

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 24.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1862.

VOL. XII.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Since your last assembling another year of health and bountiful harvests has passed and, while it has not pleased the Almighty to bless us with a return of peace, we cannot but press on guarded by the best light he gives us, trusting that in his own time and wise way all will be well.

The correspondence touching foreign affairs which has taken place during the last year is herewith submitted in compliance with a request to that effect made by the House of Representatives near the close of the last session of Congress.

If the condition of our relations with other nations is less gratifying than it has usually been at other periods, it is certainly more satisfactory than a nation so unhappily distracted as we are might reasonably apprehend.

In the month of June last there were some grounds to expect that the maritime powers which, at the beginning of our domestic difficulties, so unwisely and so unsuccessfully, as we think, recognised the insurgents as a belligerent power, would soon recede from that position which has proved no less injurious to themselves than to our own country; but the temporary reverses which afterwards befel the national arms, and which were exaggerated by our own disloyal citizens abroad have hitherto deferred that act of simple justice.

The civil war, which has so radically changed for the moment, the occupations and habits of the American people, has necessarily disturbed the social conditions and affected very deeply the prosperity of the nation with which we have carried on a commerce that has been steadily increasing throughout a period of half a century. It has at the same time excited political ambitions and apprehensions which have produced a profound agitation throughout the civilized world.

In this unusual agitation we have forbore taking part in any controversy between parties and factions in any such States. We have attempted no propagandism and acknowledged no revolutions. We have left to every nation the exclusive conduct and management of its own affairs.

Our struggle has been, of course, contemplated by foreign nations with reference less to its own merits than to its supposed and often exaggerated effects and consequences resulting to those nations themselves; nevertheless, complaint on the part of this government, even if it were just, would be unwise.

The treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of the slave trade has been put into operation, with a good prospect of complete success. It is on this occasion a real pleasure to acknowledge that the extension of it on the part of her Majesty's government has been marked with a jealous respect for the authorities of the United States and the rights of their moral and loyal citizens.

The convention with Hanover for the abolition of the State dues has been carried into full effect under the act of Congress for that purpose.

A blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast could not be established and vigorously enforced in a season of great commercial activity like the present without committing occasional mistakes and inflicting unintentional injuries upon foreign nations and their subjects. A civil war occurring in a country where foreigners reside and carry on a trade under treaty stipulations is necessarily fruitful of complaints of the violation of neutral rights. All such collisions tend to excite misapprehensions, and possibly to produce reclamations from nations which have a common interest in preserving peace and friendship. In clear cases of this kind I have, so far as possible, heard and redressed complaints which have been preferred by foreign powers. There is, however, a large and augmenting number of doubtful cases in which this Government is unable to agree with the government whose protection is demanded by the claimants. There are, moreover, many cases in which the United States or their citizens suffer wrongs from the Naval or Military authorities of foreign nations, which the government of those States are not prepared to redress. I have proposed to some of the foreign ministers thus interested, mutual conventions to examine and adjust such complaints. This proposition has been especially made to Great Britain, to France, to Spain and to Prussia. In each case it has been kindly received, but has not been formally adopted.

I deem it my duty to recommend an appropriation in behalf of the owners of the Norwegian barque, "Admiral P. Torciens," Riola, which vessel was, in May, 1861, prevented by

the commander of the blockading force off Charleston, from leaving that port with cargo, notwithstanding a similar privilege had shortly before been granted to an English vessel. I have directed the Secretary of State to cause the papers in the case to be communicated to the proper committee.

Applications have been made to me by many free Americans of African descent to favor their emigration. With a view to such colonization as was contemplated in recent acts of Congress, other parties at home and abroad, some from interested motives, others upon patriotic principles, and still others influenced by philanthropic sentiments, have suggested similar measures; while on the other hand, several of the Spanish American Republics have protested against the sending of such colonies to their respective territories. Under these circumstances, I have declined to move any such colony to any State without first obtaining the consent of its government, with an agreement on its part to recognize and protect such emigrants in all their rights as freemen; and I have at the same time offered to the several States situated in the tropics, or having colonies there, to negotiate with them, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, to favor the voluntary removal of portions of that class to their respective territories, upon conditions which shall be equal, just and humane. Liberia and Hayti are yet the only countries to which colonies of African descent could go with a certainty of being received and adopted as citizens; and I regret to say that such persons contemplating colonization do not seem so willing to emigrate to these countries as to some others, nor so willing as I think their interest demands. I believe, however, that the opinion is improving, and that ere long there will be an augmented and considerable emigration to both these countries from the United States.

The new commercial treaty between the United States and the Sultan of Turkey has been carried into execution. A commercial and consular treaty has been recognized, subject to the Senate's consent, with Liberia, and a similar negotiation is now pending with the Republic of Hayti. A considerable improvement of the National commerce is expected to result from these measures.

Our relations with Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden and Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Rome and the other European States remain undisturbed. Very favorable relations also continue to be maintained with Turkey, Morocco, China and Japan.

During this last year there has not only been no change of our previous relations with the independent States of our continent, but more friendly relations than have been heretofore existing, are believed to be entertained by our neighbors, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with our own. This statement especially applies to Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru and Chili.

The commission under the convention with the Republic of New Grenada closed its session without having audited and passed upon all the claims which were submitted to it. A proposition is pending to revive the convention, that it may be able to do more complete justice.

The commission between the U. S. and the republic of Costa Rica has completed its labors, and submitted its report.

I have favored the project of connecting the United States with Europe by an Atlantic telegraph, and a similar project to extend the telegraph from San Francisco, to connect by a Pacific telegraph wire with the wire that is being extended across the Russian Empire.

The Territories of the United States, with unimportant exceptions, have remained undisturbed by the civil war, and are exhibiting such evidence of prosperity, as justifies an expectation that some of them will soon be in a condition to be organized as States, and be constitutionally admitted into the Federal Union. The immense mineral resources of some of these Territories ought to be developed as rapidly as possible. Every step in that direction, would have a tendency to improve the revenues of the government, and to diminish the burdens of the people. It is worthy of your serious consideration, whether some extraordinary measures to promote that end cannot be adopted. The measure which suggests itself as most likely to be effective, is a scientific exploration of the mineral regions in these Territories, with a view to the publication of its results at home and in foreign countries—results which cannot fail to be auspicious.

The condition of the finances will claim your most diligent consideration. The vast expenditures incident to the military and naval operations required for the suppression of the rebellion, have hitherto been met with a promptitude certainly unusual in similar circumstances, and the public credit has been fully maintained. The continuance of the

war, however, and the increased disbursements made necessary by the augmented forces now in the field, demand your best reflection as to the best means of providing the necessary revenue without injury to business, and with the least possible burdens upon labor.

The suspension of specie payment by the banks soon after the commencement of your last session, made large issues of United States notes unavoidable. In no other way could the payment of the troops and other just demands be so economically or as well provided for. The judicious legislation of Congress securing the receivability of these notes for loans and internal duties, making them a legal tender for other debts, has made them universal currency, and has satisfied partially at least, and for the time the long felt want of a uniform circulating medium, saving thereby to the people immense sums in discount and exchange. A return to specie payments, however, at the earliest period compatible with a due regard to all interests should ever be kept in view. Fluctuations in the value of currency are always injurious and, to reduce these fluctuations to the truest possible point, will always be a leading purpose in wise legislation. Prompt and certain convertibility into coin is generally acknowledged to be the best and surest guard against them; and it is extremely doubtful whether a circulation of United States notes, payable in coin and sufficiently large for the wants of the people, can be permanently, usefully and safely maintained. Is there any other mode in which the necessary provision for the public wants can be made and the advantages of a safe and uniform currency secured? I know of none which promises so certain results and, at the same time so unobjectionable, as the organization of Banking Institutions under a general act of Congress well guarded in its propositions. To such Associations the government might furnish circulating notes on the security of United States Bonds deposited in the Treasury. These notes, prepared under the supervision of proper officers, being uniform in appearance and security and convertible always with certainty, would at once protect labor against the evils of a vicious currency and facilitate commerce by cheap and safe exchanges. A moderate reservation from the interest of the bonds would compensate the United States for the preparation and distribution of the notes and a general extension of the system and would lighten the burden of that part of the public debt employed as security. The public credit, moreover, would be greatly improved, and the negotiation of new loans greatly facilitated by the great demand for government bonds, which the adoption of the proposed system would create. It is an additional recommendation of the measure of considerable weight, in my judgment, that it would reconcile, as far as possible, all existing interests by the opportunity offered to existing institutions only to exchange the secured, uniform national circulation for the local and various circulation, secured and unsecured, now issued by them.

The receipts into the Treasury from all sources, including loans and balances from the preceding year, for the fiscal year ending on the thirtieth of June 1862 were \$583,885,247 66; of which sum \$49,098,392 62 were derived from customs; \$1,795,331 73 from the direct tax, from public lands, \$152,203 77; from miscellaneous sources, \$931,789 64. From loans in all forms, \$529,692,360 50. The remainder, \$257,065 50 was the balance from last year.

The disbursements during the same period were: For Congressional, Executive and Judicial purposes, \$5,939,000 29; for foreign intercourse, \$1,239,710 35; for miscellaneous expenses, including the mint loans, post offices, deficiencies, collection of revenue and other like charges, \$14,129,701 00; for expense under the Interior department, \$3,102,985 52; under the War department, \$384,368,407 38; under the Navy department, \$42,674,589 69; for interest on the public debt, \$13,190,324 45 and for the payment of the public debt, including reimbursement of temporary loan and redemption \$96,096,923 09—making an aggregate of \$570,841,700 25, and leaving a balance in the Treasury on the first day of July 1862 of \$13,043,446 81. It should be observed that the sum of \$96,096,923 09 expended for reimbursements and redemption of the public debt, being included also in the loans made, may be properly deducted both from the receipts and expenditures, leaving the actual receipts for the year, \$487,788,324 97 and the expenditures, \$474,741,788 16.

Other information on the subject of the finances will be given in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whose statements and views I invite your most considerate attention.

The reports of the Secretaries of the Navy and War are herewith transmitted. These reports, though lengthy, are scarcely more than brief extracts of the very numerous and

extensive transactions and operations conducted through these departments; nor could I give a summary of them here upon any principle which would admit of its being much shorter than the reports themselves. I therefore content myself with laying the reports before you and asking your attention to them.

It gives me pleasure to report a decided improvement in the financial condition of the Post Office department, as compared with the several preceding years. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861, amounted to \$8,349,296 40, which embraced the revenue from all the States of the Union for three quarters of that year. Notwithstanding the cessation of revenue from the so-called Confederate States during the last fiscal year, the increase of the correspondence of the loyal States has been sufficient to produce a revenue during the same year of \$8,299,820 90, being only \$50,000 less than was derived from all the States of the Union in the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount expended in 1861 was \$13,606,789 11. For the last year the amount has been reduced to \$11,125,364 13, showing a difference of about \$2,481,425 00 in the expenditure as compared with the preceding year, about \$37,500 00 as compared with the fiscal year of 1860. The deficiency in the debt for the previous year was \$4,551,966 98; for the last fiscal year it was reduced to \$2,112,814 57. These results are in fact owing to the cessation of mail conveyance in the insurrectionary States, and in part to a casual review of all expenditure in that department. In addition to the economy, the efficiency of the postal service, it is believed, has also been much improved.

The Post Master General has also opened a correspondence through the department of State with foreign governments, proposing a convention of postal representatives for the purpose of simplifying the rates of foreign postage and to expedite the foreign mails. This proposition, equally important to our adopted citizens and to the commercial interests of the country, has been favorably entertained and agreed to by all the governments from whom replies have been received.

I ask the attention of Congress to the suggestion of the Post Master General in his report respecting the further legislation required in his opinion for the benefit of the postal service.

The Secretary of the Interior reports as follows in regard to public lands:

The "public lands have ceased to be a source of revenue, from the first of July, 1861, to the 30th of Sept. 1862. The entire cash receipts from the sales of public lands were \$137,477 26; a sum much less than the expenses of our land system during the same period. The Homestead Law, which will take effect on the 1st of January next, offers such inducements to settlers that sales for such cannot be expected to an extent sufficient to meet the expenses of the General Land Office and cost of surveying and bringing the land into market."

The discrepancy between the sums here stated as arising from the sales of public lands and the sum derived from the same source as reported from the Treasury Department arises, as I understand, from the fact that the periods of time, though appointed, were not really coincident at the beginning point. The Treasury Report includes a considerable sum now which had previously been reported from the Interior sufficiently large to greatly overreach the sum derived from the three months now reported upon by the Interior and not by the Treasury Department.

The Indian tribes upon our frontier have during the past year manifested a spirit of insubordination, and, at several points, engaged in open hostilities against the white settlers in their vicinity.

The tribes occupying the Indian country south of Kansas revoked their allegiance to the United States and entered into a treaty with the insurgents. Those who remained loyal to the United States were driven from the country. The chief of the Cherokees has visited this city for the purpose of restoring the former relations of the tribe with the United States. He alleges that they were constrained by superior forces to enter into treaties with the insurgents, and that the United States neglected to furnish the protection which their treaty stipulation required.

In the month of August last, the Sioux Indians in Minnesota attacked the settlers in their vicinity with extreme ferocity, killing indiscriminately men, women and children. This attack was wholly unexpected and therefore no defence had been prepared. It is estimated that not less than eight hundred persons were killed by the Indians and a large amount of property was destroyed.

How this outbreak was induced is not definitely known; and suspicions which may be unjust need not be stated.

Information was received by the Indian Bureau from different sources about the same