THE MESSAGE

President Harrison to Congress.

OPPOSED TO SILVER

He Uses Warlike Language Toward Chili.

NARROW ON THE UTAH QUESTION

On the Tariff He Delivers Himself of a Characteristic Republican Stump Speech.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—President Harrison sent the following message to Congress to-day:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The reports of the heads of the several executive departments required by law to be submitted to me, which are herewith transmitted, and the report of the secretary of the treasury and attorney-general made direct to Congress, furnish a comprehensive review of the administrative work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs. It would be of great advantage if the reports could have an attentive perusal by every member of Congress and by all who take an interest in public affairs. Such a perusal could not fail to excite a higher appreciation of the vast labor and conscientious efforts which are given to the conduct of our civil administration. The reports will, I believe, show that every question has been approached, considered and decided from the standpoint of public duty and upon considerations affecting the public interests alone. Again I invite to every branch of the service the attention and scrutiny of Congress.

The Department of State.

The work of the state department during the last year has been characterized by an unusually large number of important and difficult diplomatic results of a notably and a highly beneficial character. Among these are the reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded, if the exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the tariff law, with the republic of Brazil, with Spain for its West India possession and with San Domingo. Like negotiations with other countries have been much advanced and it is believed that before the close of the present session of congress the results of great value will be concluded.

THE BEHRING SEA MATTER.

In view of the reports which have been received as to the diminution of the seal herds in the Behring sea, I deemed it wise to propose to her majesty's government in February last that an agreement for a closed season should be made, pending the negotiations for arbitration which then seemed to be approaching a favorable conclusion. After much correspondence and delay, for which this government was not responsible, an agreement was reached on the 15th of June by which Great Britain undertook from that date and until May 1, 1892, to prohibit the killing by her subjects of seals in the Behring sea, and this government of the United States during the same period to enforce its existing prohibition against pelagic sealing and to limit the catch by

THE FUR SEAL COMPANY

upon the island 75,000 skins. If this agreement could have been reached earlier in respective governments. This was declined and that policy was pursued throughout which this government, when wrenched by civil war, so strenuously insisted upon the part of European nations. The Italia, an armed vessel commanded by a naval officer of the insurgent fleet, manned by its sailors and with soldiers on board, was seized under process of the United States court at San Diego, California, for a violation of our neutrality laws. While the decree of the district judge of the court the vessel was forcibly wrested from his control and put to sea. It would have been inconsistent with the dignity and self-respect of this government not to have insisted that the Italia should be returned to San Diego to abide the judgment of the court. This was so clear to the junta of the Congressional party established at Iquique that before the arrival of the Italia at that port the Secretary of Foreign Relations of the provisional government addressed Rear Admiral Brown, commanding the United States naval forces, a communication from which the following is an extract:

"The provisional government had learned by the cablegrams of the Associated Press that the transport Itata was detained in San Diego by order of the United States for taking on board a quantity of war elements, and in possession of the marshalls left the port, carrying on board this official, who was landed at a port near the coast and then continued her voyage. If this news be correct this government would deplore the conduct of the Itata and as an evidence that it is not disposed to support or assume the infraction of the laws of the United States, the undersigned takes advantage of the personal relations you have been good enough to maintain with him since your arrival in this port, to declare to you that as soon as she is within reach of our orders this government will put the Itata with all arms and munitions she took in at San Diego at the disposition of the United States. A trial in the district court of the United States for the southern district of California has recently resulted in a decision holding, among other things that inasmuch as the congressional party had not been recognized as belligerent, the acts done in its interest could not be a violation of our neutrality laws. From this judgment the United States has taken no appeal. But the condemnation of the vessel is a matter of importance but that we may know what is the present state of our law, for, if this construction of the statute is correct, there is obvious necessity for revision and amendment. During the progress of

THE WAR IN CHILI

this government tendered its good offices to bring about a peaceful adjustment, and it was at one time hoped that a good result might be reached, but in this we were disappointed. The instructions to our naval officers and to our minister at Santiago from the first to the last of this struggle enjoined upon them the most impartial treatment and absolutely no interference. I am satisfied these instructions were so observed and our representatives were always watchful to use their good offices impartially in the interest of humanity, and on more one occasion did so effectively. We could not forget, however, that this government was in diplomatic relations with the then established government of Chili, as it is now in such relations with the successor of that government. I am quite sure that President Montt, who has, under circumstances of premises for the peace of Chile, been installed president of the republic, will not deem that in the unfortunate event of any revolt against his authority, the policy of this government should be other than we have recently observed.

Official complaint of the conduct of our minister or of our naval officers during the struggle has been presented to this government, and it is a matter of regret that so many of our own people should have given ear to unofficial charges and complaints that manifestly had their origin in rivalry and in a wish to

PREVENT THE RELATIONS

of the United States with Chili. The collapse of the government of Balmaceda brought about a condition which is unfortunately too familiar in the history of the Central and the South American states. With the overthrow of the Balmaceda government, he and many of his principal civil officers became fugitives for their lives and applied to the commanding officers of the foreign naval vessels in the harbor of Valparaiso, and to the resident foreign ministers at Santiago for asylum. This is as we freely admit, a privilege which has resulted in great injustice and injury to the American residents.

The government and people of Spain purpose to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by holding an exposition at Madrid, which will open on the 12th of September and continue until the 31st of December 1892. A cordial invitation has been extended to the United States to take part in this commercial relation, and as Spain was one of the first nations to express the intention to participate in the World's Columbian exposition it would be very appropriate for this government to give this invitation its friendly promotion.

INTER-CONTINENTAL RAILWAY.

Surveys for the connecting links of the projected inter-continental railway are in progress, both on the Mexican and Guatemalan sides. Surveys for the connecting links of the projected inter-continental railway are in progress, both on the Mexican and Guatemalan sides. The late outbreak against foreigners in the Chinese government has been a cause of deep concern in view of the numerous establishments of our citizens in the interior of that country. This government can do no less than insist upon a continuance of the protective and pacifatory measures which the Chinese government has heretofore applied. No effort will be omitted to protect our citizens peacefully sojourning in China, but recent unofficial information indicates that what was at first regarded as an outbreak of mob violence against foreigners has assumed the form of an

INSURRECTION AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER.

The Chinese government has declined to received Mr. Blair as the minister of the United States on the ground that as a participant as a Senator in the enactment of existing legislation against the introduction of Chinese laborers he has become unfriendly and objectionable to China, and I have felt constrained to point out to the Chinese government the untenableness of this position, which seems to rest as much upon the acceptability of our legislation as on that of the person chosen, and which, if admitted, would practically debar the selection of any representative as long as the existing laws remain in force.

You will be called upon to consider the expediency of making special provision by law for the temporary admission of some Chinese artisans and laborers in connection with the exhibit of Chinese industries at the approaching Columbian exposition. I regard as desirable that the Chinese exhibit be facilitated in every proper way.

AMERICANS IN THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A question has arisen with the government of Spain touching the rights of American citizens in the Caroline islands. Our citizens there, long prior to the confirmation of Spain's claim to the islands, had secured by settlement and purchase certain rights to the recognition and maintenance of which the faith of Spain was pledged. I have had reason within the past year very strongly to protest against this failure to carry out this pledge on the part of His Majesty's ministers which has resulted in great injustice and injury to the American residents.

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