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Presidents Message.

(Concluded from our last.)

In some sections of the country most of the public lands have been sold and the registers and receivers have very little to do. It is a subject worthy of inquiry, whether in many cases two or more districts may not be consolidated and the number of persons employed in this business considerably reduced. Indeed the time will come when it will be the true policy of the General Government as to some of the States to transfer to them for a reasonable equivalent, all the refused and unsold lands, and to withdraw the machinery of the federal land offices altogether. All who take a comprehensive view of our federal system, and believe that one of its greatest excellencies consists in interfering as little as possible with the internal concerns of the States look forward with great interest to this result.

A modification of the existing laws in respect to the prices of the public lands might also have a favorahle influence on the legislation of Congress in relation to anothe branch of the subject. Many who have the ability to buy at present prices. settle on those lands with the hope of acquiring from their cultivation the means of purchasing under pre-emption laws from time to time passed by Congress. For this encroachment on the rights of the U. S. they excuse themselves under the plea of their own necessities; the fact that they dispossess nobody and only enter, upon the waste domain, that they give additional! value to the public lands in their vicinity and their intention ultimately to pay the Governmeut price. So much weight has from time to time been attached to these considerations that Congress have passed laws giving actual settlers on the public lands a right of pre-emption to the tracts occupied by them at the minimun price. The laws have in all instances been retrospective in their operations; in a few years after their passage crowds of new settlers have been found on the public lands for similar reasons and under like expectations who have been indulged with the same privileges. This course of legislation tends to impair public respect for the laws of the country. Either the laws to prevent intrusion upon the public lands should be executed or if that should be impracticable or inexpedient they should be modified or repealed. If the public lands are to be considered as open to bé occupied by any, they should by law be thrown open to all. That which is intended in all instances to be legalized should at once be made legal that those who are dispose to conform the laws may enjoy at least equal privileges with those who are not. But it is not believed to be the disposition of Congress to open the public lands to occupancy without regular entries and payment of the Government price as such a course must tend to worse evils than the credit system which it was found necessary to abolish. It would seem therefore to be the part of wisdom and sound policy to remove as soon as practicable the causes which [illegible] intrusions upon the public lands and then take efficient steps to prevent them in future. Would any single measure be so effective in removing all plausible grounds for these intrusions as the graduation of price already suggested?—A short period of industry and economy in any part of our country would enable the poorest citizen to accumnlate the means to buy him a home at the lowest prices and leave without apology for settling on lands not his own. If he did not under such circumstances he would enlist no sympathy in his favor; and the laws would be readily executed without doing violence to public opinion.

A large portion of our citizens have seated themselves on the public lands, without authority, since the passage of the last pre-emption law, and now ask the enactment of another to enable them to retain the lands occupied, upon payment of the minum Government price. They ask that which has been repeatedly granted before. If the future may be judged of by the past, little harm can be done to the interest of the Treasury by yielding to their request. Upon a critical examination, it is found that the lands sold at the public sales, the introduction of cash payments in 1820, have produced, on an average, the nett revenue of only six cents an acre more than the minium Government price. There is no reason to suppose that the future will be more productive. The Government, therefore, has no adequate pecuniary interest to induce it to drive these people from the lands they occupy, for the purpose of selling them to others.

Entertaining these views, I recommend the passage of a pre-emption law for their benefit, in connection with the preparatory steps towards the graduation of the price of public lands, and further and more effectual provisions to prevent intrusions hereafter. Indulgence to those who have settelled on these lands with expectations that past legislation would be made a rule for the future, and at the same time removing the most plausible ground on which intrusions are excused, and adopting more efficient means to prevent them hereafter, appear to me the most judicious disposition which can be made of this difficult subject. The limitation and restrictions to guard against abuses in the execution of a pre-emption law, will necessarily attract the careful attention of Congress; but under no circumstances is it considered expedient to authorise floating claims in any shape. They have been heretofore, and doubtless would be hereafter, most prolific sources of fraud and oppression, and instead of operating to confer the the favor of the Government on industrous settlers, are often used only to minister to a spirit of cupidity at the expence of the most meritorious of that class.

A moderate increase of the corps, both military and topographical engineers, has been more than once recommended by my predecessor; and my conviction of the propriety, not to say necessity of the measure, in order to enable them to perform the various and important duties imposed on them induces me to repeat the recommendation.

The Military Academy continues to answer all the purposes of its establishment, and not only furnishes well educated officers to the army, but serves to diffuse throughout the mass of our citizens, individuals possessed of military knowledge, and the scientific attainments of civil and military engineering. At present the cadet is bound. with the consent of parents or guardians, to remain in service five years from the period of his enlistment, unless sooner discharged: thus exacting only one year's service in the army after his education is completed. This does not appear to me sufficient, Government ought to command for a longer period, the servicee of those who are educated at the public expense: and I recommend that the time of enlistment be extended to seven years, and the terms of the engagement strictly enforced.

The creation of a national foundary for cannon, to be common to the service of the Army and Navy of the U. States, has been heretofore recommended, and appears to be required in order to place our ordinance on an equal footing with that of other countries, and to enable that branch of the service to control the prices of those articles, and graduate the supplies to the wants of the Government, as well as to regulate their quality and ensure their uniformity. The same reasons induce me to recommend the erection of a manufactory of gunpowder, to be under the direction of the ordinance office. The establishment of a manufactory of small arms west of the Alleghany mountains. upon the plan proposed by the Secretary of War, will contribute to extend throughout the country the improvements which exist in establishments of a similar description in the Atlantic States, and tend to a much more economical distribution of the armament required in the western portion of the Union.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War will bring to your view the state of the Army, and all the various subjects confided to the superintendance of that officer,

The principle part of the army has been concentrated in Florida, with the view, and in the expectation, of bringing the war in that territory to a speedy close. The necessity of stripping the posts on the maritime and inland frontiers of their entire garrisons, for the purpose of assembling in the field an arm[illegible] ss than four thousand men, wo[illegible] seem to indicate the necessity of increasing our regular forces; and the superior efficiency, as well as the greatly diminished expense of that description of troops, recommend this measure as of expediency. I refer to the report for the reasons which have induced the Secretary of War to urge the reorganization and enlargement of the staff of the Army, and of the ordinance corps, in which I fully concur.

It is not, however, compatible with the interest of the people to maintain in time of peace. a regular force adequate to the defence of our extensive frontiers. In periods of danger and alarm we must rely principally upon a well organized militia, and some general arrangement that will render this description of force more efficient, has longe been a subject of anxious solicitude. It was recommended to the first Congress by Gen Washington, and has frequently been brought to your notice, and recently its importance strongly urged by my immediate predecessor. The provisions in the Constitution that renders it necessary to adopt a uniform system of organization for the militia throughout the U. S., presents an insurmountable obstacle to an efficient arrangement by the classification here tofore proposed, and I invite your attention to the plan which will be submitted by the Secretary of Wsr, for the organization of volunteer corps. and the instruction of militia officers as more simple and practicable, if not equally advantageous as a general arangement of the whole militia of the U. States,

The system of removing the Indians west of the Mississippi, commenced by Mr, Jefferson in 1804, has been steadily persevered in by every succeding President, and may be considered the settled policy of the country. Unconnected at first with any well defined system for their improvemect, the inducement held out to the Indians were confined to the greater abundance of game to be found in the West: but when the beneficial effects of their removal were made apparent, a more philanthropic and enlightened policy was adopted in purchasing their lands east of the Mississippi. Liberal prices were given, and provisions inserted in all the treaties with them, for the application of the funds they received in exchange, to such purposes as were best calculated to promote their present welfare, and advance their future civilizatien. These measures have been attended thus far with the happiest results.

It will be seen, by referring to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the most sanguine expectations of the friends and promoters of this system have been realized. The Choctaws, Cherokees. and other tribes that first emigrated beyond the Mississippi, have. for the most part abandoned the hunter state and become cultivators of the soil. The improvement in their condition has been rapid, and it is believed that they are now fitted to enjoy the advantages of a simple form of government, which has been submitted to them and received their sanction; and I cannot too strongly urge this subject upon the attention of Congress.

Stipulations have been made with all the Indian tribes to remove them beyond the Mississippi except with the band of the Wyandotts the six Nations in New York the Menomonees Mandans and Stockbridges in Wisconsin aud Miamies in Indiana. With all but the Meromonces it is expected that arrangements for their emigration will be completed the present year. The resistance which has been opposed to their removal by some of the tribes, even after treaties had been made with them to that effect has arisen from various causes operating differently on each of them. In most instances they have [illegible] instigated to resistance by pers[illegible] hom th[illegible] trade with them and t[illegible] their annuities were