

mail facilities with South America. This is greatly to be regretted, and I do not hesitate to recommend the authorization of a renewal of that contract, and also that service may be increased from monthly to semi-monthly trips. The commercial advantages to be gained by a direct line of American steamers to the South American states, will far outweigh the expense of the service.

By the act of Congress approved March 3rd, 1875, almost all matter, whether properly mail matter or not may be sent any distance through the mails, in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight for the sum of sixteen cents per pound. So far as the transmission of real mail matter goes, this would seem entirely proper; but I suggest that the law be amended so as to exclude from the mails merchandise of all descriptions, and limit this transportation to all articles enumerated, and which may be classed as mail matter proper.

THE BLACK HILLS.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills, a portion of the Sioux reservation, has had the effect to induce a large emigration of miners to that point. Thus far the effort to protect the treaty rights of the Indians in that section have been successful; but the next year will certainly witness a large increase of such emigration. The negotiation for the relinquishment of the gold fields having failed, it will be necessary for Congress to adopt some measures to relieve the embarrassment growing out of the causes named. The Secretary of the Interior suggests that the supplies now appropriated for the sustenance of that people, being no longer obligatory under the treaty of 1868, but simply a gratuity, may be issued or withheld at his discretion.

INDIAN TERRITORY.

The condition of Indian Territory, to which I have referred in several of my former annual messages, remains practically unchanged. The Secretary of the Interior has taken measures to obtain a full report of the condition of that Territory, and will make it the subject of a special report at an early day. It may then be necessary to make a further recommendation in regard to legislation for the government of that Territory.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

The steady growth and increase of the business of the Patent Office indicate, in some measure, the progress of the industrial prosperity of the country. The receipts of this office are in excess of its expenditures, and the office generally is in a prosperous and satisfactory condition.

LAND OFFICE REPORT.

The report of the General Land Office shows that there were 2,459,601 acres less disposed of during this than last year. More than half of this decrease was in land disposed of under the homestead and timber cutting laws. The causes of the decrease are supposed to be found in the grasshoppers and the drouths which have prevailed so extensively in some of the frontier States and Territories, so as to discourage and deter entries by actual settlers. The cash receipts were less by \$690,322.23 than during the preceding year. The entire surveyed area of the public domain is 680,253,095 acres, of which 26,075,531 acres were surveyed during the past year, leaving 54,471,762 acres still unsurveyed. The report of the commissioners presents many interesting suggestions in regard to the disposition of the public domain and the modification of existing laws, the apparent importance of which should insure the careful consideration of Congress.

THE PENSION LIST.

The number of pensions still continues to decrease, the highest number having been reached during the year ending June 30, 1872. During the last year 11,557 names were added to the rolls, and 12,977 were dropped, showing a net decrease of 1,420. But while the number of pensioners has decreased, the annual amount due on the pension rolls has increased \$4,473,318. This is caused by the greatly increased average rate of pensions, which, by the liberal legislation of Congress, has increased from \$9,026 in 1872, to \$10,391 in 1875, to each invalid pensioner, an increase in the average rate of one hundred per cent. in the three years. During the year ending June 30, 1875, there was paid on account of pensions, including the

expenses of disbursement, \$29,688,116, being \$910,632 less than was paid the preceding year. This reduction in amount of expenditures was produced by a decrease in the amount of arrearages due on allowed claims, and on pensions, the rate of which was increased by the legislation of the preceding session of Congress.

At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension rolls 234,821 persons, of whom 210,363 were army pensioners, 105,475 being invalids, and 104,885 widows and dependent relatives; 3,420 were navy pensioners, of whom 1,633 were invalids, and 1,784 widows and dependent relatives; 21,038 were pensioners of the war of 1812, 15,875 of whom were survivors and 5,163 were widows. It is estimated that \$29,535,000 will be required for the payment of pensions for the next fiscal year, in amount \$965,000 less than the estimate for the present year.

GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS.

The geological explorations have been prosecuted with energy during the year, covering an area of about 40,000 square miles in the territories of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, developing the agricultural and mineral resources, and furnishing interesting scientific and topographical details of that region.

THE INDIAN PEACE POLICY.

The method for the treatment of Indians adopted at the beginning of my first term, has been steadily pursued, and with satisfactory and encouraging results. It has been productive of evident improvement in the condition of that race, and will be continued with only such modifications as further experience may indicate to be necessary.

THE GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The board heretofore appointed to take charge of the articles and matters pertaining to the War, the Navy, the Treasury, the Interior and the Post Office departments, and the Department of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institution and the Commission of Food Fishes, to be contributed under the legislation of last session, to the International Exhibition, to be held at Philadelphia during the Centennial year, 1876, has been diligent in the discharge of the duties which have devolved upon it, and the proportions so far, and with the means at command, give the assurance that the governmental contribution will be made one of the marked characteristics of the exhibition. The board has observed considerable economy in the matter of the erection of buildings for the governmental exhibit, the expense of which, it is estimated, will not exceed the amount of, say \$8,000. This amount has been withdrawn under the law from the appropriations of five of the principal departments, which leaves some of those departments without sufficient means to render their respective practical exhibits complete and satisfactory. The exhibition being an international one, and the government being a voluntary contributor, it is my opinion that its contribution should be of a character, in quality and extent, to sustain the dignity and credit of so distinguished a contributor. The advantages to the country of a creditable display, in an international point of view, is of the first importance, while an indifferent or uncreditable participation by the government, would be humiliating to the patriotic feelings of our people themselves. I commend the estimates of the board for the necessary additional appropriations.

"SCANDALOUS" CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN UTAH.

I have called attention to the anomalous, not to say scandalous, condition of affairs existing in the Territory of Utah, and have asked for definite legislation to correct it. That polygamy should exist in a free, enlightened and Christian country, without the power to punish so flagrant a crime against decency and morality, seems preposterous. True, there is no law to sustain this unnatural vice, but what is needed is a law to punish it as a crime, and at the same time to fix the status of the innocent children, the offspring of this system, and of the possibly innocent plural wives. But as an institution, polygamy should be banished from the land.

CHINESE PROSTITUTION.

While this is being done, I invite the attention of Congress to another

though perhaps no less an evil—the importation of Chinese women, but few of whom are brought to our shores to pursue honorable or useful occupations.

PUBLIC LANDS, TIMBER, & C.

Observations while visiting the Territories of Wyoming, Utah and Colorado during the past autumn, have convinced me that the existing laws regulating the disposition of public lands, timber, etc., and probably the mining laws themselves, are very defective, and should be carefully amended, and at an early day. In a Territory where the cultivation of the soil can only be followed where irrigation is practicable, the lands can only be used as pasturage, and this only where the stock can reach water to quench their thirst, and its disposal should not be governed by the same laws as in a State or Territory where irrigation is unnecessary, as the land must be held in larger quantities to justify the expense of conducting water upon it to make it fruitful, or to justify the utilizing of it as pasturage.

The timber in most of the territories is principally confined to the mountain regions, which are held for entry in small quantities only, and as mineral lands. The timber is the property of the United States, in the disposal of which there is now no adequate law. The settler must become a consumer of this timber whether he lives upon the plains or engages in working the mines, hence every man becomes either a trespasser himself or knowingly a patron of trespassers. My opportunities for observation were not sufficient to justify me in recommending specific legislation on these subjects, but I do recommend that a joint committee of the two houses of Congress, sufficiently large to be divided into sub-committees, be organized to visit all the mining States and territories during the coming summer, and that the committee shall report to Congress at the next session such laws, or amendments to laws, as it may deem necessary to insure the best interests of the government and the people of these territories, who are doing so much for their development. I am sure the citizens occupying the territories described do not wish to be trespassers, nor will they be if legal ways are provided for them to become the owners of these actual necessities of their position.

RECAPITULATION.

As this will be the last annual message which I shall have the honor of transmitting to Congress before my successor is chosen, I will repeat, or recapitulate, the questions which I deem of vital importance to be legislated upon and settled at this session—First, that the States shall be required to afford the opportunity of a good common school education to every child within their limits; second, no sectarian tenets shall ever be taught in any school supported in whole or in part by the State or nation, or by the proceeds of any tax levied upon any community; to make education compulsory so far as to deprive all persons who cannot read and write from becoming voters after the year 1890, disfranchising none, however, on the grounds of illiteracy, who may be voters at the time this amendment takes effect; third, to declare Church and State forever separate and distinct, but each free within their proper spheres, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of taxation; fourth, to drive out licensed immorality, such as polygamy and the importation of women for illegitimate purposes. To recur again to the centennial year, it would seem as though now, that we are about to begin the second century of our national existence, it would be a most fitting time for these reforms. Fifth, to enact such laws as will insure a speedy return to a sound currency, and such as will command the respect of the world.

Believing that these views will commend themselves to the great majority of the right thinking and patriotic citizens of the U. S., I submit the rest to Congress.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT,
Executive Mansion,
December Seventh, Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-Five.

PRICE OF GOLD

Corrected daily by DESERET NATIONAL BANK.
SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 13, 1875.
Buying at \$1.12½; Selling at \$1.14.

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

TAHLEQUAH, 4, via Muskogee, I. T., 6.—The Cherokee National Council adjourned to-day, after a harmonious session. The change from the Ross to the Downing party was peaceably effected. Col. Wm. Penn Adair, and D. H. Ross were re-elected as delegates to Washington, Rufus Ross and John L. Adair being added to the delegation; they will leave shortly to watch for any unfavorable legislation, and protest against all territorial bills relating to this territory.

NEW ORLEANS, 6.—The steamer *C. K. Durfee*, hence for Red River, when twelve miles up the river, burst her steam pipe, and killed one, scalded three and three jumped overboard and were drowned.

PHILADELPHIA, 6.—A memorial is to be presented to Congress tomorrow, by the members of the U. S. Centennial committee, praying for an appropriation of a million and a half.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The U. S. Supreme Court, case 647, *Atherton et al vs Fower et al*, in error to the Supreme Court of California. In this case it is held that where the supreme court of a state has reversed and modified the judgment of an inferior court, and did not permit further proceedings in the inferior court, if the defendants consented to the modification directed, and the defendant did consent, judgment was final, and a writ of error, based upon it, as a final judgment, will be sustained. The motion to dismiss was denied. Mr. Chief Justice Waite delivered the opinion. No. 618, *Lowe vs. Lowe*, from the same court. The motion to dismiss the writ of error in this case was denied on the authority of the decision in the case above.

Secretary Robeson, in his report, has the following to say on the condition of the Navy—

"It is gratifying to be able to report that the navy is now in a stronger and more efficient condition than ever at any time since the commencement of your administration. It is not only very strong in number, but what there is of them are in as good condition as it is practicable to keep such material of war under the various trying conditions to which they are, in the nature of their service, constantly exposed. A far larger proportion than usual of our wooden ships are ready for service, our iron-clad fleet is efficient, our store houses are fairly stocked with ordnance equipments and supplies, and we have on hand a fair supply of the best material for building and repairing ships. The service has been placed in this state of efficiency, compared with what existed a few years ago, by utilizing what could be spared from the current appropriations and from the appropriations made during the Cuban emergency, and applying these means practically and steadily toward what was worth saving of the navy in as permanent and good condition as the state of the ships and the means at command will allow. It would also be well if Congress would afford means to finish at once all the repairs of the five double turreted monitors, since, when they are finished, according to the present design, our ironclad fleet will be much more powerful, and they are, while undergoing repairs, useless for any present purposes, and the process of repairing out of what can be spared from current appropriations not only cripples the department in all other operations, but is, of course, very slow. With these added to it, our ironclad service would, for the purposes of defence, present a very substantial barrier to anything which would cross the seas and attempt to enter our ports."

The Secretary of the Treasury has sent to Congress his book of estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, the following being the total recapitulation by departments—Congress \$6,958,475; executive proper \$78,400; Department of State \$1,601,095; Treasury Department \$171,193,267; War Department \$57,430,499; Navy Department \$22,792,420; Interior \$40,594,125; Post-office \$9,862,714; Department of Justice \$3,850,040; Department of Agriculture \$251,565; grand total \$314,612,606. The appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, were \$16,864,592 less than the estimates, and the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877 are \$4,612,608 larger than the estimates for the previous year.

BOSTON, 6.—At a large meeting, to-day, of the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School Union and Tract Society, also at the weekly meeting of preachers, comprising nearly 200, Bishop Haven urged, as a measure of relief for the public, the renomination of General Grant for President; his views were adopted by a unanimous vote.

GALVESTON, 6.—The revenue cutter *John A. Dix* arrived yesterday evening, having been detained by rough weather; it is expected that she will leave for the Rio Grande to-night.

Advices from Brownsville state that Judge Mendalis, of the federal court at Matamoros, has been ordered to Camargo by President Lerdo, to investigate McNeely's raids on Los Cueros.

LEAVENWORTH, Kas., 6.—The school board in this city, by a vote of five to four, has resolved to admit colored children to the public schools in this city.

SAN FRANCISCO, 6.—The Consolidated Virginia has declared a dividend, payable on the 11th.

NEW YORK, 7.—Oerlicks & Co., agents of the North German Lloyd steamship line, to which line the *Deutschland* belonged, have received a dispatch from London, which says that the Admiralty officers reported that the boat picked up was washed ashore from the *Deutschland*, and it was supposed that she struck at some point on the Kentish Knock Sands; a tug has been sent out to search for her and to render assistance. The agents of the line have grave fears concerning her, and do not conceal them. They suppose the vessel went ashore in a fog, as the latest weather report from England contains an account of thick weather on the eastern coast, which probably extended over the North Sea. In January last the *Deutschland* encountered a terrible storm on her way to this port from Bremen, but she was safely taken back to the other side of the Atlantic, although her machinery had been disabled. She has only made one trip from Southampton since encountering this storm, where she was laid up along with half a dozen other steamers of the line, and has not been used since February last. The former commander of the *Deutschland*, Captain Ludwigs, a thorough efficient officer, was placed in charge of the company's docks at Bremen a short time ago, and the new captain, whose name has not been ascertained, was transferred to the *Deutschland*. The number of passengers on board is not known, but information on this point has been asked by telegraph.

Oerlicks & Co. have just received the following dispatch from their agents at Southampton—

"The *Deutschland* ran ashore on Long Sands; fifty of the passengers and crew are reported drowned. Part of the passengers and crew were landed at Harwich on Tuesday p.m. Further particulars are wanting."

The *Deutschland* fired rockets all day on Monday, and until Tuesday morning, and although they were seen from Harwich, it was impracticable to send assistance until the gate moderated. At four o'clock this morning the tug *Liverpool* brought in fifty one persons, including all the officers except the fourth. One child died on board the tug. The number of dead bodies in the steamer's cabin was fifty, and others are probably in the boats which are missing. So far, only about fifty-four are known to be saved. Breck, the quartermaster, is apparently dying, his swollen blackened appearance indicating frost bite; his narrative was given with great difficulty. He said his boat was attached to the ship by a rope, which broke, and the boat fell off to leeward, and there being no oars it was impossible to return, so a sail was rigged, and the boat drove before the wind all day and the following night. A steerage passenger named Fernstein, being lightly clad and without shoes and stockings, soon died, and a seaman shortly after. At five o'clock this morning the boat was perceived by an artilleryman on duty at the fort at Sheerness, and Breck was rescued. The captain said that signals were answered from the light vessels and coast guards stationed at Harwich during Monday evening, but owing to the fierceness of the gale it was impossible to send assistance; no life boat was to be had, and none other could live.

Later—Scenes at the wreck on the arrival of the tug defy description.