

transactions, and I fear the same result would follow any considerable increase of the present rate of coinage. Such a result would be discreditable 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 impossibility 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 enhance rather than diminish the perils of the garrisons it 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 for rivers 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 of-

ficial 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 these 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 in other 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