

THE INTELLIGENCER.

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WHEELING, DECEMBER 6, 1898.

The President's Message.

No more important presidential message has been sent to Congress in the past generation than the annual document submitted to Congress yesterday by President McKinley. It is important and interesting because of the vital questions with which it deals, of the attendant circumstances, and of the great number of matters concerning our foreign and domestic relations, and the accompanying recommendations thereon, which it brings to the attention of our national legislators and the people whom they represent.

While the message is of unusual length, the character of the subject matter justifies that fact, for few Presidents have had so much to discuss in a single document of this nature. The characteristic conservatism, fairness of expression, logical reasoning, and wisdom of recommendations which have marked the public papers of the President, prevail in every paragraph. The document is not a dreary review of departmental reports, but deals mainly, almost two-thirds of it, in fact, with the war, its causes, its prosecution and its results, and matters of moment concerning our foreign relations, concluding with a splendid review of our domestic conditions and questions, with important recommendations which will give plenty of work for Congress.

Concerning the war, after detailing the events that led up to it, from the President's efforts to secure through peaceful means a restoration of peace in Cuba and a cessation of the suffering, starvation and butchery that prevailed, the Maine explosion, the repeated refusals of Spain to our demand and that country's broken promises, the message reviews briefly the salient features of the conflict, and the achievements of the army and navy, with eloquent tributes to the heroes on land and sea, the surrender of Spain, and her suit for peace, the terms of the protocol and the pending peace negotiations.

The President gives evidence of the full appreciation he has of his own responsibility and the tremendous importance of the questions which have grown out of the war. He makes no recommendations regarding future policies or provisions for the government of the new possessions, very properly leaving them for the special message which he will submit with the treaty of peace when it is signed. In reference to Cuba he observes closely the pledge to set up for the people there a stable government, and declares that the obligations made by Congress will not be violated. In the meantime, military governments will be maintained and Congress will be called upon to deal with all matters concerning the policies of the future—the governments that are to replace Spanish rule.

Much of the message is given up to our diplomatic relations with foreign countries, and the peace which prevails between the United States and all the world, and certain questions growing out of treaty relations that call for recommendations to Congress. Among these are the South American complications, including the matter between Peru and Chile, the Central American united republic which was so short-lived, and its bearing on the Nicaragua canal matter. Upon the canal question the President takes a decided stand for the control of the proposed enterprise by the United States government, and in view of the overtures made by Nicaragua and Costa Rica, recommends the maintenance of the status quo until the commission appointed by this government reports and Congress has opportunity to pass upon the entire question.

Our interest in the Chinese situation, the President clearly points out. He sees no need for our involving ourselves in the politics of Europe in this matter, but recommends that Congress appoint a commission to study commercial and industrial conditions in China and to report as to the opportunities for the enlargement of markets there for our manufactured products. Meanwhile, our interests will be protected in whatever events may occur which may endanger American property and life and commerce in the settlement of pending complications.

Our friendly relations with Great Britain are made the subject of congratulatory remarks by the President. Recommendations concerning the new territorial government of Hawaii form an important part of the message, as do also the controversy with Mexico regarding the interpretation of extradition treaties; the representation of the United States at the Paris exposition; the proposed celebration of the centennial of the founding of the national capital, the city of Washington in 1800; the founding having occurred in 1806, and the universal peace proposal of the czar of Russia.

The message concludes with a review of the general condition of the country with respect to our agricultural, financial, manufacturing and all other material interests, showing the unparalleled accomplishments of the past year. It also renews the recommendations of last year for currency legislation—measures on the line of party pledges and to conform with the needs of our industries and internal commerce. The entire subject is recommended to the consideration of Congress.

The upbuilding of our merchant marine, the increase of the army and the navy, with the promise to muster out all volunteers when the Congress provides an adequate standing army, the outcome of the Union Pacific matter, the result of which saved the government from loss, and many other important matters are made subjects of reference and recommendations.

Few messages of our Executives have covered so wide a field or so many important questions. It was what was expected by the country. There is no departure from American principles. It will meet with public commendation. It is the message of a statesman and a patriotic and wise American President, in whom the people place their trust to meet the great questions that confront the republic.

A Villainous Falsehood Repeated.

In a double headed editorial of great length the Register repeats its infamous falsehood that the Republican state administration intends to adopt revolutionary measures to secure a majority on joint ballot in the legislature. It charges that the secretary of state will use his office to make up the roll and leave off Democrats whose seats are contested. The secretary of state will only act according to law. He will not follow Democratic precedents and do unjust things and resort to methods in defiance of law.

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But the most unscrupulous portion of the article referred to is the largest portion of it, and is wholly based upon the Register's previous falsehood that the governor will have three companies of troops on hand, when the legislature meets, to force a Republican majority "at the point of the bayonet." A long tirade in indulged in and the governor's alleged determination is denounced as a "crime."

The writer of the editorial evidently did not read the Register's own Charleston dispatch before he turned in his copy. For instance, in referring to its former falsehood about the troops, in a single sentence which occupies a half column of space, "If the governor is not fully aware of the stupendous crime on foot to subvert popular government in the state, it need be, it is persistently rumored, by force of ARMED TROOPS, to be called out for the purpose, in his name, it will be well to fully prevent the attempt to use his administration for this revolutionary purpose by plainly and bluntly telling the conspirators that he will have no hand in it nor give it his sanction."

If the Register were as fair and honorable as it pretended to be it never would have published these words. In view of the publication in its news columns of the following self-explanatory telegram:

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 4. To the Editor of the Register: The statement of your correspondent from here in the paper of the 3d of December, that pre-arrangement has been made for the presence of three companies of state militia, or for any military force whatever, when the legislature meets, is entirely false. Please publish my telegram.

JOHN W. APPLETON, Adjutant General of West Virginia. In another dispatch the same issue of the Register publishes the following from its Charleston correspondent: Adjutant General Appleton to-day characterized as false the published statement that arrangements had been made for the presence of a military force in this city on the occasion of the meeting of the legislature.

In the face of these authoritative denials from the adjutant general, and the previous denials of the falsity by the Register's correspondent, our neighbor, in another editorial, attempts to excuse itself from the odium of a maliciously false publication, by saying that Adjutant General Appleton's denial, while it must be accepted so far as he is concerned, is unauthorized by the governor, and intimates that the governor will issue an order for troops which the adjutant general will have to obey. How does the Register know? What right has it to utter these expressions? The story is made of the whole cloth and the Register cannot crawl out of the mire in this way.

The Intelligence of yesterday contained a statement from the governor, in which he places himself before the public in a proper way. No method will be pursued in the maintenance of the rights of the suffragists of the state that is not in accordance with the law and the constitution. A newspaper that will deliberately change the wording of an Associated Press dispatch to falsify the identity of a writer of a letter to the war board of inquiry, for partisan effect, will not hesitate to resort to any means to prejudice the public feeling against the Chief Executive of its own state when a party point is to be gained in behalf of an effort to deprive the people of their choice of a legislature.

No Truth in It.

After publishing less than one-half the President's message the evening paper, with its usual "superior enterprise," comments that it contains but one or two recommendations, and is a mass of verbiage; it also says that "it is noteworthy that Mr. McKinley seems to be thoroughly satisfied with Secretary Alger and the war department, and so far as the Executive can will discourage any attempt to secure a congressional investigation."

A reading of the full text of the message in this morning's Intelligence shows that the President made several important recommendations, and that the investigation matter was not referred to in the slightest manner. This, for the good reason that the committee has made no report nor has it finished its work, and there is not a single word that supports the News' unwarranted and unjustifiable assertion regarding a congressional investigation.

Before you buy your Christmas presents consult the advertising columns of the Intelligence. The man who advertises is deserving of patronage, for it is a sure sign that he believes in modern

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. ABSOLUTELY PURE. Makes the food more delicious and wholesome. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

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A strike is being waged at the West Virginia glass works in Martini's Ferry, which the employees of the factory attribute to two reasons, the principal one of which being that the patent finisher used at that plant spoils too much ware, and as the men are paid for the amount of perfect ware which they turn out, it reduces their earnings considerably. The second reason given is that the assessor of the ware, Richard Veasy, has too long been an eye for glass of the first and second class and the men claim that in classifying the ware he has made much of it to the second class (for which they receive no pay) which really belongs to the first, and for this reason they ask that he be discharged.

THE COUNTY BOARD

Of Commissioners Meets in Monthly Session and Transacts Routine Business. The Undertaking Contract for the County Districts. The Ohio county board of commissioners held a regular meeting yesterday morning, all the members being present except Mr. Joseph Speidel, who is spending a month in Texas, where he has real estate interests. The first business transacted was the reading of the minutes of two meetings by Clerk Morfat, the work of counting ballots, etc., at the last meeting carrying the reading of the minutes over.

The several committees reported in favor of the payment of the following bills, and they were ordered paid: Poor house and farm, \$73 44; County poor fund, \$1,131 71; Finance, \$209 11; Court house, \$83 94; Roads and bridges, \$1,250 30. Total, \$3,860 62.

The number of inmates at the infirmary was reported to be 106. The elections of engineer and assistant engineer for the court house resulted in the re-election of the present officials without opposition. These are George Borden and Hazel Freeman. The resignation of Taylor Keller, supervisor of road precinct No. 12, Richland district, was accepted.

The board adopted a resolution offered by Mr. Hare, which requests the state auditor, Mr. Sheriff Richards, all money due Ohio county for redemptions of delinquent real estate. Thorburn Bros., of Elm Grove, secured the undertaking contract for the county districts. There was no other bid received. The contract is as follows: Large coffins, \$7 50 each; outside boxes, \$3; adult robes, \$1 50; four handles when ordered, \$2; outside lining, \$1 50; hearse in Triadelphia district, \$3; in other districts, \$4; small coffins, \$5 each; outside boxes, \$3; robes, \$1.

The board adjourned to meet on Wednesday, December 14, as a board of equalization and appeals.

FRATERNAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

J. Elbridge Butler, of Kentucky, will give his original fraternal order entertainment here