THE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Continued From Sixth Page.

eration of congress, resulting in wise and judicious action. Restraint upon such combinations as are injurious, and which are within federal jurisdiction should be promptly applied by the congress.

THE PHILIPPINES.

Review of the Effort to Establish Civil Government.

In my last annual message I dwelt at some length upon the condition of affairs in the Philippines. While seeking to impress upon you that the grave responsibility of the future government of those islands rests with the congress of the United States, I abstained from recommending at that time a specific and final form of government for the territory actually held by the United States forces, and in which, as long as insurrection continues, the military arm must necessarily be supreme. I stated my purpose, until the congress shall have made known the formal expression of its will, to use the authority vested by the constitution and the statutes to uphold the sovereignty of the United States in those distant islands, as in all other places where our flag rightfully floats, placing, to that end, at the disposal of the army and navy all the means which the liberality of the congress and the people have provided. No contrary expression of the will of the congress having been made, I have steadfastly pursued the purpose so declared, employing the civil arm as well toward the accomplishment of pacification and the institution of local governments within the lines of authority and law.

Progress in the hoped-for direction has been favorable. Our forces have successfully controlled the greater part of the islands, overcoming the organized forces of the insurgents and carrying order and administrative regularity to all quarters. What opposition remains is for the most part scattered, obeying no concerted plan of strategic action, operating only by the methods common to the traditions of guerilla warfare, which, while ineffective to alter the general control now established, are still sufficient to beget insecurity among the populations that have felt the good results of our control, and thus delay the conferment upon them of the fuller measures of local self-government, of education and of industrial and agricultural development which we stand ready to give to them.

CIVIL COMMISSION.

By the spring of this year the effective opposition of the dissatisfied Tagals to the authority of the United States was virtually ended, thus opening the door for the extension of a stable administration over much of the territory of the archipelago. Desiring to bring this about, I appointed in March last a civil commission composed of the Hon. William H. Taft, of Ohio; Prof. Dean C. Worcester, of Michigan; the Hon Luke E. Wright, of Tennessee; the Hon. Henry C. Ide, of Vermont, and Prof. Bernard Moses, of California. The aims of their mission and the scope of their authority are clearly set forth in my instructions of April 7, 1900, addressed to the secretary of war, to be transmitted to them:

In the message transmitted to the congress on the 5th of December, 1899, I said, speaking of the Philippine islands:

"As long as the insurrection continues the military arm must necessarily be supreme. But there is no reason why steps should not be taken from time to time to inaugurate governments essentially popular in their form as fast as territory is held and controlled by our troops. To this end I am considering the advisability of the return of the commission, or such of the members thereof as can be secured, to aid the existing authorities and facilitate this work throughout the islands."

To give effect to the intention thus expressed, I have appointed Hon. William H. Taft, of Ohio; Prof. Dean C. Worcester, of Michigan; Hon. Luke E. Wright, of Tennessee; Hon. Henry C. Ide, of Vermont, and Prof. Bernard Moses, of California, commissioners to the Philippine islands to continue and perfect the work of organizing and establishing civil government, already commenced by the military authorities, subject in all respects to any laws which congress may hereinafter enact.

The commissioners named will meet and act as a board, and the Hon. William H. Taft is designated as president of the board. It is probable that the transfer of authority from military commanders to civil officers will be gradual, and will occupy a considerable period. Its successful accomplishment and the maintenance of peace and order in the meantime will require the most perfect co-operation between the civil and military authorities in the islands, and both should be directed during the transition period by the same executive department. The commission will therefore report to the secretary of war, and all their actions will be subject to your approval and control.

You will instruct the commission to proceed to the city of Manila, where they will make their principal office, and to communicate with the military governor of the Philippine islands, whom you will at the same time direct to render them every assistance within his power in the performance of their duties. Without hampering them by too specific instructions, they should in general be enjoined, after making themselves familiar with the conditions and needs of the country, to devote their attention in the first instance to the establishment of municipal governments, in which the natives of the islands, both in the cities and in the rural communities, shall be afforded the opportunity to manage their own local affairs to the fullest extent of which they are capable, and subject to the least degree of supervision and control which a careful study of their capacities and observation of the workings of native control show to be consistent with the maintenance of law, order and loyalty.

CIVIL GOVERNMENTS.

The next subject in order of importance should be the organizing of government in the larger administrative divisions, corresponding to counties, departments or provinces, in which the common interests of many or several municipalities falling in the same tribal lines, or the same natural geographical limits, may best be subserved by a common administration. Whenever the commission is of the opinion that the condition of affairs in the islands is such that the central administration may safely be transferred from military to civil control, they will report that conclusion to you, with their recommendations as to the form of government to be established for the purpose of taking over the control.

Beginning with the first day of September, 1900, the authority to authorize, subject to my approval, through the secretary of war, that part of the power of government in the Philippine islands, which is of a legislative nature, is to be transferred from the military governor of the island to this commission, to be thereafter exercised by them in the place and stead of the military governor, under such rules and regulations as you shall prescribe, until the establishment of the civil government for the islands, contemplated in the last foreign paragraph, or until congress shall otherwise provide. Exercise of this legislative authority will include the making of rules and orders, having the effect of law, for the raising of revenue by taxes, customs, duties and imposts; the appropriation and expenditure of public funds of the islands; the establishment of an educational system throughout the islands; the establishment of a system to secure an efficient civil service; the organization and establishment of courts; the organization and establishment of municipal and departmental governments, and all other matters of a civil nature for which the military governor is now competent to provide by rules or orders of a legislative character.

The commission will also have power during the same period to appoint to office such officers under the judicial, educational and civil service systems and in the municipal and departmental governments as shall be provided for. Until the complete transfer of control the military governor will remain the chief executive head of the government of the islands, and will exercise the executive authority now possessed by him and not herein expressly assigned to the commission, subject, however, to the rules and orders enacted by the commission in the exercise of legislative powers conferred upon them. In the meantime the municipal and departmental governments will continue to report to the military governor and be subject to his administrative supervision and control, under your direction, but that supervision and control will be confined within the narrowest limits consistent with the requirements that the powers of government in the municipalities and departments shall be honestly and effectively exercised, and that law and order and individual freedom shall be maintained.

All legislative rules and orders, establishments of government and appointments to office by the commission will take effect immediately, or at such times as they shall designate, subject to your approval and action upon the coming in of the commission's reports, which are to be made from time to time as their action is taken. Wherever civil governments are constituted under the direction of the commission, such military posts, garrisons and forces will be continued for the suppression and insurrection of brigandage and the maintenance of law and order, as the military commander shall deem requisite, and the military forces shall be at all times subject, under his orders, to the call of the civil authorities for the maintenance of law and order and the enforcement of their authority.

In the establishment of municipal governments, the commission will take as the basis of their work the governments established by the military governor, under his order of Aug. 8, 1899, and under the report of the board constituted by the military governor by his order of Jan. 29, 1900, to formulate and report a plan of municipal government of which his honor, Cayetano Arellano, president of the audiencia, was chairman, and they will give to the conclusions of that board the weight and consideration which the high character and distinguished abilities of its members justify.

In the constitution of departmental or provincial governments, they will give especial attention to the existing government of the islands of Negros, constituted with the approval of the people of that island, under the order of the military governor of July 22, 1899, and after verifying, so far as may be practicable, the reports of the successful working of that government they will be guided by the experience thus acquired, so far as it may be applicable to the conditions existing in other portions of the Philippines. They will avail themselves, to the fullest degree practicable, of the conclusions reached by the previous commission to the Philippines.

In the distribution of powers among the governments organized by the commission, the presumption is always to be in favor of the smaller subdivisions, so that all the powers which can properly be exercised by the municipal government shall be vested in that government, and all the powers of a more general character, which can be exercised by the departmental government, shall be vested in that government, and so that in the government system, which is the result of the process, the central government of the islands, following the example of the distribution of the powers between the states and the national government of the United States, shall have no direct administration except of matters of purely general concern, and shall have only such supervision and control over local governments as may be necessary to secure and enforce faithful and efficient administration by local officers.

NATIVE OFFICIALS.

The many different degrees of civilization and varieties of custom and capacity among the people of the different islands, preclude very definite instruction as to the part which the people shall take in the selection of their own officers, but these general rules are to be observed: That in all cases the municipal officers, who administer the local affairs of the people, are to be selected by the people, and that wherever officers of more extended jurisdiction are to be selected in any way, the natives of the islands are to be preferred, and if they can be found competent and willing to perform the duties they are to receive the offices in preference to any others.

It will be necessary to fill some offices for the present with Americans, which, after a time, may well be filled by natives of the islands. As soon as practicable, a system for ascertaining the merit and fitness of candidates for civil office should be put in force. An indispensable qualification for all offices and positions of trust and authority in the islands must be absolute and unconditional loyalty to the United States, and absolute and unhampered authority and power to remove and punish any officer deviating from that standard, and must at all times be retained in the hands of the central authority of the islands.

In all the forms of government and administrative provisions which they are authorized to prescribe, the commission should bear in mind that the government which they are establishing is designed not for our satisfaction or for the expression of our theoretical views, but for the happiness, peace and prosperity of the people of the Philippine islands, and the measures adopted should be made to conform to their customs, their habits and even their prejudices to the fullest extent consistent with the accomplishment of the indispensable requisits of just and effective government.

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT.

At the same time the commission should bear in mind, and the people of the islands should be made plainly to understand, that there are certain great principles of government which have been made the basis of our governmental system which we deem essential to the rule of law, and the maintenance of individual freedom, and of which they have, unfortunately, been denied the exprience possessed by us; that there are also certain practical rules of government which we have found to be essential to the preservation of these great principles of liberty and law, and that these principles and these rules of government must be established and maintained in their islands for the sake of their liberty and happiness, however much they may conflict with the customs or laws of procedure with which they are familiar.

It is evident that the most enlightened thought of the Philippine islands fully appreciates the importance of these principles and rules, and they will inevitably within a short time command universal assent. Upon every division and branch of the government of the Philippines, therefore, must be imposed these inviolable rules:

RIGHTS.

That no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation; that in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense; that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted; that no person shall be put twice in jeopardy for the same offense, or be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself; that the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist except as a punishment for crime; that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed; that no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the rights of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances; that no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without discrimination or preference shall forever be allowed.

LAND TITLES.

It will be the duty of the commission to make a thorough investigation into the titles of large tracts of land held or claimed by individuals or by religious orders, into the justice of the claims and complaints made against such land holders by the people of the island, or any part of the people, and to seek, by wise and peaceable measures, a just settlement of the controversies and redress of wrongs which have caused strife and bloodshed in the past. In the performance of this duty, the commission is enjoined to see that no injustice is done; to have regard for substantial rights and equity, disregarding technicalities so far as substantial right permits, and to observe the following rules:

That the provision of the treaty of Paris, pledging the United States to the protection of all rights of property in the islands, as well as the principle of our own government, which prohibits the taking of private property without due process of law, shall not be violated; that the welfare of the people of the islands, which should be a paramount consideration, shall be attained consistently with this rule of property right; that if it becomes necessary for the public interest of the people of the islands to dispose of claims to property which the commission finds to be not lawfully acquired and held, disposition shall be made thereof by due legal procedure, in which there shall be full opportunity for fair and impartial hearing and judgment; that if the same public interests require the extinguishment of property rights lawfully acquired and held, due compensation shall be made out of the public treasury therefor; that no form of religion and no minister of religion shall be forced upon any community, or upon any citizen of the islands; that upon the other hand, no minister of religion shall be interfered with or molested in following his calling, and that the separation between state and church shall be real, entire and absolute.

EDUCATION.

It will be the duty of the commission to promote and extend, and, as they find occasion, to improve the system of education already inaugurated by the military authorities. In doing this, they should regard as of first importance the extension of a system of primary education, which shall be free to all, and which shall tend to fit the people for the duties of citizenship and for the ordinary avocations of a civilized community. This instruction should be given in the first instance in every part of the islands in the language of the people. In view of the great number of languages spoken by the different tribes, it is especially important to the prosperity of the islands that a common medium of communication may be established, and it is obviously desirable that this medium should be the English language. Especial attention should be at once given to affording full opportunity to all the people of the islands to acquire the use of the English language.

It may be well that the main changes which should have been made in the system of taxation and in the body of the laws under which the people are governed, except such changes as have already been made by the military government, should be relegated to the civil government, which is to be established under the auspices of the commission. It will, however, be the duty of the commission to inquire diligently as to whether there are any further changes which ought not to be delayed, and if so they are authorized to make such changes, subject to your approval. In doing so they are to bear in mind that taxes which tend to penalize or repress industry and enterprise are to be avoided; that provisions for taxation should be simple, so they may be understood by the people; that they should affect the fewest practicable subjects of taxation which will serve for the general distribution of the burden.

The main body of the laws which require the rights and obligations of the people should be maintained with as little interference as possible. Changes made should be mainly in procedure, and in the criminal laws to secure speedy and impartial trials, and at the same time effective administration and respect for individual rights.

In dealing with the uncivilized tribes of the islands the commission should adopt the same course followed by congress in permitting the tribes of our North American Indians to maintain their tribal organization and government, and under which many of those tribes are now living in peace and contentment, surrounded by a civilization to which they are unable or unwilling to conform. Such tribal governments should, however, be subjected to wise and firm regulation, and, without undue or petty interference, constant and active effort should be exercised to prevent barbarous practices and introduce civilized customs.

CONSIDER THE PEOPLE.

Upon all officers and employes of the United States, both civil and military, should be impressed a sense of duty to observe not merely the material, but the personal and social rights of the people of the islands, and to treat them with the same courtesy and respect for their personal dignity which the people of the United States are accustomed to require from each other.

The articles of capitulation of the city of Manila, on the 13th of August, 1898, concluded with these words: "This city, its inhabitants, its churches and religious worship, its educational establishments and its private property of all descriptions, are placed under the special safeguard of the faith and honor of the American army."

I believe that this pledge has been faithfully kept. A high and sacred obligation rests upon the government of the United States to give protection for property and life, civil and religious freedom, and wise, firm, and unselfish guidance in the paths of peace and prosperity to all the people of the Philippine islands. I charged this commission to labor for the full performance of this obligation, which concerns the honor and conscience of their country, in the firm hope that through their labors all the inhabitants of the Philippine islands may come to look back with gratitude to the day when God gave victory to American arms at Manila and set their land under the sovereignty and the protection of the people of the United States.

Coincidentally with the entrance of the commission upon its labors, I caused to be issued by General MacArthur, the military governor of the Philippines, on June 21, 1900, a proclamation of amnesty in generous terms, of which many of the insurgents took advantage, among them a number of important leaders.

COMMISSION WORK.

This commission, composed of eminent citizens representing the diverse geographical and political interests of the country, and bringing to their task the ripe fruits of long and intelligent service in educational, administrative and judicial careers, made great progress from the outset. As early as Aug. 21, 1900, it submitted a preliminary report, which will be laid before the congress, and from which it appears that already the good effects of returning order are felt; that business, interrupted by hostilities, is improving as peace extends; that a larger area is under sugar cultivation than ever before; that the customs revenues are greater than at any time during the Spanish rule; that economy and efficiency in the military administration have created a surplus fund of $6,000,000 available for needed public improvements; that a stringent civil service law is in preparation; that railroad communications are expanding, opening up rich districts, and that a comprehensive scheme of education is being organized.

ALONG GENEROUS LINES.

Later reports from the commission show yet more encouraging advance toward insuring the benefits of liberty and good government to the Filipinos, in the interest of humanity and with the aim of building up an enduring, self-supporting and self-administering community in those far eastern seas. I would impress upon the congress that whatever legislation may be enacted in respect to the Philippine islands should be along these generous lines. The fortune of war has thrown upon this nation an unsought trust which should be unselfishly discharged, and devolved upon this government a moral as well as material responsibility toward these millions whom we have freed from an oppressive yoke.

I have, upon another occasion, called the Filipinos "the wards of the nation." Our obligation as guardian was not lightly assumed; it must not be otherwise than honestly fulfilled, aiming first of all to benefit those who have come under our fostering care. It is our duty so to treat them that our flag may be no less beloved in the mountains of Luzon and the fertile zones of Mindanao and Negros than it is at home, that there as here, it shall be the revered symbol of liberty, enlightenment and progress in every avenue of development.

The Filiponos are a race quick to learn and to profit by knowledge. He would be rash who, with the teachings of contemporaneous history in view, would fix a limit to the degree of culture and advancement yet within the reach of those people if our duty toward them be faithfully performed.

PORTO RICO.

Civil Government is in Successfu Operation.

The civil government of Porto Rico provided for by the act of congress approved April 12, 1900, is in successful operation. The courts have been established. The governor and his associates, working intelligently and harmoniously, are meeting with commendable success.

On Nov. 6 a general election was held in the island for members of the legislature, and the body elected has been called to convene on the first Monday of December.

I recommend that legislation be enacted by the congress conferring upon the secretary of interior supervision over the public lands in Porto Rico, and that he be directed to ascertain the location and quantity of lands the title of which remained in the crown of Spain at the date of cession of Porto Rico to the United States, and that appropriations necessary for surveys be made, and that the methods of the disposition of such lands be prescribed by law.

CUBA.

Convention is in Session to Frame a Constitution.

On July 25, 1900, I directed that a call be issued for an election in Cuba for members of a constitutional convention to frame a constitution as a basis for a stable and independent government in the islands. In pursuance therewith, the military government issued the following instructions:

"Whereas, the congress of the United States by its joint resolution of April 20, 1898, declared.

"That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be free, and independent.

"That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

"And whereas, the people of Cuba have established municipal governments, deriving their authority from the suffrages of the people, given under just and equal laws and are now ready, in like manner, to proceed to the establishment of a general government which shall assume and exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction and control over the island.

"Therefore, it is ordered that a general election be held in the island of Cuba on the third Saturday of September, in the year nineteen hundred, to elect delegates to a convention to meet in the city of Havana on the third Monday of November, in the year nineteen hundred, to frame and adopt a constitution for the people of Cuba and as a part thereof, to provide for and agree with the government of the United States upon the relations to exist between that government and the government of Cuba and to provide for the election by the people of officers so elected.

"The election will be held in the several voting precincts of the island under, and pursuant to, the provisions of the electoral law of April 18, 1900, and the amendments thereof."

The election was held on Sept. 15, and the convention assembled on Nov. 5, 1900, and is now in session.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

In calling the convention to order, the military governor of Cuba made the following statement:

"As military governor of the island, representing the president, of the United States, I call this convention to order.

"It will be your duty, first, to frame and adopt a constitution for Cuba, and when that has been done, to formulate what, in your opinion, ought to be the relations between Cuba and the United States.

"The constitution must be adequate to secure a stable and free government.

"When you have defined the relations which in your opinion ought to exist between Cuba and the United States, the government of the United States will doubtless take such action on its part as shall lead to a final and authoritative agreement between the people of the two countries to the promotion of their common interests.

"All friends of Cuba will allow your deliberations with the deepest interest, earnestly desiring that you shall reach just conclusions and that by the dignity, individual self-restraint and wise conservatism, which shall characterize your proceedings, the capacity of the Cuban people for representative government may be signally illustrated.

Under the order pursuant to which you have been elected and convened, you have no duty and no authority to take part in the present government of the island. Your powers are strictly limited by the terms of that order."

When the convention concludes its labor I will transmit to congress the constitution as framed by the convention for its consideration and for such action as it may deem advisable.

PACIFIC CABLE.

Surveys Show the Entire Feasibility of the Plan.

I renew the recommendation made in my special message of Feb. 10, 1899, as to the necessity for the cable communication between the United States and Hawaii, with extension to Manila. Since then circumstances have strikingly emphasized this need. Surveys have shown the entire feasibility of a chain of cables which at each stopping place shall touch on American territory, so that the system shall be under our complete control. Manila, once within telegraphic reach, connection with the system of the Asiatic coast would open increased and profitable opportunities for a more direct cable from our shores to the Orient than is now afforded by the trans-Atlantic, continental and trans-Asian lines. I urge attention to this important matter.

THE ARMY.

t Should Be 60,000 With a Possibility of 100,000.

The present strength of the army is 100,000 men—65,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers. Under the act of March 2, 1899, on the 3d of June next the present force will be reduced to 2,447 officers and 29,025 enlisted men. In 1898 a board of officers convened by President Cleveland adopted a comprehensive scheme of coast defense fortifications, which involved the outlay of something over $100,000,000. This plan received the approval of the congress, and since then regular appropriations have been made and the work of fortification has steadily progressed.

More than $60,000,000 have been invested in a great number of forts and guns, with all the complicated and scientific machinery and electrical appliances necessary for their use. The proper care of this defensive machinery requires men trained in its use. The number of men necessary to perform this duty alone is ascertained by the war department, at a minimum allowance, to be 18,420.

There are fifty-eight or more military posts in the United States other than the coast defense fortifications. the number of these posts is being constantly increased by congress. More than $22,000,000 have been expended in buildings and equipment, and they can only be cared for by the regular army. The posts now in existence and others to be built provide for accommodations for, and if fully garrisoned, require 26,000 troops. Many of these posts are along our frontier or at important strategic points, the occupation of which is necessary.

We have in Cuba between 5,000 and 6,000 troops. For the present our troops in that island cannot be withdrawn or materially diminished, and certainly not until the conclusion of the labors of the constitutional convention now in session and a goverment provided by the new constitution shall have been established and its stability assured.

In Porto Rico we have reduced the garrisons to 1,636, which include 896 native troops. There is no room for further reduction here. We will be required to keep a considerable force in the Philippine islands for some time to come. From the best information obtainable we shall need there for the immediate future from 50,000 to 60,000 men. I am sure the number may be reduced as the insurgents shall come to acknowledge the authority of the United States, of which there are assuring indications.

ARMY NEEDED.

It must be apparent that we will require an army of 60,000, and that during present conditions in Cuba and the Philippines the president should have authority to increase the force to the present number of 100,000. Included in this number, authority should be given to raise native troops in the Philippines up to 15,000, which the Taft commission believes will be more effective in detecting and suppressing guerrillas, assassins and ladrones than our own soldiers.

The full discussion of this subject by the secretary of war, in his annual report, is called to your earnest attention.

I renew the recommendation made in my last annual message that the congress provide a special medal of honor for the volunteers, regulars, sailors and marines on duty in the Philippines who voluntarily remained in the service after their terms of enlistment had expired.

LINE AND STAFF.

I favor the recommendation of the secretary of war for the detail of officers from the line of the army when vacancies occur in the adjutant general's department, inspector general's department, quartermaster general's department, subsistence department, pay department, ordnance department and signal corps.

The army cannot be too highly commended for its faithful and effective service in active military operations in the field and the different work of civil administration.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Extension of Rural Free Delivery Is Recommended.

The rapid growth of the postal service is a sure index of the great and increasing business activity of the country. Its most striking new development is the extension of rural free delivery.

This has come about almost wholly within the year. At the beginning of the fiscal year 1899-1900, the number of routes in operation was only 391, and most of them had been running less than twelve months. On the 15th of November, 1900, the number had increased to 2,614, reaching into forty-four states and territories and serving a population of 1,801,524. The number of applications now pending and awaiting action nearly equals all those granted up to the present time, and by the close of the current fiscal year about 4,000 routes will have been established, providing daily delivery of mails at the scattered homes of about three and a half millions of rural population.

This service ameliorates the isolation of farm life, conduces to good roads. Experience thus far has tended to allay the apprehension that it would be so expensive as to forbid its general adoption or make it a serious burden. Its actual application has shown that it increases postal receipts and can be accompanied by reductions in other branches of the service, so that the augmented revenues and the accomplished savings together materially reduce the net cost. The evidences which point to these conclusions are presented in detail in the annual report of the postmaster general, which, with its recommendations, is recommended to the consideration of the congress. The full development of this special service, however, requires such a large outlay of money that it should be undertaken only after a careful study and thorough understanding of all that it involves.

PUBLIC LANDS.

ncreased Appropriations for Forestry.

The total area of public lands, as given by the secretary of the interior, is approximately 1,071,881,662 acres, of which 917,935,880 acres are undisposed of and 154,745,782 acres have been reserved for various purposes. The public lands disposed of during the year amount to 13,453,887.96 acres, including 62,423.09 acres of Indian lands—an increase of 4,671,474.80 over the preceding year. The total receipts from the sale of lands during the fiscal year were $4,379,758.10—an increase of $1,309,620.76 over the preceding year.

The results obtained from our forest policy have demonstrated its wisdom, and the necessity, in the interest of the public, for its continuance and increased appropriations by the congress for the carrying on of the work. On June 30, 1900, there were thirty-seven forest reserves, created by presidential proclamations under section 24 of the act of March 3, 1891, embracing an area of 46,425,529 acres.

During the past year the Olympic reserve in the state of Washington was reduced 265,040 acres, leaving its present area at 1,923,840 acres. The Prescott reservation in Arizona was increased from 10,240 acres to 423,680 acres, and the Big Horn reserve, in Wyoming, was increased from 1,127,690 acres to 1,180,800 acres. A new reserve, the Santa Ynez, in California, embracing an area of 145,000 acres, was created during this year. On Oct. 10, 1900, the Crow Creek forest reserve in Wyoming was created, with an area of 56,320 acres.

HAWAII.

Progress and Development of the Islands.

Much interesting information is given in the report of the governor of Hawaii as to the progress and development of the islands during the period from July 7, 1898, the date of the approval of the joint resolution of the congress providing for their annexation, up to April 30, 1900, the date of the approval of the act providing a government for the territory, and thereafter.

The last Hawaiian census, taken in the year 1896, gives a total population of 109,020, of which 31,019 were native Hawaiians. The number of Americans reported was 8,315. The results of the federal census, taken this year, show the islands to have a total population of 154,001, showing an increase over that reported in 1896 of 44,981, or 41.2 per cent.

There has been marked progress in the educational, agricultural and railroad departments of the islands.

In the territorial act of April 30, 1900, section 7 of said act repeals chapter 38 of the civil laws of Hawaii, whereby the government was to assist in encouraging and developing the agricultural resources of the republic, especially immigration. The governor of Hawaii recommends legislation looking to the development of such water supply as may exist on the public lands, with a view of promoting land settlement. The earnest consideration of the congress is invited to this important recommendation and others, as embodied in the report of the secretary of the interior.

THE NAVY.

Armor Plate Settled—Secretary's Suggestions Approved.

Very efficient service has been rendered by the navy in connection with the insurrection in the Philippines and the recent disturbance in China.

A very satisfactory settlement has been made of the long-pending question of the manufacture of armor plate. A reasonable price has been secured and the necessity for a government armor plant avoided.

I approve of the recommendations of the secretary of the navy for new vessels and for additional officials and men which the required increase of the navy makes necessary. I recommend to the favorable action of the congress the measure now pending for the erection of a statue to the memory of the late Admiral David D. Porter. I commend also the establishment of a national naval reserve and the grade of vice admiral. Provision should be made, as recommended by the secretary for suitable rewards for special merit. Many officers who rendered the most distinguished service during the recent war with Spain have received in return no recognition from the congress.

PENSIONS AND PATENTS.

Widows' Pension Act Will Add Three to Four Millions.

At the end of the fiscal year there were on the pension roll 993,225 names, a net increase of 2,010 over the fiscal year 1889. The number added to the rolls during the year was 45,344. The amount disbursed for army pensions during the year was $134,700,597.24, and for navy pensions, $3,761,533.41, a total of $138,462,130.65, leaving an unexpended balance of $5,542,768.25 to be covered into the treasury, which shows an increase in the previous year's expenditure of $107,777.70. There were 684 names added to the rolls during the year by special acts passed at the first session of the fifty-sixth congress.

The act of May, 1900, among other things, provides for an extension of income to widows pensioned under said act to $250 per annum. The secretary of the interior believes that by the operations of this act the number of persons pensioned under it will increase, and the increased annual payment for pensions will be between $3,000,000 and $4,000,000.

The government justly appreciates the services of its soldiers and sailors by making pension payments liberal beyond precedent to them, their widows and orphans.

There were 26,540 letters patent granted, including reissues and designs, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900; 1,600 trade-marks, 682 labels and 93 prints registered. The number of patents which expired were 19,988. The total receipts for patents were $1,358,228.35. The expenditures were $1,247,827.58, showing a surplus of $110,400.77.

The attention of congress is called to the report of the secretary of the interior touching the necessity for the further establishment of schools in the territory of Alaska, and favorable action is invited thereon.

THE CENSUS.

Trained Experts to be Retained in the Service.

The director of the census states that the work in connection with the twelfth census is progressing favorably. This national undertaking, ordered by the congress each decade, has finally resulted in the collection of an aggregation of statistical facts to determine the industrial growth of the country, its manufacturing and mechanical resources, its richness in mines and forests, the number of its agriculturists, their farms and products, its educational and religious opportunities, as well as questions pertaining to sociological conditions.

The labors of the officials in charge of the bureau indicate that the law of March 3, 1899, requiring the completion of the four important and most desired subjects, namely, population, agriculture, manufacturing and vital statistics, will be complied with in the prescribed limit. The field work incident to the above inquiries is now practically finished, and as a result the population of the states and territories, including the Hawaiian islands and Alaska, has been announced.

The growth of population during the last decade amounts to over 13,000,000, a greater numerical increase than in any previous census in the history of the country.

Bulletins will be issued as rapidly as possible giving the population by states and counties, and minor divisions. Several announcements of this kind have already been made, and it is hoped that the list will be completed by Jan. 1. Other bulletins giving the results of the mining and agricultural inquiries will be given to the public as rapidly as circumstances will admit.

The director, while confident of his ability to complete the different branches of the undertaking in the allotted time, finds himself embarrassed by the lack of a trained force properly equipped for statistical work, thus raising the question whether in the interest of economy and a thorough execution of the census work there should not be retained in the government employ a certain number of experts not only to aid in the preliminary organization prior to the taking of the decennial census, but in addition to have the advantage in the field and office work of the bureau of trained assistants to facilitate the early completion of this enormous undertaking.

I recommend that the congress at its present session apportion representation among the several states as provided by the constitution.

AGRICULTURE.

The Department Continues Its Good Work for the Country.

The department of agriculture has been extending its work during the past year, reaching farther for new varieties of seeds and plants, co-operating more fully with the states and territories in research along useful lines of wireless telegraphy and forecasts for ocean-going vessels, continuing inquiry as to animal disease, looking into the extent and character of food adulteration; outlining plans for the care, preservation and intelligent harvesting of our woodlands; studying soils that producers may cultivate with better knowledge of conditions and helping to clothe desert places with grasses suitable to our arid regions. Our island possessions are being considered that their peoples may be helped to produce the tropical products now so extensively brought into the United States. Inquiry into methods of improving our roads has been active during the year; help has been given to many localities, and scientific investigation of material in the states and territories has been inaugurated. Irrigation problems in our semi-arid regions are receiving careful and increased consideration.

An extensive exhibit at Paris of the products of agriculture has made the peoples of many countries more familiar with the varied products of our fields and their comparative excellence.

The collection of statictics regarding our crops is being improved and sources of information are being enlarged, to the end that producers may have the earliest advices regarding crop conditions. There has never been a time when those for whom it was established have shown more appreciation of the services of the department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Labor Laws—Hall of Records—Centennial.

In my annual message of Dec. 5, 1898, I called attention to the necessity for some amendment of the alien contract law. There still remains important features of the rightful application of the eight-hour law for the benefit of labor, and of the principle of arbitration, and I again commend these subjects to the careful attention of congress.

CIVIL SERVICE.

That there may be secured the best service possible in the Philippine islands, I have issued, under date of Nov. 10, 1900, the following order:

"The United States civil service commission is directed to render such assistance as may be practicable to the civil service board created under the act of the United States Philippine commission, for the establishment and maintenance of an honest and efficient civil service in the Philippine islands, under the request of the civil service board of said island, under such regulations as may be agreed upon by the said board and the said Unite States civil service commission."

The civil service commission is greatly embarrassed in its work for want of an adequate permanent force for clerical and other assistance. Its needs are fully set forth in its report. I invite attention to the report, and especially urge upon the congress that this important bureau of the public service which passes upon the qualifications and character of so large a number of the officers and employes of the government, should be supported by all needed appropriations to secure promptness and efficiency.

HALL OF RECORDS.

I am very much impressed with the statement made by the heads of all the departments of the urgent necessity of a hall of public records. In every departmental building in Washington, so far as I am informed, the space for official records is not only exhausted, but the walls of rooms are lined with shelves, the middle floor space of many rooms is filled with file cases, and garrets and basements, which were never intended and are unfitted for their reception, are crowded with them. Aside from the inconvenience, there is great danger, not only from fire, but from the weight of these records upon timbers not intended for their support. There should be a separate building especially designed for the purpose of receiving and preserving the annually accumulating archives of the several executive departments. Such a hall need not be a costly structure, but should be so arranged as to admit of enlargement from time to time. I urgently recommend that the congress take early action in this matter.

MARSHALL DAL.

I transmit to the congress a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the American Bar association concerning the proposed celebration of John Marshall day, Feb. 4, 1901. Fitting exercises have been arranged and it is the earnest desire of the committee that the congress may arrange participation in honor of the great jurist.

CENTENNIAL.

The transfer of the government to this city is a fact of great historical interest. Among the people there is a feeling of genuine pride in the capital of the republic.

It is a matter of interest in this connection that in 1800 the population of the District of Columbia was 14,013; today it is 278,718. The population of the city of Washington was then 3,210; today it is 218,196.

The congress having provided for "an appropriate national celebration of the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the seat of government in the District of Columbia," the committee authorized by it have prepared a programme for the 12th of December, 1900, which date has been selected as the anniversary day.

Deep interest has been shown in the arrangements for the celebration by the members of the committee of the senate and house of representatives, the committee of governors appointed by the president and the committee appointed by the citizens and inhabitants of the District of Columbia generally. The programme, in addition to a reception and other exercises at the executive mansion, provides commemorative exercises to be held jointly in the hall of the house of representatives and a reception in the evening at the Corcoran gallery or art in honor of the governors of states and territories.

A WARNING.

In our great prosperity we must guard against the danger it invites of extravagance in government expenditures and appropriations and the chosen representatives of the people, I doubt not, will furnish an example in their legislation of that wise economy which in a season of plenty husbands for the future. In this era of great business activity and opportunity, caution is not untimely. It will not retard, but promote commercial prosperity. Our growing power brings with it temptations and peril requiring constant vigilance to avoid. It must not be used to invite conflicts, nor for oppression, but for the more effective maintenance of those principles of equality and justice upon which our institutions and happiness depend. Let us always keep in mind that the foundation of our government is liberty; its superstructure peace.

—William McKinley.

Executive Mansion, Dec. 3, 1900.

Fear Cow May Explode.

Saugerties (N. Y.) Spe. Chicago Chronicle.

Some men were recently blasting on Andrew McGuire's farm, near here, and when they went to dinner they left some dynamite cartridges on the grass. The grass was particularly fine and McGuire's cow later ate it with a relish. She also ate the cartridges, at least they had disappeared. Every time the cow chews her cud now the farm hands tremble, and when McGuire last night went to milk the cow in a distant lot, where he keeps her isolated, he almost had convulsions. He was steadily approaching the animal, trembling like a man on the firing line, when the cow suddenly moved and kicked up her heels. McGuire fell upon his face, expecting to see the cow disappear into the air, with the farm following her remains, but nothing happened. Veterinary surgeons have been consulted, but none could tell McGuire how long it takes a cow to digest dynamite.

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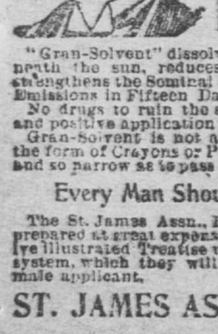

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