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TERMS IN ADVANCE.

DAVID O. CALDER,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

NATIONAL PROGRESS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my seventh annual message to Congress in this centennial year of our national existence as a free and independent people, it affords me great pleasure to recur to the advancement that has been made from the time of the colony one hundred years ago. We were then a people numbering only three millions; now we number more than forty millions. Then industries were confined almost exclusively to the tillage of the soil; now manufactories absorb much of the labor of the country. Our liberties remain unimpaired; the bondsmen have been freed from slavery, and we have become possessed of the respect if not of the friendship of all civilized nations. Our progress has been great in all the arts, in science, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mining, mechanics, law, medicine, etc., and in general education the progress is likewise encouraging. Our thirteen States have become thirty-eight, including Colorado, which has taken the initial steps to become a State, and eight territories, including the Indian territory and Alaska, and excluding Colorado, making a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On the South we have extended to the Gulf of Mexico, and in the West from the Mississippi to the Pacific. One hundred years ago the cotton gin, the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaping, sewing and modern printing machines, and numerous other inventions of scarcely less value to our business and happiness were entirely unknown.

MINING AND MANUFACTURES.

In 1776 manufactures scarcely existed, even in name, in all this vast territory; in 1870, more than two millions of persons were employed in manufactories, producing more than \$2,100,000,000 of produce, in amount annually nearly equal to our national debt. Nearly the whole of the population of 1776 were engaged in the one occupation of agriculture; in 1870 so numerous and diversified had become the occupations of our people that less than sixteen millions, out of more than forty millions, were so engaged. The extraordinary effect produced in our country by a resort to such occupations has built a market for the products of fertile lands distant from the seaboard, and the markets of the world. The American system of working various and extensive manufactories, next to the plain and the pasture, and adding and connecting railroads and steamboats, has produced in our distant country a result not equalled by the intelligent parts of other nations. The ingenuity and skill of American mechanics have been demonstrated at home and abroad in a manner most flattering to their pride, and but for the extraordinary genius and ability of our mechanics, the achievements of our agriculturists and manufacturers and transport throughout the country would have been impossible of attainment.

The progress of the miner has been great. Of coal our production was small; now many millions of tons are mined annually. So with iron, which formed scarcely an appreciable part of our pro-

ducts half a century ago; but we now produce more than the world combined, at the beginning of our national existence. Lead, zinc and copper, from being articles of imports, we may expect to be large exporters of in the near future. The development of gold and silver mines throughout the States and Territories has not only been remarkable, but has had a large influence upon the business of all commercial nations.

COMMERCE AND LEARNING—RETROSPECTIVE—EDUCATION AND FREE SCHOOLS.

Our merchants in the last hundred years have had a success, and have established a reputation for enterprise, sagacity, progress and integrity, unsurpassed by the people of older nationalities. This good name is not confined to their homes, but goes out upon every sea, and into every port where commerce enters. With equal pride we can point to our progress in all of the learned professions.

As we are now about to enter upon our second centennial, commencing our manhood, as a nation, it is well to look back upon the past and to study what will be best to preserve and to advance our future greatness. From the fall of Adam for his transgression to the present day, no nation has ever been free from threatened danger to its prosperity and happiness. We should look to the dangers threatening us, and remedy them so far as lies in our power. We are a republic, wherein one man is as good as another before the law. Under such a form of government it is of the greatest importance that all should be possessed of education and intelligence enough to cast a vote with a right understanding of its meaning. A large association of ignorant men cannot, for any considerable period, oppose a successful resistance to tyranny and oppression from the educated few, but will inevitably sink into acquiescence to the will of intelligence, whether directed by the demagogue or by priestcraft. Hence the education of the masses becomes of the first necessity for the preservation of our institutions. They are worth preserving, because they have secured the greatest good to the greatest proportion of the population of any form of government yet devised. All other forms of government approach it just in proportion to the general diffusion of education and independence of thought and action. As the primary step, therefore, to our advancement, in all that has marked our progress in the past century, it suggests, for your earnest consideration, and most earnestly recommends it, that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the legislatures of the several States for ratification, making it the duty of each of the several States to establish, and forever maintain, free public schools adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches, within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birthplace or religion; forbidding the teaching in said schools of religions, atheistic or pagan, and prohibiting the granting of any school funds or school taxes, or any part thereof, either by legislative, municipal or other, for the benefit of any other object, of any nature or kind whatever.

UNTAXED CHURCH PROPERTY.

In connection with this important question I would also call your attention to the importance of correcting an evil that, if permitted to continue, will probably lead to great trouble in our land before the close of the nineteenth century: it is the accumulation of vast amounts of untaxed church property. In 1850 I believe, the church property of the United States which paid no tax, municipal or State, amounted to about \$33,000,000; in 1860 the amount had doubled; in 1875 it is about \$1,000,000,000; by the year 1900, without check, it is safe to say that this property will reach a sum exceeding \$3,000,000,000. So vast a sum, receiving all the protection and benefits of government without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses of the same, will not be looked upon acquies-

cently by those who have paid taxes in a growing country where real estate enhances so rapidly with time as in the United States. There is scarcely a limit to the wealth that may be acquired by corporations, religious or otherwise. If allowed to retain real estate without taxation. The contemplation also of as vast a property as is here alluded to, without taxation, may lead to sequestration without constitutional authority, and through blood. I would suggest the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exempting only the last resting place of the dead, and possibly, with proper restrictions, church edifices.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS.

Our relations with most of the foreign powers continue on a satisfactory and friendly footing. Increased intercourse, the extension of commerce and the cultivation of mutual interests have steadily improved our relations with the large majority of the powers of the world, rendering practicable the peaceful solution of questions which from time to time necessarily arise, leaving few which demand extended or particular notice. The correspondence of the Department of State with our diplomatic representatives abroad is transmitted herewith.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY BY PORTUGAL.

I am happy to announce the passage of an act, by the general cortes of Portugal, proclaimed since the adjournment of Congress, for the abolition of servitude in the Portuguese colonies. It is to be hoped that such legislation may be another step toward the great consummation to be reached, when no man shall be permitted, directly or indirectly, under any guise, excuse, or form of law, to hold his fellow man in bondage. I am of the opinion, also, that it is the duty of the United States, as contributing toward that end, and required by the spirit of the age in which we live, to provide, by suitable legislation, that no citizen of the United States shall hold slaves as property in any other country, or be interfered therein.

REPARATION BY CHILI AND THE U. S. OF COLUMBIA.

Chili has made reparation in the case of the whale ship the *Good Return*, seized without sufficient cause upwards of forty years ago; though she had hitherto denied her accountability, the denial was never acquiesced in by this government, and the justice of the claim has ever been so earnestly contended for that it has been gratifying that she should have acknowledged it.

The arbitration in the case of the U. S. steamer *Montijo*, for the seizure and detention of which the government of the U. S. of Columbia was held accountable, has been decided in favor of the claim. This decision has settled a question which had been pending for several years, and which, while it continued open, might more or less disturb the good understanding which it is desirable should be maintained between the republics.

HAWAIIAN RECIPROCITY.

A reciprocity treaty with the King of the Hawaiian Islands was concluded some months since, but as it contains a stipulation that it shall not go into effect until Congress shall enact the proper legislation for the purpose, copies of the instrument are herewith submitted in order that, if such should be the pleasure of Congress, the necessary legislation on the subject may be adopted.

THE "VIRGINIUS" INDEMNITY.

In March last an arrangement was made through Mr. Cushing, our minister in Madrid, with the Spanish government for the payment by the latter to the U. S. of the sum of \$80,000 in coin, for the purpose of the relief of the families or persons of the ship's company and certain passengers of the *Virginus*; that sum was to have been paid in three installments, at two months each. It is due to the Spanish government that I should state that the

payments were fully and speedily anticipated by that government, and that the whole amount was paid within but a few days more than two months from the date of the agreement, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. In pursuance of the terms of adjustment I have directed a distribution of the amount among the parties entitled thereto, including the ship's company and such passengers as were American citizens. The payments are made accordingly on the application of the parties entitled thereto.

THE CONFLICT IN CUBA.

The past year has furnished no evidence of an approaching end of the ruinous conflict which has been raging for seven years in the neighboring island of Cuba. The same disregard of the laws of civilized warfare and of the just demands of humanity which have heretofore called forth expressions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom, have continued to blacken the sad scene. Desolation, ruin and pillage are pervading the rich fields of one of the most fertile and productive regions of the earth; and the incendiaries' torch firing plantations and valuable factories and buildings, is the agent marking the alternate advance and retreat of the contending parties. The protracted continuance of the strife seriously affects the interests of all commercial nations, but those of the United States more than others, by reason of its close proximity and its larger trade and intercourse with Cuba, and the frequent and intimate personal and social relations which have grown up between its citizens and those of the island. Moreover, the property of our citizens in Cuba is large, and is rendered insecure and depressed in value, and in capacity of production by the continuance of the strife and the unnatural mode of its conduct. The same is true, differing only in degree, with respect to the interests and people of other nations; and the absence of any reasonable assurance of a near termination of the conflict must, of necessity, soon compel the States thus suffering to consider what the interest of their own people and their duty towards themselves may demand. I have hoped that Spain would be enabled to establish peace in her colony, to afford security to the property and the interests of our citizens, and to allow a legitimate scope to trade and commerce and the natural productions of the island. Because of this hope, and the reluctance to interfere in the affairs of another and friendly nation, especially of one whose sympathy and friendship in the struggling infancy of our own existence must ever be remembered with gratitude, I have patiently and anxiously waited the progress of events. Our own civil conflict is too recent for us not to consider the difficulties which surround a government distracted by a dynastic rebellion at home, at the same time that it has to cope with a separate insurrection in a distant colony; but whatever causes may have produced the situation which so grievously affects our interests, it exists with all its attendant evils, operating directly upon this country and its people. Thus far all the resorts of Spain have proved abortive, and time has marked no improvement in the situation. The armed bands of either side now occupy nearly the same ground as in the past, with the difference, from time to time, of more lives being sacrificed, more property destroyed and wider extents of fertile and productive fields, and more property being wantonly sacrificed by the incendiaries' torch.

In contests of this nature where a considerable body of people who have attempted to free themselves of the control of the superior government have reached such a point in the occupation of territory, in power, and in general organization as to constitute in fact a body politic, having a government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of ability, and equipped with the machinery for the administration of internal policy and the execution of its laws,

and prepared and able to administer justice at home as well as in its dealings with other powers, it is within the province of those other powers to recognize the existence as a new and independent nation. In such cases other nations simply deal with an actually existing condition of things, and recognize, as one of the powers of the earth, that body politic which, possessing the necessary elements, has, in fact, become a new power; in a word, the creation of a new State is a fact. To establish the condition of things essential to the recognition of this fact, there must be a people occupying a known territory, united under some known and defined form of government acknowledged by those subject thereto, in which the functions of government are administered by the usual methods, competent to mete out justice to citizens and strangers, to afford remedies for public and for private wrongs, and able to assume the correlative international obligations, and capable of performing the corresponding international duties resulting from its acquisition of the rights of sovereignty. A power should exist, complete in its organization, ready to take and able to maintain its place among the nations of the earth.

While conscious that the insurrection in Cuba has shown a strength and endurance which make it, at least, doubtful whether it be in the power of Spain to subdue it, it seems a questionable subject that no such civil organization exists which may be recognized as an independent government capable of performing its obligations and entitled to be treated as one of the powers of the earth. A recognition under such circumstances would be inconsistent with the facts, and would compel the power giving it soon to support by force the government to which it had really given its only real claim of existence. In my judgment the U. S. should adhere to the policy and the principles which have heretofore been its sure and safe guides in like contests between revolted colonies and their mother country, and acting only upon the clearest evidence, it should avoid any possibility of suspicion or imputation.

A recognition of the independence of Cuba being, in my opinion, impracticable and indefensible, the question which next presents itself is that of the recognition of belligerent rights in the parties to the contest.

In a former message to Congress I had an occasion to consider this question, and reached the conclusion that the conflict in Cuba, dreadful and devastating as are its incidents, did not rise to the fearful dignity of war. Regarding it now, after this lapse of time, I am unable to see that any notable success, or any marked or real advance on the part of the insurgents, has essentially changed its character; nor, as a contest, has it acquired greater or more formidable proportions. Possibly the acts of foreign powers, and even the acts of Spain herself, of this very nature, might be pointed to in defence of such recognition; but now, as in its past history, the United States should carefully avoid the false lights which might lead it into the mazes of doubtful law and of questionable propriety, and adhere rigidly and sternly to the rule which has been its guide; doing only that which is right and honest and of good report. The question of according or of withholding the rights of belligerency must be judged in every way in view of the particular attending facts. Unless justified by necessity, it is always, and justly, regarded as an unfriendly act, and a gratuitous demonstration of moral support to the rebellion. It is necessary, and it is required, when the interests and right of another government or if its people are so far affected by a pending civil conflict as to require a definition of its relations to the parties thereto. But the conflict must be one which will be recognized in the sense of international law as belligerency. But as the fact of the mere existence of contending armed bodies, and their occasional conflicts do not constitute war in the sense referred to, we must apply to the