

NOBLE'S LAST REPORT

The Work of the Department of the Interior the Past Year.

More Than 13,000,000 Acres of Public Land Disposed of in Twelve Months.

Hint That There Will Be a Big Deficiency in the Pension Department.

All the Territories Reported in a Highly Gratifying Condition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—The annual report of Secretary Noble to the president is an interesting document, and covers fully and in detail the operations of this great department.

The general land office has worked off the vast accumulation of former years, and is now in current business, greatly to the advantage of Western settlers; the Indian bureau has made great progress in elevating the various Indian tribes, in the work of allotment of land in severalty to individual Indians, the consequent disintegration of their tribal relations, and the development of schools. Great reform has been accomplished in the purchase of Indian supplies.

The Pension Office has disposed of an immense volume of work and has exceeded all former records in the number of final settlements, both original and supplemental, and in executing the benefit laws for the soldiers of the Union. The census office has furnished nearly all its immense and intricate work, and what remains is rapidly nearing completion.

The geological survey has progressed greatly in its operations, and respecting agricultural colleges, preliminary to the disbursements of the appropriation made by act of congress August 29, 1890. Within eleven months of the date of the act, the condition of the road beds and appurtenances and given careful consideration to the question of the maturing debts of the subsidized railroads and the future conditions which should govern them.

The general land office on June 20, 1888, there were pending 350,550 final entries, and this number has been increasing. There have also been disposed of. During the present administration 358,128 agricultural patents have been issued, and 12,747,820 acres of land, extending over four years, representing an excess in acreage of 51,524,840 acres.

The volume of business handled and disposed of by the pension office during the past year is shown to have been enormous. The number of pensioners borne upon the rolls being 169,908 more than were on the rolls at the close of the last fiscal year.

The system of irrigating the arid lands of the West has been greatly advanced by the selection of sites for reservoirs, and by extending these irrigating systems in connection with forest preserves. The beneficial results of this policy are already extensively shown by the fact that cereals and other crops are now grown in abundance on what was formerly desert land, and the finest crops appear on one side of the divide, where there is irrigation, and on the other side, where there is no irrigation, only brush and cactus can be found on the soil.

The policy of making forest reserves in the Western States has been greatly advanced during the past year. Sixty such reserves have been created by presidential proclamation, making an area of 16,275,000 acres. This policy will be further carried into effect and will be most beneficial and far-reaching in its results. The secretary recommends that these forest reserves should receive protection from the army or through watchmen or custodians, for whose compensation appropriations should be made, in order that they may be protected from fires and depredations.

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ments, negotiations with fourteen tribes, during the present administration, has resulted in the purchase of public settlement of nearly 26,000,000 acres of land.

There has been no marked change in the business methods of the patent office. Its field of operations is distinct. The secretary of the interior does not control questions of law affecting the patent office, but his reports to the commissioner, but to the supreme court of the District of Columbia. Neither the secretary of the interior nor the clerks or others in this bureau without approval of the commissioner, nor can the commissioner without that of the secretary of the interior. The office instituted since 1880. All checks received are immediately stamped so as to render them worthless except for deposit to the credit of the patent office; non-refundable are transmitted by draft prepared here and sent to the proper office.

The secretary of the interior has been carrying on his operations with respect to the public lands with great energy. In the topographic branch 18,000 square miles have been surveyed during the past year. The total area surveyed up to the present time is 69,000 square miles. Three hundred large sheets have been prepared, and all of them have been more thoroughly and carefully done than ever before. Reservoir sites for irrigation purposes have been located and surveyed to the number of 187, embracing 1,277,810 acres. The increase in value of mineral products, as shown by the statistics for the year 1891, and the increase in the number of years of the survey is 320,000,000, showing these products have in this country increased 30 per cent.

Geological investigations and surveys have been carried on by means of nearly all the available resources, and in the various fields of geology, including coal, iron, and precious metals, and special examinations have been made of localities where coal, iron, and precious metals, and ornamental stone and clays.

A very considerable labor was performed by the Bureau of Education in the various States and Territories, and in carrying out the provisions of the act of August 29, 1890. Within eleven months of the date of the act, the condition of the road beds and appurtenances and given careful consideration to the question of the maturing debts of the subsidized railroads and the future conditions which should govern them.

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passed its first stage. Arizona has its northern and central portions, 2,700 square miles of pine forests, and to supply an abundance of timber for an immense population for many years. The estimated quantity of pine timber in the territory for sawing placed at 10,000,000 feet. The mining industry continues to be prosperous and progressive; the yield of gold has largely increased, and the silver production has not decreased. The gold product for the year was \$3,000,000, silver \$2,200,000, copper \$1,500,000.

The governor estimates the increase of the population at 16,025 since the last census; the census, the number of foreign immigration has decreased. The records of the land office at Salt Lake City show entries for the year comprising 13,188,305 acres. The total area surveyed was 13,188,305 acres. The governor recommends that congress place the unsold public lands under the control of territorial officers, with power to lease them for grazing purposes, otherwise, it is said, their value for this purpose would be lost. The territory is said to have abandoned their tribal relations and are scattered all over the territory. The records of the land office at Salt Lake City, taken from the mines of 1891, in gold, silver, lead and copper, had an aggregate export value of \$18,000,000. The mining industry is very much depressed by the depreciation of the value of silver, and many of the mines are now idle.

The governor of Utah expresses his belief in the good faith and honest purpose of the Mormon leaders and the people in their abandonment of polygamy and their obedience to the laws of the United States. The Utah commission seems not to have so much confidence in the motive which compels the Mormons to give up polygamy, but it is simply a suspension of the practice, under the authority of the church, and that if it could be removed, the church would again be reorganized, as revoking the cessation of the practice. But it is contended that there is, with the consent of a general recognition and observance of the law and the declarations of the officers of the church, and the proclamation issued under authority of the church seem to indicate the fact that the Mormon people have concluded to abandon the practice of polygamy. An appeal has been made to the president for general amnesty for all Mormons who have been politically disabled on account of violations of the law against polygamy. The petition pledges the people and the church in discharging their duty to the observance of the law, and declares the devotion and loyalty of the people to the country and to the government. The church is willing to accept the law, and the power of the church is the division of the people upon national party lines in recent elections.

The population of Oklahoma is shown to be 135,100, not including the Indians, who still maintain their tribal relations. Eighty-five per cent of the population are whites, and only about five per cent are of foreign birth. It is thought that a conservative estimate of the value of the property, real and personal, in Cheyenne and Arapaho counties is \$40,000,000; excluding these counties the assessment shows a valuation of \$11,485,162. There are five national banks in the territory with an average deposit account of \$150,000 each, and there are fourteen private banks, with an average of half a million dollars. Three railroads are now in operation through the territory, and all have been entered upon and settled under the homestead laws except the Cheyenne and Arapaho counties, where it is feared that the want of sufficient rainfall may render them unattractive for farming. The general progress of the territorial and industrial progress of the people is most apparent, and the marks of industry and attainment already revealed in the territory. The question of admission to statehood is already being discussed, and it is announced that the people will soon act for admission.

Alaska is virtually without an organized government. It is difficult to punish perpetrators of outrages and smugglers into the coast, and detain the natives. The secretary recommends an appropriation for a steam power vessel to run along the coast and apprehend the offenders, and to furnish a nucleus of a military organization, consisting of one company of regulars and one of volunteers. The Alaska is now being withheld, so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted. The territory is now being withheld, so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted. The territory is now being withheld, so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted.

Five of these are regimental posts, and are located as follows: One in Illinois, one in Wyoming, and one in Nebraska, one in Wyoming, and one in Utah. There are posts, however, quite as important and as large which are not regimental posts, because the commands are made up of parts of different regiments.

The question as to the proper policy that should govern the distribution and location of the army presses for consideration and settlement. The tendency of distribution hitherto has been to abandon small and isolated posts and concentrate the troops in large garrisons. This has been attended with good results, as troops can be more economically maintained in large than in small posts. It is suggested, therefore, that the small posts be gradually abandoned and that regimental posts be established in each of the service areas, and now without them.

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Alaska is virtually without an organized government. It is difficult to punish perpetrators of outrages and smugglers into the coast, and detain the natives. The secretary recommends an appropriation for a steam power vessel to run along the coast and apprehend the offenders, and to furnish a nucleus of a military organization, consisting of one company of regulars and one of volunteers. The Alaska is now being withheld, so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted. The territory is now being withheld, so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted.

Five of these are regimental posts, and are located as follows: One in Illinois, one in Wyoming, and one in Nebraska, one in Wyoming, and one in Utah. There are posts, however, quite as important and as large which are not regimental posts, because the commands are made up of parts of different regiments.

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GEN. ELKINS REPORTS.

The Distinguished West Virginian Tells Where the Blue Coats Are.

Recommendation That the Office of Lieutenant General Be Revived.

The Importance of Improving the Militia of the Several States.

Expenditures, Appropriations and Estimates--The Grand Army Encampment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Secretary Elkins has made his report on the military department, the salient points of which are as follows: Since the present organization of our infantry was adopted, many changes have taken place in the art of war, resulting, among other things, in a reorganization of the form of infantry regiments. Our stationary condition in this respect has left us with an obsolete organization, the defects of which, however, have been so extensively discussed in former reports that they are not here referred to in the present instance as a means of renewing the recommendations of nearly all my predecessors in behalf of three-battalion infantry regiments. A bill which, without any amendments, excepting those of a technical nature, has passed the senate, and is now pending in the house of representatives. The enactment of this bill into a law would be of great advantage to the army and to the nation.

As a further means of perfecting the army, the reorganization of the artillery has been proposed, and necessary provisions to this end are embodied in the bill relating to infantry reorganization, which is now pending in the house of representatives. The proposed legislation earnestly recommends that the bill be passed, and that the reorganization of the artillery be carried out as soon as possible. The bill also provides for the reorganization of the cavalry, and for the improvement of the militia.

The interests of the nation demand that the chief of the military department shall be attended with dignity and authority. To this end it is necessary that the commanding general should be a person of high rank and of distinguished military achievements. Experience has shown that rank, as well as command, is essential to give proper authority to the chief of the military organization of importance. Accordingly, it is recommended that the lieutenant general be revived as a grade in the army, and that the chief of the military department be promoted to this rank. The chief of the military department, who is a person of high rank and of distinguished military achievements, is a person of high rank and of distinguished military achievements.

The general command, transferred from all sources, is to the effect that while the enlisted personnel of the army is, as a whole, very much better than at any other time, it is not so well as it should be. It is necessary to improve the enlisted personnel of the army, and to improve the enlisted personnel of the army, and to improve the enlisted personnel of the army.

The statement of appropriations, expenditures, and the balances on hand at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, are as follows: Military establishment—support of the army and military academy, \$2,166,545.61; Public works, including river and harbor improvements, \$1,861,181.95; Miscellaneous objects, \$2,339,724.12. Total, \$6,367,451.68.

The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, are as follows: Salaries and contingent expenses, \$2,947,712.43; Military establishment—support of the army and military academy, \$2,166,921.15; Public works, including river and harbor improvements, \$2,500,282.09; Miscellaneous objects, \$2,066,069.91. Total, \$9,680,985.58.

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