for the monitor Miantono- is 169. Experience shows that its ket of supply and demand. It is from The pestilence which for the past

efficient mail service, that with due re- served home coasting. furnished for its accommodation.

WITNESS AND JURY FEES.

and the bureau of education.

INDIANS AND GOVERNMENT LANDS. Allusion has already been made to the circumstances that both as between different tribes and as between Indians and the whites, the past year has been cumstance the President is glad to find justification for the policy of the Government in dealing with the Indian question and a confirmation of the urges anew the enactment of a statute mends the passage of a bill now pendsquare miles from the Sioux reservation. Both these measures are worthy solving the present legal complications In this the last of the state messages touching lapsed grants to railroad the government should encourage the that I shall have the honor to transmit companies, and the funding of the debt protection of private steel works, of to the Congress of the United States, I of the several Pacific railroads under such guarantry as shall effectually in-

UTAH COMMISSION.

be read with interest. It discloses the results of recent legislation looking to the presentation and punishment of Polygamy in that Territory. I still believe that if that abominable practice can be suppressed by law, it can only be by the most radical legislation consistent with the restraints of the constitution. I again recommend, therefore, that Congress assume absolute political control of the Territory of Utah and provide for the appointment of a commission with such governmental power as in its judgment may justly and wisely be put into their hands.

FOREIGN LANDS.

In the course of this communication,

medical museum and the library of the meet the existing wants of the service, delivery offices may be secured by the cial treaties with the countries of Surgeon General's office, received the are now well advanced and the con- payment of extraordinary postage. America which shall foster between us approval of the Senate. A similar bill struction of the vessels can be under- This scheme might be made effective and them an unhampered movement of reported favorably to the House o, taken as soon as you shall give the ne- by the employment of a special stamp, trade. The conditions of these treaties whose cost should be commensurate | should be the free admission of such with the expense of the extra service. | merchandise as this country does not In some of the large cities private ex- produce in return for fadmission free, press companies have undertaken to or under a favored scheme of duties of outstrip the Government mail carriers our products. The benefits of such by affording for the prompt transmis- an exchange to apply on those goods sion of letters, better facilities than carried under the flag of the parties to have hitherto been at the command o | the contract. The removal on both the postoffice. It has always been th | tonnage dues and national imports, so policy of the Government to discour- that their vessels may ply unhindered age such enterprises, and in no better between our ports and those of the way can that policy be maintained than other contracting parties, though in supplying the public with the most without infringing on the regard to its own best interests can be the removal or reduction of burdens on the exported products of those countries coming within the benefit of the treaties, and the avoidance of the The Attorney General renews the technical restrictions and penalties by recommendation contained in his re- which our intercourse with those port of last year of touching the fees countries is at present hampered. Seof witnesses and jurors. He favors condly-The establishment of the conradical changes in the fee bill; the sular service of the United States on a adoption of a system by which attor- salaried footing; permitting the relinneys and marshalls of the United quishment of consular fees not only as States should be compensated solely respects vessels under the national by salaries; and the erection by the flag, but also as respects vessels of the Government of a penitentiary for the treaty nations carrying goods entitled purchased from England; the Bear, confinement of offenders against the to the benefits of the treaties. Thirdly —The enactment of measures to favor Of the varied Governmental concerns | the construction and maintenance of a in charge of the Interior Department, steam carrying marine, funder the flag the reports of its Secretary present an of the United States. Fourthry-The interesting summary. Among the establishment of an uniform currency topics deserving particular attention, basis for the countries of America, so I refer you to his observations respect- that the coined products of our mines such preparations are seriously con- W. Coffin was placed in command of ing our Indian affairs, the pre-emption may circulate on equal terms throughand timber culture acts, the failure of out the whole system of commonrailroad companies to take title to wealths. This would require a monelands granted by the Government, and tary union of America whereby the the operations of the pension office, output of the bullion-producing counthe patent office, the census bureau, tries, and the circulation of those which yield neither gold nor silver, could be adjusted in conformity with the population, wealth and commercial needs of each. As many of the countries furnish no bullion to the common stock, the surplus production of our mines and mints might thus be utilized, and a step taken towards the general remonetization of silver. To the accomplishment of these ends, so far as they can be attained by separate treaties, the negotiations already concluded, and now in progress, have been directed, and the favor with which this enlarged policy has thus far been received, warrants the belief that its operations will ere long embrace all or nearly all the countries of this hemisphere. It is by no means desirable, however, that the policy under consideration should be applied to these countries alone. The heatlthful enlargement of our trade with Europe, Asia and Africa should be sought by reducing the tariff burdens on such of their wares as neither we nor the other American States are fitted to produce, and thus enabling ourselves to obtain in return a better market for our supplies of food, of raw material, and of the manufactures in which we excel. .

PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE.

It seems to me that many of the embarrassing elements in the great national conflict between protection and free trade may thus be turned to good account; that the revenue may be reduced so as no longer to overtax the people. The protective duties may be retained without becoming burdensome, that our shipping interests may be judiciously arranged and the currency fixed on a firm basis; and, above all, such a unity established among the States of the American system as will be of great and ever increasing advantage to them all. All treaties in the line of this policy, which have been negotiated or are in progress of negotiation, contain a provision deemed to be requisite under the clause of the Constitution limiting to the House of Representatives the authority to originate for raising revenue.

CIVIL SERVICE

On the 29th of February last I transage for the year immediately succeed- opinion, underlie our national efforts mitted to Congress the first annual reing the change of rates would be \$3,- in this direction. The main conditions port of the civil service commission, of the problem may be thus stated: together with communications from tract, one, the Chicago, of 4,500 tons, message, that single rate postage we have a system of productive es- realized. The system has fully an-In the expenses of the War Depart- is more than half finished. The At- upon drop letters be reduced tablishments more than sufficient to swered the anticipations of its friends which cannot be materially diminished Board and by the Department have equality that ought no longer to exist. of the government. of the commission have performed withoutchangein the numerical strength been demonstrated by recent develop- I approve the recommendation of the These are elements from which it is their duties with zeal and fidelity. Postmaster General that the unit of sought to devise a scheme by which Their report will shortly be submitted supplying and caring for such animals tion. A fourth monitor, the Monadock, greatly promote the convenience of lem is complex, and can be solved by munity for a general bankrupt law, I yard in California. It is recommended delivery system has been lately applied form. The countries of the American which have hitherto prevented its enthat early steps be taken to complete to five cities, and the total number of continent and the adjacent islands are actment may not outlast the present

and articles which commission in a Sais Lake Secularists on the house