Continued from 1st page.

It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the island, a suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidence of a desire or willingness on the part of Spain to entertain such a proposition. It is urged, finally, that all oher methods failing, the existing internecine strife be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of war between the United States and Spain, a war, which its advocates confidently prophesy, could be neither long in its proportion nor doubtful in its issues. Correctness of this forecast need be neither affirmed or denied. The United States has nevertheless a character to mainain as a nation, which plainly dictates that right and not might should be the rule of its conduct. Further than the right, the United States, if not a nation to which which peace is a necessity, is in truth the most pacific of powers, and there is nothing so desirable as to live in amity with the world. Its own ample and diversified domain satisfies all possible longings for territory and prevents any casting of covetous eyes upon neighboring regions, however attractive.

It has been objected on the one side that Spain should not promise automny until her insurgent subjects lay down their arms. On the other side that promised autonomy, however liberal, is insufficient, because without assurance of the promise being fulfilled. But the reasonableness of a requirement by Spain of conditional surrender on the part of the insurgent Cubans before their autonomy is conceded is not altogether apparent. It ignores important features of the situation—the stability, two years duration, has given to the insurrection, the possibility of its indefinite prolongation in the nature of things, and as shown by past experience, the utter and imminent ruin of the island, unless the present strife is speedily composed, and above all, the rank abuses which all parties in Spain, all branches of the government and all her leading public men concede to exist and profess a desire to remove. Facing such circumstances, to withhold the proffer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at mercy by throwing down their arms has the appearance of neglecting the gravest of perils and inviting suspicion as to the sincerity of any professed willingness to grant reforms. The objection on behalf the insurgents—that promised reforms cannot be relied upon—must of course be considered, though we have no right to assume and no reason for assuming, that anything Spain has undertaken for the relief of Cuba will not be done according to both the spirit and letter of the undertaking. Nevertheless, realizing that suspicious and precautions on the part of the weaker of two combatants are always natural, and not always justifiable, being sincerly desirous in the interest of both as well as its own acount, that the Cuban problem should be solved with the least possible delay, it was intimated by this government to the government of Spain, some months ago, that if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents and would be accepted by them upon a guarantee of itsexecution, the United States would endeavor to find a way, not objectionable to Spain, of furnishing such guaranty. While no definite respone to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish government, it is believed to be not altogether unwelcome. While, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it would not be approved by the insurgents, neither party can fail to see the importance of early action, and both must realize that to prolong the present state of things for even a short period will add enormously to the time and labor and expenditure necessary to bring about the industrial recuperation of the island. It is, therefore, fervently hoped on all grounds, that earnest efforts for healing the breach between Spain and the insurgent Cubans, upon the lines above indicated, may be at once inaugurated and pushed to an immediate and successful issue, the friendly offices of the United States, either in the manner above outlined, or in any other way consistent with our constitution and laws will always be at the disposal of either party. Whatever circumstances may arise, our policy and our interests would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other power. It should be added that it cannot be reasonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United Sates will be indefinitely maintained. While we are anxious to accord all due respect to the sovereignity of Spain we cannot view the pending conflict in all its features, and properly apprehend our inevitably close relations to it and its possible results, without considering that by the course of events we may be drawn into such an unusual and unprecedented condition, as will fix a limit to our patient waiting for Spain to end he contest, either alone and in her own way, or without friendly co-operation. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurgents has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her soverignity is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligation to the soverignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge.

A contemplation of emergency that may arise should plainly lead us to avoid their creation, either through a careless disregard of present duty or even an undue stimulation and ill-timed expression of feeling. But I have deemed it not amiss to remind congress that a time may arise when a correct policy and care for our interests, as well as regard for the interests of other nations and their citizens, joined by considerations of humanity and a desire to see a rich and fertile country intimately related to us saved from devastation, will constrain our government to such action as will subserve the interests thus involved and at the same time promise to Cuba and its inhabitants an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of peace.

VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY.

The Venezuelan boundary question has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States, their respective governments having agreed upon the substantial provisions of a treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela, submitting the whole thing to arbitration. The provisions of the treaty are so evidently just and fair that the assent of Venezuela thereto may confidently be anticipated.

BEHRING SEA FISHERIES.

We have during the last year labored faithfully and against unfavorable conditions to secure the better preservation of seal life in the Behring sea. Both the United States and Great Britain have lately dispatched commissioners to these waters to study the habits and conditions of seals, and the causes of the rapid decrease. Upon the reports of these commissioners, soon to be submitted, with the exercise of patience and good sense on the part of all interested parties, it is earnestly hoped that hearty co-operation may be secured for the protection against the threatened extermination of seal life in the northern Pacific and Behring Sea.

TREASURY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The secretary of the treasury reports that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, the receipts of the government from all sources, amounted to $409,475,408.78. During the same period its expenditures were $434,678,654.48. The excess of expenditures over receipts thus amounted to $25,203,245.70. The ordinary expenditures during the year year were $4,015,852.21 less than during the preceding fiscal year. Of the receipts mentioned there were derived from customs the sum of $160,021,751.67, and from internal revenue $146,830,615.46. The receipts from customs show an increase of $7,863,134.22 over those from the same source for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, and the receipts from internal revenue an increase of $3,584,537.91.

GOLD AND SILVER EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The total amount of gold exported during the last fiscal year was $112,409,947, and of silver $60,541,670, being an increase of $45,941,464 of gold and $13,246,334 of silver over the exportations of the preceeding year. The imports of gold were $33,525,065 and of silver $28,777,186, being $2,859,695 less of gold and $3,566,007 more of silver than during the preceeding year. The total stock of metallic money in the United States at the close of the last fiscal year ended on the 30th day of June, 1896, was $1,228,326, of which $599,587,964 was in gold and $623,728,071 in silver. On the first day of November, 1896, the total stock of money of all kinds in the country was $2,285,410,590, and the amount in circulation, not in cluding that in the treasury holdings, was $1,627,055,641, being $22.63 per capita, upon an estimated population of 71,902,000.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The number of National banks organized from the time the law authorizing their creation was passed up to Oct. 31, 1896, was 5,051, and of this number 3,679 were at the date last mentioned in active operation, having an authorized capital stock of $650,014,895, held by 288,902 shareholders, and circulating notes amounting to $211,412,620. The total outstanding circulating notes of all national banks on the 31st day of Oct., 1896, amounted to $234,532,807, including unredeemable but fully secured notes of banks insolvent and in process of liquidation.

IMMIGRATION.

The number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the fiscal year was 343,267, of whom 340,468 were permitted to land and 2,799 were debarred on various grounds prescribed by law and returned to the countries from whence they came at the expense of the steamship companies by which they were brought in. The increase in immigration over the preceding year amounted to 84,731. It is reported that with one exception the immigrants of the past year were of a hardy, laboring class, accustomed and able to earn support for themselves, and it is estimated that the money brought with them amounted to $500,000, though it was probably much in excess of that sum.

THE LIFE SAVING SERVICE.

From the life saving service it is reported that the number of disasters to documented vessels within the limits of its operations during the year was 427. These vessels had on board 4,608 persons, of whom 4,595 were savod and 13 lost. The value of such vessels is estimated at $8,889,140, and of their cargoes $3,846,350, making the total value of property reported $12,726,510. Of this amount $11,292,707 was saved and $1,432,750 was lost. Sixty-seven of the vessels were totally wrecked. There were besides 243 casualties to small undocumented craft, on board of which there were 594 persons, of whom 587 were saved and 7 were lost. The value of property involved in the latter casualties is estimated at $119,263, of which $114,915 was saved and $435 was lost. The life saving crews during the year also rescued or assisted numerous other vessels and warned many from danger by signals, both by day and night. The number of disasters during the year exceeded that of any previous year in the history of the service, but the saving of both life and property was greater than ever before in proportion to the value of property involved and the number of persons imperiled.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the secretary of war, exhibits satisfactory conditions in the several branches of the public service entrusted to his charge.

THE MILITIA.

The organized militia numbers 112,879 men. The apropriation for its support by the several States approximates $2,500,000 annually, and $400,000 is contributed by the general government. Investigations show these troops to be usually well drilled and inspired with much military interest, but in many instances they are so deficient in proper equipment that a sudden call to active duty would find them inadequately prepared for field service. I therefore recommend that prompt measures be taken to remedy this condition and that every encouragement be given this deserving body of unpaid and voluntary citizen soldiers, upon whose assistance we must largely rely in time of trouble.

COAST DEFENSES.

During the past year rapid progress has been made toward the completion of the scheme adopted for the erection and armament of fortification along our sea coast, while equal progress has been made in providing the material for submarine defense in connection with these works. It is peculiarly gratifying at this time to note the great advance that has been made in this important undertaking since the date of my annual message to the fifty-third congress at the opening of its second session in December, 1893. At the time I informed the congress of the approaching completion of nine 12 inch, twenty 10 inch, and thirty-four 8 inch high power steel guns and 75 12 inch rifled mortars.

THE LAW DEPARTMENT.

The attorney general presents a detailed and interesting statement of the important work done under his supervision during the last fiscal year. The ownership and management by the government of penitentiaries for confinement of those convicted in United States courts of violations of federal laws, which for many years has been a subject of executive recommendation, has at least to a slight extent been realized by the utilization of the abandoned military prison at Ft. Leavenworth, as a United States penitentiary. This is certainly a movement in the right direction but it ought to be at once supplemented by the rebuilding of or extensive enlargement of this improvised prison and the construction of at least one more, to be located in the Southern States. The capacity of the Leavenworth prison is so limited that the expense of its maintenance calculated at a per capita rate upon the number of prisoners it can accommodate, does not make as economical exhibit as it would if it were larger and better adapted to prison purposes. But I am thoroughly convinced that economy, humanity, and a proper sense of responsibility and duty towards those who are punished for violation of federal law dictate that the federal government should have the entire control and management of the penitentiaries where the convicted violators are confined. It apears that since the transfer of the Fort Leavenworth military prison to its new quarters the work previously done by prisoners confined there and for which expensive machinery had been provided, has been discontinued. This work consisted of the manufacture of articles for army use now done elsewhere. On all grounds it is exceedingly desirable that the convicts confined in this penitentiary be allowed to resume work of this description.

THE NAVY.

The work of the navy department and its present condition are fully exhibited in the report of the secretary. The construction of vesels for our new navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present administration upon the genral lines previously adopted, the department having seen no necessity for radical changes in prior methods under which the work was found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory.

It is gratifying to state that our shipping and their output are believed to be equal to the best that can be manufactured elsewhere and that such notable reductions have been made in their cost as to justify the statement that quite a number of vessels are now being constructed at rates as low as those that prevail in Europe in shipyards. Our manufacturing facilities are at this time ample for all possible naval contingencies. Three of our government navy yards, those at Mare Island, Calif., Norfolk, Va., and Brooklyn, N. Y., are equipped for shipbuilding. Our ordnance plant in Washington is equal to any in the world and at the torpedo station we are successfully making the highest grades of smokeless powder. Three first class private shipyards at Newport, Philadelphia and San Francisco are building battle ships.

THE NAVAL MILITIA.

The naval militia which was authorized a few years ago as an experiment has now developed into a boty of enterprising young men, active and energetic. They bear the same relations to our navy as the national guard in the different States bears to our army, and it constitutes a supply for our naval forces, the importance of which is immediately apparent.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the secretary of the interior presents a comprehensive and interesting exhibit of numerous and important affairs committed to his supervision. It is impossible in this communication to do more than briefly refer to a few of the subjects concerning which the secretary gives full and instructive information. Money appropriations, on account of this department and for its disbursement for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1896, amounted to more than $157,000,000, or a greater sum than was appropriated for the entire maintenance of the government for the two fiscal years ended June 30, 1896. Our public lands, originally amounting to 1,840,000,000, acres have been so reduced that only about 600,000,000 acres remain in government control, excluding Alaska. The balance, being the most valuable portion, has been given away to settlers, to new States and to railroads, or sold at a comparatively nominal sum. The execution of railroad grants has progressed rapidly during the year, and since the 4th day of March, 1893, about 250,000,000 acres have been conveyed to the corporations. I agree with the secretary that he remainder of our public lands should be more carefully dealt with and their alienation guarded by better economy and greater prudence.

The total Indian population of the United States is 177,225, according to a census made in 1895, exclusive of those within the State of New York and these comprising the five civilized tribes. Of this number there are approximately 38,000 children of school age. During the year 23,393 of these were enrolled in schools. The progress which has attended recent efforts to extend Indians school facilities and the anticipation of continued liberal appropriations to that end cannot fail to afford the utmost satisfaction to those who believe that the education of Indian children is a prime factor in the accomplishment of Indian civilization. It may be said in general terms in every particular the improvement of the Indians under government care has been most marked and encouraging.

PENSIONS.

The diminution of our enormous pension roll and the decrease of pension expenditures, which have been so often confidently foretold, still fail in material realization. The number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was 970,678. This is the largest number reported. The amount paid exclusively for pensions during the year was $138,214,761.94, a slight decrease from that of the preceding year, while the total expenditures on account of pensions, including the cost of maintaining the department and expenses attending pension distribution, amounted to $142,206,550.59, or within a very small fraction of one-third of the entire expenses of supporting the government during the same year. The number of pension certificates issued was 90,640. Of these 45,374 represent original allowances of claims, and 16,878 increases of existing pensions. The number of persons receiving pensions from the United States, but residing in foreign countries at the close of the last fiscal year, was 3,781, and the amount paid them during the year was $5,273,538. The sum appropriated for the payment of pensions for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, is $130,000,000, and for the succeeding year it is estimated that he same amount would be necessary. The commissioner of pensions reports that during the last fiscal year 239 indictments were found against violators of pension laws. Upon these indictments, 167 convictions resulted. In my opinion, based upon such statements as these and much other information and observation, the abuses which have been allowed to creep into our pension system have done incalculable harm in demoralizing our people and fair-minded good citizenship. I have endeavored within my sphere of official duty to protect our pension roll and make it what it should be, a roll of honor, containing the names of those disabled in their country's defense and worthy the country's assistance and remembrance. When I have seen those who pose as the soldiers' friend active and alert in urging greater laxity and more reckless pension expenditures, while nursing selfish schemes, I have deprecated the approach of a situation, when necessary retrenchment and enforced economy lead to an attack upon pension abuses, so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those, who were worthey of a nation's care, and ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The department of agriculture is so entirely related to the welfare of our people and the prosperity of our nation that it should constantly recive the care and encouragement of the government. From a small beginning it has grown to be the centre of agricultural intelligence and the source of aid and encouragement to agricultural efforts. Large sums of money are annually appropriated for the maintenance of this department, and it must be confessed that the legislation relating to it has not always been direcly in the interest of practical farming or properly guarded against waste and extravagance. So far, however, public money has been appropriated fairly and sensibly to help those who actually till their soil. No expenditure has been more profitably made and more generally approved by the people. Under the present management of the department, its usefulness has been enhanced in every direction and at the same time strict economy has enforced to the utmost extent permitted by congressional action. From the report of the secretary it appears that although careful and prudent financial management has annually saved a large sum from the appropriations aggregating during his incumbency and up to the close of the present fiscal year nearly one-fifth of the entire amount appropriated, the results have been accomplished by a conscientious duty of the real need of the farmer and such a regard for economy as the genuine farmer ought to appreciate, supplemented by a rigid adherance to civil service methods in a department which should be conducted in the interest of agriculture, instead of party politics. The secretary reports that the value of our exports of farm products during the last fiscal year amounted to $570,000,000, an increase of $17,000,000 over those of the year immediately preceding. This statement is not the less welcome because of the fact that not withstanding such increase, the proportion of exported agriculture products to our total exports of all descriptions fell off during the year. The benefits of an increase in agricultural exports being assured, the decrease in its proportion to our total exports is the more gratifying when we consider it is owing to the fact that such total exports for the year increased more than $75,000,000. The large and increasing exportation of our agricultural products suggests the great usefulness of the organization recently established in the department for the purpose of giving to those engaged in farming pursuits reliable information concerning the conditons, needs and advantages of different foreign markets. Inasmuch as the success of the farmer depends upon the advantageous sale of his products, and inasmuch as foreign markets must largely be the destination of such products, it is quite apparent that a knowledge of the condition and wants that affect those markets ought to result in sowing more intelligently and reaping with a better promise of profit. Such information points out the way to a prudent foresight in the selection and cultivations of crops and to a release from the bondage, the unreasoning monotony of production, a glutted and depressed market, and constantly recurring unprofitable selling. In my opinon the gratuitous distribution of seed by the department as at present conducted ought to be discontinued. No one challenged the statement of the secretary on this subject and the doubtful extravagance and questionable results of this practice. The professed friends of the farmer, and certainly the farmers themselves, are naturally expected to be willing to aid a department devoted to the promotion of farming industries, or of a feature which tends so much to its credit.

THE WEATHER BUREAU.

The weather bureau attached to the department of agriculture has continued to extend its share of usefulness, and by an uninterrupted improvement in the accuracy of its forecasts have greatly increased its efficiency as an aid and protection to all whose occupations are related to weather conditons. Omitting weather refrence to operations of the department, I commend the secretary's report and the suggestions it contains to the careful consideration of the congress.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The progress made in civil service reform furnishes a cause for the utmost congratulations. It has survived the doubts of its friends as well as the rancor of its enemies, and has gained a permanent place among the agencies destined to cleanse our politics, and to improve, economize and elevate the public services. There are now in the competitive and classified service unwards of 84,000 places. More than half of these have been included from time to time since March 4, 1893. A most radical and sweeping extension was made by executive order, dated the 6th day of May, 1896, and if fourth-class postmasterships are not included in the statement, it may be said that practically all positons contemplated by civil service law are now classified. Abundant reasons exist for including the postmasterships, based upon economy, improved service and the peace and quiet of neighborhoods. If, however, obstacles prevent such action at present, I earnestly hope that congress will without increasing postoffice appropriations so adjust them as to permit, in proper cases, a consolidation of these postoffices, to the end that through this process the result desired may, to a limited extent, be accomplished. The civil service rules as amended during the last year provide for a sensible and uniform method of promotion, basing elegibility to better positon on demonstrated efficiency and faithfulness. The absence of fixed rules on this subject has been an infirmity in the system more and more apparent as its other benefits have been better appreciated. The advantages of civil service methods in their business aspects are too well understood to require argument. Their application has become a necessity to the executive work of the government, but those who gain positons through the operation of these methods should be made to understand that the nonpartisan scheme by which they receive their appointments demand from them, by way of reciprocity, non-partisan faithful performance under every administration and cheerful fidelity to every chief; while they should be encouraged to decently exercise their rights of citizenship and to support through their suffrages the political beliefs they honestly profess. The noisy, pestilent employee who loves political turmoil and corruption, or who renders lax and grudging service to an administration not representing his political views, should be promptly and fearlessly dealt with in such a way as to furnish a warning to others, who may be likewise disposed. The annual report of the commissioners will be duly transmitted, and I commend the important matter they have in charge to the careful consideration of the congress.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

The interstate commerce commission has, during the last year, supplied abundant evidence of its usefulness and the importance of the work committed to its charge. Public transportation is a universal necessity, and the question of just and reasonable charges heretofore has become of importance mainly to shippers and carriers, but also to the vast multitude of producers and consumers. The justice and equity of the principles embodied in the existing law passed for the purpose of regulating these charges are everywhere conceded and there appears to be no question that the policy thus entered upon has a permanent place in our legislation. As the present statutes states when enacted was in the nature of the case more or less tentative and experimental, it was hardly expected to supply a complete and adequate system. While its wholesome effects are manifest and have been amply justified, it is evident that all desired reforms in transportation methods have not been fully accomplished. In view of the judicial interpretation which some provisions of the statute have received and the defects disclosed by the efforts made for its enforcement, its revision and amendment appear to be essential to the end that it may more effectually reach the evils designed to be corrected. I hope the recommendation of the commission upon this subject will be promptly and favorably considered by the congress.

THE TARIFF QUESTION.

I desire to recur to the statements elsewhere made concerning the government's recipts and expenditures, for the purpose of venturing on some suggestions touching our presnt tariff law and its operation. This statute took effect on the 28th day of August, 1894; whatever may be its shortcomings as a complete measure of tariff reform, it must be conceded that it has opened the way to a freer and greater exchange of commodities between us and other countries, and thus furnished a wide market for our products and manufactures. The only entire fiscal year during which this law has been in force ended on the 30th of June, 1896. In that year our imports increased over those of the previous year more than $6,500,000, while the value of the domestic products we exported and which found markets abroad was nearly $7,000,000 more than during the preceding year.

WEAKNESS AND VICES OF FINANCIAL METHODS.

This reference to the conditon as to the prospects of our revenues naturally suggests an allusion to the weakness and vices of our financial methods. They have been frequently pressed upon the attention of congress in previous executive communications and the inevitable danger of their continued toleration pointed out. Without now repeating these details, I cannot refrain from again earnestly presenting the necessity of the prompt reform of a system opposed to every rule of sound finance and shown by experience to be fraught with the gravest peril and perplexity. The terrible civil war which shook the foundation of our government more than thirty years ago brought in its train the destruction of property, the wasting of our country's substance and the estrangement of brethren. These are now past and forgotten. Even the distressing loss of life in the conflict entailed is but a sacred memory, which fosters patriotic sentiment and keeps alive a tender regard for those who nobly died. And yet there remains with us *today* in full service and activity, as an incident of that tremendous struggle, a feature of its financial necessities not only unsuited to our present circumstances, but manifestly a disturbing menace to business security and an ever present agent of monetary distress. Because we may be enjoying a temporary relief from its depressing influence, this should not lull us into a false security, nor lead us to forget the suddenness of past visitations. I am more convinced than ever that we can have no assured financial peace and safety until the government currency obligations upon which gold may be demanded from the treasury are withdrawn from circulation. This might be done as has been heretofore recommended by their exchange for term bonds bearing a low rate of interest, or by their redemption with the proceeds of such bonds, even if only the United States notes, known as greenbacks, were thus retired. It is probable that the treasury notes issued in payment of silver purchases under the date of July 14, 1895, now paid in gold when demanded, would not create much disturbance as they might from time to time when received in the treasury by redemption in gold or otherwise be gradually and prudently replaced by silver coin. This plan of issuing bonds for the purpose of redemption certainly appears to be the most effective and direct path to the needed reform. In default of this, however, it would be a step in the direction that currency obligations redeemable in gold, whenever so redeemed, should be cancelled instead of being reissued. This operation would be a slow remedy, but it would improve present conditions. Banks should redeem their own notes. They should be allowed to issue circulation to the par value of bonds deposited as security for its redemption, and the tax on their circulation should be reduced to one-fourth of one per cent. In considering projects for the retirement of United States notes and the treasury notes issued under the law of 1890, I am of the opinion that we have placed too much stress upon the danger of contracting the currency, and have calculated too little upon the gold that would be added to our circulation, if invited to us by better and safer finacial methods. It is not so much a contraction of currency that should be avoided as its unequal distribution. This might be obviated, and any fear of harmful contraction at the same time removed by allowing the organization of smaller banks, and in less populous communities than are now permitted, and also authorizing existing banks to establish branches in small communities under proper restrictions. The entire case may be presented by the statement that the day of sensible sound financial methods will not dawn upon us until our government abandons the banking business and the accumulation of funds and confines its monetary operation to the receipt of the money contributed by the people for its support and to the expenditure of such money for the people's benefit. Our business interests and all good citizens long for rest from feverish agitation and the inauguration by the government of a financial policy which will encourage enterprise and make certain the rewards of labor.

AS TO TRUSTS AND MONOPOLIES.

And another topic in which our people rightfully take a deep interest may be here briefly considered, I refer to the existences of trust and other huge aggregations of capital, the object of which is to secure the monopoly of some particular branch of trade, industry or commerce, and it is usually on the ground that though they increase profits, they also reduce prices, and thus may benefit the public. It must be remembered, however, that a reduction of prices to the people is not one of the real objects of the organizations, nor is their tendency necessarily in that direction. If it occurs in a particular case, it is only because it accords with the purposes or interests of those managing the scheme. Such occasional result fall far short of compensating the palpable evil charged to the account of trusts and monopolies. Their tendency is to crush out individual independence and to bind and prevent the free use of human faculties and the full development of human character. Through them the farmer, the artisan and the small trader is in danger of dislodgement from the proud position of being his own master, Watchful of all that touches his country's prosperity, in which he has an individual lot, and interested in all that effects the advantages of business of which he is a factor, to be relegated to the level of a mere appurtenance to a great machine with little free will, with no duty but that of passive obedience, and with little hope of opportunity of rising in the scale of responsible and helpful citizenship. To the instinctive belief that such is the inevitable trend of trusts and monopolies is due the widespread, the deep seated popular aversion in which they are held and the not unreasonable insistence that whatever may be their incidental economic advantages their general effect upon personal character prospects and usefulness cannot be otherwise than injurious. Though congress has attempted to deal with this matter by legislation, the laws passed for that purpose thus far have proved ineffective, not because of any lack of disposition or attempt to enforce them, but simply because the laws themselves as interpreted by the courts do not reach the difficulty. If the insufficiencies of existing laws can be remedied by further legislation it should be done. The fact must be recognized, however, that all federal legislation on this subject may fail short of its purpose because of inherent obstacle, and also because of the complex character of our governmental system which, while making the federal authority supreme within its sphere, has carefully limited that sphere by metes and bounds which cannot be transgressed. The decison of our highest court on this question renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies are adequately treated through federal action unless they seek directly and purposely to include in their objects transportations or intercourse between State or between the United States and foreign countries. It does not follow, however, that the limit of the remedy that may be applied is exhausted, even though it may be found that federal authority be not broad enough to reach the case. There can be no doubt of the power of the several States to act effectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judicialy exercise such power. In concluding this communication, its last words shall be an appeal to the congress for the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the money it holds in trust for the people. The way to extravagance is easy, but a return to economy is very difficult. When, however, it is considered that those who bear the burdens of taxation have no guaranty of honest care save in the fidelity of their public servants, the duty of all possible retrenchments is plainly manifest when our differences are forgotten and our contests for political opinion are no longer remembered. Nothing in the retrospect of our public service will be more fortunate and comforting as the recollection of official duty well performed, and the memory of a constant devotion to the interests of our confiding fellow countrymen.

GROVER CLEVELAND.
Executive Mansion.

Venezuela Accepts Arbitration.

The following statement given out by the State department at Washington, D. C., Monday, embraces all the information in the possession of the department respecting the treatment by Venezuela of the proposed arbitration treaty. Secretary Olney received a telegram from Minister Andrade at Caracas to the effect, in substance, that the memorandum agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of the Venezuelan boundary question, is accepted by the Venezuelan government; that the memorandum will be published at Caracas Monday afternoon and that an extra session of the Venezuelan congress will be called as soon as possible in order that the memorandum may be carried into effect by the necessary treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela. The department has also made public the text of the heads of the proposed treaty as they were agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States, showing that the advance publication through the Associated Press was perfectly accurate.

ROOMS WITH BOARD,
....327 Carondelet St....
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.
Mrs. W S. Fluker.
Location convenient to Canal street and the business portion of the city. Good tables at all seasons. Large airy rooms.
TERMS MODERATE.

F. H. Tenney,
....Dealer in....
Groceries,
Dry Goods,
Boots, Shoes,
Hats, Notions,
TINWARE & HARDWARE.

Salmen Brick and Lumber Co.
....LIMITED.....
BRICKS and PINE LUMBER
Ceiling and Flooring, at lowest prices, delivered to any point on the Mississippi Valley Railroad and Mississippi river.
Room 710 Hennen Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.
WORKS, : Slidell, La.

G. R. Hill,
PRACTICAL
WATCHMAKER.
All Work Guaranteed.
Office in Wolfilin Bldg.
BAYOU SARA, LA.

JAS. MAGEARL. WM. DAVIDSON.
Magearl & Davidson,
....BUTCHERS....
LEAD THE MARKET
With FRESH MEAT, HONEST WEIGHT, CHEAP PRICES.