

President's Message
The President's message, read in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives, was a long and important document.

The People & the People's Rights

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 8, '92

EDITORIAL ITEMS

Our grateful thanks are due to all our subscribers for their generous support of the Democratic Sentinel during the past year.

Next week we shall commence giving more fully the doings of the body. Nothing of importance has transpired since our last issue.

Our attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of B. W. Phillips, Esq., of the State of Ohio, for the position of President of the Democratic Party.

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to obtain possession of the Island of Cuba, and should bind themselves to discontinue all attempts to effect on the part of the power of individual whatever. This invitation has been respectfully declined, for reasons which it would occupy too much space in this communication to state in detail, but which led me to think that the proposed measure would be of doubtful constitutionality, impolitic and unavailing. I have, however, in common with several of my predecessors, directed the Ministers of France and England to be assured that the United States entertain no design against Cuba; but that on the contrary, I should regard its incorporation into the Union at the present time as fraught with serious evils.

It is instructive, however, at the same time, to give that government the amplest assurance that the objects of the United States are such and such only as I have indicated, and the expedition is friendly and peaceful.

Notwithstanding the jealousy with which the governments of Eastern Asia regard all overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes of a beneficial result of the expedition. Should it be crowned with success, the advantages will not be confined to the United States, but, as in the case of China, will be equally enjoyed by all the other maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in stating that in all the steps preparatory to this expedition, the government of the United States has been materially aided by the good offices of the king of the Netherlands, the only European power having any commercial relations with Japan.

In passing from this survey of our foreign relations, I invite the attention of Congress to the condition of that department of the Government which is entrusted with the public business. Our intercourse with foreign powers has of late years greatly increased, both in consequence of our own growth and the introduction of many new states into the family of nations. In this way the Department of State has become overburdened. It has, by the recent establishment of the Department of the Interior, been relieved of some portion of the domestic business. If the residue of the business of that kind, such as the distribution of Congressional documents, the keeping, publishing and distribution of the laws of the United States, the execution of the copyright law, the subject of reprints and pardons, and some other subjects relating to interior administration, should be transferred from the Department of State, it would unquestionably be for the benefit of the public service. I would also suggest that the building appropriated to the State Department is not fit for its purpose; that there is reason to think there are defects in its construction, and that the archives of the Government in charge of the Department, with the precious collections of the manuscript papers of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and Monroe, are exposed to destruction by fire. A similar remark may be made of the buildings appropriated to the War and Navy Departments.

The condition of the Treasury is exhibited in the annual report from that Department. The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, exclusive of the trust funds, were forty-one millions, seven hundred and twenty-two thousand three hundred and eighty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents, (41,728,388 89) and the expenditures for the same period, likewise exclusive of trust funds, were forty-six millions, seven hundred and eighty-eight thousand and ninety-six dollars and twenty cents, (46,597,896 20) of which nine millions four hundred and fifty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty-three dollars and eighty-three cents (9,455,815 83) was on account of the principal and interest of the public debt, including the last installment of the indemnity to Mexico under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leaving a balance of \$14,632,486 157 in the Treasury on the first day of July last. Since this latter period, further payments of the principal of the public debt have been made, to the extent of two millions four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars and forty-nine cents, (2,456,547 49) and the surplus in the Treasury will continue to be applied to that object, whenever the stock can be procured within the limits, as to price, authorized by law.

The value of foreign merchandise imported during the fiscal year was two hundred and seven millions two hundred and forty thousand one hundred and one dollar, (207,240,101) and the value of domestic productions exported was one hundred and forty-nine million, eight hundred and sixty-one thousand nine hundred and eleven dollars, (149,681,911) besides seventeen millions two hundred and four thousand and twenty-six dollars (17,204,026) of foreign merchandise exported; making the aggregate of the entire exports one hundred and sixty-seven million six hundred and sixty-eight thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars, (167,068,337) exclusive of the above there was exported forty-two million five hundred and twenty-two thousand two hundred and eighty-five dollars, (42,507,385) in specie and imported from foreign ports five millions two hundred and sixty-two thousand five hundred and forty-three dollars, (5,262,643).

In my first annual message to Congress I called your attention to what seemed to me some defects in the present tariff, and recommended such modifications as my judgment were best adapted to remedy its evils and promote the prosperity of the country. Nothing has since occurred to change my views on this important question. Without repeating the arguments contained in my former message, in favor of discriminating protective duties, I deem it my duty to call your attention to one or two other considerations affecting this subject. The first is the effect of large importations of foreign goods upon our currency. Most of the gold of California, as far as it is coined, finds its way directly to Europe in payment for goods purchased. In the second place, our manufacturing establishments are broken down by competition with foreigners, the capital invested in them is lost, thousands of honest and industrious citizens are thrown out of employment, and the farmer to that extent is deprived of a home market for the surplus produce. In the third place, the destruction of our manufactures leaves the foreigner without competition on our market, and he consequently raises the price of the article sent here for sale, as is now seen in the increased cost of iron imported from England. The prosperity and wealth of every nation must depend upon its productive industry. The farmer is stimulated to exertion by finding a ready market for his surplus produce, and benefited by being able to exchange there, without loss of time or expense of transportation, for the manufactures which his comfort or necessities require. This is always done to the best advantage where a portion of the community in which he lives is engaged in other pursuits. But most manufactures require an amount of capital and a practical skill which cannot be commanded, unless they be protected for a time from a ruinous competition from abroad. Hence the necessity of laying those duties upon important goods which the Constitution authorizes for revenue, in such a manner as to protect and en-

course the labor of our own citizens. Duties however should not be fixed at a rate so high as to exclude the foreign article, but should be so graduated as to enable the domestic manufacturer fairly to compete with the foreigner in his own market, and by the competition to reduce the price of the manufactured article to the consumer to the lowest rate at which it can be produced. This policy would place the mechanic by the side of the farmer, create a mutual interchange of their respective commodities, and thus stimulate the industry of the whole country, and render independent of foreign nations for the supplies required by the habits or necessities of the people.

Another question, wholly independent of protection, presents itself, and that is, whether the duties levied should be upon the value of the article at the place of shipment, or, where it is practicable, a specific duty, graduated according to quantity, as ascertained at present and valued. A certain percentage is levied on the price of the article at the place of shipment. Most commercial nations have found it indispensable, for the purpose of preventing fraud and perjury, to make the duties specific, whenever the article is of such uniform value in weight or measure as to justify such a duty. Legislation should ever encourage dishonesty or crime. It is impossible that the revenue officers at the port where the goods are entered and the duties paid should know with certainty what they cost in the foreign country. Yet the law requires that they should levy the duty according to such cost. They are therefore compelled to resort to every fraudulent device to ascertain what this cost was. The only way to prevent an importer, attested by his oath as the best evidence of which the nature of the case admits, but every one must see that the invoice may be fabricated, and the oath by which it is supported false, by reason of which the dishonest importer pays a part only of the duties which are paid by the honest one, and then indirectly receives from the treasury of the United States a reward for his fraud and perjury. The reports of the Secretary of the Treasury heretofore made on this subject show conclusively that his frauds have been practiced to a great extent. The tendency is to destroy that high moral character for which our merchants have long been distinguished, to defraud the Government of its revenue, to break down the honest importer by the dishonest competition, and, finally, to transfer the business of importing to foreign and irresponsible agents, to the great detriment of our own citizens. I therefore again most earnestly recommend the adoption of specific duties, wherever it is practicable, or a home valuation to prevent such frauds.

I would also again call your attention to the fact that the present tariff in some cases imposes a heavier duty upon the raw material imported than upon the article manufactured from it, the consequence of which is that the duty operates to the encouragement of the foreigner and the discouragement of our own citizens.

For full and detailed information in regard to the general condition of our Indian affairs, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and the accompanying documents.

The Senate not having thought proper to ratify the treaties which had been negotiated with the tribes of Indians in California and Oregon, our relations with them have been in a very unsatisfactory condition. In other parts of our territory particular districts of country have been set apart for the exclusive occupation of the Indians, and their right to the lands within those limits has been acknowledged and respected. But in California and Oregon there has been no recognition by the government of the exclusive right of the Indians to any part of the country. They are therefore more tenants at sufferance, and liable to be driven from place to place, at the pleasure of the whites.

The treaties which have been rejected proposed to remedy this evil by allotting to the different tribes, districts of country suitable to their habits of life, and sufficient for their support. This provision, more than any other, it is believed, led to their rejection, and is no substitute for it. It has been adopted by Congress, it has been deemed advisable to enter into new treaties of a permanent character, although no effort has been spared by temporary arrangements to preserve friendly relations with them.

If it be the desire of Congress to remove them from the country altogether, or to assign to them particular districts more remote from the settlements of the whites, it will be proper to set apart by law the territory which they are to occupy, and to provide the means necessary for removing them to it. Justice to our own citizens and the Indians requires the prompt action of Congress on this subject.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the treaties which were negotiated with the Sioux Indians of Minnesota have been submitted to the tribes who were parties to them, and have received their assent. A large tract of valuable territory has thus been opened for settlement and cultivation, and all danger of collision with these powerful and warlike bands has been happily removed.

The removal of the remnant of the tribe Seminole Indians from Florida has been a cherished object of the Government, and it is one to which my attention has been steadily directed. Admonished by past experience of the difficulty and cost of the attempt to remove them by military force, resort has been had to obligatory measures. By the invitation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs several of the principal chiefs recently visited Washington, and whilst here, acknowledged in writing the obligation of their tribe to remove with the least possible delay.

Late advice from the special agent of the Government represent that they adhere to their promise, and that a council of their people has been called to make their preliminary arrangements. A general emigration may therefore be confidently expected at an early day.

The report from the General Land Office shows an increased activity in its operations. The survey of the northern boundary of Iowa has been completed with unexampled despatch. Within the last year 5,222,953 acres of public land have been surveyed and 8,092,463 acres brought into market.

In the last fiscal year there were sold, with bounty land warrants, 1,533,971 acres. Located with other certificates, 3,201,314 acres. Reported under swamp land grants, 115,692 acres.

Making a total of 4,850,977 acres. Reported under swamp land grants, 5,219,168 acres. For internal improvements, railroads, &c., 3,125,920 acres. Making an aggregate of 13,215,175 acres. Being an increase in the amount of lands

located and located under land warrants of 563,220 acres over the previous year. The whole amount thus sold, located under land warrants, reported under swamp land grants, and selected for internal improvements, exceeds that of the previous year by 5,222,953 acres, and the sales would without doubt, have been much larger but for the existing reservations for railroads in Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama.

For the quarter ending 30th September, 1852, there were sold, 243,255 acres. Located with bounty land warrants, 1,362,115 acres. Located with other certificates, 15,748 acres. Reported under swamp land grants, 2,465,352 acres.

Making an aggregate for the quarter of 4,131,253 acres. Much the larger portion of the labor of arranging and classifying the returns of the last census has been finished, and it will now devolve upon Congress to make the necessary provision for the publication of the results in such form as shall be deemed best. The apportionment of representation, on the basis of the new census, has been made by the Secretary of the Interior in conformity with the provisions of the law relating to that subject and the recent elections have been made in accordance with it.

I commend to your favorable regard the suggestion contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, that provision be made by law for the publication and distribution, periodically, of an analogical digest of all the patents which have been, or may hereafter be, granted for useful inventions and discoveries, with such descriptions and illustrations as may be necessary to present an intelligible view of their nature and operation. The cost of such publication could easily be defrayed out of the patent fund, and I am persuaded that it could be applied to no object more acceptable to inventors and beneficial to the public at large.

An appropriation of \$100,000 had been made at the last session for the purchase of a suitable site, and for the erection, furnishing, and fitting up of an Asylum for the Insane of the District of Columbia, and of the Army and Navy of U. States, the proper measures have been adopted to carry this beneficent purpose into effect.

By the latest advices from the Mexican Boundary Commission it appears that the survey of the river Gila from its source with the Colorado to its supposed intersection with the western line of New Mexico, has been completed. The survey of the Rio Grande has also been finished from the point agreed on by the Commissioners as "the point where it strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico" to a point one hundred and thirty-five miles below Eagle Pass, which is about two-thirds of the distance along the course of the river to its mouth.

The appropriation which was made at the last session of Congress for the continuation of the survey is subject to the following provisions: That no part of this appropriation shall be used or expended until it shall be made satisfactory to appear to the President of the United States that the southern boundary of New Mexico is not established by the Colorado to its supposed intersection with the western line of New Mexico, and that the same is laid down in Distard's map, which is added to the treaty.

My attention was drawn to this subject by a report from the Department of the Interior which reviewed all the facts of the case, and submitted for my decision the question whether, under existing circumstances, any part of the appropriation could be lawfully used or expended for the further prosecution of the work. After a careful consideration of the subject, I came to the conclusion that it could not, and so informed the head of that department. Orders were immediately issued by him to the commissioner and surveyor to make no further requisitions on the Department, as they could not be paid and to discontinue all operations on the southern line of New Mexico. But as the Department had no exact information as to the amount of provisions and money which remained unexpended in the hands of the commissioner and surveyor, it was left to their discretion to continue the survey down the Rio Grande, as far as the means at their disposal would enable them, or to attempt to disband the commission. A special messenger has since arrived from the officer in charge of the survey on the river, with information that the funds subject to his control were exhausted, and that the officers and others employed in the service were destitute alike of the means of prosecuting the work and of returning to their homes.

The object of the proviso was doubtless to arrest the survey of the southern and western lines of New Mexico, in regard to which divergent opinions have been expressed; for it is hardly to be supposed that there could be any objection to that part of the line which extends along the channel of the Rio Grande. But the terms of the law are so broad as to forbid the use of any part of the money for the prosecution of the work, or even for the payment to the officers and agents, of the arrearages of pay which are justly due to them.

I earnestly invite your prompt attention to this subject, and recommend a modification of the terms of the proviso so as to enable the Department to use as much of the appropriation as will be necessary to discharge the existing obligations of the Government, and to complete the survey of the Rio Grande to its mouth.

It will also be proper to make further provisions by law for the fulfillment of our treaty with Mexico for running and marking the residue of the boundary line between the two countries.

Permit me to invite your particular attention to the interests of the District of Columbia, which are confided by the Constitution to your political care. Among the measures which seem to me of the greatest importance to its prosperity are the introduction of a copious supply of water into the city of Washington, and the construction of suitable bridges across the Potomac to replace those which were destroyed by high water in the early part of the present year.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation was made to defray the cost of the surveys necessary for determining the best means of affording an unfailing supply of good and wholesome water. Some progress has been made in the survey, and as soon as it is completed the result will be laid before you.

Further appropriations will also be necessary for grading and paving the streets, and avenues, and enclosing and embellishing the public grounds within the city of Washington.

I commend all these objects, together with the charitable institutions of the District, to your favorable regard.

Every effort has been made to protect our frontier, and that of the adjoining Mexican States, from the incursions of the Indian tribes. Of about 11,000 men of which the army is composed, nearly 8,000 are employed in the defence of the newly-acquired territory, (including Texas,) and of emigrants

proceeding thereto. I am gratified to say that these efforts have been unusually successful. With the exception of some partial outbreaks in California and Oregon, no occasional depredations on persons of the Rio Grande owing, it is believed, in the disturbed state of that border region, the incursions of the Indians have been effectually restrained.

Experience has shown, however, that whenever the two races are brought into contact, collisions will inevitably occur. To prevent these collisions the U. S. has generally set apart portions of their territory for the exclusive possession of the Indian tribes. A difficulty occurs, however, in the application of this policy in Texas. By the terms of the compact by which that State was admitted into the Union, she retained the ownership of all the vacant land within her limits. The government of that State, it is understood, has desired a portion of her settlements advance, but it is not yet settled and proceed to survey and sell it. This policy manifestly tends not only to alienate and irritate the Indians, but to compel them to plunder for subsistence. It also deprives this Government of that influence and control over them without which no durable peace can ever exist between them and the whites. I trust therefore, that a due regard for her own interests, apart from considerations of humanity and justice will induce that State to assign a small portion of her vast domain for the provisional occupancy of the small remnants of her tribes within her borders, subject of course to her own hereditary and eventual jurisdiction. If she should fail to do this, the fulfillment of our treaty obligations with Mexico, and our duty to her territory, would be frustrated, and she would come a subject of serious embarrassment to the Government. It is hoped, however, that a timely and just provision by Texas will avert this evil.

No appropriations for the fortifications were made at the two last sessions of Congress. The cause of this omission is probably to be found in a growing belief that the system of fortifications adopted in 1816, and heretofore acted upon, requires revision. The subject deserves full and careful investigation; but it should not be delayed longer than can be avoided. In the meantime there are certain works which have been commenced—some of them nearly completed—designed to protect our principal ports from Boston to New Orleans, and a few other important points, which it is necessary for these works it is believed, will little difference of opinion exists among military men. I therefore, recommend that the appropriations necessary to prosecute them be made.

I invite your attention to the remarks on this subject, and on others connected with this department, contained in the accompanying report of the Secretary of War. Measures have been taken to carry into effect the law of the last session making provision for the improvement of certain rivers and harbors, and it is believed that the arrangements made for that purpose will combine efficiency with economy. Owing chiefly to the delay advanced season when the act was passed, little has yet been done in regard to many of the works beyond making the necessary preparations. With a sum already appropriated will suffice to complete them, but most of them will require additional appropriations. I trust that these appropriations will be made in this wise and beneficent policy, so auspiciously recommended, will be continued. Great care should be taken, however, to commence no work which is not of sufficient importance to the commerce of the country to be viewed as national in its character. But works which have been commenced should not be discontinued until completed, as otherwise the sums expended will, in most cases, be lost.

The report from the Navy Department will inform you of the prosperous condition of the branch of the public service committed to its charge. It presents to your consideration many topics and suggestions of which I ask your approval. It exhibits an unusual degree of activity in the operations of the Department during the past year. The preparations for the Japan expedition, to which I have already alluded, the arrangements made for the exploration and survey of the China Seas, the North Pacific, and Behring's Straits, the incipient measures taken towards a reconnaissance of the continent of Africa eastward of Liberia, the preparation for an early examination of the tribunals of the River La Plata, which a recent decree of the chief of the Argentine Confederation has opened to navigation; all these enterprises, and the means by which they are proposed to be accomplished, have commanded my full approval, and I have no doubt will be productive of most useful results. Two officers of the navy were bestowed on the expedition to explore the whole extent of the Amazon river, from the mouth of Peru to its mouth. The return of one of them has placed in the possession of the Government an interesting and valuable account of the character and resources of a country abounding in the materials of commerce, and which, if opened to the industry of the world will prove an inexhaustible fund of wealth. The report of this expedition will be communicated to you as soon as it is completed.

Among other subjects offered to your notice by the Secretary of the Navy, I select for special consideration, in view of its connection with the interests of the navy, the plan submitted by him for the establishment of a permanent corps of seamen, and the suggestions he has presented for the reorganization of the Navy Academy.

In preference to most and perhaps the most important of these subjects, I take occasion to say that I think it greatly improves the efficiency of the service, and that I regard it as still more important to favor for the salutary influence it most exert upon the naval discipline, now greatly disturbed by the increasing spirit of insubordination, resulting from our present system. The plan proposed for the organization of the seamen furnishes a judicious substitute for the law of September; abolishing corporal punishment, and satisfactorily sustains the policy of that act, under conditions well adapted to maintain the authority of command and the order and security of our ships. It is believed that any change which proposes permanently to dispense with this mode of punishment, should be preceded by a system of enlistment which shall supply the navy with seamen of the most respectable class, whose good conduct all occasion for a resort to penalties of a harsh or degrading nature. The safety of a ship and crew is often dependent upon immediate obedience to a command, and the authority to enforce it must be equally ready. The arrest of a refractory seaman, in such a moment, not only deprives the ship of indispensable aid, but imposes a necessity for double service on others whose fidelity to their duties may be ruffled upon such an emergency. The exposure to this increased and arduous labor, since the passage of the act of 1850, has already led, in a most observable and injurious extent, to the effect preventing the enlistment of the best seamen in the navy. The plan now sug-

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