The National Republican.

OL. XXIV.---NO. 7. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1883. THREE CENTS

GETTING READY.

n Branches of Congress Settling Themselves to Business.

w the Members Were Treated in the Seat Lottery.

House Majority Takes Water in the Chalmers-Manning Case.

king Haste to Unload a Great Mass of New Bills.

THE SENATE.

he senate was called to order at noon. er prayer and the reading of the journal chair laid before the senate, among other ers, the following:

he report of the clerk of the court of ns of the decisions of that body for the t year.

he reports of the sergeant at arms of the ate relating to the heating and ventilation he senate chamber.

memorial from the territorial council of tana relating to the public surveys; also o Indian depredations on white settlers.

memorial from the New York Chamber Commerce relating to the ex-Senator E. D. rgan.

mong the memorials and petitions pre- ted by senators were the following:

y Mr. Coke, of Texas, from the United tes district attorney for the western dis- t of Texas: Praying for legislation which y correct the evil of judges appointing ir relatives to office in their courts.

ills were introduced, to be referred to ropriate committees when appointed, as ows:

y Mr. Ingalls: To remove certain limita- n of the arrears of pension act. It pro- es that "all pensions which have been, or ich may hereafter be, granted in conse- ence of death occurring from a cause which ginated in the service since March 4, 1861, in consequence of wounds, or injuries re- ved, or disease contracted since that e, shall date from the death or discharge the person on whose account the claim been, or is hereafter granted, if the ability occurred prior to discharge, and if h disability occurred after discharge then m the date of actual disability, or from termination of the right of party having or title to such pension and in considera- n of any and all claims for pensions in sequence of death from or for disability ulting from diseases contracted in service ring the late civil war. The person, on ose account the said pension is claimed, all be conclusively presumed to have been nd and free from disease at the date of tering the service."

By Mr. Garland: Amending that section of revised statutes which relates to the ction of United States senators, with a w to rendering more definite the forms l certificates of their election.

By Mr. Beck: Providing for the removal of disabilities imposed by the fourteenth endment to the constitution of the United tes.

Also, to repeal the act of July 2, 1862, and ch sections of the revised statutes of the ited States as perpetuate the oath pre- ibed in such act.

Also, a bill to permit American citizens to rchase foreign built ships for use in foreign mmerce.

Also, a bill to authorize the payment of cus- ns duties in legal tender notes.

By Mr. Edmunds: A bill to amend sections 56 and 1757 of the revised statutes. [It olishes the iron clad oath and fixes one oath all officers alike, saving, however, all pro- sions against rebel claims and all penalties, .]

Also, a bill to provide for the further pro- ction of citizens of the United States against olation of certain rights secured to them the constitution. The bill undertakes, r. Edmunds said, to provide security for the otection of the colored citizens of the nited States against inhuman, wicked, and holy distinctions that in some of the states e still made against them in respect to their vil rights, and to protect them consistently th the late decision of the supreme court the United States.

Also, another bill, being a redraft of a bill ported by the committee on the judiciary me years ago, dealing, in general, with the ghts of colored citizens, especially with the w of securing them a free vote and a fair unt of all votes.

Also, a bill to provide for the establishment a postal telegraph, and a bill to amend the ws relating to bigamy.

By Mr. Sherman: A bill to provide for the ue of circulation to National Banking as- ciations. [It allows bills to be issued for per cent. of the market value of bonds in- ead of 90 per cent. of the face value, the ue in no case to exceed 95 per cent. of the arket value.]

Senator Blair introduced a bill to establish ureau of statistics of labor under the de- rtment of the interior.

Also, a bill to fix and regulate the hours of bor of workmen and mechanics in the em- oy of the United States, limiting the num- r of hours to constitute a day's work to ght, and providing that whenever it shall found necessary to substitute labor by the ur for labor by the day, such labor shall paid for at the rate of one-eighth of a y's pay for each hour.

By Mr. Logan: A bill to appropriate and pend $50,000,000 derived from the internal evenue taxes and the sale of public lands r the education of all children living in the nited States.

By Mr. Sewell: To reorganize the inspec- r general's department of the army.

By Mr. Hoar: A bill to provide for the per- rmance of the duties of the office of presi- nt in case of the death, resignation, or in- ility of both president and vice president.

Also, a bill to fix the day for the meeting electors of president and vice president, and provide for and regulate the counting of e votes for president and vice president.

Also, a bill providing for a uniform system bankruptcy. [This is the Lowell bill in- oduced in the last congress].

By Mr. Williams, of Kentucky: A bill anting pensions to certain soldiers and ilors of the Mexican war.

Also, a bill for the establishment of a reau of animal industry.

By Mr. Logan: A bill to provide for pen- ioning prisoners of the war who were con- ned in confederate prisons during the late ar.

By Mr. Brown: To extend the time in hich action can be brought in the court of aims, under the provisions of the captured d abandoned property act, for two years.

By Senator Van Wyck: Declaring that ilroad corporations shall pay within sixty ps costs of surveying and locating lands to hich they are entitled, otherwise they are be subject to state and local taxation, also pre-emption and homestead entry.

Also, to restore to the public domain lands nated but not earned by railroad corpora- ons when the roads are not finished within e time specified in the grant.

Also, to protect all pre-emption and home- ead entries made after forfeiture or failure build the road within the time speci- d.

Also, a bill for the relief of settlers on blic lands in Nebraska and Kansas on e line of the Denver and St. Joseph rail- ad. [It provides for the payment of $3.50 r acre to settlers whose lands, by a recent cision of the supreme court, have reverted the railroad company under a grant which as supposed to have been forfeited.]

By Mr. Plumb: To declare certain lands heretofore granted to railroad companies forfeited to the United States, and to open the same to settlement.

By Mr. Slater: A bill to repeal the North Pacific land grants.

[It confirms to the company all lands earned by the construction of any portion of the road, but restores to settlement and sale several million acres in Washington territory and Oregon, being applicable to that portion of the line west of Wallula junction, Washington territory. The right of settlers on odd sections are preserved by allowing them to enter under the homestead or pre-emption laws or purchase not more than 160 acres at $1.25 an acre.]

Also, a bill to allot lands to the Indians on the Umatilla reservation.

By Mr. Platt: A bill to establish schools in Alaska.

By Mr. Morrill: A bill relating to coinage, silver certificates, and United States notes.

By Mr. Hill: To retire small legal tender notes; also a bill to establish a postal telegraph.

By Mr. George: To enforce the forfeiture of such lands granted to railroads as have not been earned under the strict terms of the grant, and to devote the proceeds to education; also to protect employes engaged in interstate and foreign commerce; and also employes in the territories and District of Columbia; and providing that injuries inflicted by the fault of a fellow workman shall be compensated by the owner according to the same rule as if the injury were inflicted upon a stranger.

By Mr. Vest: To remove certain burdens on American merchant marine, and also to establish rules for preventing collisions at sea and on the waters of the United States.

A resolution offered by Mr. Vest was agreed to, calling upon the secretary of the interior for copies of all leases, contracts, orders, regulations, and correspondence had by the department with any parties since last session relating to the Yellowstone park, including a statement of all special privileges granted and of all applications for privilege of building hotels, &c.

Senator Wilson, of Iowa, offered a joint resolution proposing the following amendment to the constitution:

Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to protect citizens of the United States in the exercise and enjoyment of their rights, privileges, and immunities, and to assure to them the equal protection of the laws.

In due time the clerk of the house of representatives appeared and notified the senate that the house was organized and ready for business.

At 1:50, on motion of Mr. Sherman, the senate took a recess until 2:30, at which hour a further recess was taken until 3.

At 3 o'clock the senate reassembled, when Messrs. Sherman and Bayard, the committee on the part of the senate, appointed to unite with a committee of the house, to wait on the President and inform him that both houses were organized and ready to receive any communication he might make to them, returned to the senate, and Mr. Sherman announced that the committee had performed its duty, and that the President in reply had requested the committee to convey to the two houses in his behalf the compliments of the season, and his congratulations on their organization, and to say to them that he would immediately communicate with them in writing.

Within a few minutes of this announcement Mr. O. L. Pruden, assistant private secretary to the President, appeared and presented the President's message, which was then read by the acting secretary of the senate, Mr. Shober.

Upon the completion of the reading Mr. Mitchell, of Pennsylvania, offered a joint resolution providing for the payment of the fees to examining surgeons of pensions; and, at 4:05 p. m., the senate adjourned.

THE HOUSE.

As soon as the journal was read yesterday Mr. Peters, of Kansas, desired it corrected. He was there reported as taking the modified oath. "I did not take the modified oath," said he, "I took the metalic oath."

Mr. Converse, of Ohio, said that he had been requested by Mr. Manning, of Mississippi, to ask the unanimous consent of the house that the question of his prima facie right to a seat be referred to the committee on elections, with instructions to report upon it at the earliest day possible.

Mr. Keifer, of Ohio, asked that the case of Mr. Chalmers, the contestant, be also referred; and Mr. Converse put his request in the form of a resolution, referring to the committee on elections all papers in the contested election case from the second district of Mississippi, with instructions to report immediately, whether on the prima facie case as presented, either Mr. Manning or Mr. Chalmers is entitled to be sworn in as a member pending the contest on the merits, and not to effect the final right to the seat.

The resolution was adopted without debate, as it was of exactly of the same effect as that offered by Mr. Calkins, of Indiana, for the republican side the day before. It was a square back down from the position taken by the democrats on Monday.

The territorial delegates were then sworn, only one of them being obliged to take the modified oath.

On motion of Mr. Springer, of Illinois, all the papers relating to the contest between S. R. Peters and S. N. Wood, of Kansas, for a seat in the house, were referred to the committee on elections, with instructions to report which was entitled to the seat.

A resolution of Mr. Hatch, of Missouri, that the rules of the forty-seventh congress be the rules of the forty-eighth congress until the expiration of two weeks from the date of the appointment of the committee on rules was adopted.

Mr. Geddes, of Ohio, offered a resolution for the election of the democratic caucus nominees for clerk, sergeant at arms, doorkeeper, and chaplain. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, offered a substitute for the election of the republican caucus nominees. The substitute was lost and the original resolution adopted. Mr. Clark, the clerk; Mr. Wintersmith, the doorkeeper, and Mr. Lindsay, the chaplain, took the modified oath. Mr. Dalton, the postmaster, and Mr. Leedom, the sergeant at arms, took the ironclad oath.

Mr. Dunn, of Arkansas, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of fifteen members, to be known as the committee on rivers and harbors, to which shall be referred propositions for the improvement of rivers and harbors. It was referred to the committee on rules.

Messrs. Curtin, Blackburn, and Hiscock were appointed to wait upon the President, to inform him that the house was organized and ready to receive any communication.

It was proposed that Mr. Kelley and Mr. Cox, the veterans of the house, be permitted to choose their seats before the others drew lots for places. Ex-Speaker Randall's name was added to these two, and these gentlemen were about to choose their old seats without opposition when somebody on the republican side called out, "And Keifer, too." Then Gen. Blackburn asked the same favor for Mr. Robinson, of New York, who does not hear well, and wants a front seat. This was too much, and objection being made, nobody was allowed and privileges.

The next performance was to turn the house into a sort of keno establishment for the selection of seats. All the members retired to the rear of the room, Messrs. Kelley, Cox, and Robinson leaving their hats on the desks which they desired to keep. As many numbered marbles as there were congressmen were put into a box, and the sporting members began to call out from the rear, "Shake 'em up," "fair count," "turn it over," and the like irreverent remarks. A blindfolded page drew a marble from the box, one caller gave its number, and another caller shouted "Duncan," as the name of the corresponding congressman. Two congressmen came forward and the caller was obliged to spell it. "That's my name," said Mr. Duncan, of Pennsylvania, and he took possession of Mr. Randall's old seat. It was not until a long time afterward, when Mr. Randall's name was called and Mr. Duncan immediately gave up the seat to him, that it was observed that Mr. Duncan had done a very courteous and graceful thing in reserving Mr. Randall's seat for him, and thereby losing his own chance for a good seat. Mr. Cox won the second number, and took possession of his hat and seat while the members cheered. Well known and favorite members were always cheered when their names were called. The second, third, and fourth rows of seats and those directly in front of the speaker appeared to be the most desirable. Judge Kelley's hat was not disturbed, and he secured his old seat. Mr. Robinson was not so fortunate. The first member who wanted his seat tossed the hat over on another desk, and so it went. Mr. Robinson's name was almost the last one called, and nothing but a seat in the extreme rear was left for him. Gen. Blackburn, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Randall are close together, and Mr. Cox is in the same row, a few seats away. Mr. Poland, with his blue dress coat and brass buttons, took the next seat to Judge Kelley.

Because of the greater number of democrats a section at the extreme right of the republican side was reserved for an overflow meeting, and Gen. Le Fevre was the first one to take a seat there. Mr. Finerty, of Chicago, found a front seat on that side. Mr. Holman, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Muldrow, Mr. Townshend, Mr. Mills, of Texas, and Gen. Slocum also went over to the democratic annex. Tom Ochiltree chose a modest back seat among the republicans. Mr. Robertson, of Kentucky, got a front seat directly in front of the speaker on the center aisle, and Mr. Post, of Pennsylvania, the youngest member of the house was close by him. Mr. Dorsheimer, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Kasson, and Mr. Browne were obliged to content themselves with rear seats. Mr. Springer was very late, but found a seat in the front row, at the right of the speaker. Mr. Converse was still later, and found a seat four rows behind Mr. Springer, Mr. Phil Thompson and his colleague, Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, were among the last called, and are now tucked away in a far corner to the left. Gen. Shelly, Mr. Hatch, Judge Payson, Mr. Frank Hurd, and Mr. Pat Collins were all late, and have not got the most desirable seats. Mr. Wait, of Connecticut, is the oldest man in the house, and secured an excellent place in the third row.

The speaker appointed Messrs. Moulton, Wellborn, Glascock, Ranney, and Miller, of Pennsylvania, a committee on mileage, and the house took a recess until 3 o'clock to await the President's message.

At 3 o'clock Mr. Tucker offered a resolution referring to the committee on elections, when appointed, the certificates and all other papers relating to the election of the representative from the first district of Virginia, with instructions to report at as early a day as practicable, which of the rival claimants (Mr. Mayo and Mr. Garrison) to the seat has the prima facie right thereto, reserving to the other party the privilege of contesting the case on its merits.

A debate on the resolution followed, Mr. Keifer, Mr. Wise, and Mr. Calkins urging that the prima facie right had been decided by swearing in Mr. Mayo, and that if he was now unseated, his time for filing a notice of contest having expired long ago, he would have no recourse. Mr. Mayo appealed for fair play and justice for himself, and Mr. Springer devoted five minutes to denunciation of returning boards. At the suggestion of Mr. Randall, the case was allowed to go over until to-day, and at 3:30 o'clock the reading clerk began the reading of the President's message. It was finished, and the house adjourned at 5 o'clock.

CONGRESSIONAL SPLINTERS.

The bill introduced yesterday by Senator Sewell, of New Jersey, for the relief of Gen. Fitz-John Porter will be supplemented at an early day by a similar bill, which will be introduced in the house by Gen. Slocum, of New York. Gen. Fitz-John Porter, who has been in the city for the past few days, says that he will remain here until the fate of the measure is decided. He expects the countenance and active aid of Gen. Grant and others.

The democratic employes of the senate are jubilant over the intimation that the civil service principles should be extended to their tenure of office. This spasm of reform is not likely to extend to the house side of the capitol, however.

The senators from several of the manufacturing states express themselves as decidedly reassured by the very conservative position taken by Speaker Carlisle in his speech on taking the chair on Monday.

Gov. Eli Murray, who has been in the city for several days looking after his reappointment as governor of Utah territory, is somewhat discouraged at the position taken by the President on the Morman question and the introduction of Senator Lapham's bill, which he considers as militating against his chances for renomination.

The resolution introduced by Senator Edmunds yesterday to wipe out the ironclad oath, and prescribing a new form of oath for all officials of the government, was very favorably commented on last evening by southern senators and representatives.

It is evident that a flood of war claim bills will be introduced into both houses during the present session. Maryland and Missouri have hundreds of such claims yet to be heard from, and the delegations from these states have mapped out a brisk session in this particular class of legislation.

A caucus of republican senators was held yesterday morning, but not more than ten senators were present. Senator Sherman occupied the chair. A resolution was offered and unanimously agreed to authorizing the chairman to name a committee of seven senators to manage the republican membership of the senate committees.

A resolution looking to the immediate election of officers of the senate was introduced, and was the chief subject of discussion. Senators Logan, Edmunds, Plumb, and Harrison were among the speakers.

The resolution was withdrawn without action, and the caucus adjourned, subject to the call of the chairman.

Senator Sherman, as chairman of the republican caucus in the absence of Senator Anothony, has named the following committee to rearrange the republican membership of senate committees: Senators Cameron (Wisconsin), Hoar, Ingalls, Miller (California), Harrison, Hale, and Miller (New York).

Carl Schurz Sued for $300,000.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—Charles D. Gilmour recently brought a suit for $300,000 damages against Carl Schurz in the supreme court in this city. Gilmour, who was formerly practicing as a lawyer in Washington, alleges that when Mr. Schurz was secretary of the interior in 1880 he maliciously, and by the exercise of arbitrary authority, had the plaintiff disbarred, and prohibited him from practicing in any of the departments of the interior, where, Mr. Gilmour alleges, he had a practice of $150,000 a year. The suit was removed today to the United States court.

Veterans Coming to Washington.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—A committee of Col. Burnett's 1st regiment of veterans of the Mexican war met to-night and completed the arrangements for their trip to Washington to attend the convention of veterans to be held there on Dec. 6, 7, and 8. They will carry with them their old battleflags, one of which was presented by the ladies of Mexico to the regiment. There are fifty-two survivors of the regiment, most of whom are scattered all over the United States.

The Trial of James Nutt.

UNIONTOWN, PA., Dec. 4.—The trial of James Nutt for killing N. L. Dukes last June will commence to-morrow, and is expected to occupy the remainder of the week. Senator Voorhees, of Indiana, is the principal counsel for the defense. The town is full of visitors, but there is no great excitement. Sympathy for the prisoner is expressed on all sides, but the feeling is general that he will be convicted.

BRAVE BUTCHERS.

The Danville Assassins Lauded to the Skies by the County Grand Jury for Slaughtering Inoffensive Negroes—An Atrocious Finding.

DANVILLE, VA., Dec. 4.—The grand jury of the hustings court, charged by Judge Blackwell with the investigation of the circumstances of the recent riot, after a session of nearly two days, this afternoon reported that they had no presentments to make, and submitted the following paper, which was ordered to be recorded:

"It appears to the jury, who have examined forty witnesses, white and colored, the large proportion being colored, that on the third day of November the afternoon of that day a fight occurred on Main street between C. D. Nowlin (white) and Hence Lawson (colored); that after the fight was over and the combatants separated by the efforts of the colored Policeman Adams, a white man named Lea and others, there was a determination on the part of the crowd of negroes assembled to intimidate the whites by threats and menace; that the efforts of Policemen Adams, Freemen, and Withers, and Citizens Corbin, Oliver, Callow (colored) and others were unsuccessful in prevailing upon the crowd of negroes to disperse; that they persisted in remaining upon the scene of the fight and giving expression to remarks calculated to excite the passions of the whites; that at last the whites fired off their pistols in the air, hoping thereby to cause the crowd to disperse; that the negroes did not then disperse, but rushed upon the scene from all quarters, advancing upon the whites with drawn pistols; that firing thereupon commenced; that the whites used their firearms in defense of their lives, which were in imminent danger, and by their courage and pluck in standing up against such odds saved the lives of hundreds of people in this city, and this is the unanimous sense of the jury.

GEORGE C. AYERS, Foreman.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Gov. Pattison Vetoes the Appropriation Bill—The House Passes It Over His Veto.

HARRISBURG, PA., Dec. 4.—A message from the governor vetoing all of the appropriation bills, except that portion which relates to the pay of employes, was presented to the legislature at noon to-day. The governor bases his action on the ground that the business for which the legislature was called in extra session had not been attended to.

The house, after hearing the governor's message read, indulged in a short discussion, and then adjourned until 4 o'clock, when the message will be taken up for consideration. The house congressional apportionment bill was passed finally. No business of importance was transacted in the senate.

The house this afternoon acted separately on the sections in the appropriation bill as vetoed by the governor, and passed each section over the veto. The bill was then passed entire by a vote of 165 to 25.

The senate to-night considered each section of the appropriation bill vetoed by the governor to-day, and then passed the bill over his veto.

WOMEN RIOTERS.

Trial of the Women Who Broke into a School House.

NEW LONDON, CONN., Dec. 4.—The trial of the eight women who forcibly obtained an entrance into the school house at Wequetequock was began yesterday afternoon. The evidence showed that on the twenty-fifth ultimo the women went to the building, found it guarded by men, and resolved to hold Sunday school services in spite of them. They armed themselves with a sledgehammer, ax, and crowbars, and forced an entrance. The prosecution claims that one woman entered the room through an aperture 18 by 26 inches, and unfastening the windows, admitted the others. During the melee several men were injured. Twenty witnesses testified to the above facts. Four of the women testified to-day. They did not deny breaking the window and door, but claimed the right to hold Sunday school services. They denied striking any of the men. The trial will probably continue several days, and the case is watched with interest, as all the parties are respectably connected.

IS HE A MURDERER?

He Says He Is, and Evidence to Sustain His Self Accusation Is Being Hunted Up.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4.—The chief of police of New Brunswick, N. J., arrived here this morning, and after a brief conversation with John Kolb, who yesterday accused himself of murdering a young woman near New Brunswick, he was satisfied that the prisoner is insane. Kolb will be sent to an asylum.

In another conversation held with Kolb he said that he had a dispute with a woman named Amanda Fluke, in the woods on the outskirts of Perth Amboy, N. J., last June, and struck her on the back. The body of a woman, supposed to be his companion, was found near the spot named last September, and had evidently been hanged from a tree. The remains were buried, and no arrest was made. The prisoner will be detained pending further investigation by the authorities of Middlesex county, New Jersey.

The New Time Sustained.

BOSTON, Dec. 4.—Judge Holmes, of the supreme court, to-day, in the case of Clapp vs. Jenkins, directed a writ of prohibition to issue against the defendant to prevent him from further proceedings against the plaintiff under the poor debtor law. Clapp was cited to appear before Jenkins, commissioner of insolvency, Nov. 19, between 9 and 10 a. m. On the morning of the nineteenth Clapp appeared at the office of Jenkins, at 9:45 a. m., according to the new time. The magistrate refused to recognize the new time standard, and, as it was one minute past 10 by the old time, Jenkins defaulted the debtor. Judge Holmes decided that Clapp had a right to be governed by the new standard time, which, by its universal adoption, became the usage of the community the day it went into effect.

Probable Result of the Forged Bills of Lading.

FALL RIVER, MASS., Dec. 4.—James Lohnstein, a Dallas (Tex.) cotton buyer, who is under arrest in that city, charged by the Texas Pacific railroad managers with the forgery of bills of lading, on which he obtained advances of money, had sold cotton to mills in this city, and had had money advanced to him on bills of lading.

Lohnstein's connection with the railroad was supposed to make him responsible, and it is possible that the Texas Pacific company will be called upon by the victims here to make good the losses. The broker who sold the cotton here for Lohnstein has gone south to investigate matters.

Mexican Survivors Coming.

Special Dispatch.

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 4.—The general delegation of survivors of the Mexican war, headed by Maj. J. F. Milligan and Capt. John Smith, of the local organization of Norfolk and Portsmouth, with those from the south and soldiers' home at Hampton, left this afternoon by the steamer Jane Moseley for Washington.

The Weather To-Day.

Warmer, fair weather, preceded by occasional, very light rains; southerly, veering to westerly, winds; falling followed by rising barometer.

Yesterday's thermometer: 7 a. m., 28.1°; 11 a. m., 40.6°; 3 p. m., 48.1°; 7 p. m., 42.5°; 11 p. m., 41.1°; maximum, 48.5°; minimum, 27.6°; precipitation, .01.

HIS MESSAGE.

President Arthur Holds Up a Mirror Before the Greatest Country on Earth.

The Reflection Is One to Be Contemplated With Serenity.

A Marvelously Prosperous People at Peace With the Whole World.

An Able and Statesmanlike Paper, Full of Practical Suggestions.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES: At the threshold of your deliberations I congratulate you upon the favorable aspect of the domestic and foreign affairs of this government.

Our relations with other countries continue to be upon a friendly footing.

With the Argentine republic, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Hayti, Italy, Santo Domingo, and Sweden and Norway no incident has occurred which calls for special comment. The recent opening of new lines of telegraphic communication with Central America and Brazil permitted the interchange of messages of friendship with the governments of those countries.

During the year there have been perfected and proclaimed consular and commercial treaties with Serbia and a consular treaty with Roumania, thus extending our intercourse with the Danubian countries, while our eastern relations have been put upon a wider basis by treaties with Corea and Madagascar. The new boundary-survey treaty with Mexico, a trades-mark convention and a supplementary treaty of extradition with Spain, and conventions extending the duration of the Franco-American claims commission have also been proclaimed.

Notice of the termination of the fisheries articles of the treaty of Washington was duly given to the British government, and the reciprocal privileges and exemptions of the treaty will accordingly cease on July 1, 1885. The fisheries industries, pursued by a numerous class of our citizens on the northern coasts, both of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, are worthy of the fostering care of congress. Whenever brought into competition with the like industries of other countries, our fishermen, as well as our manufacturers of fishing appliances and preparers of fish products, have maintained a foremost place. I suggest that congress create a commission to consider the general question of our rights in the fisheries and the means of opening to our citizens, under just and enduring conditions, the richly stocked fishing waters and sealing grounds of British North America.

Question has arisen touching the deportation to the United States from the British islands, by governmental or municipal aid, of persons unable there to gain a living and equally a burden on the community here. Such of these persons as fall under the pauper class, as defined by law, have been sent back in accordance with the provisions of our statutes. Her majesty's government has insisted that precautions have been taken before shipment to prevent these objectionable visitors from coming hither without guarantee of support by their relatives in this country. The action of the British authorities in applying measures for relief has, however, in so many cases proved ineffectual, and especially so in certain recent instances of needy emigrants reaching our territory through Canada, that a revision of our legislation upon this subject may be deemed advisable. Correspondance relative to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been continued, and will be laid before congress.

The legislation of France against the importation of prepared swine products from the United States has been repealed. That result is due no less to the friendly representations of this government than to a growing conviction in France that the restriction was not demanded by any real danger to health.

Germany still prohibits the introduction of all swine products from America. I extended to the imperial government a friendly invitation to send experts to the United States to inquire whether the use of those products was dangerous to health. This invitation was declined. I have believed it of such importance however that the exact facts should be ascertained and promulgated that I have appointed a competent commission to make a thorough investigation of the subject. Its members have shown their public spirit by accepting their trust without pledge of compensation, but I trust that congress will see in the national and international bearings of the matter a sufficient motive for providing at least for reimbursement of such expenses as they may necessarily incur.

The coronation of the czar at Moscow afforded to this government an occasion for testifying its continued friendship by sending a special envoy and a representative of the navy to attend the ceremony.

While there have arisen during the year no grave questions affecting the status in the Russian empire of American citizens of other faith than that held by the national church, this government remains firm in its conviction that the rights of its citizens abroad should be in no wise affected by their religious belief.

It is understood that measures for the removal of the restrictions which now burden our trade with Cuba and Puerto Rico are under consideration by the Spanish government.

The proximity of Cuba to the United States and the peculiar methods of administration which there prevail necessitate constant discussion and appeal on our part from the proceedings of the insular authorities. I regret to say that the just protests of this government have not as yet produced satisfactory results.

The commission appointed to decide certain claims of our citizens against the Spanish government, after the recognition of a satisfactory rule as to the validity and force of naturalization in the United States, has finally adjourned. Some of its awards, though made more than two years ago, have not yet been paid. Their speedy payment is expected.

Claims to a large amount, which were held by the late commission to be without its jurisdiction, have been diplomatically presented to the Spanish government. As the action of the colonial authorities, which has given rise to these claims, was admittedly illegal, full reparation for the injury sustained by our citizens should be no longer delayed.

The case of the Masonic has not yet reached a settlement. The Manila court has found that the proceedings of which this government has complained were unauthorized, and it is hoped that the government of Spain will not withhold the speedy reparation which its sense of justice should impel it to offer for the unusual severity and unjust action of its subordinate colonial officers in the case of this vessel.

The Helvetian Confederation has proposed the inauguration of a class of international treaties for the referment to arbitration of grave questions between nations. This government has assented to the proposed negotiation of such a treaty with Switzerland.

Under the treaty of Berlin, liberty of conscience and civil rights are assured to all strangers in Bulgaria. As the United States have no distinct conventional relations with that country and are not a party to the treaty, they should, in my opinion, maintain diplomatic representation at Sofia for the improvement of intercourse and the proper protection of the many American citizens who resort to that country as missionaries and teachers. I suggest that I be given authority to establish an agency and consulate general at the Bulgarian capital.

The United States are now participating in a revision of the tariffs of the Ottoman empire. They have assented to the application of a license tax to foreigners doing business in Turkey, but have opposed the oppressive storage tax upon petroleum entering the ports of that country.

The government of the khedive has proposed that the authority of the mixed judicial tribunals in Egypt be extended so as to cover citizens of the United States accused of crime, who are now triable before consular courts. This government is not indisposed to accept the change, but believes that its terms should be submitted for criticism to the commission appointed to revise the whole subject.

At no time in our national history has there been more manifest need of close and lasting relations with a neighboring state than now exists with respect to Mexico. The rapid influx of our capital and enterprise into that country shows, by what has already been accomplished, the vast reciprocal advantages which must attend the progress of its internal development. The treaty of commerce and navigation of 1848 has been terminated by the Mexican government, and in the absence of conventional engagements the rights of our citizens in Mexico now depend upon the domestic statutes of that republic. There have been instances of harsh enforcement of the laws against our vessels and citizens in Mexico, and of denial of the diplomatic resort for their protection. The initial step toward a better understanding has been taken in the negotiation by the commission authorized by congress of a treaty which is still before the senate awaiting its approval.

The provisions for the reciprocal crossing of the frontier by the troops in pursuit of hostile Indians have been prolonged for another year. The operations of the forces of both governments against these savages have been successful, and several of their most dangerous bands have been captured or dispersed by the skill and valor of United States and Mexican soldiers fighting in a common cause.

The convention for the resurvey of the boundary from the Rio Grande to the Pacific having been ratified and exchanged, the preliminary reconnaissance therein stipulated has been effected. It now rests with congress to make provision for completing the survey and relocating the boundary monuments.

A convention was signed with Mexico on July 13, 1882, providing for the rehearing of the cases of Benjamin Weil and the Abra Silver Mining company, in whose favor awards were made by the late American and Mexican claims commission. That convention still awaits the consent of the senate. Meanwhile because of those charges of fraudulent awards which have made a new commission necessary, the executive has directed the suspension of payments of the distributive quota received from Mexico.

Our geographical proximity to Central America and our political and commercial relations with the states of that country justify, in my judgment, such a material increase of our consular corps as will place at each capital a consul general.

The contest between Bolivia, Chili, and Peru has passed from the stage of strategic hostilities to that of negotiation, in which the counsels of this government have been exercised. The demands of Chili for absolute cession of territory have been maintained and accepted be the party of Gen. Iglesias to the extent of concluding a treaty of peace with the government of Chili in general conformity with the terms of the protocol signed in May last between the Chilian commander and Gen. Iglesias. As a result of the conclusion of this treaty Gen. Iglesias has been formally recognized by Chili as president of Peru, and his government installed at Lima, which has been evacuated by the Chilians. A call has been issued by Gen. Iglesias for a representative assembly, to be elected on the thirteenth of January and to meet at Lima on the first of March next. Meanwhile the provisional government of Gen. Iglesias has applied for recognition to the principal powers of America and Europe. When the will of the Peruvian people shall be manifested I shall not hesitate to recognize the government approved by them.

Diplomatic and naval representatives of this government attended at Caracas the centennial celebration of the birth of the illustrious Bolivar. At the same time the inauguration of the statue of Washington in the Venezuelan capital testified to the veneration in which his memory is there held.

Congress at its last session authorized the executive to propose to Venezuela a reopening of the awards of the mixed commission of Caracas. The departure from this country of the Venezuelan minister has delayed the opening of negotiations for reviving the commission. This government holds that until the establishment of a treaty upon this subject the Venezuelan government must continue to make the payments provided for in the convention of 1866.

There is ground for believing that the dispute growing out of the unpaid obligations due from Venezuela to France will be satisfactorily adjusted. The French cabinet has proposed a basis of settlement which meets my approval, but as it involves a recasting of the annual quotas of the foreign debt it has been deemed advisible to submit the proposal to the judgment of the cabinets of Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, London, and Madrid.

At the recent coronation of his majesty King Kalakaua this government was represented both diplomatically and by the formal visit of a vessel of war.

The question of terminating or modifying the existing reciprocity treaty with Hawaii is now before congress. I am convinced that the charges of abuses and frauds under that treaty have been exaggerated, and I renew the suggestions of last year's message that the treaty be modified wherever its provisions have proved onerous to legitimate trade between the two countries. I am not disposed to favor the entire cessation of the treaty relations which have fostered good will between the countries and contributed toward the equality of Hawaii in the family of nations.

In pursuance of the policy declared by this government of extending our intercourse with the eastern nations, legations have during the past year been established in Persia, Siam, and Corea. It is probable that permanent missions of those countries will ere long be maintained in the United States. A special embassy from Siam is now on its way hither.

Treaty relations with Corea were perfected by the exchange at Seoul, on the nineteenth of May last, of the ratifications of the lately concluded convention, and envoys from the king of Tah Chosun have visited this country and received a cordial welcome. Corea, as yet unacquainted with the methods of western civilization, now invites the attention of those interested in the advancement of our foreign trade, as it needs the implements and products which the United States are ready to supply. We seek no monopoly of its commerce and no advantages over other nations, but as the Chosunese, in reaching for a higher civilization, have confided in this republic, we cannot regard with indifference any encroachment on their rights.

China, by the payment of a money indemnity, has settled certain of the long pending claims of our citizens, and I have strong hopes that the remainder will soon be adjusted.

Questions have arisen touching the rights of American and other foreign manufacturers in China under the provisions of treaties which permit aliens to exercise their industries in that country. On this specific point our own treaty is silent, but under the operation of the most favored nation clause, we have like privileges with those of other powers. While it is the duty of the government to see that our citizens have the full enjoyment of every benefit secured by treaty, I doubt the expediency of leading in a movement to constrain China to admit an interpretation which we have only an indirect treaty right to exact. The transference to China of American capital for the employment there of Chinese labor would in effect inaugurate a competition for the control of markets now supplied by our home industries.

There is good reason to believe that the law restricting the immigration of Chinese has been violated, intentionally or otherwise, by the officials of China upon whom is devolved the duty of certifying that the immigrants belong to the excepted classes.

Measures have been taken to ascertain the facts incident to this supposed infraction, and it is believed that the government of China will co-operate with the United States in securing the faithful observance of the law.

The same considerations which prompted congress at its last session to return to Japan the Simonoseki indemnity seems to me to require at its hands like action in respect to the Canton indemnity fund, now amounting to $300,000.

The question of the general revision of the foreign treaties of Japan has been considered in an international conference held at Tokio, but without definite result as yet. This government is disposed to concede the requests of Japan to determine its own tariff duties, to provide such proper judicial tribunals as may commend themselves to the western powers for the trial of causes to which foreigners are parties, and to assimilate the terms and duration of its treaties to those of other civilized states.

Through our ministers at London and at Monrovia, this government has endeavored to aid Liberia in its differences with Great Britain touching the northwestern boundary of that republic. There is a prospect of adjustment of the dispute by the adoption of the Mannah river as the line. This arrangement is a compromise of the conflicting territorial claims, and takes from Liberia no country over which it has maintained effective jurisdiction.

The rich and populous valley of the Congo is being opened to commerce by a society called the International African association, of which the king of Belgium is the president and a citizen of the United States the chief executive officer. Large tracts of territory have been ceded to the association by native chiefs, roads have been opened, steamboats placed on the river, and the nuclei of states established at twenty-two stations under one flag, which offers freedom to commerce and prohibits the slave trade. The objects of the society are philanthropic. It does not aim at permanent political control, but seeks the neutrality of the valley. The United States cannot be indifferent to this work nor to the interests of their citizens involved in it. It may become advisable for us to co-operate with other commercial powers in promoting the rights of trade and residence in the Congo valley free from the interference or political control of any one nation.

In view of the frequency of invitations from foreign governments to participate in social and scientific congresses for the discussion of important matters of general concern, I repeat the suggestion of my last message, that provision be made for the exercise of discretionary power by the executive in appointing delegates to such convocations. Able specialists are ready to serve the national interests in such capacity without personal profit or other compensation than the defrayment of expenses actually incurred, and this a comparatively small annual appropriation would suffice to meet.

I have alluded in my previous messages to the injurious and vexatious restrictions suffered by our trade in the Spanish West Indies. Brazil, whose natural outlet for its great national staple, coffee, is in and through the United States, imposes a heavy export duty upon that product. Our petroleum exports are hampered in Turkey and in other eastern ports by restrictions as to storage and by onerous taxation.

For these mischiefs adequate relief is not always afforded by reciprocity treaties like that with Hawaii, or that lately negotiated with Mexico and now awaiting the action of the senate. Is it not advisable to provide some measure of equitable retaliation in our relations with governments which discriminate against our own? If, for example, the executive were empowered to apply to Spanish vessels and cargoes from Cuba and Puerto Rico the same rules of treatment and scale of penalties for technical faults which are applied to our vessels and cargoes in the Antilles, a resort to that course might not be barren of good results.

The report of the secretary of the treasury gives a full and interesting exhibit of the financial condition of the country.

It shows that the ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, amoun