

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

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mend that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those on spirituous, vinous and malt liquors and tobacco in its various forms, and from stamps.

### Readjustment of the Tariff.

In readjusting the tariff, I suggest that a careful estimate be made of the amounts of surplus revenue collected under the present laws, after providing for the current expenses of the government, the interest account and sinking fund, and that this surplus be reduced in such manner as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number. There are many articles not produced at home, such as compounded medicines, from which very little revenue is derived, but which enter into general use. All such articles I recommend to be placed on the free list. Should a further reduction prove advisable, I would then recommend that it be made upon those articles which can bear it without disturbing home production or injuring the wages of American labor. I have not entered into figures, because to do so would be to repeat all that is laid before you in the report of the secretary of the treasury.

### Customs Abuses.

The present laws for collecting revenues, pay collectors of customs small salaries, but provide for shares, all of which, at the principal ports of entry particularly, raise the compensation of these officials to a large sum. It has always seemed to me as if this system must at times work perniciously. It holds out inducements to dishonest men, should such get possession of those offices, to be lax in their scrutiny of goods entered to enable them finally to make large seizures. Your attention is respectfully invited to this subject.

### Specie Payment.

The continued fluctuations on the value of gold compared with the national currency, has a most damaging effect upon the increase and development of the country, in keeping up prices of all articles necessary in every day life. It fosters a spirit of gambling prejudicial alike to the national morals and national finances. If the question can be met, as to how to get a fixed value to our currency, that value constantly and uniformly approaching par with specie, a very desirable object will be gained.

### Secretary of War's Report.

For the operations of the army in the past year, the expense of maintaining it, the estimates for the ensuing year, and for continuing sea coast and other improvements conducted under the supervision of the war department, I refer you to the accompanying report of the secretary of war.

### Army Staff Corps.

I call your attention to the provisions of the act of congress, approved March 3d, 1869, which discontinues promotion in the staff corps of the army, until provided for by law. I recommend that the number of officers in each grade of staff corps be fixed, and that whenever the number in any one grade falls below the number so fixed, that the vacancy may be filled by promotion from the grade below. I also recommend that, when the office of chief of corps becomes vacant, the place may be filled by selection from the corps in which the vacancy exists.

### The Naval Service.

The report of the secretary of the navy shows an improvement in the number and efficiency of the naval forces, without material increase in the expense of supporting it. This is due to the policy which has been adopted and is being extended, as far as our material will admit of, in using vessels as cruisers on the several stations. By these means we have been enabled to occupy at once a large extent of ocean frontage, to visit more frequently the ports where the presence of our flag is desirable, and generally to discharge more efficiently the appropriate duties of the navy in time of peace, without exceeding the number of men or the expenditures authorized by law. During the past year the navy has, in addition to its regular service, supplied the men and officers for the vessels of the coast survey, and has completed the surveys, authorized by congress, of the Isthmus of Darien and Tehuantepec, and in like manner has sent out an expedition completely furnished and equipped, to explore the unknown

ocean of the north. The suggestion of the report, on the necessity for improving the material of the navy, and the plan recommended for reducing the service to a peace standard by the gradual abolition of certain grades of officers, the reduction of others, and the employment of some on the service of the commercial marine, are all considered and deserve the thoughtful attention of congress.

I also recommend that all promotions in the navy should rank by selection, instead of by seniority. This course will secure in the higher grades greater efficiency, and hold out an incentive to young officers to improve themselves in the knowledge of their profession. The present cost of maintaining the navy, its cost compared with that of the preceding year, and the estimates for the ensuing year, are contained in the accompanying report of the secretary of the navy.

### Postal Department and Postal Telegraphy.

The increased receipts of the post office department, as shown by the accompanying report of the post master general, is a gratifying exhibit in that branch of the public service. It is the index of the growth of education, and of the prosperity of the people, two elements highly conducive to the vigor and stability of republics. With a vast territory like ours, much of it sparsely populated, all requiring the service of the mails, it is not at present to be expected that this department can be made self sustaining, but a gradual approach to this end from year to year is confidently expected; and the day is not far distant when the postoffice department of the government will prove a much greater blessing to the whole people than it is now. The suggestions of the postmaster-general, for improvements in the department presided over by him, are earnestly recommended to your special attention, especially the documents favorable to the consideration of the plan for uniting the telegraph system of the United States with the postal service. It is believed that by such a course the cost of telegraphing could be much reduced; and it would secure the further advantage of extending the telegraph throughout portions of the country where private enterprise will not construct it. Commerce, trade, and above all, the efforts to bring a people widely scattered into a community of interests, are always benefited by rapid intercommunication, and the ground work of republican institutions is encouraged by increasing such facilities, together with speedy news from all parts of the country. The desire to reap the benefits of such improvements will stimulate education. I refer you to the report of the postmaster-general for full details of the operations of last year, and for comparative statements of the results with former years.

### Enforcing the Ku Klux Act.

There has been imposed upon the executive branch of the government, the execution of the act of Congress approved April 20th, 1871, and commonly known as the Ku Klux law, in a portion of the State of South Carolina. The necessity of the course pursued will be demonstrated by the report of the committee to investigate Southern outrages. Under the provisions of the above act I issued a proclamation, calling the attention of the people of the United States to the same, declaring my reluctance to exercise any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me except in case of imperative necessity, but making known my purpose to exercise such powers whenever it should become necessary to do so for the purpose of securing to all citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution and the laws. After the passage of this law information was received from time to time that combinations of the character referred to in this law existed, and were powerful, in many parts of the Southern States, particularly in certain counties in South Carolina. Careful investigation was made, and it was ascertained that in nine counties of that State such combinations were active and powerful, embracing a sufficient portion of the citizens to control the local authorities, and having among other things the object of depriving the emancipated class of the substantial benefits of

freedom, and of the privilege of the free political action of those citizens who did not sympathize with their own views. Among their operations were frequent scourings and occasional assassinations, generally perpetrated at night by disguised persons, their victims, in almost all cases, being citizens of different political sentiments from their own, or free persons who had shown a disposition to claim the usual rights with other citizens. Thousands of inoffensive and well disposed citizens were the sufferers by this lawless violence.

Thereupon, on the 13th of October, 1871, a proclamation was issued in the terms of the law, calling upon the members of the combination to disperse within five days, and to deliver to the marshal or military officers of the United States all arms, ammunition, uniforms, disguises and other means and implements used by them for carrying out their unlawful purposes. This warning not having been heeded, on the 17th of October, another proclamation was issued, suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* in nine counties in that State. Direction was given that within the counties so designated persons supposed, upon credible information, to be members of such unlawful combinations should be arrested by the military forces of the United States and delivered to the marshal to be dealt with according to law. In two of said counties many arrests have been made. At the last accounts the number of persons thus arrested was one hundred and sixty-eight. Several hundred, whose criminality was ascertained to be of an inferior degree, were released for the present; and these have generally made confessions of their guilt. Great caution has been exercised in making these arrests, and notwithstanding the large number, it is believed that no innocent person is now in custody. The prisoners will be held for regular trial before the judicial tribunals of the United States. As soon as it appeared that the authorities of the United States were about to take vigorous measures to enforce the law, many persons absconded, and there is good ground for supposing that all of such persons have been violators of the law. A full report of what has been done under this law will be submitted to congress by the attorney-general.

### The Utah Difficulty.

In Utah there still remains a remnant of barbarism repugnant to civilization, decency and to the laws of the United States. Territorial officers, however, have been found who are willing to perform their duty in a spirit of equity, and with a due sense of sustaining the majesty of the law. Neither polygamy nor any other violation of existing statutes will be permitted within the territory of the United States. It is not with the religion of the self styled saints that we are now dealing, but their practices. They will be protected in the worship of God according to the dictates of their consciences, but they will not be permitted to violate laws under the cloak of religion. It may be advisable for congress to consider what, in the execution of laws against polygamy, is to be the status of plural wives and their offspring. The propriety of congress passing an enabling act authorizing the Territorial legislature of Utah to legitimize all born prior to a time fixed in the act, might be justified by its humanity to the innocent children. This is a suggestion only, and not a recommendation.

### The Indians.

The policy pursued towards the Indians has resulted favorably, so far as can be judged from the limited time during which it has been in operation, through the efforts of the various societies of Christians, to whom has been entrusted the execution of the policy, and the board of commissioners authorized by the law of April 10th, 1869. Many tribes have been induced to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil and perform productive labor of various kinds, and to partially accept civilization. They are being cared for in such a way, it is hoped, as to induce them while still pursuing their old habits of life to embrace the only opportunity which is left them to avoid extermination. I recommend liberal appropriations to carry out the Indian peace policy, not only because it is humane, christian-like and economic, but because it is right.

I recommend to your favorable consideration, also, the policy of granting a Territorial government to the Indians on the Indian Territory west of the Arkansas and Missouri and south of Kansas. In doing this, every right guaranteed to Indians by treaty should be secured. Such a course might, in time, be the means of collecting most of the Indians now between the Missouri and Pacific, and south of the British possessions, into one Territory or one State. The secretary of the interior has treated upon this subject at length, and I recommend to you his suggestions.

### Public Lands.

I renew my recommendations that the public lands be regarded as a heritage to our children, to be disposed of only as required for occupation, and to actual settlers. Those already granted have been, in great part, disposed of in such a way as to secure access to the balance by the hardy settler who may wish to avail himself of them; but caution should be exercised even in attaining so desirable an object. Educational interests may well be secured by the grant of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish to be understood as recommending, in the least degree, a curtailment of what is being done by the general government for the encouragement of education.

### Departmental and Bureau Reports.

The report of the secretary of the interior, submitted with this, will give you information collected and prepared for publication, in regard to the census taken during the year 1870, the operations of the bureau of education for the year, the patent office, the pension office, the land office and the Indian bureau. The report of the commissioner of agriculture gives the operations of his department for the year.

### The Agricultural Bureau.

As agriculture is the groundwork of our prosperity, too much importance cannot be attached to the labors of this department, which is in the hands of an able head with able assistants, all zealously devoted to introducing into the agricultural productions of the nation all useful products adapted to the various climates and soils of our vast territory, and to giving all useful information as to the methods of cultivating the plants, cereals, and other products adapted to particular portions. Surely the agricultural bureau is working a great national good, and if liberally supported the more wide its influence will be extended, and the less dependent we shall be upon the products of foreign countries.

### Increased Compensation for Officials.

The subject of compensation to the heads of bureaus, and officials holding positions of responsibility and requiring ability and character to fill properly, is one to which your attention is invited. But few of the officials receive a compensation equal to the responsibility of a respectable father of a family, while their duties are such as to involve millions of interest. In private life services demand compensation equal to the service rendered. A wise economy would dictate the same rule in the government service.

### Government Expenses.

I have not given the estimates for the support of the government for the ensuing year, or comparative statements between the expenditures for the year just passed and the one just commencing, because all these figures are contained in the accompanying reports, or in those presented directly to congress. These estimates have my approval.

### General Amnesty.

More than six years having elapsed since the last hostile gun was fired between the armies then arrayed against each other, one for the perpetration, the other for the destruction, of the Union, it may be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the 14th amendment should be removed.

That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only requires the disability to hold office of certain classes. When the purity of the ballot box is secure and the majority are sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority, I do not see the advantage or the propriety of excluding men from office, merely because they were before the rebellion of standing and

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