

to exercise some discretion in apportioning punishment and would greatly relieve the executive of what is coming to be a very heavy burden—the examination of these cases on application for commutation.

The aggregate of claims pending in the court of claims is enormous. Claims to the amount of nearly \$40,000,000 for injury to persons claiming to be loyal during the war are now before that court for examination. When to these are added the Indian deprecation claims and the French spoliation claims an aggregate is reached that is indeed startling. In the defense of these claims the government is at a great disadvantage. The claimants have preserved their evidence whereas the government has to send agents to rummage the field for what they can find. This difficulty is peculiarly great where the fact to be established is the disloyalty of the claimant during the war. If this great threat against our revenue is to have no other check it is certain congress should supply the department of justice with appropriations sufficiently liberal to secure the best legal talent in the defense of these claims and to pursue its vague search for evidence.

THE POST OFFICE.

The report of the postmaster-general shows a most gratifying increase and a most efficient and progressive management of the great business of that department. The remarkable increase in revenues in the number of post offices and in the miles of mail interchange furnishes further evidence of the high state of prosperity which our people are enjoying. New offices mean new hamlets, towns, routes mean the extension of our border settlements, and increased revenues mean active commerce. The postmaster-general reviews the whole period of his administration of the office and brings some of his statistics down to the month of November last. The postal revenues have increased during the last year nearly \$5,000,000. The deficit for the year ending June 30, 1892, is \$18,311 less than the deficiency of the preceding year. The deficiency of the present fiscal year it is estimated will be reduced to \$1,754,423, which will not only be extinguished during the next fiscal year, but a surplus of nearly \$1,000,000 should there be shown.

In these calculations the payments to be made under the contracts for ocean mail service have not been included. There have been added 1,500 new mail routes during the year with a mileage of 8,661 miles, and the total number of new miles of mail trips added during the year is nearly 17,000,000. The number of miles of mail journeys added during the last four years is about 75,000,000, this addition being 21,000,000 of miles more than there were in operation in the whole country in 1891.

The number of post offices has been increased by 2,750 during the year, and during the past four years and up to October 20 last, the total increase of the number of offices has been nearly 1,000. The number of free delivery offices has been nearly doubled in the past four years and the number of money order offices more than doubled with that time. For three years ended June 30, 1892, the postage revenue amounted to \$193,741,550, which was an increase of \$22,233,150 over the revenue for three years ended June 30, 1888. The increase during the last three years being more than three and a half times as great as the increase during the three years ended June 30, 1888. No such increase as that shown for these three years has ever previously appeared in the revenues of the department. The postmaster-general has extended to the post offices in the larger cities the merit of promotion, introduced by my direction, into the departments here, and it has resulted there, as in that department, in a large volume of work, and that better done.

Ever since our merchant marine was driven from the sea by the rebel cruisers during the war of the rebellion, the United States has been paying an enormous annual tribute to foreign countries in the shape of freight and passenger money, our grain and meat have been taken at our own docks and large imports there laid down by foreign shippers. An increasing torrent of American travel to Europe has contributed a vast sum annually to the dividends of foreign ship owners. The balance of trade shown by the books of our custom houses has been largely reduced and in many years altogether extinguished by this constant drain. In the year 1892 only 12 per cent. of our imports were brought in American vessels. The foreign steamships maintained by our traffic are many of them under contract with their respective governments by which in time of war they will become a part of their armed naval establishments. Profiting by our commerce in peace, they will become the most formidable destroyers of our commerce in time of war. I felt and have expressed the feeling that this condition of things was both intolerable and disgraceful. A wholesome change of policy and having so much promise as it seems to me, was begun by the law of March 3, 1891. Under this law contracts have been made by the postmaster-general for eleven mail routes. The expenditure involved by these contracts for the next fiscal year approximated \$34,121,353. As one of the good results reached, sixteen American ships of an aggregate tonnage of 57,460 tons, costing \$7,043,000, have been built or contracted to be built in American ship yards.

The estimated tonnage of all steamships required under existing contracts is 166,802, and when the full service required by these contracts is established there will be forty-one mail steamers under the American flag, with the probability of further necessary additions in the Brazilian and Argentine service. The contracts recently let for Transatlantic service will result in the construction of five ships of 10,000 tons each, costing \$9,000,000 or \$10,000,000, and will add, with the City of New York and the City of Paris, to which the treasury department was authorized by legislation at the last session to give American registry, seven of the swiftest vessels upon the sea to our naval reserve. The contracts made with the lines sailing to Central and South America ports have increased the frequency and shortened the time of the trips, added new ports of call and sustained some lines that otherwise would almost certainly have been withdrawn. The service to Buenos Ayres is the first to the Argentine republic under the American flag. The service to Southampton, Boulogne and Antwerp is also new, and is to be begun with the steamships City of New York and City of Paris in February next. I earnestly urge a continuance of the policy inaugurated by this legislation and that the appropriations required to meet the obligations of the government under the contracts may be promptly made so that the lines that have entered into these engagements may not be embarrassed. We have had by reason of connections with the trans-continental railway lines constructed through our own territory some advantages that we did not possess on the Atlantic. The construction of the Canadian Pacific railway and the establishment under large subventions from Canada and England of fast steamship service from Vancouver with Japan and China seriously threaten our shipping interests in the Pacific. This line of English steamers received, as stated by the commissioner of navigation, a direct subsidy of \$400,000 annually, or \$23,750 per trip for thirteen voyages, in addition to some further aid from the admiralty in connection with contracts by which the vessels may be used for naval purposes. The competing American Pacific Mail line, under the act of March 3, 1891, receives only \$6,289 per round trip.

Efforts have been making within the last year, as I am informed, to establish, under similar conditions, a line between Vancouver and some Australian port, with a view of securing there a trade in which we have had a large interest. The commissioner of navigation states that a very large per cent. of our imports from Asia are now brought to us by English steamships and their connecting railways in Canada. With a view of promoting this trade,

especially in tea, Canada has imposed a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. on tea and coffee brought into the dominion from the United States. If this unequal contest between American lines without subsidy, or with diminished subsidies, and the English Canadian line to which I have referred is to continue, I think we should at least see that the facilities for customs entry and transportation across our territory are not such as to make the Canadian route a favored one, and that the discrimination as to duties, to which I have referred, is met by a like discrimination as to the importation of these articles from Canada. No subject, I think, more nearly touches the power and prosperity of our country than this of the development of our merchant marine upon the sea. If we could enter into conference with other competitors and all would agree to withhold government aid, we could perhaps take our chances with the rest, but our great competitors have established and maintained their lines by government subsidies until now they have practically excluded us from participation. In my opinion, no choice is left us but to put the issue, moderately at least, on the same lines.

THE NAVY.

The report of the secretary of the navy exhibits great progress in the construction of our new navy. When the present secretary entered upon his duties only three modern steel vessels were in commission. The vessels since put in commission and to be put in commission during the year will make a total of nineteen during his administration of the department. During the current year ten war vessels and three navy tugs have been launched. Two other large ships and a torpedo boat are under contract and the work upon them well advanced and the four monitors are awaiting only the arrival of their armor, which has been unexpectedly delayed, or they would have been before this in commission.

Contracts have been let during this administration, under the appropriations for the increase of the navy, including new vessels and their appurtenances to the amount of \$31,000,000, and there has been expended during the same period for labor at navy yards upon similar work \$2,000,000, without the smallest scandal or charge of fraud or partiality. The enthusiasm and interest of our naval officers, both of the staff and line, have been greatly kindled. They have responded magnificently to the confidence of congress and have demonstrated to the world an unequalled capacity to construct in ordnance and in everything involved in the building, equipping and sailing of great war ships. At the beginning of Secretary Tracy's administration several difficult problems remained to be grappled with and solved before the efficiency in action of our steam ships could be secured. It is believed that as the result of new processes in the construction of armor plate our later ships will be clothed with defensive plates of higher resistance than are found on any war vessel afloat. We were without torpedoes. Tests have been made to ascertain the relative efficiency of different constructions, a torpedo has been adopted and the work of construction is now being carried on successfully. We are without armor piercing shells. We are now making what is believed to be a projectile superior to any before in use. A smokeless powder has been adopted and a slow burning powder for guns of large caliber. High explosives, capable of use in shells fired from heavy guns have been found and the manufacture of gun cotton has been developed and the question of supply is no longer in doubt.

The development of a naval militia which has been organized in eight states and brought into cordial and co-operative relations with the navy, is another important achievement. There are now enlisted in those States 1,800 men and they are likely to be greatly extended. I recommend such legislation and appropriations as will encourage and develop this movement. The recommendations of the secretary, will I do not doubt, receive the friendly consideration of congress, for he has enjoyed, as he has deserved, the confidence of all those interested in the development of our navy, without any division upon partisan lines. I earnestly express the hope that a work which has made such noble progress for the peace and increased sense of security which our citizens domiciled in other lands feel when these magnificent ships under the American flag appear, is already most gratefully apparent. The steamships from our navy which will appear in the harbor of New York, will be a convincing demonstration to the world that the United States is a great naval power.

THE INTERIOR.

The work of the interior department, always very burdensome, has been larger than ever before, during the administration of Secretary Noble. The disability pension law, taking the eleventh census, the opening of vast areas of Indian lands to settlement, the organization of Oklahoma and the negotiations for the cession of Indian lands furnish some of the particulars of the increased work and the results achieved testify to the ability, fidelity and industry of the head of the department and his efficient assistants.

Several important agreements for the cession of Indian lands negotiated by the Indian mission appointed under the act of March 2, 1890, are awaiting the act of congress. Perhaps the most important of these is that for the cession of the Cherokee strip. This has been a source of great vexation to the executive representative and great friction inasmuch as the settlers and their desire to occupy it and the Indians who assert title. The agreement which has been made by the commission is perhaps the most satisfactory that could have been reached. It will be noticed that it is conditioned upon its ratification by congress before March 4, 1893. The secretary of the interior, who has given the subject careful thought, recommends the ratification of the agreement and was inclined to follow this recommendation. Certain it is that some action by which this controversy shall be brought to an end and the lands opened to settlement is urgent.

The rest of the president's message was devoted to departmental affairs, much of which has already been published. He concludes by hoping the deliberations of congress will result to the material advantage of the country.

MURDERER BENSON.

The United States Supreme Court Rejects His Appeal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The supreme court of the United States yesterday affirmed the judgment of the lower court by which C. A. Benson was convicted of the murder of Mrs. Theresa Mettman on the military reservation at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Benson sought to escape on the plea that he should have been tried in the state and not in federal courts, for the reason that the lands on which the murder was committed were used for farming and not military purposes.

Glassworkers on a Strike.

MUNCIE, Ind., Dec. 6.—T. Jebhardt, of Pittsburgh, president of the Window Glass Workers' union, has arrived in this city to settle the difficulties at the Maring-Hart window glass works. Several councils were held, but the manufacturers and workers failed to agree, and what promises to be a long strike is now on in earnest.

Messrs. Editors: Knowing how many expectant Mothers in the land will appreciate the information, and desiring to save all the anguish and pain of the trying hour, I wish to give my experience.

I used two bottles of Mothers' Friend with great relief, suffered but little pain, and was not sick over twenty minutes. I did not experience that weakness usual in such cases, and looked and felt so well afterwards that my friends wondered at it; as on great occasions of this kind I suffered did not have the least trouble with them. I passed through the crisis with so little trouble that even my physician was astonished, and after I told him that it was the result of the use of Mothers' Friend, he advised his daughter to use the remedy, and she says she cannot praise it enough. I have known many ladies to use Mothers' Friend, and they all pronounce it a great blessing to expectant mothers.

Mrs. SAM HAMILTON,
Eureka Springs, Ark.

EXTRACT from a sentimental young lady's letter: "Last night I sat in a gondola on Venice's grand canal drinking it all in, and life never seemed so full before."—Scrap.

A Mammoth Competition.

\$5,500 in prizes for the best seven stories was what The Youth's Companion offered; \$3,000 for the best Serials, and \$1,500 for the best Folk lore tales. No less than 2,983 stories competed for these prizes. The successful stories are just announced to appear in The Companion during 1893.

By sending \$1.75 at once you will obtain the paper FREE to January and for a full year, to January, '94. Address THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, Boston, Mass.

A CROPPING sea doesn't seem to make much impression on the sea-board.—Boston Courier.

She's Off!

Who or what? Why the good ship —, and if there is a passenger on board of her unprovided with that grand preventive of sea sickness and all disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, all we have to say is, he or she is very unthoughtful. There is nothing comparable to this medicine in cases of malarial fever, rheumatism, nervousness and loss of strength.

The bunco man is not fastidious. He lives on the simplest things he can find.—Elmira Gazette.

"That unrivalled complexion," said a prominent New York social lady to her acquaintance, "is the result of using Garfield's Tea." Send for free sample to 810 West 45th Street, New York City.

The beer glasses of some bars are so small they are spoken of as temperance measures.—Hotel Mail.

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 7.	
CATTLE—Best beefs.....	3 50 @ 4 75
Stockers.....	2 @ 3 00 45
Native cows.....	1 85 @ 3 10
HOGS—Good to choice heavy.....	4 50 @ 6 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	62 1/2 @ 63
No. 2 hard.....	58 1/2 @ 59
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	33 1/2 @ 34
OATS—No. 2 mixed.....	29 1/2 @ 30
RYE—No. 2.....	47 @ 47 1/2
FLOUR—Patent, per sack.....	3 00 @ 2 10
Fancy.....	1 90 @ 2 95
HAY—Choice timothy.....	7 50 @ 8 50
Fancy prairie.....	7 00 @ 7 50
BRAN.....	50 @ 60
BUTTER—Choice creamery.....	24 @ 29
CHEESE—Full Cream.....	11 @ 12
EGGS—Choice.....	20 @ 22
POTATOES.....	65 @ 75

ST. LOUIS.	
CATTLE—Fair natives.....	3 50 @ 5 00
Texas.....	2 21 @ 3 15
HOGS—Heavy.....	4 80 @ 6 25
SHEEP—Fair to choice.....	4 00 @ 5 30
FLOUR—Choice.....	3 20 @ 3 30
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	62 1/2 @ 63
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	33 1/2 @ 34
OATS—No. 2.....	31 @ 31 1/2
RYE—No. 2.....	47 @ 48
BUTTER—Creamery.....	27 @ 31
LARD—Western steam.....	9 70 @ 9 75
PORK—New.....	14 25 @ 14 50

CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Prime to extra.....	4 75 @ 5 40
HOGS—Packing and shipping.....	4 50 @ 6 25
SHEEP—Fair to choice.....	4 50 @ 6 00
FLOUR—Winter wheat.....	3 50 @ 4 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	71 1/2 @ 72 1/2
CORN—No. 2.....	41 1/2 @ 42 1/2
OATS—No. 2.....	31 @ 32 1/2
RYE—No. 2.....	47 @ 48
BUTTER—Creamery.....	29 @ 30 1/2
LARD.....	9 50 @ 10 00
PORK.....	14 25 @ 14 75

NEW YORK.	
CATTLE—Native steers.....	3 00 @ 5 25
HOGS—Good to choice.....	5 20 @ 6 20
FLOUR—Good to choice.....	4 15 @ 4 25
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	77 1/2 @ 78 1/2
CORN—No. 2.....	50 @ 52 1/2
OATS—Western mixed.....	36 1/2 @ 38
BUTTER—Creamery.....	20 @ 30 1/2
PORK—Mess.....	14 75 @ 15 50

ROOT AND BRANCH, the poison in your blood, however it may have come or whatever shape it may be taking, is cleared away by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It's a remedy that rouses every organ into healthful action, purifies and enriches the blood, and through it cleanses and invigorates the whole system. Salt-rheum, Tetter, Eczema, Erysipelas, Boils, Carbuncles, Enlarged Glands, and the worst Scrofulous Sores and Swellings, are perfectly and permanently cured by it.

Unlike the ordinary Spring medicines of sarsaparilla, the "Discovery" works equally well at all seasons. Ad the year round and in all cases, it is guaranteed, as no other blood medicine is. If it ever fails to benefit or cure, you have your money back. You pay only for the good you get.

Isn't it safe to say that no other blood-purifier can be "just as good"?

If it were, wouldn't it be sold so!

YOUNG MOTHERS!

We Offer You a Remedy which Insures Safety to Life of Mother and Child.

"MOTHER'S FRIEND"

Robb's Confinement of its Pain, Horror and Risk.

After using one bottle of "Mother's Friend" I suffered but little pain, and did not experience that weakness attendant upon such cases. Mrs. ASHLEY GALT, Lamar, Mo., Jan. 15th, 1891.

Sent by express, charges prepaid, on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle. Book to Mothers mailed free.

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SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

A Child Enjoys The pleasant flavor, gentle action and soothing effect of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative, and if the father or mother be constipated or bilious, the most gratifying results follow its use; so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

You cannot expect a man to keep an unimpaired face when he lets his countenance fall.

J. S. PARKER, Fredonia, N.Y., says: "Shall not call on you for the \$100 reward, for I believe Hall's Catarrh Cure will cure any case of catarrh. Was very bad." Write him for particulars. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

A TRAMP is always willing to receive a cold shoulder, but he prefers a portehouse.—Binghamton Republican.

THE THROAT.—"Brown's Bronchial Troches" act directly on the organs of the voice. They have an extraordinary effect in all disorders of the throat.

FOOTBALL players are an odd lot. As soon as their favorite game begins they commence to kick.

EXPLOSIONS of Coughing are stopped by Hall's Honey of Eucalyptus and Tar. Wike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

The record breaker isn't dishonest, although he tries to beat his way through life.—Elmira Gazette.

Who suffers with his liver, constipation, bilious fits, poor blood or dizziness—take Beecham's Pills. Of druggists, 25 cents.

ALWAYS THUS.

Pilot Knob, Mo.
Suffered Mr. Henry P. Travers, formerly of this place, suffered with chronic rheumatism for 20 years, and was treated at times by several doctors.
ET. JACOB'S OIL cured him. No No Return of pain in 3 years.
G. A. Farrar. 3 Years.

"August Flower"

"For two years I suffered terribly with stomach trouble, and was for all that time under treatment by a physician. He finally, after trying everything, said my stomach was worn out, and that I would have to cease eating solid food. On the recommendation of a friend I procured a bottle of August Flower. It seemed to do me good at once. I gained strength and flesh rapidly. I feel now like a new man, and consider that August Flower has cured me." Jas. E. Dederick, Saugerties, N.Y. @

ELY'S CATARRH CREAM BALM

Have used two bottles of Ely's Cream Balm and consider myself cured. I suffered 20 years from catarrh and catarrh-ache, and this is the first remedy that afforded lasting relief.—D. T. Higgins, Chicago, Ill.

A particle is applied into each nostril and is agreeable. Price 50 cents at Druggists or by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 55 Warren St., New York.

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To the nearest drug store for a bottle of Durang's Rheumatic Remedy, a medicine that never fails to cure rheumatism. It is taken internally and does the work promptly, without drugging the system with poisons. This is not a new remedy that you need wait for your neighbor to try, to see how it works, as it has been before the public eighteen years and cures when everything else fails. GENERALS SHERMAN and LOGAN were its outspoken friends, and never failed to recommend. During the past year the bottle has been enlarged to FOUR TIMES its original size and the remedy greatly improved, so that we now offer you the best treatment for Rheumatism known to medical science. The price is one dollar a bottle, or six bottles for five dollars, and is sold by all reliable dealers in drugs. OUR 40-page PAMPHLET SENT FREE BY MAIL. DURANG'S RHEUMATIC REMEDY CO., 1316 L STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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And all other Diseases of the Rectum cured by Drs. Thornton & Minor, Kansas City, Mo., without knife, ligature or caustics—no money to be paid until patient is cured. We also make a specialty of Diseases of Women and Diseases of the Skin. Beware of all doctors who want any part of their fee in advance, even a note. In the end you will find them expensive humbugs. Send for circular giving names of hundreds who have been cured by us, and how to avoid sharpers and quacks. Office, No. 140 West Ninth Street. Rooms 20-31-32 Bunker Building.

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You can't find what you want in your home store, get on the train and come to our mammoth Dry Goods Establishment. If you can't come, then send for samples (no charge for samples), and order what you want by mail. We guarantee satisfaction.

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