

THE NAVY.

The report of the secretary of the navy exhibits the successful and satisfactory management of that department during the last fiscal year. The total expenditures for the year were \$12,916,639, leaving unexpended at the close of the year, \$2,141,682 of the amount available. The appropriations for the present fiscal year ending June 30th, 1881, are \$15,095,061, and the total estimates for the next fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1882, are \$15,953,751. The amount drawn by warrant from July 1st, 1880, to November 14th, 1880, is \$5,041,570.

ALASKA.

The recommendation of the secretary of the navy that provision be made for the establishment of some form of civil government for the people of Alaska, is approved. At the present there is no protection of persons or property in that territory, except such as is offered by officers of the United States ship *Jamestown*. This vessel was dispatched to Sitka, because of the fear that without the immediate presence of national authority there was impending danger of anarchy. The steps taken to restore order have been accepted in good faith by both white and Indian inhabitants, and the necessity for the method of restraint does not in my opinion, now exist. It, however, the *Jamestown* should be withdrawn, leaving our people, as at present, without the ordinary judicial and administrative authority of organized local government, serious consequences might ensue. The laws provide only for the collection of revenue, protection of public property and the transmission of mails. The problem is to supply local rule for a population so scattered and peculiar in its origin and condition. The natives are reported to be tractable and self supporting and if properly instructed doubtless would advance rapidly in civilization and a new factor of prosperity would be added to the national life. I therefore recommend requisite legislation upon this subject.

The secretary of the navy has taken steps towards the establishment of naval coaling stations at the Isthmus of Panama to meet the requirement of our commercial relations with Central and South America, which are rapidly growing in importance. Locations eminently suitable, both as regards our naval purposes and the uses of commerce, have been selected one on the east side of the Isthmus, at Chiriqui Lagoon in the Caribbean Sea, and the other on the Pacific, at the Bay of Golfito. The only safe harbors sufficiently commodious on the Isthmus are at these points, and the distance between them is less than 100 miles. The report of the secretary of the navy concludes with valuable suggestions with respect to the building up of our merchant marine service and which deserves the favorable consideration of Congress.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the postmaster general exhibits a continual growth and high state of efficiency of the postal service. The operations of no department of government, perhaps, represent with greater exactness the increase of the population and business of the country. In 1880 the postal receipts were \$8,518,067; in 1880, the receipts were \$33,315,479. All the inhabitants of the country are directly and personally interested in having proper mail facilities, and naturally watch the postoffice very closely. This careful oversight on the part of the people has proved a constant stimulus to improvement. During the past year there was an increase of 2,134 postoffices, and the mail routes were extended 27,177 miles, making an additional annual transportation of 10,804,191 miles. The revenue for the postal service for the ensuing year are estimated at \$38,845,174, and expenditures at \$42,475,932, leaving a deficiency to be appropriated out of the treasury of \$3,630,757. The universal postal union has received the approval of almost all the countries and colonies of the world, maintaining an organized postal service; and it is confidently expected that all the countries and colonies now outside of the union will soon unite herewith, thus realizing the grand idea and aim of the founders of the union of forming for the purposes of international mail communication, a single postal territory embracing the world, with a complete uniformity of postal charges and conditions of international exchange for all descriptions and correspondence. To enable the

United States to do its full shares of this great work, additional legislation is asked by the postmaster general, to whose recommendation especial attention is called. The suggestion of the postmaster general that it would be wise to encourage by appropriate legislation the establishment of American lines of steamers by our own citizens to carry mails between our own ports and those of Mexico, Central America, South America, and of trans Pacific countries, is commended to the serious consideration of Congress. The attention of Congress is also invited to the suggestions of the postmaster general in regard to postal savings.

FEDERAL COURTS.

The necessity for additional provisions to aid in the transaction of the business of federal courts, becomes each year more apparent. The dockets of the Supreme Court and of the circuit courts, in the greater number of the circuits, are encumbered with the constant accessions of cases. In the former court, and in many instances in the circuit courts, years intervene before it is practicable to bring cases to a hearing. The attorney-general recommends the establishment of an intermediate court of errors and appeals. It is recommended that the number of judges of the circuit court, in each circuit, with the exception of the second circuit, should be increased by the additions of another judge; in the second circuit that two should be added, and that intermediate appellate courts should be formed in each circuit, to consist of the circuit judges and circuit justice, and that in the event of the absence of either of these judges, the place of the absent judge should be supplied by the judge of one of the district courts in the circuit. Such appellate court could be safely invested with large jurisdiction and its decisions would satisfy suitors in many cases, where appeals would still be allowed to the Supreme Court. The expense incurred for this intermediate court will require a very moderate increase of the appropriations for the expenses of the department of justice. This recommendation is commended to the careful consideration of Congress. It is evident that the delay of justice, in many instances oppressive and disastrous to suitors, now necessarily occurs in Federal courts, which will in this way be remedied.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The report of the secretary of the interior presents an elaborate account to the operations of that department during the past year. It gives me great pleasure to say that our Indian affairs appear to be in a more hopeful condition now than ever before. The Indians have made gratifying progress in agriculture, herding and mechanical pursuits. Many who were a few years ago in hostile conflict with the government, are quietly settling down on farms where they hope to make their permanent homes, and are building houses and are engaging in the occupations of civilized life. The introduction of freighting among them has been remarkably fruitful of good results in giving many of them congenial and remunerative employment, and in stimulating their ambition to earn their own support. Their honesty, fidelity and efficiency as carriers are highly praised. The organization of a police force of Indians has been equally successful in maintaining law and order on the reservation, and in exercising a wholesome moral influence among the Indians themselves. I concur with the secretary of the interior in the recommendation that the pay of this force be increased as an inducement to the best class of young men to enter it. Much care and attention has been devoted to the enlargement of the educational facilities of the Indians. The means available for this important object have been very inadequate. A few additional boarding schools at the Indian agency have been established and the erection of buildings begun for several more, but an increased appropriation or this interesting and striking is greatly needed to accommodate the large number of Indian children of school age. The number offered by their parents from all parts of the country for education in government schools is much larger than can be accommodated with the means at present available for that purpose. The number of Indian pupils at the Normal School at Hampton, Va., under the direction of Gen. Armstrong, has been considerably increased, and their progress is highly encouraging. The Indian school es-

tablished by the interior department in 1879, at Carlisle, Penn., under the direction of Captain Pratt, has been successful. It has now nearly 200 pupils of both sexes, representing the great variety of lives east of the Rocky Mountains. The pupils in both these institutions receive not only an elementary English education, but are instructed in housework, agricultural and useful mechanical pursuits. A similar school was established this year at Forest Grove, Oregon, for the education of the Indian youth on the Pacific Coast. In addition to this thirty-six Indian boys and girls were selected from the eastern Cherokees and placed in boarding schools in North Carolina, where they are to receive an elementary English education, and training in industrial pursuits. The interest shown by Indian parents, even among the so called wild tribes, in the education of their children is very gratifying and gives promise that the result accomplished by the efforts now making will be of lasting benefit. The expenses of Indian education have so far been drawn from the permanent civilization fund at the disposal of the department of the interior, but the fund is now so much reduced that a continuance of this beneficial work will in future be dependent on a specific appropriation by Congress for the purpose, and I venture to express the hope that Congress will not permit institutions so fruitful of good results to perish for want of means for their support. On the contrary, an increase of the number of such schools appears to me highly advisable. The past year has been unusually free from disturbances among the Indian tribes. An agreement has been made with the Utes by which they surrender their large reservation in Colorado in consideration of an annuity, to be paid them, and agree to settle in severalty on certain lands designated for that purpose as farmers, holding individual titles to their lands in fee simple, inalienable for a certain period. In this way a costly Indian war has been avoided, which at one time seemed imminent, and for the first time in the history of the country, an Indian nation has given up its tribal existence to settle in severalty and live as individuals under the common protection of the laws of the country. The conduct of the Indians throughout the country during the past year, with but few noteworthy exceptions, has been orderly and peaceful. The guerilla warfare carried on for two years by Victorio and his band of Southern Apaches, has virtually come to end by the death of that chief and most of his followers on Mexican soil. The disturbances caused on our northern frontier by Sitting Bull and his men, who had taken refuge in the British dominions are also likely to cease. A large majority of his followers have surrendered to our military forces, and the remainder are apparently in a state of disintegration. I concur with the secretary of the interior in expressing the earnest hope that congress will, before the close of the session, take favorable action on the bill providing for the allotment of lands on different reservations in severalty to Indians with patents conferring a fee simple title, inalienable for a certain period, and the eventual disposition of the residue of the reservations for general settlement, with the consent and for the benefit of the Indians, placing the latter under the equal protection of the laws of the country. This method, together with a vigorous prosecution of our educational efforts, will work a most important and effective advance toward the solution of the Indian problem, and in preparing for the gradual incorporation of our Indian population into the great body of agrarian citizenship.

PUBLIC LANDS.

A large increase is reported in the disposal of public lands for settlement during the past year, which marks the prosperous growth of our agricultural industry and a vigorous movement of the population toward our unoccupied lands. As this movement proceeds the codification of our land laws, as well as proper legislation to regulate the disposition of public lands, become of more pressing necessity, and I therefore invite consideration of Congress to the report and the accompanying draft of a bill, made by the public lands commission, which were communicated by me to Congress at the last session. Early action upon this important subject is highly desirable.

TIMBER LANDS.

The attention of Congress is again asked to the wasteful depredations committed on our public timber lands, and the rapid and indiscriminate destruction of our forests. Urgent necessity for legislation to the end that this may be prevented, is now generally recognized in view of the lawless character of the depredations committed and the disastrous consequences which will inevitably follow their continuance. Legislation again and again has been recommended to arrest the evil and preserve for the people of our western states and territories the timber needed for domestic and other purposes.

GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SURVEY.

The report of the director of geological surveys is a document of unusual interest. The consolidation of the various geological and geographical surveys and exploring enterprises, each of which has heretofore operated upon an independent plan without concert, cannot fail to be of great benefit to all those industries of the country which depend upon the development of our mineral resources. The labors of the scientific men of recognized merit who compose the corps of geological survey, during the first season of their field operations and inquiries, appear to have been very comprehensive, and will soon be communicated to Congress in a number of volumes. The director of surveys recommends that the investigations carried on by his bureau, which so far has been confined to the so-called public land states and territories, be extended over the entire country, and that the necessary appropriation be made for this purpose. This would be particularly beneficial to iron, coal and to the other mining interests of the Mississippi valley, and of the eastern and southern states. The subject is commended to the careful consideration of Congress.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The secretary of the interior asks attention to the want of room in the public building of the capital now existing and in progress of construction for the accommodation of the clerical force employed on the public records. Necessity has compelled the renting of private buildings in different parts of the city for the location of public offices for which a large amount of rent is annually paid, while the separation of offices belonging to the same department impedes the transaction of current business. The secretary suggests that the block surrounding Lafayette Square on the east north and west be purchased as a site for a new edifice for the accommodation of government offices, leaving the square itself intact, and that if such buildings were constructed upon an harmonious plan of architecture, they would add very much to the beauty of the national capitol, and would, together with the treasury and new state, navy and war department buildings, form one of the most imposing groups of public edifices in the world.

TEA AND SUGAR.

The commissioner of agriculture expresses the confident belief that his efforts in behalf of the production of our own sugar and teas have been encouragingly rewarded. The importance of the results attained have attracted marked attention at home and have received special consideration from foreign nations. The successful cultivation of our own tea and the manufacture of our own sugar would make a difference of many millions of dollars annually in the wealth of the nation.

CATTLE DISEASE.

The commissioner asks attention particularly to the continued prevalence of infectious and contagious cattle diseases known in Europe and Asia as the cattle plague, or pleuro-pneumonia. A mild type of this disease in the present condition of our country is the occasion of great loss to our farmers and a serious disturbance to our trade with Great Britain, which furnishes a market for most of our live stock and dressed meats. The value of cattle exported from the United States for the eight months ended August 31, 1880, was more than \$127,000,000, and nearly double the value for the same period in 1879, an unexampled increase in the export trade. Your early attention is solicited to this important matter.

PUBLIC AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The commissioner of education re-

ports a continued increase of public interest in educational affairs, and that the public schools generally throughout the country are well sustained. Industrial training is attracting deserved attention, and colleges or instruction theoretically and practically in agriculture, mechanics and arts, including the government schools recently established for the instruction of Indian youths, are gaining steadily in public estimation. The commissioner asks special attention to the depredations committed in the lands reserved for the future support of public instruction, and to the very great need of help from the nation for schools in the territories, and in the southern states. The recommendation heretofore made is repeated, and it is urged that an educational fund be set apart from the net proceeds of the sales of public lands, annually, the income of which shall be distributed on some satisfactory plan to the states and territories and the District of Columbia. The success of the public schools of the District of Columbia and the progress made under the intelligent direction of the board of education and superintendent, in supplying the educational requirements of the district with thoroughly trained and efficient teachers is very gratifying.

SCHOOL LANDS.

The acts of Congress, from time to time, donating public lands to the several states and territories in aid of educational interests, have proved to be wise measures for public good, resulting in great and lasting benefit. It would seem a matter of simple justice to extend the benefits of this legislation, the wisdom of which has been so fully indicated by experience, to the District of Columbia. I again commend the general interests of the District of Columbia to the favorable consideration of Congress.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The affairs of the district, as shown by the report of the commissioners, are in a very satisfactory condition. In my annual messages heretofore, and in my special message of December 15th, 1879, I have urged upon the attention of Congress the necessity of reclaiming the marshes of the Potomac, adjacent to the capital, and again I am constrained, by its importance, to advert to the subject. These flats embrace an area of several hundred acres. They are an impediment to the drainage of the city, and seriously impair its health. It is believed with the substantial improvement of the river front, the capital would be in all respects one of the most attractive cities in the world. Aside from its permanent population, this city is necessarily the place of residence of persons from every section of the country engaged in public service. Many others reside here temporarily for the transaction of business with the government. It should not be forgotten that the land required will probably be worth the cost of reclaiming it and the navigation of the river greatly improved. I, therefore, again invite the attention of Congress to provide prompt provision for this much-needed and too long-delayed improvement. The water supply of the city is inadequate. In addition to the ordinary use throughout the city, the consumption by government in the navy yard, arsenal and various departments, and a large quantity is required for the proper preservation of the numerous parks and the cleansing of sewers. I recommend this subject to receive the early attention of Congress and that in making provision for an increased supply, such means be adopted as will have in view the future growth of the city. Temporary expedients for such a purpose cannot but be a waste of money and therefore unwise, and a more ample reservoir, with corresponding facilities for keeping it filled, should, in my judgment, be constructed. I recommend again to the attention of Congress the subject of the removal from their present location, of the depots of the several railroads entering the city; and I renew the recommendations of my former messages in behalf of the congressional erection of a building for a library, the completion of the Washington monument and of liberal appropriations in support of the benevolent, reformatory and penal institutions of the district.

(Signed)

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES,
Executive Mansion, Dec. 6th, 1881.