

Canada President Harrison regrets that in many of our controversies, with that country notably those as to the fisheries on the Atlantic, the sealing interests on the Pacific and the Welland canal tolls, the negotiations have continuously been thwarted by unreasonable and unfriendly protests and objections made by Canada.

Referring to the fact that the Canadian Pacific and other railway lines parallel our roads on the northern boundary, taking away from our companies an immense amount of business, the President says that advantages should be taken of our natural trade advantages and our independence asserted of the Canadian canals and the St. Lawrence as an outlet to the sea by the construction of an American canal around the falls of Niagara and the opening of ship communication between the great lakes and one of our own seaports.

AS TO MEXICO.

The recent disturbances of the public peace by lawless foreign marauders on the Mexican frontier have afforded this government an opportunity to testify to good will for Mexico and its earnest purpose to fulfill the obligations of international friendship by pursuing and dispersing the evil doers.

The work of relocating the boundary of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo westward from El Paso is progressing favorably. It is impossible to overestimate the value of the Nicaragua ship canal, and it is to be hoped that Congress will give it an impetus that will secure its early completion.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

In regard to the silver question, President Harrison says: "Congress has been already advised that the invitations of this government for the assembling of an international monetary conference to consider the question of an enlarged issue of silver, was accepted by the nations to which they were issued. The conference assembled at Brussels on November 22d, and has entered upon the consideration of this great question. I have not doubted, and have taken occasion to express that belief, as well in the invitations issued for this conference as in my public messages, that the free coinage of silver upon an agreed international ratio would greatly promote the interests of our people and equally those of other nations. It is too early to predict what results may be accomplished by the conference. If any temporary check or delay intervenes, I believe that very soon the commercial conditions will compel the now reluctant governments to unite with us in this movement to secure the enlargement of the volume of money needed for the transaction of the business of the world."

THE TREASURY.

Referring to the administration of the treasury department the President says: "If there are any who still think that the surplus should have been kept out of circulation by hoarding it in the treasury, or by depositing it in banks without interest, while the government continued to pay the very banks interest upon the bonds deposited as security for the deposits, or who think that the extended pension legis-

lation was a public robbery, or that the duties upon sugar should have been maintained, I am content to leave the argument where it now rests while we wait to see whether these criticisms will take the form of legislation.

The public confidence in the purpose and ability of the government to maintain the parity of all our money issued whether coin or paper must remain unshaken. The demand for gold in Europe and the consequent calls upon us are to a considerable degree the results of the effects of some of the European governments to increase their gold reserves and these efforts should be met by appropriations upon our part. The conditions that have created this drain on the treasury gold are in some degree political and not commercial. In view of the fact that a general revision of our revenue laws in the near future seems to be probable, it would be better that any changes should be a part of that revision, rather than of a temporary nature.

SILVER PURCHASES.

During the last fiscal year the secretary purchased under the act of July 14th, 1890, 54,335,748 ounces of silver and issued in payment therefor \$51,106,608 in notes. The total purchases since the passage of the act have been 120,479,981 ounces, and the aggregate of notes issued \$116,783,590. The average price paid for silver during the year was 94 cents per ounce, the highest price being \$102½ on July 1st, 1891, and the lowest 83, on March 21st, 1892. In view of the fact that the monetary conference is now sitting and that a conclusion, has as yet, not been reached, I withhold any recommendation as to the legislation upon this subject.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The postmaster-general's report shows a most gratifying increase and a most efficient progressive management of the great business of that department.

The report of the secretary of the navy exhibits great progress in the construction of our new navy. When the present secretary entered upon his duties, only three modern steel vessels were in commission. The vessels since put in commission during the winter will make a total of nineteen during his administration of the department.

President Harrison says the court of private land claims established by Congress for the promotion of the policy of speedily settling contested land titles is making satisfactory progress in its work, and when the work is completed a great impetus will be given to the development of those regions where unsettled claims under Mexican grants have so long resisted their progressive influence. Add to these the Indian lands opened for settlement, and the amount of land opened to settlement during this administration reaches 28,000,000 acres.

Speaking of the pension department the President declares himself satisfied, that the affairs of this office have been honestly and effectively administered. The list has greatly increased and the deficiency for the fiscal year is \$10,058,612. The maximum expenditure for the year ending June 1894 will be \$188,000,000.

He recommends that a com-

mission be appointed to determine the best means of settling the claim of the government against the Union Pacific.

EXPORTS.

The export of American produce has greatly increased. Dressed beef has increased from 17,000,000 pounds in 1890 to 22,500,000 pounds in 1891, and during the past year 394,607 head of cattle have been exported against 25,786 in 1889, while the department of agriculture has done much to extirpate the disease of pleuro-pneumonia.

The agriculture constituted 71.1 per cent. of our exports in the year ending June 30, 1892, the amount reaching \$789,517,678, the total exports being \$1,000,287,030.

The President approves the twenty days' quarantine of all immigrant vessels and will continue the order indefinitely. He advocates the most stringent quarantine regulations to protect the country against the cholera plague liable to break out next year.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

But brief mention is made of the Columbian exposition, and that simply congratulating the country upon the magnificent exposition, which will be the greatest ever held on the globe.

He advocates the passage of a law to protect railroad employees against danger of accident in braking and coupling freight cars. He deprecates the evils connected with the

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as related to the choice of national officers, and the unfair apportionment of Congressional districts, and calls upon Congress to appoint a non-partisan commission to investigate the evils and pass laws which will abolish them.

He denounces the lynching of the colored people in the South and says the matter should be subject for legislation.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

This exhibit of the work of the executive department is submitted to Congress and to the public, in the hope that there will be found in it a due sense of the responsibility and earnest purpose to maintain the national honor and to promote the happiness and prosperity of all our people. And this brief exhibit of the growth and prosperity of the country will give us a level from which to note the increase or decadence that new legislative policies may bring to us.

There is no reason why the national influence, power and prosperity should not observe the rates of increase that have characterized the past thirty years. We carry the great impulse and increase of these years into the future. There is no reason why in many lines of production we should not surpass all other nations, as we have already done in some. There are no near frontiers to our possible developments. Retrogression would be a crime.

(Signed,) BENJAMIN HARRISON,
Executive Mansion.

December 6th, 1892.

A corn starch factory in Denver, Col., is an early probability, the machinery having been ordered.