

[CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

Instructors and examples. It is reported that the officer charged with the selection of these children might have had thousands of young Indians sent with him had it been possible to make provision for them. I agree with the Secretary of the Interior in saying that the result of this interesting experiment, if favorable, may be destined to become an important factor in the advancement of civilization among the Indians. The question whether a change in the Indian service should be made was, at the last session of Congress, referred to a committee for inquiry and report. I venture to express the hope that in the decision so important a question, the views expressed above may not be lost sight of, and that the decision, whatever it may be, will arrest the future agitation of this subject, such agitation being at present a disturbing effect upon the service, as well as the Indians themselves.

HOT SPRINGS COMMISSION. In the enrollment of the bill making appropriation for the civil expenses at the last session of Congress, that portion which provided for a continuation of the Hot Springs commission was omitted. As the commission had completed the work of taking testimony on many conflicting claims, the suspension of their labors before determining the rights of claimants, threatened for a time to embarrass the interest, not only of the Government, but also of a large number of citizens of Hot Springs, who were waiting for final action on their claims before beginning contemplated improvements. In order to prevent serious difficulties, which were apprehended, and at the solicitation of many of the leading citizens of Hot Springs and others interested in the welfare of the town, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to request the late commissioner to take charge of the records of his proceedings and to perform such work as could properly be done by him under such circumstances, to facilitate future adjudications of claims at an early date and to preserve the status of the claimants until their rights should be fully determined. The late commissioner complied with the request, and report that the testimony in all the cases has been written out, examined, briefed and arranged as to facilitate an early settlement when authorized by law. It is recommended that requisite authority be given at an early date in the session as possible, and that the necessary funds be allowed the late commissioner for the expense incurred and the labor performed by them since the 25th of June last.

PUBLIC TIMBER. I invite the attention of Congress to the recommendations made by the Secretary of the Interior with regard to the preservation of timber on the public lands of the United States. The protection of public property is one of the duties of the Government. The Department of the Interior should, therefore, be enabled by sufficient appropriations to enforce the laws in that respect. But this matter appears still more important as a question of public economy. The rapid destruction of our forests is an evil fraught with the gravest consequences, especially in mountainous districts where rocky slopes, once denuded of their trees, render the soil infertile and the lands liable to be washed away. This injury once done cannot be repaired. I fully concur with the Secretary of the Interior in the opinion that for this reason legislation touching public timber in the mountainous States and Territories of the West should be especially well considered, and that existing laws in which the destruction of forests is not sufficiently guarded against should be speedily modified. A general law concerning the important subject appears to me to be a matter of urgent public necessity.

AGRICULTURE. From the organization of the Government the importance of encouraging, by all possible means, the increase of our agricultural productions has been acknowledged and urged upon the attention of Congress by the people as the surest and easiest means of securing our substantial and enduring prosperity. The words of Washington are as applicable to-day as when, in his eighth annual message, he said: "It is not to be doubted that, with reference to either individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance." In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity, that truth becomes more apparent and renders the cultivation of the soil more an object of public patronage. Institutions for promoting it have grown up, supported by the public purse, and to what object can it be dedicated with more propriety? Among the means which have been employed to this end none have been attended with greater success than the establishment of Boards, composed of proper characters, charged with collecting and diffusing information, and enabled by premiums and small pecuniary aids to encourage and assist the spirit of discovery and improvement. This species of establishment contributes doubly to the increase of agriculture, by stimulating enterprise and experiment, by drawing to a common centre the results everywhere of individual skill and observation, and spreading them thence over the whole nation. Experience, accordingly, has shown that they are very cheap instruments of immense national benefit. The great preponderance of agricultural over any other interest in the United States entitles it to the consideration claimed for it by Washington. About one-half of the population of the United States is engaged in agriculture. The value of the agricultural products of the United States for the year 1878 is estimated at \$3,000,000,000. The expenses of the agricultural products for the year 1877, as appear from the report of the Bureau of Statistics, are \$2,100,000,000. The great extent of our country with its diversity of soil and climate, enables us to produce within our own borders and by our own labor, not only the necessities, but most of the luxuries that are consumed in civilized countries; yet, notwithstanding our advantages of soil, climate and inter-communication, it appears from the statistical statements in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, that we import annually from foreign lands many millions of dollars worth of agricultural products which could be raised in our own country. Numerous questions arise in the practice of advanced agriculture which can only be answered by experiments, often costly and sometimes fruitless, which are beyond the means of private individuals and are a burden and proper charge of the whole nation for the benefit of the nation. It is good policy, especially in times of depression and uncertainty in other business pursuits, with a vast area of uncultivated and hence unproductive territory, wisely opened to homestead settlement, to encourage, by every proper and legitimate means, the occupation and tillage of the soil. The efforts of the Department of Agriculture to stimulate old and introduce new agricultural industries, to improve the quality and increase the quantity of our products, to determine the value of old or establish the importance of new methods of culture,

are worthy of your careful and favorable consideration and assistance by such appropriations of money and enlargement of facilities as may be demanded by the present favorable condition of the growth and rapid development of this important interest.

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EDUCATION. The report of the Commissioners of the Bureau of Education shows very gratifying progress throughout the country in all the interests connected with the care of this subject, which has been especially encouraging with respect to the extension of the advantages of the common school system in sections of the country where the general enjoyment of the privileges of free schools is not yet attained. To education more than to any other agency are we to look as a resource for the advancement of the people in the requisite knowledge and appreciation of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and I desire to repeat the suggestion contained in my former message in behalf of the enactment of appropriate measures by Congress for the purpose of supplementing with national aid, local systems of education in the several States.

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Why Greatest and Best? We see some envious mortals object to the CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY being called the greatest and best line in the country. What means greatest? Is it more length of line, miles operated and business transported? What means best? Everyone knows the reply. That this line is greatest, a few facts will demonstrate. It operates nearly one hundred miles of road (2,078 to be exact) and reaches nearly every important point in Northern Illinois, in Wisconsin, in Northern Michigan, in Iowa, in Minnesota, and runs many lines into Dakota. What other line begins to traverse so many States? None—not one. A road 500 miles in length is a long one. A thousand miles makes a great line. What, then, should be said of one 2,100 miles long? Just that it is the longest laid eastward from New York it would reach more than two-thirds of the way across the Atlantic Ocean, or from the pine-clad hills of Maine to the sunny shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Great, is it not? Then for a moment look at its business. It carries millions (think of what millions mean) of passengers a year, to say nothing of the silver, and iron, and lead, and lumber, and cattle and hogs, and thousands upon thousands of car loads of wheat, and oats, and corn, and horses, and sheep, and the thousand and one other kinds of freight that is grown or used or handled by the people of the great North-west.

through which it is the great iron highway. Take down your map and trace its routes. Fix your eye on Chicago as a starting point. Westward, in nearly an air line, you will trace its California line until you reach the Missouri river at Council Bluffs, opposite Omaha—here is a single run of nearly 500 miles. Back to Chicago again you look north-west, and through another of its routes through Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, through the pine woods of that whole state and into Minnesota, and on to St. Paul and Minneapolis—this is 400 miles more. Again looking from Chicago, you can trace a line through Sparta, Wisconsin, La Crosse, in the same State, Winona, Watona and New Ulm, in Minnesota, and north-westward far into Dakota—here we have 625 miles more of road. Again coming to Chicago, we see two lines running northwardly—one along the Lake shore to Milwaukee, and thence to Fond du Lac, and the other running more inland, through Janesville, Watertown, etc., also to Fond du Lac, thence north, through Oshkosh, De Pere, Green Bay, and Escanaba, to Nequaqua, Ephraim and Marquette—here is another 400 miles of road. Then we have a line from Chicago to Elgin, Rockford, and Freeport, another from Clinton, Iowa, to Anamosa, in the same State, another from Kenosha, on Lake Michigan, to Rockford, in northern Illinois, and after all longer lines we have many short spurs to traverse before we have found out all of the CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. Is it any wonder, then, that this line is called the great Western Trunk Line? So far ahead of anything else is it in the way of road bed, cars, locomotives and hotel coaches, that even its competitors are obliged to acknowledge that it is the best. The passengers to or from California, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, the Black Hills, Minnesota, Manitoba, the East, West, North or South, should see that they are furnished tickets by this great line. Forget not that this alone of all the roads west or north of Chicago, run the world-renowned Pullman hotel car. No other western road has Pullman or any other form of hotel car, no matter what they claim.—The Herald.

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are worthy of your careful and favorable consideration and assistance by such appropriations of money and enlargement of facilities as may be demanded by the present favorable condition of the growth and rapid development of this important interest.

EDUCATION. The report of the Commissioners of the Bureau of Education shows very gratifying progress throughout the country in all the interests connected with the care of this subject, which has been especially encouraging with respect to the extension of the advantages of the common school system in sections of the country where the general enjoyment of the privileges of free schools is not yet attained. To education more than to any other agency are we to look as a resource for the advancement of the people in the requisite knowledge and appreciation of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and I desire to repeat the suggestion contained in my former message in behalf of the enactment of appropriate measures by Congress for the purpose of supplementing with national aid, local systems of education in the several States.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY. Adequate accommodations for the great library which is overflowing the capacity of the rooms now occupied at the capital, should be provided without further delay. This invaluable collection of books, manuscripts and illustrative art has grown to such proportions in connection with the copyright system as to demand the prompt and earnest attention of Congress to save it from injury in its present crowded and insufficient quarters. As this library is national in its character and must, from the nature of the case, increase even more rapidly in the future than in the past it can not be doubted that people will sanction any wise expenditure to preserve it, and so enlarge its usefulness.

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