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of the act upon which the existing government depends and the re-emption by the National Legislature of the entire political control of the Territory, and the establishment of a commission, with such powers and duties as shall be delegated to it by law.

CATTLE DISEASES.

The Department of Agriculture is accomplishing much in the direction of the agricultural development of the country, and the report of the commissioner giving the results of investigations and experiments will be found interesting and valuable in this instance. A convention of those interested in the cattle industry of the country was lately held at Chicago. The prevalence of pleuropneumonia and other contagious diseases of animals was one of the chief topics of discussion. A committee of the Convention will invite your co-operation in investigating the causes of these diseases and providing methods for their prevention and cure.

ALASKA.

I trust that Congress will not fail, at its present session to put Alaska under the protection of law. Its people have repeatedly remonstrated against our neglect to afford them the maintenance and protection expressly guaranteed by the terms of the treaty whereby that territory was ceded to the United States. For sixteen years they have pleaded in vain for that which they should have received without the asking. They have no law for the collection of debt, the support of education. The conveyance of property, the administration of estates or the enforcement of contracts; none in deed for the punishment of criminals except such as are offered against certain customs, commerce and navigation acts. The revenues of Alaska, especially in furs, mines and lumber, are considerable in extent and capable of large development, while its geographical situation is one of political and commercial importance. Promptings of interest therefore, as well as considerations of honor and good faith demand the immediate establishment of civil government in that Territory. Complaints have sadly been neglected.

RAILROAD MONOPOLY.

It is urged that certain corporations controlling, in whole or in part, the facilities for the inter-state carriage of persons or merchandise upon the great railroads of the country have resorted in their dealings with the public to measures unjust and oppressive in their character. In some instances the state governments have attacked and suppressed these evils. But in others, they have been unable to afford adequate relief because of the jurisdictional limitations which are imposed on them by the federal constitution. The question as to how far the national government may lawfully interfere in the premises, and what if any supervision or control it ought to exercise in that direction, merits your careful consideration. While we cannot fail to recognize the importance of the vast railway systems of the country, and their great and beneficial influence upon the development of our national wealth, we should on the other hand remember that no individual and no corporation ought to be invested with absolute power over all of the interest of other citizens or classes of citizens. The right of railway corporations to demand any profitable returns upon their investments, and to reasonable freedom in their regulations must be recognized, but it seems only just so far as its constitutional authority will permit, that Congress should protect the people at large in their inter-state traffic against acts of injustice, which the state governments are powerless to prevent.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS.

In my last annual message, I called attention to the necessity of protecting, by suitable legislation, the forests situated upon the public domain in many portions of the West. The pursuit of general agriculture is only made practicable by resort to irrigation, while such useful irrigation would be impossible without aid afforded by forests in contributing to the regularity and constancy of supplies of water. During the past year severe suffering and great loss of property have been occasioned by periods of unusually low water in many of the great rivers of the country. These irregularities are in a great measure caused by the removal from about

the sources of the streams in question, of timber by which the water supply has been nourished and protected. The protection of such portions of the forests on the national domain as essentially contribute to the equitable flow of important water courses is of the highest consequence. For instance, important tributaries of the Missouri, Columbia and the Saskatchewan rivers in the mountains of Montana, near the northern boundary of the United States, between the Blackfeet and Flat-head Indian reservations. This region is unsuitable for settlement and upon the rivers which flow from that section depends the future agricultural development of a vast tract of country. The attention of Congress is called to the necessity of withdrawing from the public sale, this part of the public domain and establishing there a forest preserver.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS.

The industrial exhibitions which have been held in the United States during the present year attracted attention in many foreign countries where the announcement of these enterprises had been made public through the foreign agencies of this government. The industrial exhibition at Boston and the southern Exposition at Louisville were largely attended by the exhibitors of foreign countries, notwithstanding the absence of any professional character in these undertakings. The Centennial Exposition to be held next year at New Orleans, in commemoration of the centenary of the first shipment of cotton from that part of the United States bids fair to meet with like gratifying success.

Under the act of Congress of the 10th of Feb'y., 1883, declared that an exposition to be National and international in its character should be instituted and foreign governments with which the United States maintain relations, have been invited to participate. The promoters of this important undertaking have already received assurances of the interest which is excited abroad.

CIVIL SERVICE, ETC.

The report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia is herewith transmitted. I ask for it your careful attention, especially for those portions which relate to assessments on articles of taxes and water supply. The Commissioners who are appointed under the Act of Jan. 16, 1883, entitled "An Act to regulate and improve the Civil Service of the United States" entered promptly upon these duties. A series of rules framed in accordance with the spirit of the statute was approved and promulgated by the President. In some particulars wherein they were deemed defective these rules were subsequently amended. It will provide that they discountenance any political or religious tests for admission to the offices of the public service to which the statute relates. The act is limited in the original application to the classified clerkships in the executive departments at Washington, numbering about 5,600, and to similar positions in customs districts and post offices, where as many as fifty persons are employed. A classification of these positions, analogous to that existing in the Washington offices was duly made before the law went into effect. Eleven customs districts and 23 post offices were thus brought under the immediate operation of the statute.

The annual report of the Civil Service commission which will soon be submitted to Congress, will afford the means of a more definite judgment than I am now prepared to express as to the merits of the new system. I am persuaded that its effects have thus far proven beneficial. Its practical methods appear to be adequate for the ends proposed, and there have been no serious difficulties in carrying them into effect. Since the 16th of July last, no person, as far as I am aware, has been appointed to the public service thus classified in any of the departments or in any of the post offices or customs districts above named, except those certified by the commission to be more competent, on the basis of the examination had in conformity to the rules.

PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.

At the time when the present executive entered upon his office, his death, removal, resignation or inability to discharge his duties would have left the government without a constitutional head. It is probable, of course, that a similar contingency may again

arise unless the wisdom of Congress shall provide against its recurrence. The Senate, at its last session, after full consideration, passed an act relating to this subject, which will now, I trust, commend itself to the approval of both houses of Congress. The clause of the Constitution in which must depend any law regulating the presidential succession presents also for solution other questions of paramount importance. These questions relate to the proper interpretation of the phrase "inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office." Our organic law providing that when the President suffer from such inability, the President's office shall devolve upon the Vice president who was himself under like circumstances, to give place to such officer as Congress may by law appoint to act as President. I have not set forth all the numerous interesting inquiries which are suggested by these words of the Constitution. They were fully stated in my first communication to Congress and have therefore been the subject of frequent deliberations in that body. It is greatly to be hoped that these momentous questions will find speedy solutions, lest emergencies may arise when long delay will be impossible, and any determination, albeit the wisest, may furnish cause for anxiety and alarm. For the reasons fully stated in my last annual message, I repeat my recommendation that Congress propose an amendment to that provision of the Constitution, which prescribes the formalities for the appropriation of public money, that the executive may be enabled, while giving his approval to particular items, to interpose his veto as to such others as do not commend themselves to his judgment.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

The Fourteenth amendment of the Constitution confers the rights of citizenship upon all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof. It was the special purpose of this amendment to insure the members of the colored race the full enjoyment of civil and political rights. Certain statutory provisions intended to secure the enforcement of those rights, have been recently declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Any legislation whereby Congress may lawfully supplement the guarantees which the Constitution affords for the equal enjoyment by all the citizens of the United States, of every right, privilege and immunity of citizenship will receive my unhesitating approval.

(Signed)

CHESTER A. ARTHUR,
Washington, D. C.,
December 3, 1883.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE VIRGINIAN PRESS TELEGRAPH LINE

AMERICAN.

LOUISVILLE, 5.—The Farmers' Congress of the United States convened to-day at the Galt House. Sixty delegates were present, representing Kentucky, South Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Colorado, Indiana, and other delegates are expected to arrive to-night. The president of the Congress is Major Thos. J. Hudson Lamar, of Mississippi, who opened the congress addressed it at some length, setting forth the demands and wants of the agriculturists, especially urging the appointment of the Commissioner of Agriculture as a member of the Cabinet. Such an officer, he said, could watch our foreign relations in respect to this interest, which must ever be the greatest. He would be enabled to secure the farmers' labors a better result. There is not a farmer in all this country who understands farming as he should, and how ignorant must be the Cabinet and National councils who have never studied it. The prosperity of the country depends on the progress of agriculture. Such being the state of affairs all deliberations of national leaders should tend towards its elevation. This can never be secured till the farmers are brought into a body. Let us, therefore, teach the farmers their own interests, raise a cry that will reach the federal government at Washington. We are in sad need of a scientific knowledge of farming. Such means should be secured as would put this knowledge into the easy possession of the humblest tillers of the soil. Statistics should be arranged showing the cause and prosperity of the

various products, in various quarters. Thus the farmer would know what land was best adapted to the production of such crops; would know his own poverty as compared with the wealth of his neighbor. One State would watch another; rivalry would be excited, and their best interest enhanced. These reports should be made monthly. The good results of such a system regarding cotton shows its great advantage.

At the conclusion of the President's address committees were appointed for various duties. The Congress will probably be in session three days.

DENVER, 5.—In the U. S. Circuit Court this morning the United States filed an amended bill in the Mexican land grant suit. It sets forth that the original Mexican land grant was 97,000 acres; that in 1869 or 1870 a survey was made and the original boundaries fraudulently enlarged to include a million and a half acres in New Mexico, and nearly 300,000 in Colorado. Objection was made, and in 1877 a case was decided in the Supreme Court which those interested thought substantiated their claim; and title was granted them on application. Subsequent investigations pointed strongly to the belief that the land had been fraudulently obtained, and the present suit is brought by the government to vacate title. The new bill gives a specific detailed history of frauds alleged to have been practiced in procuring the title, and implicates ex-United States Senators Chaffee and Chilcott of Colorado, and Judge Holley, deceased, of New Mexico. The old bill conceded a million and a half acres; hence the new bill.

TOMBSTONE, ARIZ., 5.—A Mexican courier from Fronteras arrived this morning, bringing news to the *Epitaph* that a band of Apaches, probably Geronimo's, whom Crook left in Sonora in the neighborhood of Fronteras, had attacked and badly wounded two Americans, B. C. Scott and T. Bennett, who left here eight days ago. The two men made such a gallant, desperate fight for their lives, that the Indians fled. A surgeon and assistance are dispatched to the wounded men. Great excitement again prevails, and Crook's policy of harboring the women and children, and leaving the fighting bucks to raid, is strongly condemned.

WASHINGTON, 5.—The Commissioner of Pensions says it is the intention of the Department to employ all legal means to break up the existing practice among a certain class of brokers and agents, of taking certificates from pensioners as collateral security for money advanced. Suits to test the constitutionality of the law forbidding this practice are now pending in Philadelphia and Boston.

SAN FRANCISCO, 5.—Secretary Frelinghuysen telegraphed Governor Stoneman that William Ringold Cooper, a heavy forger, whose term in an English prison is about to expire, will be sent here for trial for forgeries committed in this State. A reply was sent to-day that the bankers had decided not to prosecute, the evidence required not being obtainable.

DENVER, 5.—Chas. C. Healey, in the detective service of the Northwestern Railway, is in this city on business for his company, and emphatically and indignantly denies a report telegraphed from Chicago to-day that he had been arrested for compounding a felony or any other crime, and threatens vengeance against the circulators of the libelous report.

SAN FRANCISCO, 5.—A fire was discovered this morning in the hold of the British four-master *Lord Devonshire*, lately arrived. Her cargo was chiefly coal. Ultimate results are uncertain. Owners, T. Dixon & Sons, Belfast.

AUGUSTA, GA., 5.—Three negro children were burned to death in Columbia county. The parents went to church and locked the children in the cabin.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 4.—A Mauritius dispatch says: According to advices from Madagascar, the French bombarded Mahambo and Penierita, on the northeast coast, and two French frigates have gone to bombard Fort Dauphin and other places on the south coast.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., 4.—A conference of delegates to the Australian Legislature passed a resolution in favor of the annexation of New Hebrides, New Guinea and other South Sea islands to Australia.

LANCASHIRE weavers strike against a 5 per cent reduction of wages.

LONDON, 4.—General Pryor to-day requested United States Minister Lowell to apply for a respite for O'Donnell, with the view of obtaining time to set on foot proceedings for commutation of the death sentence. Lowell will apply to the American authorities at Washington for instructions in the matter. Russell, O'Donnell's counsel, will wait upon Lowell to-morrow to submit to him the legal grounds upon which he based the application for a commutation of O'Donnell's sentence.

TOULON, 4.—A telegram from Paris orders all available transports to be dispatched to Algerian ports, where they embark 12,000 men with provisions for seventy days and large supplies of ammunition. The greatest activity prevails in the arsenal at Toulon.

PARIS, 4.—The boxes containing explosives received yesterday by De Lesseps and Contractor Coavrex, were sent by a discharged employee of the Panama Canal company. The man is supposed to be insane.

The police has taken precaution to preserve order in view of the anarchist meeting announced for Friday in front of the bourse.

PARIS, 4.—The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the educational budget.

ST. PETERSBURG, 3.—A woman recently appeared in the Gatchina palace, declaring that she had hitherto belonged to a Socialist society, but deserted it, and wished to tell the Czar something important. The woman was promptly arrested.

HONG KONG, 5.—Admiral Peng Yu Lun, at Canton, has notified all foreigners that war with France is imminent and that he is massing all available land and sea forces for the protection of Canton. The Admiral holds that France is answerable for the war and warns neutral powers to observe the treaty stipulations and rules of international law.

The *London Times* thinks that Pres. Arthur's message is somewhat careless (see tribute to Irish vote) in language used in regard to pauper immigrants. The press generally expresses disappointment that the President did not recommend reductions in the tariff this session, all however refer to the picture the message presents of great prosperity in the United States. It is principally remarkable for the exhibition of decision on the part of republicans to spend public money.

The *Standard* says the most important part of the message is that containing and recommending to use heroic measures for the suppression of polygamy.

The *Telegraph* denounces the President's recommendation to use heroic measures for the suppression of polygamy, and describes the proposal as the attempt to erect a political despotism upon the ruins of a prescribed faith, and to add a precedent from America to one established by England in Erin.

METZ, 5.—Mattenfell, governor of Alsace and Lorraine, has annulled the resolution of the district Diet of Upper Alsace allowing the use of the French language in denaturalized on the ground that the governor's action in the Diet exceeded his legal powers.

LONDON, 5.—O'Donnell's solicitor is endeavoring to induce the jury to sign a memorial to the Home Secretary, asking him to commute the death sentence of O'Donnell. Some of the jurymen are willing to sign the paper but it is expected that a majority will decline.

LONDON, 5.—The directors of the London & San Francisco Bank voted to pay out of the reserve fund the amount of the defalcation of the recent secretary.

It is reported the Zulu chief, Cetewayo, will be restored to power over his tribe and lands, under the protection of British troops.

BIRMINGHAM, 5.—Lord Lorne delivered a long lecture here last evening upon Canada and its products. He particularly praised the salubrity of the climate, and said fevers which were too common in the United States, were unknown within the bounds of the dominion. He lauded Canada as a field for emigration, and expatiated upon the marvellous progress made by various towns. Lord Lorne concluded by saying the Canadian people are thoroughly devoted to their connection with the mother country, otherwise they would long ago have discarded their allegiance, of which they are proud. With the Dominion of Canada and the Australian colonies in close relation, England need never fear that her proud position in the world could be shaken or questioned.

DUBLIN, 5.—At the Assizes to-day,