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with attached, shows that there was an increase of revenue in this department in 1873 over the previous year of \$1,674,411, and an increase in cost of carrying the mails and paying employees of \$3,041,487.91. The report of the Postmaster General gives interesting statistics of his department, and comparing them with the corresponding statistics of a year ago, shows a growth in every branch of the department. A postal convention has been concluded with New South Wales, an exchange of postal cards exchanged with Switzerland, and negotiations, pending for several years past with France, have terminated in a convention with that country, which went into effect last August. An international postal congress was convened in Berne, Switzerland, in September last, at which the U. S. was represented by an officer of the P. O. department of much experience, and of qualification for the position. A convention for the establishment of an international postal union was agreed upon by the delegates of the countries represented, subject to the approval of the proper authorities of those countries, I respectfully direct your attention to the report of the Postmaster General, and to his suggestion in regard to an equitable adjustment of the question of compensation to railroads for carrying the mails.

The Southern States.

Your attention will be drawn to the unsettled condition of affairs in some of the Southern States. On the 14th of Sept. last, the governor of Louisiana called upon me, as provided by the constitution and laws of the U. S., to aid in the suppression of domestic violence in that State. This call was made in view of a proclamation issued on that day by D. B. Penn, stating that he was elected Lt. Governor in 1872 and calling upon the militia of the State to arm, assemble and drive from power the usurpers, as he designated the officers of the State government. On the next day I issued my proclamation, commanding the insurgents to disperse within five days from the date thereof, and subsequently learned that on that day they had taken forcible possession of the State House. Troops were taken by me to support the existing and recognized State government, but before the expiration of the five days the insurrectionary movement was practically abandoned, and the officers of the State government, with some minor exceptions, resumed their powers and duties. Considering that the present State administration of Louisiana has been the only government in that State for nearly two years, that it has been tacitly acknowledged and acquiesced in as such by Congress, and more than once expressly recognized by me, I regarded it as my clear duty, when legally called upon for that purpose, to prevent its overthrow by an armed mob under the pretence of fraud and irregularity in the election of 1872. I have heretofore called the attention of Congress to this subject, stating that on account of the frauds and forgeries committed at said election, and because it appears that the returns thereof were never legally canvassed, it was impossible to tell thereby who were chosen, but from the most sources of information at my command, I have always believed the present State officers received a majority of the legal votes actually cast at that election. I repeat, what I said in my special message of February 13th, 1873, that in the event of no action by Congress, I must continue to recognize the government heretofore recognized by me, and I regret to say that, with preparations for the late election a decided indication appeared in some localities in the Southern States, of a determination, by acts of violence and intimidations, to deprive the citizens of the freedmen class of the ballot, because of their political opinion. Bands of men, masked and armed, made their appearance; white leagues and other societies were formed; large quantities of arms and ammunition were imported and distributed to these organizations; military drills with menacing demonstrations, were held, and with all these murders enough were committed to spread terror among these whose political action was to be suppressed if possible by the intolerant and criminal proceedings. In some places colored laborers were com-

pelled to vote according to the wishes of their employees under threats of discharge if they voted otherwise; and there are too many instances in which, when these threats were disregarded, they were remorselessly executed by those by whom they were made. I understand that the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was made to prevent this like state of things, and the Act of May 31, 1870, with amendments, was passed to enforce its provisions, the object of this being to guarantee to all citizens the right to vote, and to protect them in the free enjoyment of that right. Enjoined by the Constitution to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and convinced by undoubted evidence that violations of said act had been committed, and that a wide-spread and flagrant disregard of it was contemplated, the proper officers were instructed to prosecute the offenders, and troops were stationed at convenient points to aid these officers if necessary in the performance of their duties. Complaints are made of this interference by Federal authority, but if said amendment and act do not provide for such interference under the circumstances as above stated, then they are without meaning and in effect the whole scheme of colored enfranchisement is worse than a mockery and little better than a crime. Possibly Congress may find it due to truth and justice to ascertain by means of a committee whether the alleged wrongs to colored citizens for political purposes are real, or whether the reports thereof were manufactured for the occasion. The whole number of troops in the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Maryland and Virginia at the time of the election were 4,082. This embraces the garrisons of all the North from the Delaware to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Arkansas Muddle.

Another trouble has arisen in Arkansas. Article 13 of the constitution of the State, which was adopted in 1863, and upon the approval of which by Congress the State was restored to representation as one of the States of the Union, provides, in effect, that before any amendments proposed to this constitution shall become a part thereof, they shall be passed by two successive assemblies, and then shall be submitted to and be ratified by a majority of the electors of the State voting thereon. On the eleventh of May, 1874, the Governor convened an extra session of the assembly of the State, which on the 18th of the same month, passed an act providing for a convention to frame a new constitution. Pursuant to this act and at an election held on the 30th of June, 1874, the convention was approved and delegates were chosen thereto, who assembled on the 14th of last July, and formed a new constitution, the schedule of which provided for the election of an entire new set of State officers in a manner contrary to the then existing election laws of the State. On the 13th of October, 1874, this constitution, as therein provided, was submitted to the people for their approval or rejection, and, according to the election returns, was approved by a large majority of those qualified to vote thereon; and at the same election persons were chosen to fill all the State, county and township offices. The governor elected in 1872, for the term of four years, turned over his office to the governor chosen under the new constitution, whereupon the lieutenant governor, also elected in 1872, for a term of four years, claiming to act as governor and alleging that said proceedings, by which the new constitution was made and a new set of officers elected, were unconstitutional illegal and void, called upon me as provided in sec. 4, art. 4 of the Constitution, to protect the state against domestic violence. As Congress is now investigating the political affairs of Arkansas, I have declined to interfere. The whole subject of executive interference with the affairs of a State is repugnant to public opinion, to the feeling of those who from their official capacity must be used in such interposition, and to him or those who must direct, unless it is most clearly on the side of law. Such interference is regarded as a crime with the law to support it, and it is condemned without a hearing. I de-

sire that all necessity for executive direction in local affairs may become unnecessary and obsolete. I invite the attention, not of Congress, but of the people of the United States, to the causes and effects of these unhappy questions. Is there not a disposition on one side to magnify wrongs and outrages, and on the other side to belittle them or justify them? If public opinion could be directed to a correct survey of what is and to rebuking wrong, and aiding the proper authorities in punishing it, a better state of feeling would be inculcated, and the sooner we would have that peace which would leave the States free indeed to regulate their own domestic affairs. I believe, on the part of our citizens of the Southern States, the better part of them, that there is a disposition to be law-abiding, and to do no violence either to individuals or the laws existing; but, do they do right in ignoring the existence of violence and bloodshed in resistance to constituted authority? I sympathize with their prostrate condition, and would do all in my power to relieve them, acknowledging that in some instances they have had most trying governments to live under and very oppressive ones in the way of taxation for nominal improvements, not giving benefits equal to the hardships imposed, but can they proclaim themselves entirely irresponsible for this condition? They cannot. Violence has been rampant in some localities, and has further been justified or denied by those who could have prevented it. The theory is raised that there is to be no further interference on the part of the General Government to protect citizens in a State where the State authorities fail to give protection. This is a great mistake. While I remain Executive, all the laws of Congress and the provisions of the Constitution, including the amendments added thereto, will be enforced with rigor, with but regret that they should have added one jot or tittle to the executive duties and powers. Let there be fairness in the discussion of Southern questions, let the advocates of both or all political parties give honest, truthful reports of occurrences, condemning the wrong and approving the right, then all will be well. Under exciting conditions the negro votes the republican ticket, because he knows his friends are of that party. Many a good citizen votes the opposite, not because he is at variance with the great principles of state which separate the parties, but because, generally, he is opposed to negro rule. This is a most delusive cry. Treat the negro as a citizen and voter, as he is and must remain, and soon parties will be conducted, not on the color line but, on principles. Then we shall have no complaint of sectional interferences.

Report of Attorney General.

The report of the Attorney General contains valuable recommendations relating to the administration of justice in the courts of the U. S., to which I invite your attention. I respectfully suggest to Congress the propriety of increasing the number of judicial districts in the U. S., to eleven, the present number being nine, and the creation of two additional judgeships. The territory to be traversed by the circuit judges is so great, and the business of the courts so greatly increasing, that it is growing more and more impossible for them to keep up with the business requiring their attention. Whether this would involve the necessity of adding two more justices of the supreme court to the present number I submit to the judgement of Congress.

Report of Secretary of Interior.

The attention of Congress is invited to the report of the Secretary of the Interior, and to the legislation asked for by him. The domestic interests of the people are more intimately connected with this department than with either of the other departments of the government. Its duties have been added to from time to time, until they have become so onerous that without the most perfect system and order, it will be impossible for any Secretary of the Interior to keep trace of all the official transactions having his sanction and done in his name, and for which he is held personally responsible.

The policy adopted for the management of Indian affairs, known as the "peace policy," has been adhered to with the most beneficial

results. It is confidently hoped that a few years more will save our frontier from Indian depredations. I commend the recommendation of the Secretary for the extension of the homestead laws to the Indians, and for some sort of territorial government for the Indian Territory. A great majority of the Indians occupying this Territory are believed to be incapable of maintaining their rights against the more civilized and enlightened, and any territorial form of government given them therefore should protect them in their homes and property for a period of at least twenty years, and before its final adoption should be ratified by a majority of those affected.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, herewith attached, gives much interesting statistical information which I abstain from giving an abstract of, but refer you to the report itself.

Pensioners.

The act of Congress providing the oath which pensioners must subscribe before drawing their pensions, cuts off from this bounty a few survivors of the war of 1812 residing in the Southern States. I recommend the restoration of this bounty to all such. The number of persons whose names would be restored to the list of pensioners is not large; they are all old persons who could have taken no part in the rebellion, and the services for which they were awarded pensions were in defence of the whole country.

Agricultural Report.

The report of the commissioner of agriculture, herewith attached, contains suggestions of much interest to the general public, and refers to the approaching centennial anniversary, and the part which his department is ready to take in it.

The Centennial.

I feel that the nation at large is interested in having this exhibition a success, I commend to Congress such action as will secure a greater general interest in it. Already many foreign nations have signified their intention to be represented at it. It may be expected that every civilized nation will be represented.

The Civil Service.

The rules adopted to improve the civil service of the government have been adhered to as closely as has been practicable with the opposition with which they met; the effect of it has been an essential improvement on the whole, and has tended to the elevation of the service. But it is impracticable to maintain them without the direct and positive support of Congress. Generally, the support which this reform receives is from those who give it their support only to find fault when the rules are apparently departed from. Removals from office without preferring charges against the parties removed are frequently cited as departures from the rules adopted, and the retention of those against whom charges are made by irresponsible persons, and without good grounds, is also often condemned as a violation of them. Under these circumstances, therefore, I announce that if Congress adjourns without positive legislation on the subject of civil service reform, I will regard such action as a disapproval of the system, and will abandon it, and except so far as to require examinations for certain appointees, to determine their fitness, competitive examinations will be abandoned. The gentlemen who have given their services, without compensation, as members of the board, to devise rules and regulations for the government of the civil service of the country, have shown much zeal and earnestness in their work, and to them as well as to myself it would be a source of mortification if it is to be thrown away; but I repeat that it is impossible to carry this system to a successful issue without the general approval and assistance of Congress and a positive law to support it.

I have stated that the elements of "property to the nation" capital, labor, skilled and unskilled, and the products of the soil still remain with us. To direct the employment of these is a problem deserving the most serious attention of Congress. If employment can be given to all labor offering itself, prosperity necessarily follows. I have expressed the opinion, and repeat it, that the first requisite to the accomplishment of this end is the substitution of a sound cur-

rency in place of one of a fluctuating value. This secured there are many interests that might be fostered to the great profit of both labor and capital. How to induce capital to employ labor is the question.

Cheap Transportation.

The subject of cheap transportation has occupied the attention of Congress. New light on this question will without doubt be given by the commission appointed by the last Congress to investigate and report on this subject. A revival of ship building, and particularly of iron steamship building, is of vast importance to our national prosperity. The U. S. is now paying over one million per annum for freights and passage on foreign ships to be carried abroad and expended in the employment and support of other people's beyond a fair percentage of what should go to foreign vessels. Estimating on the tonnage and travel of each respectively, it is to be regretted that this disparity in the carrying trade exists, and to correct it I would be willing to see a great departure from the usual course of government in supporting what might usually be termed private enterprise. I would not suggest as a remedy a direct subsidy to American steamship lines, but I would suggest the direct offer of ample compensation for carrying the mails between the Atlantic seaboard cities and the continent, in American owned and American built steamers, and would extend this liberality to vessels carrying the mails to the South American States and to Central America and Mexico, and would pursue the same policy from our Pacific sea ports to foreign seaports on the Pacific. It might be demanded that vessels built for this service should come up to a standard fixed by legislation in tonnage, speed and all other qualities, looking to the possibility of the government requiring them at some time for war purposes; the right also of taking possession of them in such an emergency should be guarded. I offer these suggestions, believing them worthy of consideration in all seriousness, as affecting the interests of these sections and all interests alike. If anything better can be done to direct the country into a course of general prosperity, no one will be more ready than I to second the plan.

District of Columbia.

Forwarded herewith will be found the report of the commissioners appointed under an act of Congress, approved June 30th, 1874, to wind up the affairs of the district government. It will be seen from the report that the total debt of the District of Columbia, less the securities on hand and available, is, the bonded debt issued prior to July 1st, 1874, is \$8,833,940.43; 3 65 bonds, issued under the act of Congress of June 20th, 1874, \$2,088,168.73; certificates of the board of audit, \$4,770,558.45; total, \$15,742,667.21, less the special improvement assessments, chargeable to private property in excess of any demand against such assessment, \$1,614,054.37; less the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal bonds, \$75,000, and the Washington and Alexander R. R. bonds, \$59,000; in the hands of the commissioners of the sinking fund, \$1,748,054.37; leaving the actual debt, less the said assets \$13,994,613.24. In addition to this there are claims preferred against the government of the district amounting in the aggregate, as reported by the board of audits, to \$3,147,787.48, of which the greater part will probably be rejected. This sum can with no more propriety be included in the debt of the district government than can the thousands of claims against the general government be included as a portion of the national debt; but the aggregate sum thus stated includes something more than the funded debt chargeable exclusively to the District of Columbia. The act of Congress of Nov. 28, 1874, contemplates an apportionment between the U. S. Government and the District of Columbia in respect to the payment of the principal and interest of the 3.65 bonds; therefore, in computing with precision the bonded debt of the District of the aggregate sums above stated, and in respect to the 3.65 bonds now issued, the outstanding certificates of the Board of Audit, and the unadjusted claims pending before that board should be reduced to the extent of the amount to be apportioned to the U. S. government in