

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE.

(CONTINUED ON
PAGES 8 AND 11)

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

He Plods Wearily Over Ground Traversed by Him on Former Occasions.

After Brief Allusion to the Recent Death of Vice President Hobart, He Recapitulates the Receipts and Disbursements of the Treasury, Defends the Single Gold Standard and Domination of the National Banks, His Policy in the Philippines, etc.—The Future of Cuba—Our Foreign Relations.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—The President's message was read in both Houses of Congress to-day, nearly every member being in his seat and paying close attention. It is as follows:

THE MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

At the threshold of your deliberations you are called to mourn with your countrymen the death of Vice President Hobart, who passed from this life on the morning of November 21st, last. His great soul now rests in eternal peace. His private life was pure and elevated, while his public career was ever distinguished by large capacity, stainless integrity, and exalted motives. He has been removed from the high office which he honored and dignified, but his lofty character, his devotion to duty, his honesty of purpose, and noble virtues remain with us as a priceless legacy and example.

The Fifty-sixth Congress convenes in its first regular session with the country in a condition of unusual prosperity, of universal good will among the people at home, and in regard of peace and friendship with every Government of the world. Our foreign commerce has shown great increase in volume and value. The combined imports and exports for the year are the largest ever shown by a single year in all our history. Our exports for 1899 alone exceeded by more than a billion dollars our imports and exports combined in 1870. The imports per capita are 20 per cent. less than in 1870, while the exports per capita are 58 per cent. more than in 1870, showing the enlarged capacity of the United States to satisfy the wants of its own increasing population, as well as to contribute to those of the peoples of other nations.

AGRICULTURE.
Exports of agricultural products were \$784,776,142. Of manufactured products, we exported in value \$239,562,146, being larger than any previous year. It is a noteworthy fact that the only years in all our history when the products of our manufactures sold abroad exceeded those bought abroad were 1898 and 1899.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.
Government receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1899, including \$11,798,314.14 part payment of the Central Pacific Railroad indebtedness, aggregated \$610,982,000.35. Custom receipts were \$206,128,481.75, and those from internal revenue \$273,437,161.51.

For the fiscal year, the expenditures were \$700,995,364.02, leaving a deficit of \$89,113,363.67.
The Secretary of the Treasury estimates that the receipts for the current fiscal year will aggregate \$640,953,112, and upon the basis of present appropriations the expenditures will aggregate \$600,955,112, leaving a surplus of \$40,000,000.

For the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1899, the internal revenue receipts were increased about \$100,000,000.
STRENGTH OF THE TREASURY.
The present gratifying strength of the Treasury is shown by the fact that on December 1st, 1899, the available cash balance was \$278,004,837.72, which is \$239,714,902.36 in gold coin and bullion. The conditions of confidence which prevail throughout the country have brought gold into more general use, and customs receipts are now almost entirely paid in that coin.

The strong position of the Treasury with respect to cash on hand and the favorable showing made by the revenues have made it possible for the Secretary of the Treasury to take action under the provisions of Section 3694 revised statutes, relating to the sinking fund. Receipts exceeded expenditures for the first five months of the current fiscal year by \$13,413,393.91, and, as mentioned above, the Secretary of the Treasury estimates that there will be a surplus of approximately \$40,000,000 at the end of the year. Under such conditions it was deemed advisable and proper to resume compliance with the provisions of the sinking fund law, which for eight years has not been done because of deficiencies in the revenues. The Treasury Department therefore offered to purchase during November \$25,000,000 of the five per cent. loan of 1901, or the four per cent. funded loan of 1907, at the current market price. The amount offered and purchased during November was \$18,408,800. The premium paid by the Government on such purchases was \$2,262,621, and the net saving in interest was about \$2,885,000. The success of this operation was sufficient to induce the Government to continue the offer to purchase bonds to and including the 23d day of December, instant, unless the remainder of the \$25,000,000 called for should be presented in the meantime for redemption.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.
Increased activity in industry, with the welcome attendant—a larger employment for labor at higher wages—gives to the body of people a larger

power to absorb the circulating medium. It is further true that year by year, with larger areas of land under plow, the increasing volume of agricultural products, cotton, corn, and wheat, calls for a larger volume of money supply. This is especially noticeable at the crop harvesting and crop moving period.

NATIONAL BANKS.
The President refers to the national banking act and urges that national banks be authorized to organize with a capital of \$25,000. He says that in its earlier history, the national banking act seemed to provide a reasonable avenue through which needful additions to the circulation could from time to time be made. Changing conditions have apparently rendered it now inoperative to that end. The high margin in bond securities occurred, resulting from large premiums which Government bonds commanded in market, or the tax on note issues, or both, operating together, appear to be the influence which impair its public utility. The attention of Congress is invited to this important matter with the view of ascertaining whether or not such reasonable modifications can be made in the national banking act as well render its service in the particulars here referred to more responsive to the people's needs.

THE GOLD STANDARD.
Concerning the gold standard the President says:
I respectfully recommend that to support the existing gold standard, and to maintain "the parity in value of the coins of the two metals (gold and silver) and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the market and in the payment of debts," the Secretary of the Treasury be given additional power and charged with the duty to sell United States bonds and to employ such other effective means as may be necessary to these ends. The authority should include the power to sell bonds on long and short time, as conditions may require, and should provide for a rate of interest lower than that fixed by the act of January 14, 1875. While there is now no commercial fright which withdraws gold from the Government, but, on the contrary, such widespread confidence that gold needs the treasury demanding paper money in exchange, yet the very situation points to the present as the most fitting time to make adequate provision to insure the continuance of the gold standard and of public confidence in the ability and purpose of the Government to meet all its obligations in the money which the civilized world recognizes as the best. The financial transactions of the Government are conducted upon a gold basis. We receive gold when we sell United States bonds and use gold for their payment. We are maintaining the parity of all the money issued or coined by authority of the Government. We are doing these things with the means at hand. Happily at the present time we are not compelled to resort to loans to supply gold. It has been done in the past, however, and may have to be done in the future. It behooves us, therefore, to provide at once the best means to meet the emergency when it arises, and the best means are those which are the most certain and economical. Those now authorized have the virtue neither of directness nor economy. We have already eliminated one of the causes of our financial plight and embarrassment during the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896. Our receipts now equal our expenditures; deficient revenues no longer create alarm. Let us remove the only remaining cause by conferring the full and necessary power on the Secretary of the Treasury and impose upon him the duty to uphold the present gold standard and preserve the coins of the two metals on a parity with each other, which is the repeatedly declared policy of the United States.

A TRUST FUND.
In this connection I repeat my former recommendations that a portion of the gold holdings shall be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks shall be redeemed upon presentation, but when once redeemed shall not thereafter be paid out except for gold.

OUR MERCANTILE MARINE.
The strengthening of our American merchant marine is suggested. There is no lack of constitutional authority for legislation which shall give to the country maritime strength commensurate with its industrial achievements and with its rank among nations of the earth. The President is satisfied, the judgment of the country favors the policy of aid to our merchant marine, which will broaden our commerce and market and uphold our sea carrying capacity for the products of agriculture and manufacture; which, with the increase of our navy means much more work and wages to our countrymen as well as a safeguard to American interests in every part of the world.

THE TRUSTS.
The President next discusses the question of trusts, on which he says:

Combinations of capital organized into trusts to control the conditions of trade among our citizens, to stifle competition, limit production and determine the prices of products used and consumed by the people, are justly provoking public discussion, and should early claim the attention of the Congress.

The Industrial Commission, created by the act of the Congress of June 18, 1893, has been engaged in extended hearings upon the disputed questions involved in the subject of combinations in restraint of trade and competition. They have not yet completed their investigation of this subject, and the conclusions and recommendations at which they may arrive are undetermined.

The subject is one giving rise to many divergent views as to the nature and variety of cause and extent of the injuries to the public which may result from large combinations concentrating money and recommendations in the hands of a few numerous enterprises and establishments, which previously to the formation of the combination were carried on separately.

It is universally conceded that combinations which engross or control the market of any particular kind of merchandise or commodity necessary to the general community, by suppressing natural and ordinary competition, whereby prices are unduly advanced to the general consumer, are obnoxious not only to the common law, but also to the public welfare. There must be a remedy for the evils involved in such organizations. If the present law can be extended more certainly to control or check these monopolies or trusts, it should be done without delay. Whenever power the Congress possesses over this most important subject should be promptly ascertained and asserted.

HARRISON QUOTED.
The President quotes from President Harrison's message of December 3, 1889, on this subject, and adds:
"An act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and combinations was passed by Congress on the 2d of July, 1890. The provisions of this statute is comprehensive and stringent. It declares every contract or combination, in the form of a trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in the restraint of trade or commerce among the several States or with foreign nations, to be unlawful. It denominates as a criminal every person who makes any such contract or engages in any such combination or conspiracy, and provides a punishment by fine or imprisonment. It invests the several circuit courts of the United States with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of the act, and makes it the duty of the several United States District Attorneys, under the direction of the Attorney General, to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations. It further confers upon any person who shall be injured in his business or property by any other person or corporation by reason of any violation of the act, the power to sue therefor in any circuit court of the United States without respect to the amount in controversy, and to recover three-fold the damages by him sustained and the costs of the suit, including reasonable attorney fees. It will be perceived that the act is aimed at every kind of combination in the nature of a trust or monopoly in business operations, and that the means may be found for the Congress within the limitations of its constitutional power so to supplement an effective Code of State legislation as to make a complete system of laws throughout the United States adequate to compel general observance of the salutary rule which I have referred to."

UNIFORM LEGISLATION.
The President dismisses the subject as follows:
It is apparent that uniformity of legislation upon this subject in the several States is much to be desired. It is to be hoped that such uniformity founded in a wise and just discrimination between what is injurious and what is useful and necessary in business operations may be obtained, and that means may be found for the Congress within the limitations of its constitutional power so to supplement an effective Code of State legislation as to make a complete system of laws throughout the United States adequate to compel general observance of the salutary rule which I have referred to."

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.
Passing to our relations with foreign States the work of the State Department for the past year is thoroughly reviewed. Among the subjects touched upon are the settlement of the long pending boundary dispute between the Argentine Republic and Chili; progress that has been made toward the conclusion of a convention of extradition with the Argentine Republic, which only awaits the adjustment of some slight changes in the text before exchanges; the refusal of this Government to assume liability for the killing of certain Austrian and Hungarian subjects by the authorities of Pennsylvania at Latimer, while suppressing an unlawful tumult of miners, September 10, 1897; the mitigation by the Belgian Government of restrictions on the importation of cattle from the United States; the attempt on the part of our Government to induce the Government of Bolivia to amend its marriage laws so as to give legal status to the non-Catholic and civil marriages of aliens within its jurisdiction; the settlement of the claim for the seizure of the American-owned newspaper, the Panama Star and Herald, by the authorities of Colombia, that Government agreeing to pay \$20,000 in damages. Discussion of the question raised by the action of Denmark in imposing restrictions on the importation of American meats has continued without substantial result in our favor.

The good will of Brazil in cordially receiving two American war ships, and that of Colombia by the extension of facilities to the Nicaraguan Canal Commission in their approaching investigations which will give the State Quarantine Board control of the health regulations of the cities and counties. For this purpose an appropriation of \$5,000 will be asked.

It is proposed that the State Board shall have the right to decide as to the efficiency of the means adopted in any city or county to eradicate any epidemic, and if, in the judgment of the State Board, the measures of the local boards of health are insufficient, then the State Board shall assume charge, and adopt such measures as, in their opinion, may be necessary, and the expense shall be paid by the city or county where the epidemic prevails.

The secretary of the State Board shall be its executive officer, and shall make monthly reports on the health conditions of the State.

This bill has the warm endorsement of the Medical Society of Norfolk and was prepared by one of Norfolk's ablest and best known lawyers.

N. & W. FIRE.
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN PROPERTY BURNED.
About 10:30 last night the wharf watchman at the Norfolk and Western railway saw smoke issuing from warehouse B, near the elevator, and promptly turned in an alarm from private box 27. Immediately on arrival of Chief Ryan at the fire he pulled in a second alarm and the reserves responded. Streams from three engines were soon pouring on the fire through the doorway of section 6 of the warehouse, and a stubborn fight was begun.

The warehouse was fairly well filled with hay, corn, oats and flour, all extra inflammable, and the fire was mainly in the center of the building. After about fifteen minutes' work by the department the Southern Railway tug Piedmont appeared on the scene and a few minutes later the Seaboard Air Line tug Cam, Duryea, and hose were run from each to the north side of the warehouse and torrents poured into the building from that side, soon subduing

TO BRIDGE THE ELIZABETH

Norfolk, Berkley, Portsmouth, West Norfolk and Newport News.

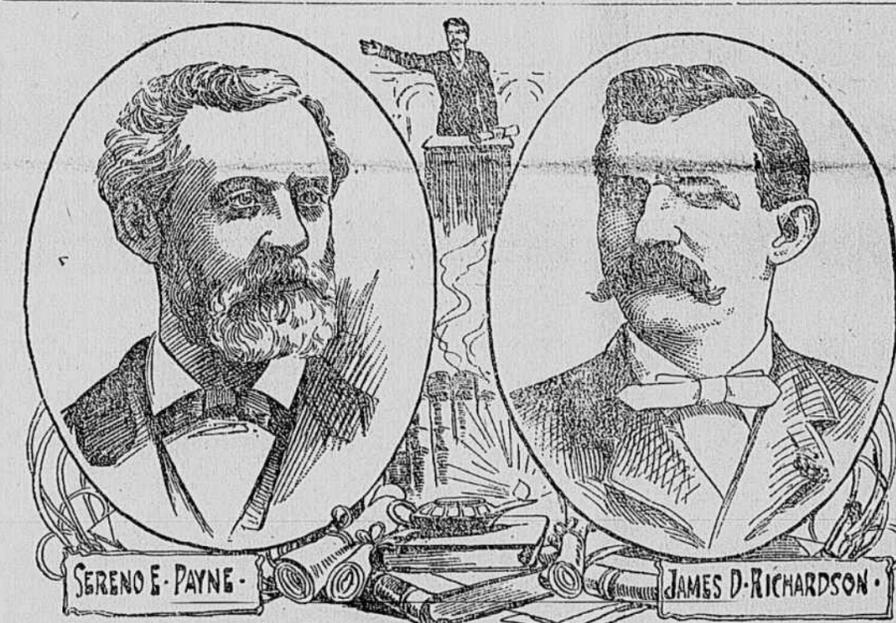
A FORTY MILE BELT

The Williams Syndicate, backed by John D. Rockefeller, will bridge the Eastern River and Southern Branches of the Elizabeth and connect the cities named in Second Caption by Rail and Ferry.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)
Richmond, Va., Dec. 5.—A bill is to be offered early in the session of the Legislature which is of absorbing interest to Norfolk and surrounding cities. The measure is in the interests of the syndicate headed by Mr. R. Lancaster Williams, who controls the street railways of Norfolk.

It provides for the construction of a bridge over the Elizabeth river, beginning at the head of Main street, Norfolk, and extending to Berkley, Va. It is to be an iron structure with sufficient width for a railroad, electric line, wagonway and walkway.

TO PORTSMOUTH, TOO.
The syndicate, having already been granted the use of all the streets of Berkley, propose to construct a line through that place to the southern line



THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS IN THE HOUSE.
Congressman James D. Richardson of Tennessee has been chosen as the Democratic leader of the house, and Congressman Sereno E. Payne of New York is generally regarded as the Republican leader.

of the Elizabeth river. Here another iron bridge will be constructed, leading into Portsmouth, where rights to use the streets have been secured by them.

THE THIRD BRIDGE.
The line will extend through Portsmouth to Pinner's Point, whence a third iron bridge will be constructed to West Norfolk. The line runs thence to Pig's Point, opposite Newport News, to which place a ferry is to be operated.

A COMPLETE CIRCUIT.
An arrangement has been made with the Old Point and Newport News Company whereby a complete circuit of forty miles will be made.

WHAT IT MEANS.
This line will give the right of way into Norfolk to the Belt Line, an association composed of all the railroads except the Norfolk and Western. These lines have heretofore been unable to enter Norfolk except over the Norfolk and Western and the sum of \$3 per car has been charged for the privilege of unloading on the Water street tracks.

FOR AND AGAINST.
The merchants of Norfolk are said to be heartily in favor of the passage of the bill, but on the other hand Senator H. L. Maynard, of Portsmouth, and his associates, who now control the Norfolk and Portsmouth ferries, will oppose the passage of the bill, as will, doubtless, the Norfolk and Western railway.

Mayor Johnston, of Norfolk, is managing matters for the Williams syndicate in that city, and it is rumored that John D. Rockefeller is behind the enterprise.

There will be a lively fight made on the bill, but it is thought that it will be passed.

MR. WHITEHEAD'S BILL.
Another interesting bit of legislation, especially to Norfolk, is a bill to be introduced in the House, by Mr. John Whitehead of that city. It was prepared by the Medical Society of Virginia, and if it becomes a law, will make radical changes in the quarantine laws of the State. Amendments and changes will be

made which will give the State Quarantine Board control of the health regulations of the cities and counties. For this purpose an appropriation of \$5,000 will be asked.

It is proposed that the State Board shall have the right to decide as to the efficiency of the means adopted in any city or county to eradicate any epidemic, and if, in the judgment of the State Board, the measures of the local boards of health are insufficient, then the State Board shall assume charge, and adopt such measures as, in their opinion, may be necessary, and the expense shall be paid by the city or county where the epidemic prevails.

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the flames, which by 11:15 were under control. Only twice did the flames get through the roof and then only for an instant. By midnight the fire was practically out.

When the fire was discovered the schooner Kate McNamee, Captain Caulk, from Baltimore, and loaded with superphosphate of potash, which arrived in port last night, was tied up at the wharf. Her position was shifted, though there was never real danger to her.

Captain N. M. Osborne, agent of the Norfolk and Western, said the loss of the company, thanks to the promptness and efficiency of the fire department, would be small, but he could not estimate it.

An alarm of fire from box 25, at 6:50 last night, was for a slight blaze in the roof of an old house in Foster's lane, probably from the chimney. Fire put out by hand chemical extinguisher of the Red Flyer. Little damage.

LATER.
The fire broke out again at a later hour, and but for the timely work of the train men, great damage would have resulted. They rescued a train load of valuable merchandise. The losses were roughly estimated at between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

WAR REVENUE TAX.
TAXATION ON INHERITANCES ATTACKED.
(By telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—Argument was begun to-day in the United States Supreme Court in the cases involving the constitutionality of the provision in the war-revenue act for the taxation of inheritances.

The appellants attack the law on the ground that it provides for a direct tax, which is not apportioned among the States according to population, as required by the Constitution, that even if not a direct tax, it is unconstitutional because it is not uniform in its operation, exempting, as it does, legacies under \$10,000; that if inheritances are taxable at all the power to impose such a tax rests with the States exclusively.

Resolved, That without expressing any opinion as to the right or propriety of his retaining his seat in advance of any proper investigation thereof, the said Brigham H. Roberts is entitled to be sworn in as a member of this House upon his prima facie case.

Resolved further, That when sworn in his credentials and all the papers in relation to the same to the right or propriety of his retaining his seat in advance of any proper investigation thereof, the said Brigham H. Roberts is entitled to be sworn in as a member of this House upon his prima facie case.

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REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTS IN HIS OWN DEFENSE

Congress Will Investigate Right of Utah's Representative to Plurality of Wives.

His Claim to a Seat, in the Nation's Law Making Body, Referred to a Committee for Investigation—Democratic Minority Leader Sounds a Note of Warning—Nearly One Thousand Bills Introduced in One Day—Pacific Cable—Insular Affairs—Yellow Fever—In the Senate.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Washington, Dec. 5.—After an interesting debate of three hours the House to-day, by a vote of 302 to 20, adopted the resolution offered by Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, yesterday for the appointment of a special committee to investigate the charge against Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon representative-elect from Utah. By the terms of the resolution Mr. Roberts is now not only excluded from all participation in the proceedings of the House until the committee reports and the House passes upon his case, but he is denied a seat in the hall. Whether this will be interpreted to deny him admission within the chamber pending the disposition of his case is yet to be decided. The reading of the President's message was completely overshadowed by the dramatic proceed-

second, that if since guilty of polygamy he is still ineligible under that act, third, that if a polygamist within the meaning of the decision of the Supreme Court he is ineligible independent of that statute; fourth, that the compact between Utah and the United States justifies the House in refusing him admission. Mr. Taylor urged that it would be better for the House to exclude Mr. Roberts than to expel him. All the authorities, he said, were against the right of the House to expel a member for acts done prior to his election; no matter how evil they might be.

MINORITY LEADER REPLIES.
Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, followed Mr. Taylor. He did not intend, he said, to discuss the merits of the case. The question in issue was as to whether the Representative-elect Roberts had a prima facie right to his seat. He was not willing to reject a Representative-elect who appeared at the bar of the House with his credentials in due form. If he was denied admission a precedent would be created which would rise to plague the House in years to come. He was willing to say that if the charges against the member-elect were proven he should favor his expulsion. "If there is one thing the American people have a right upon," said he, "it is that a man whose home shall be preserved in all its loveliness, sweetness and purity." (Applause.)

IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.
Mr. Roberts himself took the floor in his own defense, after Mr. Richardson had concluded. He occupied a conspicuous place immediately in front of the clerk's desk. Several legal volumes were piled up in front of him, and a bouquet of carnations lay upon his desk. The most intense interest was manifested as he arose. The chamber was crowded about, but were compelled to retire to their seats. The galleries were hushed. The occupants leaned over to listen, eager to let no word escape Mr. Roberts first sent to the clerk's desk and had read his naturalization papers. He then began to speak. His voice was soft and low, but his enunciation was distinct and in the stillness of the hall he was heard to the farthest corner of the hall.

Mr. Roberts proceeded to answer the charges against him. He said two Presidents had proclaimed amnesty since his conviction for a misdemeanor. He denied that he had been a law breaker since 1897, and asked why he had not been prosecuted for such a law breaker. He referred to the amnesty proclamation as a "conspiracy" to take the subject to the front at this time.

Mr. Roberts dramatically demanded protection for the representative of a sovereign state. He asked no protection for himself, he exclaimed, but he demanded his rights. This was given such emphasis and feeling that vigorous and long continued applause greeted the speaker.

When Mr. Roberts' time expired Newlands (Nevada) asked that his time be extended, but Taylor (Ohio) objected. Richardson then yielded Roberts balance of Democratic time minutes. Roberts asserted that he had no appointments had been made without consideration of charges of polygamy.

A STATEMENT CHALLENGED.
Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, challenged Roberts' statement as to presidential appointments. Roberts' deposition that appointments had been made notwithstanding charges similar to those against him.

Mr. Taylor drew applause by stating Roberts more time. Roberts read a letter from Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah, calling the present administration into question. Utah's postmasters charged with violating statutory laws.

Mr. Roberts closed with a dramatic statement that Utah had no doubt of faith, that polygamy was no longer an issue and that he had had the right in the constitutional convention of stating that issue forever.

CHARGED WITH SUBTERFUGE.
Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, charged Roberts guilty of miserable subterfuge in asserting that the President had more charges of polygamy in mind than Utah appointments. Grosvenor claimed that the orders against the President were false.

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