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PRESIDENT HARRISON'S MESSAGE.

THE President's message, as delivered to Congress this day at noon, is presented to our readers in full this evening. It is a voluminous document, but, considering the range of its subjects, the varied interests of which it treats, and the importance of the issues involved, it is not by any means too verbose, but touches directly each topic brought to the attention of the country. So far as we can judge from a cursory inspection of the message, it is an able state paper and one worthy of the attention of the thinking portion of the American people. We have neither time nor space today to comment at any length upon its text; but we hope it will be perused with interest by many of our readers, and furnish to Congress suggestions which will result in such legislation as is needed that this nation may keep pace with the times.

The enemies of this Territory will doubtless be greatly disappointed at the absence of any special reference Utah affairs. Anti-Mormons who appear to think that the Government should be imbued with the same bitterness which rankles in their breasts, will be terribly disgruntled at the President's ignoring of their rabid suggestions, and his failure to recommend the unrepublican legislation proposed by the so-called "Liberals" and endorsed by a majority of the Utah Commission. President Harrison has exhibited more wisdom in this than we had expected, and we are glad that his statesmanlike address is not defaced with that partisan and sectarian prejudice which has disfigured so many documents of this class. The message is long, but it has depth and breadth. Take time and read it.

AN IMPORTANT CAUSE.

NEXT Monday the Idaho test oath case will be argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. F. S. Richards, Esq., of this city, and Judge Jere Wilson, of Washington, D. C., will appear in behalf of the appellant, whose case comes up on a writ of habeas corpus. It is to be hoped that the record is in such perhaps that the full merits of the cause can be considered by the court of last resort. It is one of the most important questions relating to the "Mormon" question that has ever been argued before a judicial body. If a territorial legislature can deprive citizens of the elective franchise simply for membership in an unorthodox Church, then the religious liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States are shams, and the language of the supreme law is delusive and deceptive. If the august tribunal before which this cause is to be contested was above all political and popular pressure, as of right it ought to be, we would not have the slightest doubt as to the result. But the force of public prejudice is great and human nature is much the same in all grades and positions of earthly life. We can therefore only hope and trust that justice will be done, and that the final earthly arbiters of this cause will be guided only by the veritable facts and the provisions of the Constitution.

THE COMMISSIONERS COMING.

THE Utah Commissioners have been notified by the Secretary of the Interior that they are needed at their post of duty. They, or a majority of them, will be here next week and are expected to arrive on Monday the 9th inst. All citizens who desire a fair and free election will welcome these officials, and rejoice that at least an opportunity will be afforded them to do justly by both parties in the political contest. That dirty registrars have been discriminating against members of the People's Party is too notorious to be disputed. There is yet time for these officers to purge their record and make some show of fairness. It is a dangerous thing to conspire against the free exercise of the elective franchise. Any man who does this exposes himself to the operations of the criminal law. If the "Liberals" have, as they claim, a majority of the legal votes in this city, there is no need to resort to the contemptible tricks and subterfuges and obstructions which have characterized their conduct of this campaign. But what could be expected after the record of its managers is read and considered? We hail with pleasure the coming of the Commission.

PAUSE AND REFLECT.

WHAT do these halters between two opinions think now of the protestations and denials of the so-called "Liberal" party, in reference to the schemes against the liberties of the "Mormon" people? Of course they only want a fair election. They would not seek to deprive any citizen of political rights or privileges on account of his religion. They would not think of interfering with the freedom of conscience. They would not have an election gained by the means hinted at by the People's Party as contemplated by the political tricksters among the "Liberals." Oh! no. It was to be all fair, and honorable, and pure! Now what do decent people think of a plot to prevent good, peaceable, honest and moral men from becoming citizens solely on account of their religion? Of a scheme to prevent resident People's citizens from registering, and to crowd the lists with the names of non-residents who are Liberals—Italians and other foreigners, run in for the purpose, and run out again to their work at a distance? Of registering "Liberals" by the train-load and in saloons and hotels, and refusing registration to People's men because they are not in their homes? Of calling at People's houses when the citizen is sure to be absent and refusing to register him elsewhere? Of pushing off the registration of the People's voters as much as possible to the last week of the allotted time, so that there may be an excuse for crowding them out altogether? All this is very "honorable," is it not? And what of the avowed object of "Liberal" leaders to push this matter further, and procure the disfranchisement of every member of the "Mormon" Church, on no other ground than that he is a "Mormon"? Who should vote for such a party? Anybody but the low-lived, the vicious, the criminal and the rowdy elements which all belong to it. We think not. If we belonged to the non-"Mormon" portion of the community we would spurn with despising any party guilty of such disreputable conduct, and we think every property-owner should pause before casting a ballot to uphold such a contemptible crew.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

AN ABLE STATE DOCUMENT.

All the Leading National and International Questions Comprehensively Treated.

INTRODUCTION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1889.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

There are few transactions in the administration of the government, which are even temporarily held in the confidence of those charged with the conduct of the public business. Every step taken is under the observation of an intelligent and watchful people. The state of the Union is known from day to day, and suggestions as to needed legislation find an earlier voice than that which speaks in these annual communications of the President to Congress.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Good will and cordiality have characterized our relations and correspondence with other governments, and the year just closed leaves few international questions of importance remaining unadjusted. No obstacle is believed to exist that can long postpone the consideration and adjustment of the still-pending questions upon satisfactory and honorable terms. The dealings of this government with other states have been, and should always be, marked by frankness and sincerity. Our purposes are avowed and our methods free from intrigue. This course has borne rich fruit in the past, and it is our duty, as a nation, to preserve the heritage of good repute which a century of right dealing with foreign governments has secured to us. It is a matter of high significance and no less of congratulation that the first year of the second century of our constitutional existence finds as honored guests within our borders, the representatives of all the independent States of North and South America, met together in earnest conference touching the best methods of perpetuating and expanding the relations of mutual interest and friendliness extended among them. That the opportunity thus afforded for promoting closer international relations and the increased prosperity of the States represented will be used for the mutual good of all, I cannot permit myself to doubt. Our people will mark it with interest and confidence, the result to flow from so auspicious a meeting of allied and, in large part, identical interests.

The recommendations of this international conference of the enlightened statesmen will have the attention of Congress and its co-operation in the removal of unnecessary barriers to the beneficial intercourse between the nations of America; but while the commercial results, which it is hoped will follow this conference, are worthy of pursuit and of the great interest they have excited, it is believed that the crowning benefit will be found in the better securities which may be devised for the maintenance between the American nations and the settlement of all contentions by methods that a Christian civilization can approve. While viewing with interest our national resources and products, the delegates will, I am sure, find a higher satisfaction in the evidences of unselfish friendship which everywhere attend the intercourse with our people.

Another international conference, having great possibilities for good, has lately assembled, and is now in session in this Capital. An invitation was extended by this government, under the act of July 9, 1888, to all maritime nations to send delegates to confer touching the revision and amendment of the rules and regulations governing vessels, and to adopt a uniform system of maritime signals. The response to the invitation has been very general and very cordial. Delegates from twenty-six nations are present in the conference and they have entered upon their useful work with great zeal and with an ardent appreciation of its importance. So far as the agreement to be reached may require legislation to give it effect, the co-operation of Congress is confidently relied upon. It is an interesting and unprecedented fact that the two international conferences have brought here the accredited representatives of thirty-three nations. Bolivia, Ecuador and Honduras are now represented by resident envoys of the plenipotentiary grade. These states of the American system now maintain diplomatic representation at this capital.

In this connection it may be noted that all the nations of the western hemisphere with one exception send to Washington envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, being the highest grade accorded to this government. The United States, on the contrary, send envoys of a lower grade to some of our sister republics. Our representative in Paraguay and Nicaragua is a minister resident, while to Bolivia we send a minister resident and consul general. In view of the importance of our relations with the States of the American system our diplomatic agents in those countries should be of the uniform rank of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Certain missions were so elevated by the last Congress with happy effect, and I recommend the completion of the reform thus begun, with the inclusion also of Hawaii and Hayti, in view of their relations to the American system of States. I also recommend that timely provision be made for extending to Hawaii an invitation to be represented in the international conference now sitting at this capital.

THE CHINESE.

Our relations with China have the attentive consideration which their magnitude and interests demand. The failure of the treaty negotiated under the administration of my predecessor, for the further and more complete restriction of Chinese labor immigration and with it the legislation of the last session of Congress dependent thereon, leave some questions open which Congress should now approach in that wise and just spirit which should characterize the relations of two great and friendly powers. While our supreme interests demand the exclusion of a laboring element which experience has shown to be incompatible with our social life, all steps to compass our imperative needs, should be accompanied with a recognition of the claim of those strangers not lawfully among us to humane and just treatment. The accession of the young emperor of China marks, we may hope, an era of progress and prosperity for the great country over which he is called to rule.

THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

The present state of affairs in respect to the Samoan Islands is encouraging. The conference which was held in this city in the summer of 1887, between the representatives of the United States, Germany and Great Britain has been adjourned because of the persistent divergence of views which were developed in its deliberations. The subsequent course of events in the Islands give rise to questions of a serious character. On the 4th of February the German minister at this capital, in behalf of his government, proposed resumption of the conference at Berlin. This proposition was accepted, as Congress in February last was informed.

Pursuant to the understanding thus reached, commissioners were appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate who proceeded to Berlin, where the conference was renewed. The deliberations extended through several weeks and resulted in the conclusion of a treaty which will be submitted to the Senate for its approval. I trust that the efforts which have been made to effect an adjustment of this question will be productive of the permanent establishment of law and order in Samoa upon a basis of the maintenance of the rights and interests of the natives. The questions which have arisen during the past few years between Great Britain and the United States are in abeyance, or in course of adjustment.

THE FISHERIES.

On the part of the government of the Dominion of Canada an effect has been apparent during the season just ended to administer the laws and regulations applicable to the fisheries with as little occasion for friction as possible, and the temperate representations of this government in respect of cases of undue hardship, or of harsh interpretations, have been in most cases met with measures of transitory relief. It is trusted that the attainment of our just rights under existing treaties, and in virtue of the concurrent legislation of the two contiguous countries, will not be long deferred, and that all existing causes of difference may be equitably adjusted. I recommend that provision be made by an international agreement for a visible marking of the water boundary between the United States and Canada in the narrow channels that join the great lakes. The conventional line therein traced by the northwestern boundary survey years ago is not in all cases readily ascertainable for the settlement of jurisdictional questions.

EXTRADITION.

A just and acceptable enlargement of the list of offenses for which extradition may be claimed and granted, is most desirable between this country and Great Britain. The territory of neither should become a secure harbor for the evil-doers of the other, through any avoidable shortcoming in this regard. A new treaty on this subject between the two powers has been recently negotiated and will soon be laid before the Senate.

OBSTRUCTING COMMERCE.

The importance of the commerce of Cuba and Porto Rico with the United States, their nearest and principal market, justifies the expectation that the existing relations may be beneficially expanded. The impediments resulting from varying dues on navigation, and from the vexatious treatment of our vessels on merely technical grounds of complaint in the West India ports should be removed. The progress toward an adjustment of pending claims between the United States and Spain is not as rapid as could be desired.

RAILROADS ABROAD.

Questions affecting American interests in connection with railways constructed and operated by our citizens in Peru have claimed the attention of this government. It is urged that other governments in pressing Peru to the payment of claims have disregarded the property rights of American citizens. The matter will be carefully investigated with a view to secure proper and equitable adjustment.

A similar issue is now pending with Portugal. The Delagoa Bay railway in Africa was constructed under the concession by Portugal to an American citizen, and when nearly completed the road was seized by agents of the Portuguese government. A formal protest has been made, through our minister at Lisbon, against this act, and no proper effort will be spared to afford proper relief.

NICARAGUAN CANAL.

In pursuance of the charter granted by Congress, and under the terms of its contract with the government of Nicaragua, the Interocean Canal Company has begun the construction of the important waterway between the two oceans which its organization contemplates. Grave complications for a time seemed imminent in view of a supposed conflict of jurisdiction between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in regard to the accessory privileges to be conceded by the latter republic toward the construction of works on the San Juan River, the right bank of which is Costa Rican territory. I am happy to learn that a friendly arrangement has been effected between the two nations. This government has held itself ready to promote in every proper way the adjustment of all questions that might present obstacles to the completion of a work of such transcendent importance to the commerce of this country, and indeed to the commercial interests of the world.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The traditional good feeling between this country and the French republic has received additional testimony in the participation of our government and people in the international exposition held at Paris during the past summer. The success of our exhibitors has been gratifying. The request of the commission will be laid before Congress in due season.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

This government has accepted, under proper reserve as to its policy in foreign countries, the invitation of the government of Belgium to take part in an international congress which opened at Brussels on the 18th of November, for the purpose of devising measures to promote the abolition of the slave trade in Africa. To prevent the shipment of slaves by sea, our interest in the extinction of the crime against humanity in the regions where it yet survives has been increased by the results of emancipation within our own borders.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

With Germany the most cordial relations continue. The questions arising from the return to the empire of Germans naturalized in this country have been considered and disposed of in a temperate spirit, to the entire satisfaction of both governments.

It is a source of great satisfaction that the internal disturbances in the republic of Hayti are at last happily ended and that an apparently stable government has been constituted. It has been duly recognized by the United States.

A mixed commission is now in session in this capital for the settlement of long standing claims against the republic of Venezuela, and it is hoped that a satisfactory conclusion will be speedily reached. This government has not hesitated to express its earnest desire that the boundary dispute now existing between Great Britain and Venezuela may be adjusted amicably, and in strict accordance with the historic title of the parties.

The advancement of the empire of Japan has been evidenced by the recent promulgation of a new constitution valued for guarantees of liberty, and providing for a responsible ministry to conduct the government. It is earnestly recommended that judicial rights and processes in Corea be established on a firm basis by providing the machinery necessary to carry out treaty stipulations in that regard.

The friendliness of the Persian government continues to be shown by its generous treatment of American citizens engaged in missionary labors and by the cordial disposition of the Shah to encourage the enterprise of our citizens in the development of Persian resources.

A discussion is in progress touching the jurisdictional treaty rights of the United States in Turkey. An earnest effort will be made to define these rights to the satisfaction of those governments.

NATURALIZATION.

Questions continue to arise in our relations with several countries in respect to the rights of naturalized citizens. Equally is this the case with France, Italy, Russia and Turkey, and to a less extent with Switzerland. From time to time earnest efforts have been made to regulate this subject by conventions. An unproper use of naturalization should not be permitted; but it is important that those who have been duly naturalized should everywhere be accorded a recognition of the rights appertaining to the citination of the country of their adoption. The appropriateness of special conventions for that purpose is recognized in the treaties which this government has concluded with a number of European powers, and it is advisable that the difficulties which now arise in our relations with other countries on the same subject should be similarly adjusted.

THE BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION.

The recent revolt in Brazil, in favor of the establishment of a republican form of government, is an event of great interest to the United States. Our minister, at Rio De Janeiro was at once instructed to maintain friendly diplomatic relations with the provisional government and the Brazilian representatives of the capital were instructed by the provisional government to continue their functions. Our friendly intercourse with Brazil has therefore suffered no interruption. Our minister has been further instructed to extend, on the part of this government, a formal and cordial recognition of the new republic so soon as the majority of the people of Brazil shall have signified their assent to its establishment and maintenance.

NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

Within our own borders a general condition of prosperity prevails. The harvests of the last summer were exceptionally abundant, and the trade now prevailing promises to prove a successful season to the merchant and the manufacturer, as well as general employment to our working people.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1889, has been prepared and will be presented to Congress. It presents with clearness the fiscal operations of the government, and I avail myself of it to obtain some facts for use here. The aggregate receipts from all sources, for the year were $387,050,998,884 derived as follows: From customs, $223,832,741.06; from internal revenue, $130,481,318.97; from miscellaneous sources, $32,736,838.23.

The ordinary expenditures for the same period were $281,996,915.60, and the total expenditures, including the sinking fund, were $299,579,929.25. The excess of receipts over expenditures was, after providing for the sinking fund, $77,470,129.59. For the current fiscal year the total revenues, actual and estimated, are $375,000,000, and the ordinary expenditures, actual and estimated, are $293,000,000; making with the sinking fund a total expenditure of $341,321,116.36; leaving an estimated surplus of $43,678,883.64.

During the fiscal year there was applied to the purchase of bonds, in addition to those for the sinking fund, $60,456,172.55, and during the first quarter of the current year the sum of $37,128,307.77, all of which were credited to the sinking fund. The revenues for the fiscal year ending July 30, 1891, are estimated by the Treasury Department at $385,700,000, and the expenditures for the same period, including the sinking fund at $341,490,477.70. This shows an estimated surplus for that year of $43,509,522.30, which is more likely to be increased than reduced, when the actual transactions are written up.

The existence of so large an actual and anticipated surplus should have the immediate attention of Congress, with a view to reducing the receipts of the treasury to the needs of the government as closely as may be. Taxes collected of moneys not needed for public uses, impose an unnecessary burden upon our people, and the presence of so large a surplus in the public vaults is a disturbing element in the conduct of private business. It has called into use expedients for putting it into circulation, of very questionable propriety. We should not collect revenue for the purpose of anticipating our bonds beyond the requirements of the sinking fund, but any unappropriated surplus in the treasury should be so used, as there is no other lawful way of returning the money to circulation, and the profit realized by the government offers special advantages.

The loaning of the public funds to banks without interest upon security of government bonds I regard as an unauthorized and dangerous expedient. It results in a temporary and unnatural increase of the banking capital of favored localities, and compels a cautious and gradual recall of deposits to avoid injury to commercial interests. It is not to be expected that banks, having these deposits, will lell bonds to the treasury so long as the present highly beneficial relation is continued. They now practically get interest on both interest and proceeds in circulation, and the deposits now outstanding should be gradually withdrawn and applied to the purchase of bonds. It is fortunate that such a use can be made of the existing surplus and for some time to come of any casual surplus that may exist. After Congress has taken the necessary steps for a reduction of the revenue, such legislation should be promptly but very considerately enacted.

TARIFF REVISION.

I recommend a revision of our tariff law, both in its administration features and in the schedules. The need of the former is generally conceded. An agreement upon the evils and inconveniences to be remedied and the best methods for their correction, will probably not be difficult. Uniformity of valuation at all our ports is essential, and effective measures should be taken to secure it. It is equally desirable that questions affecting rates and classifications should be promptly decided.

The preparation of a new schedule of customs duties is a matter of great delicacy because of its effect upon the business of the country, and is one of great difficulty by reason of the wide divergence of opinion as to the objects that may be promoted by such legislation. Some disturbance of business may perhaps result from the consideration of this subject by Congress; but this temporary ill effect will be reduced to a minimum by prompt action and the assurance which the country enjoys that any necessary changes will be so made as not to impair the just and reasonable protection of our home industries. The inequalities of the law should be adjusted, but the protective principle should be maintained and fairly applied to the products of our farms as well as to our shops. These duties have necessarily a relation to other things besides the public revenues. We cannot limit their effects by fixing our eyes on the public treasury alone. They have a direct relation to home production, to work, and the commercial independence of our country, and the wise and patriotic legislator should enlarge the field of his vision. To include all these the necessary reduction of our public revenues can, I am sure, be made without making the smaller burden more onerous than the larger by reason of the disabilities and limitations which the process of reduction puts upon both capital and labor. The free list can very safely be extended by placing thereon articles that do not offer injurious competition to such domestic products as our home labor can supply. The removal of the internal tax upon tobacco would relieve an important agricultural product from a burden which was imposed only because our revenues from customs, duties was insufficient for the public needs. Provision against fraud can be devised. The removal of the tax upon spirits used in the arts and in manufactures would also offer an objectionable method of reducing the surplus.

AMOUNT IN CIRCULATION.

A table presented by the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the amount of money of all kinds in circulation each year from 1878 to the present time, is of interest. It appears that the amount of national bank notes in circulation has decreased during that period $114,109,728, of which $37,190,229 is chargeable to the last year.

The withdrawal of bank circulation will necessarily continue under existing conditions. It is probable that the adoption of the suggestions made by the Comptroller of the currency, viz., that the minimum deposit of bonds for the establishment of banks be reduced, and that an issue of notes to the par value of the bond be allowed, would help to maintain the bank circulation; but while this withdrawal of bank notes has been going on there has been a huge increase in the amount of gold and silver coin in circulation, and in the issues of gold and silver certificates.

The total amount of money of all kinds in circulation on March 1st of 1878 was $805,775,806, while on October 1st, 1889, the total amount was $1,341,018,000. There was an increase of $239,417,552 in gold, and of $37,654,100 in standard silver dollars, of $72,911,249 in gold certificates, of $276,919,715 in silver certificates and of $74,073,787 in United States notes; making a total of $701,976,403. There was during the same period a decrease of $114,109,128 in bank certificates and of $942,481 in subsidiary silver. The net increase was $589,224,194. The circulation per capita has increased about five dollars during the time covered by the table referred to. The total coinage of silver dollars was, on November 1st, 1889, $343,638,001, of which $285,939,521 were in the Treasury vaults and $57,698,480 were in circulation. Of the amount in the vaults, $277,319,944 were represented by outstanding silver certificates, leaving $8,219,577 not in circulation, and not represented by certificates.

The law requiring the purchase by the Treasury of two million dollars worth of silver bullion each month to be coined into silver dollars of 412½ grains has been observed by the department; but neither the President, Secretary nor any of his predecessors has deemed it safe to exercise the discretion given by law to increase the monthly purchases to four million dollars. When the law was enacted (February 28th, 1878), the price of silver in the market was 104.10 per ounce, making the bullion value of the dollar 93 cents. Since that time the price has fallen now to 91.2 cents per ounce, reducing the bullion value of the dollar to 76.5 cents. Within the last few months the market price has somewhat advanced, and on the first day of November last the bullion value of the silver dollar was 77 cents. The evil anticipations which have accompanied the coinage and use of the silver dollar have not been realized. As a coin it has had general use, and the public treasury has been compelled to store it, but this is manifestly owing to the fact that their paper representatives are more convenient. The general acceptance and use of the silver certificate shows that silver not otherwise discredited under some favorable circumstances, has contributed to the maintenance of the equality of commercial relations between gold and silver dollars; but some of these are trade conditions that statutory enactments do not control, and of the continuance of which we cannot be certain.

I think it is clear that if we should make the coinage of silver at the present ratio free, we must expect that differences in the bullion values of gold and silver dollars will be taken advantage of in commercial transactions, and I fear the same result would follow any considerable increase of the present rate of coinage. Such a result would be disastrous to our financial management and disastrous to all business interests. We should not tread the dangerous edge of such a peril, and indeed nothing more harmful could happen to the silver interests. Safe legislation upon this subject must secure the equality of the two coins in the commercial uses.

I have always been an advocate of the use of silver in our currency. We are large producers of that metal, and should not discredit it. To the plan which will be presented by the Secretary of the Treasury for the issuance of notes of certificates upon the deposit of silver bullion at its market value I have been able to give only a hasty examination, owing to the press of other matters, and to the fact that it has been so recently formulated. The details of such a law will require careful consideration, but the general plan suggested seems to satisfy the purpose to continue the use of silver in connection with our currency, and at the same time to obviate the dangers of which I have spoken. At a later day I may communicate further with Congress on this subject.

EXCLUSION OF CHINESE.

The enforcement of the Chinese exclusion act has been found very difficult on the northwestern frontier. At victoria they find it easy to pass our border, owing to the impotibility with the force at the command of the customs officers, of guarding so long an inland line. The Secretary of the treasury has authorized the employment of additional forces who will be assigned to this duty and every effort will be made to enforce the law. The dominion exacts a head tax of $50 for each chinaman landed and when these persons, in fraud of our law, cross into our territory and are apprehended, our officers do not know what to do with them, as the Dominion authorities will not suffer them to be sent back without a second payment of the tax. An effort will be made to reach an understanding that will remove this difficulty. The proclamation required by Section 30 of the Act of March 2, 1889, relating to the killing of seals and other fur-bearing animals, was issued by me on the 21st day of March and a revenue vessel was dispatched to enforce the laws and protect the interests of the United States. The establishment of a refuge station at Point Barrow, as directed by Congress, was unsuccessfully established.

COAST DEFENSES.

Judged by modern standard, we are practically without coast defenses. Many of the structures we have would enchance rather than diminish the perils of the garrisons if subjected to the fire of the improved guns and very few are so located as to give full effect to the greater range of such guns as we are now making for coast defenses. This general subject has received consideration in Congress for years, and the appropriation for the construction of large guns made one year ago was, I am sure, the expression of a purpose to provide suitable works in which these guns might be appointed. An appropriation made for that purpose would not advance the completion of works beyond our ability to supply them with effective guns. The security of our coast cities against foreign attacks should not rest altogether in the friendly disposition of other nations. There should be a second line wholly in our own keeping. I urgently recommend an appropriation this session for the construction of such works in our much-exposed harbors.

I approve the suggestion of the Secretary of War that provisions be made for encamping companies of national guards in our coast works for a specified time each year, and for their training in the use of heavy guns. His suggestion that an increase of the artillery force of the army is desirable is also, in this connection, commended to the consideration of Congress.

RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvement of our important rivers and harbors should be promoted by the necessary appropriations. Care should be taken that the government is not committed to the prosecution of works not to public and general advantage and the relative usefulness of works of this class is not overlooked. So far this work can be even said to be completed. I do not doubt that the end would be sooner and more economically reached if fewer the works were undertaken at the same time, and those selected for their greater general interest were more rapidly pushed to a completion. A work once considerably begun should not be subject to the risk and deterioration which interrupted or insufficient appropriations necessarily occasion.

ASSAULT ON JUSTICE FIELD.

The assault made by David S. Terry on the person of Judge Field of the Supreme Court of the United States, at Lathrop, California, in August last, and the killing of his assailant by a deputy United States marshal who had been deputed to accompany Justice Field, and protect him from violence at the hands of Terry, in connection with legal proceedings which have followed, suggest questions which in my judgment are worthy of the attention of Congress. I recommend that more definite provision be made by law, not only for the protection of Federal officers but for the full trial of such cases in the United States courts. In recommending such legislation I do not impeach either the general adequacy of provisions made by the State laws for the protection of all citizens or the general disposition of those charged with the execution of such laws to give protection to officers of the United States. The duty of protecting its officers as such, and punishing those who assault them on account of their official acts, should not be devolved expressly or by acquiescence upon local authorities.

Events which have been brought to my attention, happening in other parts of the country, have also suggested the propriety of extending by legislation fuller protection to those who may be called as witnesses in courts of the United States. The law compels those who are supposed to have knowledge of public offenses to attend upon our courts and grand juries, and give evidence. There is a manifest resulting duty that those witnesses shall be protected from injury on account of their testimony. The investigations of criminal offenses are often rendered futile, and the punishment of crime impossible, by the intimidation of witnesses.

RELIEF FOR THE SUPREME COURT.

The necessity of providing some more speedy method for disposing of cases which now come for final adjustment to the Supreme Court becomes every year more apparent and urgent. The plan of providing some intermediate courts having final appellate jurisdiction of certain classes of questions and cases has, I think, received a more general approval from the bench and bar of the country than any other. Without attempting to discuss details, I recommend that provision be made for the establishment of such courts.

JUDGES' SALARIES.

The salaries of judges of the district courts, in many districts, are, in my judgment, inadequate. I recommend that all such salaries which are now below $5000 per annum be increased to that amount. It is quite true that the amount of labor performed by these judges is unequal, but as they cannot properly engage their pursuits to supplement their incomes, salaries should be high enough in all cases to provide independent and comfortable support.

TRUSTS.

Earnest attention should be given by Congress to the consideration of the question how far restraint of capital, commonly called trusts, is a matter of Federal jurisdiction, when organized as they often are, to crush out all healthy competition, and to monopolize the production or sale of an article of commerce and general necessity, they are dangerous conspiracies against the public good, and should be made the subject of prohibitory and even penal legislation.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

The subject of an international copyright has been frequently commended to the attention of Congress by my predecessors. The enactment of such a law would be eminently wise and just.

NATURALIZATION LAWS.

Our naturalization laws should be so revised as to make the enquiry into the character and good disposition towards our government of the persons applying for citizenship more thorough. This can only be done by taking fuller control of the examinations, by fixing the time for hearing each application, and by requiring the presence of some one who shall represent the government in the inquiry. Those who are the enemies of social order, or who come to our shores to swell the injurious influence and to extend the evil practices of any association that defies our laws, should not only be denied citizenship but a domicile.

THE NATIONAL BANKRUPT LAW.

The enactment of a national bankrupt law of a character to be a permanent part of our general legislation is desirable. It should be simple in its methods and inexpensive in its administration.

POSTAL MATTERS.

The report of the Postmaster-General not only exhibits the operation of the department for the fiscal year, but contains many valuable suggestions for improvement and extension of service which are commended to your attention. No other branch of the government has so close a contact with the daily life of the people. Almost everyone uses the service it offers, and every hour gained in the transmission of the great commercial mails is an actual and possible value that only those engaged in trade can understand. The saving of one day in the transmission of the mails between San Francisco and New York, which has recently been accomplished, is an incident worthy of mention. The plans suggested of a suspension of the post offices in separate districts involve instruction and suggestion, and a rating of efficiency of the postmasters, would, I have no doubt, greatly improve the service.

A pressing necessity exists for the erection of a building for the joint use of the department of the city post-office. The department was partially relieved by renting outside quarters for part of its force, but it is again overcrowded. The building used by the city office was never fit for the purpose, and is now inadequate and unwholesome. The unsatisfactory condition of the law relating to transmission through the mail of lottery advertisements and remittances is clearly stated by the Postmaster General, and his suggestion as to its amendment should have your favorable consideration.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows a re-organization of the bureaus of the department which, we do not doubt, will promote the efficiency of each. In general, satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of new ships of war authorized by Congress. The first vessel of the new navy, the *Dolphin*, was subjected to very severe trial tests and to very much criticism; but it is gratifying to be able to state that a cruise around the world, from which she has recently returned, has demonstrated that she is a first-class vessel of her rate. The reports of the secretary show that while the effective force of the navy is rapidly increasing by reason of the improved build and armament of the new ships, the number of our ships on sea duty grows very slowly. We had, on the 4th of March last thirty-seven serviceable ships, and though four have since been added to the list, the total have not been increased, because in the meantime four have been lost or condemned. Twenty-six additional vessels have been authorized and appropriated for, but it is probable that, when completed, our list will be increased to forty-two again. The old-wooden ships are disappearing almost as fast as the new vessels are added. One of the new ships may, in fighting strength, be equal to two of the old, but it cannot do double duty too. It is important, therefore, that we should have a more rapid increase in the number of serviceable ships. I concur in the recommendation of the Secretary that the construction of eight armored ships, three gunboats and five torpedo boats be authorized.

THE SAMOAN WRECKS.

An appalling calamity befel three of our naval vessels on duty at the Samoan Islands, in the harbor of Apia, in March last, involving the loss of four officers and forty-seven seamen of two vessels, the *Trenton* and *Vandalia*, and the disabling of the third, the *Nipsic*. Three vessels of the German navy were also in the harbor, shared with our ships the force of the hurricane, and suffered even more heavily. While mourning the brave officers and men who died, facing with high resolve perils greater than those of battle, it is most gratifying to state that the credit of the American navy for seamanship, courage and generosity was magnificently sustained in the storm-beaten harbor of Apia.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits the transactions of the government with the Indian tribes. Substantial progress has been made in the education of the children of school age, and in the allotment of lands to adult Indians. It is to be regretted that the policy of breaking up the tribal relation and of dealing with the Indian as an individual did not appear earlier in our legislation. Large reservations are held in common and the maintenance of authority of the chiefs and head men have deprived the individual of every incentive to exercise thrift and energy, and the annuity has contributed an affirmative impulse toward a state of confirmed pauperism.

Our treaty stipulations should be observed with fidelity, and our legislation should be highly considerate of the best interests of an ignorant and a helpless people. The reservations are now generally surrounded by white settlements. We can no longer push the Indian back into the wilderness, and it only remains, by every suitable agency, to push him upwards towards a self-supporting and responsible situation. For the adult, the first step is to locate him on a farm, and for the child, to place him in a school. School attendance should be promoted by every moral agency, and those failing should be compelled. The national schools for Indians have been very successful and should be multiplied, and as far as possible, should be so organized and conducted as to facilitate the transfer of the schools to the States or Territories in which they are located, when the Indians in a neighborhood have accepted citizenship and have been otherwise fitted for such a transfer. This condition of things will be attained slowly, but it will be hastened by keeping it in mind, and in the meantime, that co-operation between the government and the mission schools which has wrought much good should be cordially and impartially sustained. The last Congress enacted two distinct laws relating to negotiations with the Sioux Indians of Dakota for a relinquishment of a portion of their lands to the United States, and for dividing the remainder into separate reservations. Both were approved on the same day, March 2. The one submitted to the Indians a specific proposition, the other inserted in the Indian appropriation act, authorized the President to appoint three commissioners to negotiate with the Indians for the accomplishment of the same general purpose, and required that any agreement made should be submitted to Congress for ratification.

On the 16th day of April last I appointed Hon. Chas. Foster, Hon. Wm. Warner, of Mo., and Major-General Geo. Crook, U. S. A., commissioners under the last named. They were, however, authorized and directed first to submit to the Indians the definite proposition by the act first mentioned, and in the event of failure to secure the consent of the requisite number.

The negotiations were long and arduous, but the consent of the requisite number of the Indians was finally obtained to the proposition made by Congress, although the report of the commission has not yet been submitted. In view of these facts, I shall not, as at present advised, deem it necessary to submit the agreement to Congress for ratification, but it will in due course of time be submitted for information. This agreement releases to the United States about 9,000,000 acres of land.

The commission provided for by section 14 of the Indian appropriation bill to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians and all other Indians owning or claiming lands west of the ninety-sixth degree of longitude, for the cession to the United States of all such lands, was constituted by the appointment of Hon. Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin, Hon. Jno. F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, and Hon. Alfred M. Wilson, of Arkansas, and organized on June 29th last. Their first conference with the representatives of the Cherokees was held at Tahlequah July 20th with no definite result. General John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, was prevented by ill health from taking part in the conference, and his death, which occurred recently, is justly and generally lamented by a people who had served with conspicuous gallantry in war and with great fidelity in peace. The vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of Hon. Warren G. Sayre, of Indiana.

A second conference between the commission and the Cherokees was begun November 6th, but no result has been yet obtained; nor is it believed that a conclusion can be made. The cattle syndicate occupying the lands for grazing purposes is clearly one of the agencies responsible for the obstruction of the negotiations with Cherokees. The large body of agricultural lands constituting what is known as the Cherokee outlet, cannot long be held for grazing, and for the advantage of a few against the public interests, and the best advantage of the Indians themselves. The United States has now under treaties certain rights in those lands. These will not be used oppressively, but it cannot be allowed that those who by sufferance occupy those lands shall interpose to defeat the wise and beneficient purposes of the government. I cannot but believe that the advantageous character of the offer made by the United States to the Cherokee nation for a full release of these lands, as compared with other suggestions now made to them, will yet obtain for it a favorable consideration.

Under the agreement between the United States and the Muskogee or Creek nation, or nations, on the 19th of January, 1889, an absolute title was secured by the United States to about three and a half million acres of land. Section 12, of the general Indian appropriation, approved March 2nd, 1889, made provision for the purchase by the United States from the Seminoles, of a certain portion of their land. The delegates of the Seminole nation having first duly evidenced to me their power to act in that behalf, delivered a proper release and conveyance to the use of all the lands mentioned in the act, which was accepted by me and certified to be in compliance with the statute. By the term of both the acts referred to all the lands so purchased were declared to be a part of the public domain and open to settlement under the homestead law. Part of the land embraced in these purchases, being in the aggregate about five and a half million acres, had already under the terms of the treaty of 1866, been acquired by the United States for the purpose of settling other Indian tribes thereon, and had been appropriated to that purpose. The land remaining and available for settlement consisted of 1,887,796 acres surrounded on all sides by lands in the occupancy of Indian tribes. Congress had provided no civil government for the people who were to be invited by my proclamation to settle upon these lands except as to the new Court, which had been established at Muskogee, or the United States court in some of the adjoining states with power to enforce the general laws of the United States. In this condition of things I was quite reluctant to open the lands to settlement; but in view of the fact that the several thousand persons, many of them with their families, had gathered upon the borders of the Indian Territory, with a view of securing homesteads on the ceded lands, and that delay would involve them in much loss, and suffering, I did on the 23d day of March last issue a proclamation declaring that the lands therein described would be open to settlement under the provisions of the law. On the 22nd day of April following, at 12 o'clock, noon, two land districts had been established, and the offices were open for the transaction of business when the appointed time arrived. It is much to the credit of the settlers that they very generally observed the limitation as to the time when they might enter the Territory. Care will be taken that those who entered in violation of the law do not secure the advantage they unfairly sought. There was a good deal of apprehension that the strife for locations would result in much violence and bloodshed; but, happily, these anticipations were not realized. It is estimated there are now in the Territory about 60,000 people, and several considerable towns have sprung up, for which temporary municipal governments have been organized. Guthrie is said to have now a population of 5000. Eleven schools and nine churches have been established, and three daily and five weekly newspapers are published in this city. The charter and ordinances have only the sanction of voluntary acquiescence of the people from day to day. Oklahoma is proportionately as well provided as