

and occupations. The favored classes, who, under the unequal and unjust system which has been repealed, have heretofore realized large profits, and many of them amassed large fortunes, at the expense of the many, who have been made tributary to them, will have no reason to complain if they shall be required to bear their just proportion of the taxes necessary for the support of the government. So far from it, it will be perceived, by an examination of the existing law, that discriminations in the rates of duty imposed, within the revenue principle have been retained in their favor.

The incidental aid against foreign competition which they still enjoy, gives them an advantage which no other pursuits possess; but of this none others will complain, because the duties levied are necessary for revenue. These revenue duties, including freights and charges, which the importer must pay before he can come in competition with the home manufacturer in our markets, amount on nearly all our leading branches of manufacture, to more than one third the value of the imported article, and in some cases to almost half its value. With such advantages, it is not doubted that our domestic manufactures will continue to prosper, realizing in well conducted establishments even greater profits than can be derived from any other regular business. Indeed, so far from requiring the protection of even incidental revenue duties, our manufacturers in several leading branches are extending their business, giving evidence of great ingenuity and skill, and of their ability to compete with increased prospect of success, for the open market of the world. Domestic manufactures to the value of several millions of dollars, which cannot find a market at home, are annually exported to foreign countries. With such rates of duty as those established by the existing law, the system will probably be permanent; and capitalists, who have made or shall hereafter make, their investments in manufactures, will know upon what to rely.

The country will be satisfied with these rates because the advantages which the manufacturers still enjoy result necessarily from the collection of revenue for the support of government. High protective duties, from their unjust operation upon the masses of the people, cannot fail to give rise to excessive dissatisfaction and complaint, & to constant efforts to change or repeal them, rendering all investments in manufactures uncertain and precarious. Lower and more permanent rates of duty, at the same time that they will yield to the manufacturer fair and remunerating profits, will secure him against the danger of frequent changes in the system, which cannot fail to ruinously affect his interests.

Simultaneously with the relaxation of the restrictive policy by the U. S., Great Britain, from whose example we derived the system, has relaxed her. She has modified her corn laws, and reduced many other duties to moderate revenue rates. After ages of experience, the statesmen of that country have been constrained by a stern necessity, and by a public opinion having its deep foundation in the sufferings and wants of impoverished millions, to abandon a system the effect of which was to build up immense fortunes in the hands of the few and to reduce the laboring millions to pauperism and misery. Nearly in the same ratio that labor was depressed, capital was increased and concentrated by the British protective policy.

The evils of the system in Great Britain were at length rendered intolerable & it has been abandoned, but not without a severe struggle on the part of the protected and favored classes to retain the unjust advantages which they have so long enjoyed. It was to be expected that a similar struggle would be made by the same classes in the U. S. whenever an attempt was made to modify or abolish the same unjust system here. The protective policy had been in operation in the U. S. for a much shorter period, and its pernicious effects were not therefore so clearly perceived and felt. Enough, however, was known of these effects to induce its repeal.

It would be strange if in the face of the example of Great Britain, our principal foreign customer, and of the evils of a system rendered manifest in that country by long and painful experience, and in the face of the immense advantages which, under a more liberal commercial policy we are already deriving, and must continue to derive, by supplying her starving population with food, the U. S. should restore a policy which she has been compelled to abandon, and thus diminish her ability to purchase from us the food and other articles which she so much needs, and we so much desire to sell.

By the simultaneous abandonment of the protective policy by Great Britain and the U. S., new and important markets have already been opened for our agricultural and other products; commerce and navigation have received a new impulse; labor and trade have been released from the artificial trammels which have so long fettered them; and to a great extent reciprocity, in the exchange of commodities, has been introduced at the same time by the pressure of circumstances at home, to abandon a policy which has been upheld for a long time, and to open her markets for the immense surplus of breadstuffs; and it is confidently believed that other powers of Europe will ultimately see the wisdom, if they be not compelled by the pauperism and suffering of their crowded population, to pursue a similar policy.

Our farmers are more deeply interested in maintaining the just and liberal policy of the existing law, than any other class of our citizens. They constitute a large majority of our population; and it is well known that when they prosper, all other pursuits prosper also. They have therefore not only received none of the bounties or favors of government, but, by the annual operations of the protective policy, have been made, by the burdens of tax-

tion which it imposed, to contribute to the bounties which have enriched others. When a foreign as well as a home market is opened to them, they must receive, as they are now receiving, increased prices for their products. They will find a ready sale, and at better prices for their wheat, flour, rice, Indian corn, beef, pork, lard, butter, cheese, and other articles, which they produce. The home market alone is inadequate to enable them to dispose of the immense surplus of food and other articles which they are capable of producing, even at the most reduced prices, for the manifest reason that they cannot be consumed in the country. The U. S. can, from their immense surplus, supply not only the home demand, but the deficiencies of food required by the whole world.

That the reduced production of some of the chief articles of food in Great Britain, and other parts of Europe, may have contributed to increase the demand for our breadstuffs and provisions, is not doubted; but that the great & efficient cause of this great demand, of increased prices, consists in the removal of artificial restrictions heretofore imposed, is deemed to be equally certain. That our exports of food, already increased and increasing beyond former example, under the more liberal policy which has been adopted, will be still vastly enlarged, unless they be checked or prevented by a restoration of the protective policy, cannot be doubted. That our commercial and navigating interests will be enlarged in a corresponding ratio with the increase of trade, is equally certain: while our manufacturing interests will still be the favored interests of the country, and receive the incidental protection afforded them by revenue duties; and more than this they cannot justly demand.

In my annual message of December last, a tariff of revenue duties, based upon the principles of the existing law, was recommended; and I have seen no reason to change the opinions then expressed. In view of the probable beneficial results of that law, I recommend that the policy established by it be maintained. It has but just commenced to operate; and to abandon or modify it without giving it a fair trial, would be inexpedient & unwise. Should defects in any of its details be ascertained by actual experience to exist, these may be hereafter corrected; but until such defects shall become manifest, the act should be fairly tested.

It is submitted for your consideration whether it may not be proper, as a war measure, to impose revenue duties on some of the articles now embraced in the free list. Should it be deemed proper to impose such duties with a view to raise revenue to meet the expenses of the war with Mexico, or to avoid to that extent the creation of a public debt, they may be repealed when the emergency which gave rise to them shall cease to exist, and constitute no part of the permanent policy of the country.

The act of the 6th of August last, "to provide for the better organization of the treasury, and for the collection, safe keeping, transfer and disbursement of the public revenue," has been carried into execution as rapidly as the delay necessarily arising out of the appointment of new officers, taking and approving their bonds, & preparing and securing places for the safe-keeping of the public money, would permit. It is now proposed to depart in any respect from the principles or policy on which this great measure is founded. There are, however, defects in the details of the measure, developed by its practical operation, which are fully set forth in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to which the attention of Congress is invited. These defects would impair to some extent the successful operation of the law at all times, but are especially embarrassing when the country is engaged in a war, when the expenditures are greatly increased, when loans are to be effected, and the disbursements are to be made at points many hundred miles distant, in some cases, from any depository, and a large portion of them in a foreign country. The modifications suggested in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury are recommended to your favorable consideration.

In connection with this subject I invite your attention to the importance of establishing a branch mint of the U. S. at New York. Two-thirds of the revenue derived from customs being collected at that point, the demand for specie to pay the duties will be large; and a branch mint, where foreign coin and bullion could be immediately converted into American coin, would greatly facilitate the transaction of the public business, enlarge the circulation of gold and silver, and be, at the same time, a safe depository of the public money.

The importance of graduating and reducing the price of such of the public lands as have been long offered in the market, at the minimum rate authorized by existing laws, and remain unsold, induces me again to recommend the subject to your favorable consideration. Many millions of acres have been offered in the market for more than thirty years, and larger quantities for more than ten or twenty years; and being of an inferior quality, they must remain unsaleable for an indefinite period, unless the prices at which they may be purchased shall be reduced. To place a price upon them above their real value, is not only to prevent their sale, and thereby deprive the treasury of any income from that source, but is unjust to the States in which they lie, because it retards their growth and increase of population, and because they have no power to levy a tax upon them as upon other lands within their limits, held by other proprietors than the U. S. for the support of their local governments.

The beneficial effects of the graduation principle have been realized by some of the States owning the lands within their limits in which it has been adopted. They have been demonstrated also by the U. S.

acting as the trustees of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians in the sale of their lands lying within the States of Mississippi and Alabama. The Chickasaw lands which would not command in the market, the minimum price established by the laws of the United States for the sale of their lands were, in pursuance of the treaty of 1824 with that tribe, subsequently offered for sale at graduated and reduced rates at large periods. The result was, that large quantities of these lands were purchased, which would otherwise have remained unsold.

The lands were disposed of at their real value, and many persons of limited means were enabled to purchase small tracts, upon which they have settled with their families. That similar results would be produced by the adoption of the graduation policy of the United States, in all the States in which they are the owners of large bodies of lands which have been long in the market cannot be doubted. It cannot be a sound policy to withhold large quantities of the public lands from the use and occupation of our citizens, by fixing upon them prices which experience has shown they will not command. On the contrary, it is a wise policy to afford facilities to our citizens to become the owners, at low and moderate rates, of freeholds of their own, instead of being tenants and dependents of others. If it be apprehended that these lands if reduced in price, would be secured in large quantities by speculators and capitalists, the sales might be restricted, in limited quantities, to actual settlers or persons purchasing for cultivation.

In my last annual message I submitted for consideration of Congress the present system of managing the mineral lands of the U. S., and recommended that they should be brought into market and sold, upon such terms and under such restrictions as Congress might prescribe. By the act of the 11th of July last, "the reserved lead mines and contiguous lands in the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa," were authorized to be sold. The act is confined in its operation, to "lead mines and contiguous lands."

A large portion of the public land containing copper and other ores, is represented to be very valuable, and I recommended that provision be made authorizing the sale of these lands, upon such terms & conditions as their supposed value may, in the judgment of Congress, be deemed advisable, having due regard to the interests of such of our citizens as may be located upon them.

It will be important, during your present session, to establish a territorial government, and to extend the jurisdiction and laws of the United States over the Territory of Oregon. Our laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains should be extended to the Pacific Ocean; and for the purpose of executing them and preserving friendly relations within our limits, an additional number of Indian agencies will be required, and should be authorized by law. The establishment of custom-houses, and of post offices, and post roads, and provision for the transportation of the mail on such routes as the public convenience will suggest, require legislative authority. It will be proper, also, to establish a surveyor general's office in that Territory, and to make the necessary provision for the surveying the public lands and bringing them into market. As our citizens who now reside in that distant region have been subjected to many hardships, privations and sacrifices in their emigration, and by their improvements have enhanced the value of the public lands in the neighborhood of their settlements, it is recommended that liberal grants be made to them of such portions of these lands as they may occupy, and that similar grants or rights of pre-emption be made to all who may emigrate thither within a limited period, to be prescribed by law.

The report of the Secretary of War contains detailed information relative to the several branches of the public service connected with that department. The operations of the army have been of a satisfactory and highly gratifying character.

I recommend to your early and favorable consideration the measures proposed by the Secretary of War for speedily filling up the rank and file of the regular army, for its greater efficiency in the field, and for raising an additional force to serve during the war with Mexico.

Embarrassment is likely to arise for want of legal provision authorizing compensation to be made to the agents employed in the several States and Territories to pay the revolutionary and other pensioners the amounts allowed them by law. Your attention is invited to the recommendations of the Secretary of War on this subject. These agents incur heavy responsibilities and perform important duties, and no reason exists why they should not be placed on the same footing, as to compensation, with other disbursing officers.

Our relations with the various Indian tribes continue to be of a pacific character. The unhappy dissension which have existed among the Cherokees for many years past have been healed. Since my last annual message, important treaties have been negotiated with some of the tribes, by which the Indian title to large tracts of valuable land, within the limits of the States and Territories, have been extinguished, and arrangements made for removing them to the country west of the Mississippi. Between three and four thousand of different tribes have been removed to the country provided for them by treaty stipulations, and arrangements have been made for others to follow.

In our intercourse with the several tribes, particular attention has been given to the important subject of education.

The number of schools established among them has been increased, and additional means provided, not only for teaching them the rudiments of education, but of instructing them in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Navy for a satisfactory view of the operations of the department under his charge during the past year. It is gratifying to perceive, that while the war with Mexico has rendered it necessary to employ an unusual number of our armed vessels on her coast, the protection due to our commerce in other quarters of the world has not been insufficient. No means will be spared to give efficiency to the naval service in the prosecution of the war; and I am happy to know that the officers and men anxiously desire to devote themselves to the service of their country in any enterprise, however difficult of execution.

I recommend to your favorable consideration the proposition to add to each of our foreign squadrons an efficient sea steamer, and as especially demanding attention, the establishment at Pensacola of the necessary means of repairing and refitting the vessels of the navy employed in the Gulf of Mexico.

There are other suggestions in the report which deserve, and I doubt not will receive your, consideration.

The progress and condition of the mail service, for the past year, are fully presented in the report of the Postmaster General. The revenue for the year ending on the thirtieth of June last, amounted to three million four hundred and eighty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-nine dollars, which is eight hundred and two thousand six hundred and forty-two dollars and fifty-five cents less than that of the preceding year. The payment, for that department, during the same time, amounted to four million eighty-four thousand two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and twenty-two cents. Of this sum five hundred and ninety-seven thousand and ninety-seven dollars and eighty cents have been drawn from the Treasury. The disbursements for the year were two hundred and thirty-six thousand four hundred and thirty-four dollars and seven cents less than those of the preceding year.

While the disbursements have been thus diminished, the mail facilities have been enlarged by new mail routes, of five thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine miles, an increase of transportation one million seven hundred and sixty-four thousand one hundred and forty-five miles, and the establishment of four hundred and eighteen new post-offices. Contractors, postmasters, and others engaged in this branch of the service, have performed their duties with energy and faithfulness deserving commendation. For many interesting details connected with the operations of this establishment, you are referred to the report of the Postmaster General; and his suggestions for improving its revenues are recommended to your favorable consideration.

I repeat the opinion expressed in my last annual message, that the business of this department should be so regulated that the revenues derived from it should be made to equal the expenditures; and it is believed that this may be done by proper modifications of the present laws, as suggested by the report of the Postmaster General, without changing the present rates of postage.

With full reliance upon the wisdom and patriotism of your deliberations, it will be my duty, as it will be my anxious desire, to co-operate with you in every constitutional effort to promote the welfare and maintain the honor of our common country.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, December 8, 1846.

ARMY NEWS.

We copy the following interesting items of news in relation to our affairs in Mexico, from the Buffalo Courier and Pilot, of the 15th inst:

The steamboat "Telegraph," from Brazos Santiago, arrived at New Orleans on the 5th inst., with the remains of Major Ringgold and Lieut. Cochrane. Capt. Thornton had arrived at Matamoros on his way to join the army. The Telegraph brought no later papers from Matamoros, and the only later intelligence from Monterey that had been received there, was the return of Gen. Taylor from Saltillo, at which place he had left Gen. Worth with a small force to guard the city.

It was reported that Gen. Taylor was about to march to Tampico, and proceed thence to Vera Cruz. Another report was to the effect that there were 2,000 Mexican troops at Victoria, and that Gen. Patterson's Division, with reinforcement from the main army, were to proceed against them at that point.

Advices from Havana on the 2d inst., state that there was a Mexican officer there offering for sale commissions for letters of marque at \$1,000 each, but could find no purchasers. The impression of Gen. Campbell, the American Consul, was that no privateers would be fitted out in Cuba.

The Victoria, Texas, Advocate, says that an express left from Gen. Wool, from Monclova on the 4th ult., with despatches for the Quartermaster at Port Lavaca.

General Wool understood on his arrival, that some 2,500 volunteers, or Rancheros, had intended to defend the place, but in consequence of orders received from Santa Anna, a few days before Wool's arrival, had left Monclova for the purpose of joining Santa Anna at Saltillo. It is said that Santa Anna's orders were to make no resistance to Gen. Wool's entrance but to let him advance as far into the heart of the country as he wished and to repair to Saltillo, where he is at the head of 7,000 Mexican troops, expect to meet the American army so soon

as the train of wagons with Government stores, now upon the road to San Antonio, should arrive at Monclova.

General Wool designed to leave that place for Chihuahua. The Government stores now at San Antonio, are sufficient to maintain Gen. Wool's entire division, 3,000 men, for five months. The two regiments which evacuated Potosi when they reached San Luis Potosi and were disarmed. They were opposed to Santa Anna.

A letter dated Mobile, Dec. 5, says: The news from Mexico shows that country is in an awful state of anarchy. Santa Anna has gone back to Mexico, and there are only 16,000 disaffected half starved soldiers at Potosi. It is said Herrera will be elected president, and in that event peace will be certain.

A letter from Col. Doniphan dated Santa Fe, Oct. 21, says, yesterday we obtained what we deem pretty correct information from El Paso del Norte, that Magoffin, Doct. Connelly, Cols. Owen and Glasgow were retained as prisoners by the troops, but were treated very respectfully, yet not permitted to go to Chihuahua, or return. They had gone in advance of their wagons and will lose nothing, and will only be retained until orders can be obtained for their release. Our regiment is under marching orders for Chihuahua, and would have been off before today if Gen. Kearney had not sent back orders after he had got 10 days from here, requiring us to go into the Etaw and Navajo countries, and bring both these wars to a close before we left here.

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

Tuesday, December 29, 1846.

MR. OSCAR ROWLEY, of Wilmington, is authorized to obtain subscribers for this paper.

THE MESSAGE.

To-day we finish the publication of the President's Message. It is a document of great length, but will undoubtedly be read with interest by all classes of our citizens. The greater part of it, refers to our relations with Mexico, and we are confident must give very general satisfaction. The message certainly establishes the point that Mexico commenced the war, without a shadow of just cause. It shows that the conduct of the United States, through a long series of years, has been marked with the utmost forbearance to the Republic of Mexico. It details the wrongs which this government has borne from Mexico, which are sufficient to have sustained her in the opinion of the civilized world, in resorting to the dread alternative of hostilities, long before the annexation of Texas. The arguments used are clear and conclusive, and certainly makes out Mexico the aggressor. A full history of the offences which was the cause of the war; the repeated efforts of our government to obtain her rights; & to establish peace, even since its commencement—and the brilliant exploits of our army, are given in the message. This vindication was required—not so much for the influence it would have in this country, where we hope the question is generally understood, but for the effect it may have abroad on those who insist in judging the United States on different principles than those which they wish to abide by themselves.

The great Democratic measures upon which the Presidential campaign of 1844 was carried on, viz: the Tariff, and Independent Treasury, is still firmly adhered to by the President. His administration has been marked for consistency & sound principles, so far. The people may well be proud of the message, as a document which vindicates the magnanimity and honor of the country, which should be held as sacred by all its citizens.

The recommendations of the President in relation to Oregon, we hope may receive the early attention of Congress. They are such as were called for by the people, and they undoubtedly will be approved by a majority of Congress. Justice demands that something should be done for the settlers in that territory.

ESTRAY NOTICES.—Most of the papers that are published in this State, are advocating an alteration of the law in relation to the publication of these notices. All estray notices, as the law now stands, are required to be published in the State paper, which is published in Springfield. The inconvenience and injustice of this must be apparent to all. Besides the great disadvantages to those losing stock—the papers which may be published in the county where it is taken up, are deprived of that which they are justly entitled to.—What proportion of the inhabitants residing in counties distant from the capital ever read the State paper? And yet, they are compelled by the existing law to send all such notices there for publication. We do not wish to see the patronage of the State paper abate—but still, we believe that all should fare alike. The Legislature, we hope, will see to this matter before the close of the present session.

And another question which should receive the attention of our Legislature, is that in relation to sheriff's sales. How frequent it is that the plaintiff gets property at these sales, for fifty per cent. under its real value—merely for the want of publicity. It would prevent a great sacrifice of property, and in many cases be of great benefit to the defendant, to have all sheriff's sales published in newspapers. But for fear we may be accused of endeavoring to advocate our own interests we will "hold up."

HON. J. A. MATTESON.—It was with much satisfaction that we learned the appointment of this gentleman as chairman of the committee on Finance. He occupied the same station during the last session of our legislature, and the satisfactory manner in which he discharged his duties, was the means of his present appointment. Mr. Matteson has distinguished himself in the Senate, for close application to business, and the interest which he takes in the matters of his constituents.

SPECIE FOR GEN. SCOTT AND THE WAR.—It is stated that General Scott, to facilitate his operations and supply the immediate wants of the campaign, will take with him to the seat of war about a half a million of Mexican dollars.

EXPLOSIVE COTTON.—This important discovery appears to excite much interest, at present, throughout the entire country. Numerous experiments have been tried, all of which go to establish its efficacy. At the United States Arsenal, in Washington, some scientific experiments have been made, by Capt. Mordcau, to test the comparative strength of explosive cotton and gunpowder. It was found by the experiment, that sixty grains of cotton well prepared, were equal to one hundred and twenty grains of the very best gunpowder.

The convention of Wisconsin by a tie vote refused to reconsider the provisions relating to banking, which prohibit not only banks, but the circulation of bank paper.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Legislature of South Carolina have elected Judge Butler to the United States Senate, in place of the Hon. George McDuffie, resigned.

VERA CRUZ.—It is stated by a letter in Washington, that extensive preparations are being silently made for the attack upon this strong hold of the enemy.—The siege train, which has been in preparation some months, it is said is finished, and nearly all topographical engineers are under orders for the army. General Scott will probably take the command in person.

The following petition is circulating in this and Iroquois counties. Though we are decidedly opposed to chartered corporations—still considering the inability of the State to perform such improvements, & the great advantages which a valuable portion of its territory would derive from the improvement of these rivers, we hope it may receive the signatures of many.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of Illinois:

The undersigned, citizens of the counties of Will and Iroquois, beg leave respectfully to represent, that the interest of your petitioners and that of the State, is identified in the improvement of the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers, for the purpose of Navigation. That one of the richest sections of this State lies upon these rivers, so secluded from markets as to be comparatively valueless, which, by a small outlay of capital, can be immediately connected with the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the Lakes.

The immense agricultural resources of this region, thus finding their market through the Canal, must enhance the business of that avenue so much as to be an object to the State, no less than to your petitioners. We, therefore, pray your honorable body to Charter a Company, with such powers and privileges as may enable it to render the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers navigable, from the Kankakee feeder to the State of Indiana.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Twenty-ninth Congress.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 10.

SENATE.—Senators Greene, of Rhode Island, and Haneghan, of Indiana, appeared in their seats to-day.

The Vice President submitted the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, of which 5000 extra copies were ordered printed.

The Secretary of the Senate's report on the contract of Messrs. Blair & Rives for furnishing reports of debates in the Senate, was also presented.

Mr. Cameron offered a resolution in favor of granting 160 acres of land to each volunteer serving in the Mexican war, and to increase their pay and allowance.

Notices of bill were given for the sale of mineral lands—to graduate the price of public lands, and to establish a territorial government in Oregon.

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