

BOZEMAN AVANT COURIER

VOLUME 3.

BOZEMAN, MONTANA TERRITORY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1873.

NUMBER 11

THE AVANT COURIER,

Published Every Friday,
AT BOZEMAN, GALLATIN COUNTY, M. T.

JOSEPH WRIGHT,
Publisher and Proprietor.

TERMS:
INvariably in Advance.
One year..... \$5 00
Six months..... 3 00
Three months..... 2 00

ADVERTISING RATES:

TIME.	1st Column.	2nd Column.	3rd Column.	4th Column.	5th Column.
1 Time.	10	8	6	4	3
2 Times.	18	14	10	6	4
3 Times.	24	18	12	8	5
1 Month.	75	60	45	30	20
3 Months.	200	150	100	75	50
6 Months.	350	250	175	125	80
1 Year.	600	450	300	200	130

Local notices 15 cents per line for the first insertion and 10 cents for each additional insertion.
If the advertiser desires to be paid in advance, and all Job Printing when the work is delivered.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the payment.
2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
3. The courts have decided that refusing to take the newspaper or periodical from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncollected, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

REGULATING LEGAL PUBLICATIONS.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled, "An Act to provide for and regulate the rates of charges for the publication of legal documents," approved January 9th, 1872.

SECTION 1. Publishers of newspapers in this Territory shall be entitled to the following fees for publications of all legal documents: For the first insertion of each folio of one hundred words, three dollars; for each subsequent insertion, two dollars.

SECTION 2. The printer of such legal publications shall be required to pay to the full fees before being required to furnish a certificate of publication.

Approved, December 25, 1873.

DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL OFFICERS OF MONTANA.

OFFICE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Governor.	BENJ. F. POTTS.	Virginia City.
Secretary.	J. B. CALLAWAY.	Helena.
Chief Justice.	D. S. WADE.	Helena.
Associate Justice.	F. G. SEVENS.	Virginia City.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	HENRY KNOWLES.	Deer Lodge.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	JOHN E. BLAINE.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	W. L. STARBUCK.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	W. M. F. WHEELER.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	W. C. SULLIVAN.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	L. A. LUMMIS.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	FRANK H. BAKER.	Helena.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	J. L. MCKEE.	Missoula.
U. S. DIST. ATTORNEY.	JOHN P. FOSTER.	Hamilton.

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

OFFICE.	NAME.
Probate Judge.	H. N. MAGUIRE.
Board of County Commissioners.	J. P. DICKE.
County Clerk.	W. W. WATKINS.
Sheriff.	C. L. CLARK.
Deputy Sheriff.	J. B. FINCH.
Clerk and Recorder.	ASAC GRAHAM.
Treasurer.	W. L. DALRY.
Superintendent Public Instruction.	Z. L. FOSTER.
Surveyor.	S. M. REED.
Coroner.	A. D. McPHERSON.
Assessors.	Geo. W. DICKSON.
Assessors.	ROBERT KELLEN.

Times and Places for Holding Courts in the Territory of Montana.

COURT.	DATE.
At Virginia City, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Helena, first Monday in April, second Monday in July, and second Monday in October.	
At Deer Lodge, third Monday in April, first Monday in September, and first Monday in December.	
At Helena, first Monday in March, first Monday in July, and fourth Monday in October.	

RESIDUAL COURTS.

COUNTY.	DATE.
First District—In Madison County, at Virginia City, first Monday in April, second Monday in July, and second Monday in November.	
In Gallatin County, at Bozeman, first Monday in March and fourth Monday in October.	
In Jefferson County, at Badgerburg, second Monday in May, and first Monday in October.	
Second District—Deer Lodge County, at Deer Lodge City, third Monday in April, first Monday in September, and first Monday in December.	
In Missoula County, at Missoula, fourth Monday in June and second Monday in November.	
In Beaverhead County, at Bannack, first Monday in June, and third Monday in October.	
Third District—In Lewis and Clark County, at Helena, first Monday in March, first Monday in July, and fourth Monday in October.	
In Meagher County, fourth Monday in May and fourth Monday in November.	

A. F. & M.

Stated communications of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 A. F. & M. held at their hall on the first Saturday evening or before the full moon of each month. Visiting brethren are cordially invited to attend. THOS. R. EDWARDS, W. M. R. P. MESSER, Sec.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL.

JOHN BLUM, PROPRIETOR.
Main Street.

BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

HAVING assumed full control of this elegant and commodious Brick Hotel,

I would respectfully inform the local and traveling public that it will be my constant aim to make the house

First-Class in all its appointments.

No expense will be spared to make our guests comfortable. The house is completely new, and furnished throughout in the best style.

Terms Reasonable.
All Stages arriving in Bozeman stop at the Metropolitan Hotel. J. H. BLUM.

RESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: INTRODUCTORY.

The year that has passed since the submission of my last message to Congress has, especially the latter part of it, been an eventful one to the country. In the midst of great national prosperity a crisis has occurred which has brought low the fortunes of a great many. Political partisanship has almost ceased to exist, especially in the agricultural region, and the capture upon the high seas of a vessel bearing our flag has for a time threatened our most serious consequences and agitated the public mind from end of the country to the other. This, happily, now is in the course of a satisfactory adjustment, honorable to both nations concerned.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The relations of the United States, however, with most of the other nations continues to be friendly and cordial. With France, Germany, Russia, Italy and the minor powers, with Brazil and most of the South American Republics, and with Japan, nothing has occurred during the year to demand special notice. The correspondence between the departments of State and the various diplomatic representatives in or from those countries is transmitted herewith.

VIENNA EXPOSITION.

In executing the will of Congress, as expressed in its joint resolution of the 14th of February last, and in accordance with the provisions of a resolution from a number of practical agriculturists, of scientific men and of honorarium commission, who were authorized to attend the Exposition at Vienna as Commissioners on the part of the United States, it is believed that we have obtained the object which Congress had in view, when it passed the joint resolution in order to enable the people of the United States to participate in the advantages of an international exhibition of the products of agriculture, manufactures, and the fine arts, to be held in Vienna.

I take pleasure in adding that the American exhibitors have received a gratifying number of diplomas and medals. During the exhibition a conference was held in Vienna for the purpose of consultation on the systems prevailing in the different countries for the perfection of inventions. I authorized a representative from the Patent Office to be present at Vienna at the time when this conference was to take place, in order to aid as far as we might in securing any possible additional protection to American inventions in Europe. The report of this agent will be laid before Congress.

THE CHINESE COOLIE TRADE.

It is my pleasant duty to announce to Congress that the Emperor of China, on attaining his majority, received the diplomatic representatives of the western powers in person. An account of these ceremonies and of the interesting discussion which preceded them will be found in the documents transmitted herewith. The accompanying papers show that some advance, although slight, has been made during the past year towards the suppression of the infamous Chinese Coolie trade. I recommend Congress to inquire whether additional legislation be needed on this subject.

THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY.

By the act approved on the 14th day of February last, Congress made provision for completing, jointly with an officer or commissioner to be named by her Britannic Majesty, the determination of so much of the boundary line between the territory of Great Britain as was left incomplete by the commissioners appointed under the act of Congress of August 11th, 1856. Under the provisions of this act the northwest water boundary of the United States has been determined and marked in accordance with the award of the Emperor of Germany. A protocol and a copy of the map upon which the line was thus marked are contained in the paper submitted here. I also transmit a copy of the commission for making the boundary between the United States and the British Possessions west of the Lake of the Woods, and of the operations of the commissions during the past season's surveys, which have been made to a point 497 miles west of the Lake of the Woods, leaving about 350 miles to be surveyed, the field work of which can be completed during the next season.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

The Joint Commission of 1868 under the convention with Mexico having again been legally prolonged has resumed its business, which it is hoped may be brought to an early conclusion. The Commissioners appointed pursuant to authority of Congress to examine the nature and extent of forays by trespassers from Mexico upon the herds of Texas, have made a report, which will be handed you for consideration.

SAN DOMINGO.

I transmit for the consideration and determination of Congress, an application of the Republic of Santo Domingo to this government to exercise a protectorate over that Republic.

TREATIES.

Since the adjournment of Congress the following treaties with foreign powers have been proclaimed: A naturalization convention with Denmark; a convention with Mexico for renewing the claims of the commission; a convention of friendship, commerce and extradition with the Orange Free States; and a naturalization convention with Ecuador.

POSTAL COMMISSION.

I renew the recommendation made in my message of December, 1870, that Congress authorize the Postmaster General to issue all commissions to officials, appointed through his department.

THE REPUBLIC OF SPAIN.

In compliance with a request of Congress, I transmitted to the American Minister at Madrid, with instructions to present it to the Spanish Government, the joint resolution approved on the 3d of March last, tendering to the people of Spain, in the name and on behalf of the American people the congratulations of Congress upon the efforts to consolidate in Spain the principles of universal liberty, in a Republican form of government. This new Republic was inaugurated by striking the fetters from the slaves in Porto Rico. This beneficent measure was followed by the release of several thousands of persons illegally held as slaves in Cuba. Next, the Captain was deprived of the power to set aside the letters of his superiors at Madrid, which had pertained to his office since 1825. The sequestration of the estates of American citizens, which had been the cause of long and frequent correspondence, were ordered to be restored to their owners. All these liberal steps were taken in the face of violent opposition directed by the reactionary slave holders of Havana, who are vainly striving to stay the march of ideas. This has terminated slavery in Christiandom, Cuba only excepted. Unhappily, however, this beneficent influence has thus far succeeded in defeating the efforts of all liberal-minded men in Spain to abolish slavery in Cuba, and in preventing the promised reform in that island.

The struggle for political supremacy in Cuba is gradually arraying itself more and more in open hostility to and in defiance of the home government; while it still maintains a political connection with the Republic in the peninsula. And although usurping and defying the authority of the home government whenever such usurpation or defiance tends in the direction of oppression, or of the maintenance of abuses, it is still a power in Madrid and recognized by the government. This is an element more dangerous to the continued colonial relations between Cuba and Spain than that which inspired the insurrection. It is an element opposed to granting any relief from misrule and abuse, with no aspirations after freedom, commanding sympathies in generous breasts; aiming to rivet stronger the shackles of oppressive power in Cuba, and under professions of loyalty to the mother country, it is exhausting the resources of the island, and is doing acts which are at variance with those principles of justice and liberality and of right which give nobility of character to a Republic in the interests of humanity, of civilization and of progress. It is to be hoped that this evil influence may soon be averted.

THE STEAMER VIRGINIUS.

was on the 16th day of September, 1870, duly registered at the port of New York as a part of the commercial marine of the United States. On the 4th of October, 1873, having the certificate of her register in the usual legal form she sailed from the port of New York and has not since been within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. On the 31st of October last, while sailing under the flag of the United States on the high seas, she was forcibly seized by the Spanish gunboat, Tornado, and was carried into the port of Santiago de Cuba, where many of her passengers and crew were inhumanly, and at least, as related to those who were citizens of the United States, without due process of law put to death. It is a well established principle asserted by the United States from the beginning of our national independence, and recognized by Great Britain and other maritime powers, and stated by the Senate in a resolution passed unanimously on the 10th of June, 1853, that American vessels on the high seas, in the time of peace, bearing the American flag, remain under the jurisdiction of the country to which they belong; and therefore, any visitation, molestation, or interference with such vessels by force on the part of a foreign power is in derogation of the sovereignty of the United States. In accordance with the principle, the restoration of the Virginus and the surrender of the survivors of her passengers and crew, due reparation to the flag, and the punishment of the authorities who had been guilty of the illegal acts of violence, were demanded. The Spanish government has recognized the justice of the demand and has arranged for the immediate delivery of the vessel, and for the surrender of the survivors and for the passengers and crew, and for a salute to the flag, and for proceedings

looking to the punishment of those who may be proved to have been guilty of illegal acts of violence towards citizens of the United States, and also towards indemnifying those who may be shown to be entitled to indemnity. A copy of a protocol of a conference between the Secretary of State and the Spanish Minister, in which the terms of this arrangement were agreed to, is transmitted herewith. The correspondence on this subject with the Legation of the United States, in cipher and by cable, needs the verification of the actual text of the correspondence. It has seemed to me to be due to the importance of the case not to submit this correspondence until the accurate text can be received by mail. It is expected shortly, and will be submitted when received. In taking leave of this subject for the present, I wish to renew the expression in my conviction, that the existence of African slavery in Cuba is a principal cause of the lamentable condition of the island. I do not doubt that Congress shares with me in the hope that it will soon be made to disappear, and that peace and prosperity may follow its abolition. The embargoing of American estates in Cuba; cruelty to American citizens detected in no act of hostility to the Spanish government; the murdering of persons taken without arms in their hands; and, finally, the capture upon the high seas of a vessel sailing under the United States flag and bearing the United States register, have culminated in an outbreak of indignation which has seemed for a time to threaten war. Pending the negotiations between the United States and the government of Spain on the subject of this capture, I have authorized the Secretary of the Navy to put our navy on a war footing, to the extent at least of the entire annual appropriation of that branch of the service, trusting to Congress and the public opinion of the American people to justify my action.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Assuming from the action of the last Congress in appointing a Committee on Privileges and Elections to prepare and report to this Congress a constitutional amendment to provide a better method of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, and also from the necessity for such an amendment that there will be submitted to the State Legislatures for ratification such an improvement in our condition, I suggest two others for your consideration: First, To authorize the Executive to approve of so much of any measure passing the two Houses of Congress as his judgment may dictate without approving the whole, the disapproved portion or portions to be subjected to the same rules as now, to-wit: To be referred back to the House in which the measure originated, and passed by two-thirds of the two Houses, then to become a law without the approval of the President. I would add to this a provision that there should no legislation by Congress during the last twenty-four hours of its sitting, except upon vetoes, in order to give the Executive an opportunity to examine and approve or disapprove understandingly. Second: To provide by amendment that when an extra session of Congress is convened by Executive proclamation, the Legislature, during the continuance of such extra session, shall be confined to such subjects as the Executive may bring before it from time to time in the sitting. The advantage to be gained by these two amendments are obvious. One session in each year is provided for by the Constitution on which there are no restrictions as to subjects of legislation by Congress. If more are required it is always in the power of Congress, during its term of office, to provide for sessions at any time. The first of these amendments would protect the public against the many abuses and waste of public moneys which creep into the appropriation bills and the other important measures passing during the expiring hours of Congress to which, otherwise, due consideration might be given.

RECEIPTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The receipts of the Government from all sources for the last fiscal year were \$33,733,204, and the expenditures for all accounts \$260,340,245, thus showing an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$43,392,950. But it is not probable that this favorable exhibit will be shown for the present fiscal year. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether, except with great economy on the part of Congress in making appropriations, and the same economy in the administration of the various departments of the Government, the revenue will not fall short of meeting the annual expenses, including the interest on the public debt. I commend to Congress such economy, and point out two sources where it seems to me it might commence, to-wit: Appropriations for public buildings in the many cities where work has not been commenced, and in appropriations for river and harbor improvements in those localities where the improvements are of but little benefit to general commerce, and fortifications. There is a still more fruitful source of expenditures, which I will point out further in my message. I refer to the easy method of manufacturing claims for losses incurred during the late rebellion.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

I would not be understood here as

opposing the erection of good, substantial, and even ornamental, buildings by the Government wherever such buildings are needed. In fact, I approve of the Government owning its own buildings in all sections of the country; and I hope the day is not far distant when it will not only possess them, but will erect in the Capital suitable residences for all persons who now receive commutation for quarters, or rental at the Government expense, and for the Cabinet—thus setting an example to the States, which may induce them to erect buildings for their Senators. But I would have this work conducted at a time when the revenues of the country would abundantly justify it. The revenues have materially fallen off during the last five months of the fiscal year from what they were expected to produce, owing to the general panic now prevailing, which commenced about the middle of September. The full effect of this disaster, if it should not prove to be a blessing in disguise, is yet to be demonstrated. In either event, it is your duty to heed the lesson, and to provide by well considered legislation, as far as it lies in your power, against its recurrence, and take advantage of all benefits that may have accrued. My own judgment is, that, how much individuals may have suffered, one long step has been taken towards specie payments; and that we will never have permanent prosperity until an entire new basis is reached. And a specie basis cannot be reached and maintained till our exports, exclusive of gold, pay for our imports. The interest due abroad, and other speculations, are so heavy as to leave no appreciable accumulation of those metals in the country from the products of our mines.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MINES.

The development of the mines of precious metals during the past year, and the prospective development of them for the year to come, are gratifying in the extreme. Could but one-half of the gold extracted from the mines be retained at home, our advance towards specie payments would be rapid. To increase our exports sufficient currency is required to keep all the industries of the country employed, and without this, national as well as individual bankruptcy must ensue. Unwise inflation, on the other hand, while it might give temporary relief, would tend only to the inflation of prices. To give elasticity to our circulating medium, therefore, and enough of it to transact the legitimate business of the country, and to keep most desired. The exact medium for this is specie—the recognized medium of exchange of all the world. That obtained, we shall have currency of an exact degree of elasticity. If there be too much of it for the legitimate purpose of trade and commerce, it will flow out of the country; if too little, the reverse will result. To hold what we have, and to appreciate our currency to that standard, is a problem deserving the most serious consideration of Congress. The experience of the present panic has proven that the currency of the country, based as it is, upon the credit of the country, is the best that has ever been devised. Usually, in times of such trials, the currency has become worthless, or so much depreciated in value as to inflate the values of all the necessities of life, as compared with the currency. Every one holding it has been anxious to dispose of it on any terms. Now we witness the reverse. The holders of currency hoard it as they did gold, in the former condition of a like nature. It is patent to the most casual observer that much more currency or money is required to transact the legitimate trade of the country during the fall and winter months, when the vast crops are being removed, than during the balance of the year. Without the present system, the amount in the country remains the same throughout the year, resulting in the accumulation of all the surplus capital of the country, which, when not employed in moving crops, is tempted by offers of interest, on loans being paid.

SURPLUS CAPITAL AND OUR NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM.

This surplus capital must earn this interest paid with profit. Being subject to call, it cannot be loaned, or can only be loaned in part, and at the best to the merchant or manufacturer for a fixed term. No matter how much currency there might be in the country it would be absorbed, prices keeping pace with the volume and stringency and disasters would ever be recurring with the elasticity in our money system. This is the object to be obtained first, and next, as far as possible, a prevention of the use of money in stock and other species of speculation. To prevent the latter, it seems to me that a great step would be taken by prohibiting the National banks from paying interests on deposits, by requiring them to hold their reserve in their own hands, and by forcing them into resumption, though it would be only in legal tender notes. For this purpose I would suggest the establishment of clearing houses for your consideration. To start the former, many plans have been suggested, most of which look to me like inflation on the one hand, or compelling the government on the other to pay interest, without corresponding benefits, upon

the surplus funds of the country during seasons when they would be otherwise unemployed. I submit for your consideration whether this difficulty might not be overcome by authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue at any time to the National banks of issue any amount of their notes below a fixed percentage of their issue—say forty per cent.—upon the bank depositing with the Treasurer of the United States an amount of government bonds equal to the amount of notes demanded, the banks to forfeit to the government, say four per cent. on the interest accruing on the bonds so pledged during the time, the remainder to be left with the Treasury for increasing circulation, the bonds pledged to be redeemable by the banks at their pleasure, either in whole or in part, by returning their own bills for cancellation to the amount equal to the face of the bonds withdrawn. I would further suggest for your consideration the propriety of authorizing the national banks to diminish the outstanding issue at pleasure, by returning for cancellation their own bills and withdrawing so many United States bonds as are pledged for the same. In view of the great actual contraction that has taken place in the currency, and the comparative contraction constantly going on, and the increase of manufactures and all the industries, I do not believe that there is too much of it now for the dullest period of the year. Indeed, if clearing houses should be established, thus forcing redemption, it is a question for consideration whether banking should not be made free—retaining all the safeguards now required to secure bill-holders in any modification of the present laws regulating National banks.

UTAH AFFAIRS.

The affairs in Utah require your early and special attention. The Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Clinton vs. Englebrecht, decided that the United States Marshal of that Territory could not lawfully summons jurors for the District Courts, and those courts held that the Territorial Marshal faithfully performed that duty. Because he is elected by the Legislative Assembly, and not appointed as provided for in the act organizing the Territory, all proceedings at law are practically abolished in the District Courts of that Territory since the last session of Congress. Property is left without protection by the courts, and crimes go unpunished. To prevent anarchy there, it is absolutely necessary that Congress should provide the courts with some mode of obtaining jurors, and recommend legislation to that end, and also that the Probate Courts of the Territory which now assume to issue writs of injunction and habeas corpus, and try criminal cases and questions as to land titles, be denied all jurisdiction not possessed, ordinarily, by courts of that description.

CONTRACTION OF THE CURRENCY.

During the last four years the currency has been contracted decidedly by the withdrawal of the 3 per cent. certificates, compound interest notes, and the 7-30 bonds outstanding on the 4th of March, 1869, all of which took the place of legal tenders in the bank reserves, to the extent of \$63,000,000. During the same period there has been a much larger comparative contraction of our currency. The population of the country has largely increased; more than 25,000 miles of railroad have been built, requiring the active use of capital to operate them; millions of acres of land have been opened to cultivation, requiring capital to remove the products; manufacturers have multiplied beyond all precedent, in the same period of time, requiring capital weekly for the payment of wages and for the purchase of material; and probably the largest of all the comparative contraction has arisen from the organization of free labor in the South. Now every laborer there receives his wages, and for want of savings banks the greater part of such wages is carried in the pocket or hoarded till required for use. These considerations are thrown out for your consideration without any recommendation that they shall be adopted literally, but hoping that the best method may be arrived at to secure such elasticity of the currency as will keep employed all the industries of the country, to prevent such inflation as will put off indefinitely the resumption of specie payments—an object devoutly to be wished for by all, and by none more earnestly than the class of people most directly interested—those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. The decisions of Congress on this subject have the hearty support of the Executive.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The attention of Congress is invited to the report of the Secretary of War: The apparent great cost of supporting the academy is fully explained in this report, and will receive your attention. While inviting your general attention to all the recommendations made by the Secretary, there are two to which I would invite your especial consideration. First, the importance of preparing for war in time of peace by providing a proper armament for our sea coast defenses, and a proper armament, which is of vastly more importance, for our fortifications. The latter can be supplied readily for temporary purposes when needed; the former cannot. The second is the necessity of reopening promotion in the staff of the corps of the army. Particularly is this necessity felt in the medical, pay and ordnance departments. At this time it is necessary to employ contract surgeons to supply the necessary medical attendance required by the army. With the present force of the pay department it is difficult to make the payments to troops provided by law. Long delays in making payments are productive of desertions and demoralization, and the law prohibits the payment of troops by other than regular army paymasters. There are now ten vacancies in the ordnance department, thus leaving that branch of the service without sufficient officers to conduct the business of the different arsenals on a large scale, if ever required.

THE LAND OFFICE.

The business of the General Land office exhibits a material increase in all its branches during the last fiscal year. During that time there were

were in operation on the 30th of June, 1873, extending over 14,800 miles of railroad routes, and performing an aggregate service of 34,924 miles daily. The number of letters exchanged with foreign countries was 27,459,185, an increase of 3,006,685 over the previous year. The postage thereon amounted to \$2,021,310 86. The total weight of the correspondence exchanged in the mails with the foreign countries exceeded 912 tons over the previous year. The total cost of the United States ocean mail steamship service, including \$735,000 paid from the special appropriation to Switzerland lines of mail steamers, was \$10,977,713 05. New additional postal conventions have been concluded with Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Canada, New Foundland, and Japan, reducing the postage rates on correspondence exchanged with those countries. Further efforts have been made to conclude a satisfactory postal convention with France, but without success.

OUR SHIPPING INTERESTS.

In my private messages I have called attention to the decline in American ship building, and recommended such legislation as would secure to our portion of the carrying trade.—Stimulated by high rates and an abundance of freight, the progress for the last year in ship building has been very satisfactory. There has been an increase of about three per cent. in the amount transported in American vessels over the amount of last year. With the reduced cost of material which has taken place, it may reasonably be hoped that this change will be maintained and even increased. However, as we pay about \$80,000,000 per annum to foreign vessels for the transportation of our surplus products to a market, thus increasing the balance of trade against us to this amount, the subject is one worthy of your consideration. Cheap transportation is a subject that has attracted the attention of both producers and consumers for the past few years, and has contributed to, if it has not been the direct cause of the recent panic and stringency, as Congress at its last session appointed a special committee to investigate this whole subject during the vacation, and report at this session. I have nothing to recommend until their report is ready.

POST OFFICE MATTERS.

A complete exhibit is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster General of the operations of the Post Office Department during the year. The ordinary postal revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, amounted to \$22,936,741 57, and the expenditures of all kinds to \$23,084,905 07. The increase in revenues over 1872 was \$1,087,315 20, and the increase in expenditures \$2,465,732 06. Independent of payments made from special appropriations for mail steamship lines, the amount drawn from the Treasury to meet deficiencies was \$526,547. The constant and rapid extension of our postal service, particularly upon railways, and the improved facilities for collection, transmission, distribution and delivery of mails which are constantly being provided, account for the increased expenditure in this popular branch of public service. The total number of post offices in operation on 30th of June, 73, was 44,244, a net increase of 1381 over the number reported the preceding year. The number of presidential offices was 1363, being an increase of 162 during the year. The total length of railroad mail routes at the close of the year was 63,455 miles over the year 1872. Fifty-nine railroad post office lines