Delivered to Congress, December 4,

To the Congress of the United States:

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ON FOREIGN APPAIRS.

At the threshold of your deliberations I congratulate you upon the favorable aspect of the domestic and foreign affairs of this government. Our relations with other nations continue to be on a friendly footing; with the Argentine Republic, Belgium, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Hayti, Italy, San Domingo and Sweden and Norway. No incident has occurred which calls for comment. The recent opening of a new line of telegraphic communication with Central America and Brazil permitted the interchange of messages of friendship with the governments of those countries. During the year there have been perfected and proclaimed a consular and commercial treaty with Servia and a consular treaty with Roumenia thus extending our intercourse with the Danubian countries, while our eastern relations have been placed upon a wider basis by treaties with Corea and Madagascar. The new boundary survey treaties with Mexico, the trades mark convention and a supplementary treaty of extradition with Spain, and a convention extending the duration of the Franco-American claims of commission have also been proclaimed. Notice of the treaty of Washington was duly given to the Eritish government. The privileges and exemptions of the British government and the reciprocal privileges and exemptions of the treaty will seemingly close on July 1st, 1885. The Fishing industrials of the contraction of the contraction of the prishing in the prishing in the prishing in the prishing of the contraction of the prishing in the prishi

government and the reciprocal privileges and exemptions of the treaty will seemingly close on July 1st, 1885. The FISHING INDUSTRY pursued by a numerous class of our citizens of the northern coasts both of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, are worthy of the fostering care of congress. Whenever brought into competion with like industries of other countries, our fishermen, as well as our manufacturers of fishing appliances and preparers of fish products, have maintained a foremost place. I suggest that congress create a commission to consider the question of our rights in the fisheries, and the means of opening to our citizens, under just and enduring conditions, the richly stocked fishing waters and sealing grounds of British North America. The question has arisen touching the deportation of the United States from the British Islands by the government or the municipal aid of persons unable there to gain a living and equally a burden on the community here. Such of these persons as will come under the pauper class as defined by the law, have been sent back according to the provisious of our statutes here. Her Majesty's government has insisted that precaution should have been taken before shipment. It has, however, in so many cases proven ineffectual, and especially so in certain instances of needy emigrants reaching our territory through Canada, that a revision of our legislation upon this subject may be deemed advisable. Correspondence relative to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been continued and will be laid before congress.

The legislation of France against the importatation of swine produced from the United States, has been retracted. The result has been due no less to the friendly representation of this government than to a growing conviction in France that the restriction is not demanded by danger to any real health. Germany still wishes the introduction of some products from America. I extended to the imperial government a friendly invitation to send experts to the United States to inquire whether the use of these products was dangerous to health. This invitation was declined. I have believed it of such importance, however, that the exact facts should be ascertained and promulgated that I have appointed

to make a thorough investigation of the subject. Its members have shown their public spirit by accepting their trust without pledge of compensation, but I trust that congress will see into the national and inter-national bearings of the matter a sufficient motive of proceeding, at least for reimbursement of such expenses as they may necessarily incur.

THE CORONATION OF THE CAR
at Moscow, afforded to this government an occasion for testifying to its continued friendship by
sending a special envoy and a representative of
the navy to attend the cervemony. While there
have arisen during the year, no grave issues affecting the status in the Russian Empire of American citizens of other faith than that held by the
National Church; this government remains firm
in its convictions that the rights of its citizens
abroad should be in no way affected by their religious belief.

ligious belief.

It is understood that measures for the removal of the restrictions which now burden our trade

CUBA AND PORTO RICA.

are under consideration by the Spanish government. The proximity of Cuba and the peculiar method of administration which there prevail, necessitate constant discussion and appeal on our part from the proceding of the insular authorities. I regret to say that just protests of this government have not as yet produced a satisfactory result.

appointed to decide certain claims of our citizens against that government, after the recognition of a satisfactory rule as to their validity was admitted, has been without avail. Full reparation to our citizens should be no longer delayed. Some of the awards, though made more than on to be without its jurisdiction, have been iplomatically promoted to the Spanish Gevern-nent, as the addition of the Colonist authorities which has given rise to those claims. THE CASE OF THE MASONIC

THE CASE OF THE MASONIC
has not reached a settlement. The Manella court
has found that the proceedings of which this government has complained were authorized, and it
is hoped that the government of Spain will not
withhold the speedy reparation which its sense of
justice should impel it to offer for the unusual severity, and unjust action of its subordination of
colonial officers. In the case of this vessel the
Helvetian confederation has proposed the inauguration of a class of international treaties for the
deferment to arbitration of grain questions between nations. This government has assented to
the proposed arbitration of such already with
Switzerland.

UNDER THE TREATY OF BERLIN

UNDER THE TREATY OF BERLIN
liberty of censcience and civil rights are assured
to all strangers in Bulgaria. As the United States
have no distinct conventional relations with that
country, and are not a party to the treaty, they
should, in my opinion, maintain diplomatic representation at Sofia for the improvement of interc zurse and the proper protection of the many
American citizens who resort to that country as
missionaries and teachers. I suggest that I be
given authority to establish an agency and consulate at the Bulgarian capital. The United
States are now participating in a revision of the
tariff of the

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

They have assented to the application of a license tax of foreigners doing business in Turkey, but have opposed the oppressive storage tax upon petroleum emering the ports of that country.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHEDIVE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHEDIVE
has proposed that the authority of the mixed judicial tribunal in Egypt be extended so as to cover
citizens of the United States accused of crime,
who are now tried before consular courts. This
government is not indisposed to accept the change,
but believes that its terms should be submitted for
criticism to the commission appointed to revise
the whole subject. At no time in our national history has there been more manifest need of close
and lasting relations with a neighboring state than
now exists

WITH RESPECT TO MEXICO.

WITH RESPECT TO MEXICO.

The rapid influx of our capital and enterprise into that country, shows by what has already been accomplished, the wast reciprocal advantages which must attend the progress of its internal developments. The treaty of commerce and navigation of 1848 has been terminated by the Mexican government. The absence of convention engagements, the rights of our citizens in Mexico now depend upon the domestic status of tha republic. There have been instances of harsh enforcement of the laws against our vessels and citizens in Mexico, and of the denial of diplomatic resort for their protection. The initial step toward a better understanding, has been taken in the negotations by the commission authorized by congress, of a treaty which is still before the senate awaiting its approval. The provisions for the reciprocal crossing of the frontier by the troops, in pursuit of hostile Indians, have been prelonged for another year. The operations of the forces of both governments against the savages, have been successful, and several of their most dangerous were despersed by the skill and valor of the United States and Mexican soldlers fighting in a common cause. The convention for the

RE-SURVEY OF THE BOUNDARY

reservey of the Boundary
from the Rio Grande to the Pacific having been
ratified and exchanged, the preliminary reconsideration therein stipulated has been effected. It
now rests with congress to make provision for
completing the survey and re-setting the boundary menuments. A convention was signed with
Mexico, on July 13, 1882, providing for the rehearing of the cases of Benj. Weils and the
ABBA SKICE MINIST COMPANY ABKA SYLOU MINING COMPANY

in whose favor awards were made by the late American and Mexican claims commission; that convention still awaits the action of the senate. Meanwhile, because of the charges of fraudulent awards which have been made, a new commission is necessary, and the executive has directed the suspension of pay of the distribution quota received from Mexico.

GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO CENTRAL

rope.

When the will of the Peruvian people shall be manifested I shall not hesitate to recognize the government approved by them.

DIOPLOMATIC AND NAVAL REPRESENTATIVES

in this government attended at Caraccas, the centennial celebration of the birth of the illustrious Bolivar. At the same time the inauguration of the statue of Washington in the Venzuelar capital testified to the veneration in which his memory is held there. Congress, at its last session, authorized the executive to propose to the Venzuelar government a reopening of the awards of the mixed commission of Caraccas. The departure from this country of the Venzuelar minister had delayed the opening of negotiations for reviving the commission. This government holds that until the re-establishment of a treaty on this subjebt the Venzuelar government must continue to make the payment provided for in the convention of 1866.

There is ground for believing that the dispute growing out of the unpaid obligations due from Venzuela and France will be satisfactorily adjusted. The French Cabinet has proposed a basis of settlement which meets my approval, but as it involves a recasting of the annual quotos of the foreign debt, it has been deemed advisable to submit the proposal to the judgment of the cabinets of Berlin, Copenhagen, The Hague, London and Madrid. At the recent coronation of His Majesty King Kalakaua.

OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

the government was represented diplomatically and by the formal visit of a vessel of war. The question of terminating or reodifying the existing reciprocity treaty with

of a vessel of war. The question of terminating or rodifying the existing reciprocity treaty with HAWAH is now before congress. I am convinced that the charges of abuse and frauds under that treaty have been exargerated, and I renew the suggestion of last year's message that the treaty be modified wherever itz provisions have proved onerous to legitimate trade between the two countries. I am not disposed to favor the entire cessation of the treaty relations which have fostered good will between the countries and contributed toward the equality of Hawaii with other nations. In pursuance of this policy declared by this government of extending our interests with the eastern nations, legations have, during the past year, been established in Persia, Sian and Corea. It is probable that permanent missions of those countries will, ere long, be maintained in the United States. A special embassy from Siam is now on its way hither. Treaty relations with Corea were perfected by the exchange at Siam on the 19th of May last of the ratifications of the lately concluded convention, and envoys from the king of Tohinsur have visited this country and received a cordial welcome. Corea, as yet unacquainted with the methods of western civilization, now invites the attention of those interested in the foreign trades, as it needs the implements and products which the United States are ready to supply. We seek no monopoly of its commerce, and no advantage over other pations; but as

THE CHINESE,

in reaching for a higher civilization, have confided in this republic, we cannot regard with indifference any encroachments on their rights. Chinaby the payment of a money indemnity, has settled certain of the long pending claims of our citizens, and I have strong hopes that the remainder will seen be adjusted. Questions have arisen touching the rights of American and other foreign manufacturers in China under the provisions of treaties which permits aliens to exercise their industries in that country. On this specific point our own treaty is silent, but under the operation of the most favored nation's cause, we have like privileges with those of other powers. While it is the duty of the government to see that our citizens have the full enjoyment of every benefit secured by the treaty, I doubt if the movement to contrain China to admit an interpretation which we have only one indirect right to exact. The transference to China of American capital for the employment there of Chinese labor, would in effect inaugurate a competition for the central markets now supplied by eur home industries. There is good reason to believe that the low restriction and the immigration of the Chinese has been violated intentionally, or otherwise, by the officials of China, upon whom is devolved the duty of certifying that the immigrants belong to the excepted class. Measures have been taken to ascertain the facts incident to this supposed infraction, and it is believed that the government of China will co-operate with the United States in securing the faithful observance of the law. The same considerations which promoted congress at the last session to in reaching for a higher civilization, have confid

RETURN TO JAPAN

the Simoneski indemnity, seems to me, to require at its hands like action in respect to the Canton indemnity fand, now amounting to \$300,000. The question to the general revision of the foreign treaties of Japan, has been considered in an international conference, held at Lares, but without definite result as yet. This government is disposed to concede the requests of Japan to determine its own tariff duties, provided such proper judicial tribunals as may commend themselves to the western powers for the trial of causes to which foreigners and parties, and to a ssimilate the terms and duration of its treaties to those of other civilized states. Through our ministers at London and at Monrovia, this government has endeavored to

AID LIBERIA

in its differences with Great Britain, touching the northwestern boundaries of that republic. There are prospects of the adjustment of the dispute by the adoption of the Waunah river as the line. This arrangement is a compromise of the conflicting international claims and takes from Liberia some territory. Rivers have been opened and steamboats placed on the rivers and the nuclei of states established at 22 statiors, under one flag at which offers are made to freedom, to commerce and prohibits t'e slave trade. The rich and popular valley of the Congo is being opened to commerce by a society called the

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION of which the king of the Belgians is precident, and a citizen of the United States the chief executive officer, and large tracts of territory have been ceded to the association by native chiefs.

In view of the

PREQUENCY OF INVITATIONS

from foreign governments to participate in social and scientific congress for the discussion of im-portant matters of general concern, I repeat the suggestion of my last message that provision be made for the exercise of discretionary power by

the executive in appointing delegates to such conventions. OUR PETROLEUM EXPORTS

are hampered in Turkey and other eastern ports by restrictions as to storage and by onerous taxa-tion. For these mischiefs adequate relief is not always provided by reciprocity treat-ies like that of Hawaii er that larely negotiated with Mexico and now awaiting action of the sen-ate. Is it not advisable to provide some measure of equitable relation in relations with governments which discriminate against our own? If, for exate. Is it not advisable to provide a governments which discriminate against our own? If, for example, the executive were empowered to apply to Spanish vessels and cargoes from Cuba and Porto Rico the same rules of treatment and scale of penalties for technical faults which are applied to our vessels and cargoes in the Anti-resort to that course might not be

of good results.

The report of the secretary of the treasury gives a full and interesting exhibit of THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

It shows that ordinary revenues from all source for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, amounte to \$828,758,195; whereof there was receive \$214,706,496 93 144,920,368 95 7,955,864 42

national banks	9, 111, 008 85
Profits on coinage, bullion depos- its and assays.	4, 460, 265 17
Other sources	17, 333, 637 60
Total	\$398, 287, 581 95
For the same period the ordinar	ry expenditures
were, for— Civil expenses	\$22, 343, 285, 76
Foreign intercourse	2, 419, 275 24 7, 362, 590 34
Indian Pensions	66, 012, 573 64
Military establishments and arse-	48, 911, 382 93
Naval establishments, including	40, 511, 554 55
vessels and improvements at navy vards	15, 283, 437 17
Miscellaneous expenditures, includ- ing public buildings, light houses	
and collecting the revenues	40,098,432 73
Expenditures on account of Dis- trict of Columbia	3,817,028 48

states of that country, justify in my judgment, such a material increase of the consular corps as will place at each capital a consul general.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN BOLVIA CHILI AND PERU has passed from the stage of strategic hostilities to that of negotiation, in which the counsels of this government has been exercised. The demands of Chili for absolute cession of territory of general Iglesias, to the extent of concluding a treaty of peace with the government of Chili, in general quantormity with the terms of the protocol signed in May last between the Chilian command of and General Iglesias. As a result of the conclusion of this treaty, General Iglesias has been formally recognized by Chili as president of Peru and his government installed at Lima, which has been evacuated by the Chillians.

A call has been issued by Gen. Iglesias for a representation assembly to be elected on the 13th of January, and to meet at Lima on the 1st of March next. Mr. White tt2 provisional Governor Gen. Iglesias has applied for recognition to the principal powers of America and Europe.

When the will of the Peruvian people shall be

FISCAL YEAR 1884. For the present fiscal year the revenue, actual nd estimated, is as follows:

Source.	For the qua- ter endo September 30, 1883.	ed,	
	Actual.		Estimated.
Customs	\$5.,402, 975	67	\$137,597,024 33
Internal revenue	29,662,078	60	90, 337, 921 40
Sales of public lands	2, 932, 635	17	5,067,364 83
Tax on circulation	1,557,800	88	1,542,199 12
Pacific railway com-			
panies	521,059	51	1, 478, 940 49
Custom fees	298, 696	78	901, 303 22
Fees	863, 209		2,426,790 20
Sales of Government			
property	112,562	23	
Profits on coinageete	950, 229		3,149,770 54
Survey'g public l'nds	172, 461		327,538 69
District of Columbia	256, 017		1,643,982 01
Miscellan'us source.	1, 237, 189	63	2,382,810 33
Total receipts	\$95,966,917	03	\$247,033,082 97

REDUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEBT. As a result the only bonds now outstanding which are redeemable at the pleasure of the government are the 3 per cents amounting to \$205,000,000; 4½ per cents amounting to \$250,000,000, and the \$735,000,000 four per cents are not payable until 1891 and 1907 respectively.

If the surplus shall bereafter be as large as the treasury estimates now indicate, the three per cent bon's may all be redeemed at least four years befere any of the four and one-half per cents can be called in. The latter at the same rate of accumulation of surplus can be

PAID AT MATURITY,

PAID AT MATURITY,

and the monies requisite for the redemption of
the 4 per cents will be in the treasury many years
before these obligations become payable. There
are cogent reasons, however, why the national indebtedness should not be thus rapidity extinguished. Chief among them is the act that only
through excess of taxation is such rapidity attainable.

In a communication to congress at its last session I recommended that all excise taxes be
abolished except those relating to distilled spirits,
and that substantial reduction also be made in
the revenues from customs. A statute has since
been enacted by which the annual tax and tariff
receipts of the government have been cut down to
the extent of at least fifty or sixty millions of dollars. While I have no doubt that still farther reductions may be wisely made, I do not advise the
adoption at this session of any measures for large
diminuition of national revenues. The results of
the legislation of the late session of congress have
not as yet become sufficiently apparent to justify the legislation of the late session of congress have not as yet become sufficiently apparent to justify any radical revision or sweeping modifications of existing law in the interval which must elapse be-fore the effects of the act of March 3d 1883 can be definitely asserting.

fore the effects of the act of March 3d 1883 can be definitely ascertained.

A portion at least of this surplus revenue may be wisely applied to the long neglected duty of rehabitating our nation and providing first class defenses for the protection of our harbors. This is a matter to which I shall again advert. Immediately associated with the financial subject just discussed, is the important question? What legislation is needed regarding the National currency. The aggregate amount of bonds now on deposit in the Treasury to support the National Bank circulation is about \$350,000,000. Nearly \$200,000,000 of this amount consists of 3 per cent. bonds which, as already stated, are payable at the pleasure of the Government, and are likely to be called in within less than four years, unless in the meantime, surplus revenues shall be demanded.

ed.

The probable effect of such an extensive retirement of the securities which are the basis of the The probable effect of such an extensive retirement of the securities which are the basis of the national bank circulation, would be such a contraction of the volume of currency as to produce grave commercial embarrassments. How can the danger be obviated? The most effectual plan and national bank circulation, would be such a contraction of the volume of currency as to produce grave commercial embarrassments. How can the danger be obviated? The most effectual plan and one whose adoption at the earliest practical opportunity I shall heartily approve, has already been indicated, if the revenues of the next four years shall be kept substantially commensurate with the expenses. The volume of circulation will not be likely to suffer any material disturbance, but if on the other hand there shall be great delay in reducing taxation, it will become necessary either to substitute some other form of currency in place of the national bank notes, or to make important changes in the law by which their circulation is now controlled.

In my judgment the latter course is far preferable. I commend to your attention the very interesting and thoughtful suggestions on this subject which appear in the secretary's report. The objections which he urges against the acceptance of any other securities than the obligations of the government itself, as the foundation for national bank circulation, seem to me insuperable. For advocating the threatened contraction, two courses have been suggested, either of which is probably feasable. One is the ifs uance of new bonds having many years to rup, bearing a low rate of interest and exchangeable upon specified terms of those now outstanding.

The other course which presented itself to my own judgment as the better one, is the enactment of a law repealing the tax on circulation, and permitting the banks to issue notes for you at an amount equal to 9 per cent. of the market value, instead of as now the full value of the deposited bonds. I agree with the secretary in the belief that the adoption of this plan will afford the necessary relief.

THE TRADE DOLLAR

was coined for the purpose of traffic in countries where silver passed at its value as cost ascertained by its weight and fineness. It never had a legal tender quality. A large number of those coins entered, however, into

districts was 126. By executive orders dated June 25, 1883, I directed that certain of these districts be consolidated. The result has been a reduction of one-third their number which at present is but 83. From the

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR Miscellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, light houses and collecting the revenues...

Expenditures on account of District of Columbia...

Expenditures on account of District of Columbia...

System of our Indian tribes a raid from Mexico into Arizona by a small party of Indians which was pursued by Ges. Crook into the mountain regions from which it had cook. It is confidently hoped that serious outbreaks will not again occur, and that

the Indian tribes which have for so many years

disturbed the west will hereafter remain in peace able submission.

I again call your attention to the present condition of our extended sea coast, upon which are so many large cities, whose wealth and importance to the country would, in time of war, invite attack from modern armored ships, against which our existing defensive works could give no adequate protection. These works were built before the introduction of modern heavy ritted guns into maritime warfare; and if they are not put in an efficient condition, we may easily be subjected to humiliation, by a hostile power greatly inferior to ourselves. As germane to this subject, I call your attention to the importance of perfecting our

SUB-MARINE TORPEDO DEFENSES.

SUB-MARINE TORPEDO DEFENSES.

The board authorized by the last congress to report on the method which should be adopted for the manufacture of heavy ordinances adapted to modern warfare has visted the principal iron and steel works in this country and Europe. It is hoped that its report will be soon made and that congress will thereupon be disposed to provide suitable facilities and plans for the manufacture of such guns as are now imperatively needed. On several occasions during the past year officers of the urmy have, at the request of the state authorities, visited their military encampments for inspection of the troops. From the reports of these officers I am induced to believe that the encouragement of state militia organization by the national government would be followed by very gratifying results, and would afford it in sudden emergencies the aid of a large body of volunteers educated in the performence of military duties. The secretary of

THE NAVY reports that under the authority of the acts of August 5th, 1882, and March 3d, 1883, the work of

August 5th, 1882, and March 3d, 1883, the work of strengthening our navy by the construction of modern vessels has been auspiciously begun. Three cruisers are in progress of construction: the Chicago of 4,500 tons displacement, and the Boston and Atlanta, each of 2,500 tons. They are to be built of steel with the tensile strength and the ductibility prescribed by law, and in combination of speed, endurance and armanent, are expected to compare favorably with the best unarmed war vessels of other nations. A fourth vessel, the "Dolphin," is to be constructed of similar material and is intended to serve as a fleet dispatch boat.

District of Columbia
Miscellan'us source.

Total receipts. \$95,966,917 69 \$247,033,082 97

The expenditures for the same period, actual and estimated, are:

For the quarter ended tree quarters of the year.

Expenses Sindian Sindia dispatch boat.
The double turreted monitors, Puritan, Ample

Two cents per half ounce,
or fraction thereof. In offices where the
carrier system has not been established
the rate is only palf as large. It
will be remembered that in 1863, when are delivery was first established by law, the uniform
single rate of postage upon local letters was one
cent, and so it remained until 1872, when in those
cities where carrier service was established, it
was increased to defray the expense of such service. It seems to me that the old rate may now,
with propriety, be restored, and that, too, even
at the risk of diminishing for a time, at least, receipts from postage upon local letters. I can see
no reason why that particular class of mail matter should be held accomnably for
the entire cet of not only its
own collection and delivery, but the collection
and delivery of all other classes, and I am confident after full consideration of the subject, that
the reduction of the rate would be followed by
such a growth of business as to occasion but slight
and temporary loss to the revenue of the postoffice. The Postmaster-General devotes much of
his report to the consideration on its various aspects of the
RELATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE TELEGRAPH
Such reflection as I have been able to give to the TWO CENTS PER HALF OUNCE,

master teneral, that the government assume control over the telegraph which it has always had over the mais. Admitting that its authority in the premises is as ampie as has ever been claimed for it, it would not, in my judgment, be wise to purchase or assume the control of existing telegraph lines, or to construct others with a view of entering into general competition with private enterprise.

The objections which may be justly urged against either of these projects, and indeed against any system which would require an enormous increase in the civil service, do not however apply to some of the plans which have lately provoked public comment and discussion. It has been claimed, for example, that congress might wisely authorize the post master to contract with some private person or corporation for the transmission of messages, at specified rates and under

wisely authorize the post master to contract with some private person or corporation for the transmission of messages, at specified rates and under government upervision. Various schemes of the same general nature, but widely differing in their special chacteristics, have been suggested in the public prints, and the arguments by which they have been supported and opposed have doubtless attracted your attention.

It is likely that the whole subject will be considered by you at the present session. In the nature of things it involves so many questions of detail that your deliberations would probably be aided slightly, if at all, by any particular suggestions which I might now submit. I vow my belief, however, that the government should be authorized to exercise court supervision over inter-state telegraph communication, and I express the hope that for attaining that end some measure be adopted which will receive your approval.

The attorney general criticises in his report the provisions of the existing law, fixing the PEES OF JURORS AND WITNESSES

FEES OF JURORS AND WITNESSES

in the federal courts. These provisions are chiefly contained in the act of February 26, 1853. Though some of them were introduced into the action from statutes which had been passed many years previous, it is manifest that such compensation as might, when these laws were enacted, have been just and reasonable, would in many instances be justly reminded at the present day as inadequate. I concur with the attorney general in the belief that the statutes should be revised by which these fees are regulated. erai in the select that the statutes should be re-vised by which these fees are regulated. So also should the laws regulating the compensa-tion of district attorney and marshals. They could be paid wholly by salary instead in part by fees as is now the case. The change would prove

and would discourage the institution of needless and oppressive legal proceedings, which it is to be feared have in some instances been conducted for the mere sake of personal gain. Much Interest and valid information is contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior. I particularly call your attention to certain phases of

THE INDIAN QUESTION,

THE INDIAN QUESTION,
to his recommendation for the repeal of the preemption of timber culture acts, and for more
strict legislation to prevent fraud under the pension
laws. The statute which prescribes by definition
and punishment of crimes relating to pensions
could doubtless be made more effectual by certain
amendments and additions pointed out in the Secretary's report.

I have previously referred to the alarming state
of illiteracy in certain portions of the country,
and again submit for the consideration of congress
suggestions that federal aid should be extended
to public primary education wherever adequate
provision therefor has not already been made.

effective by the incorporation of some such measures as they recommend, and as were included in bill No. 2235 on the calendar of the Senate at its last session. I am convinced that polygamy has become so strongly intrenched in the territory of Utah, that it is profiless to attack with any but the weapons which constitutional legislation can provide for them. I favor therefore the report of THE ACT ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DEPENDS, the assumption by the national legislation of the THE ACT ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DEPENDS, the assumption by the national legislation of the entire political control of the territory, and the establishment of a commission with such powers and duties as shall be delegated to it by law. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

is accomplishing much in the direction of agricultural developments of the country, and the department of the country, and the department of the commissioner giving the results of his investigations and experiments will be found interesting and valuable. At this instance a convention of those interested in the cattle industry of the country, was lately held at Chicago. The prevalence of Pleuro pneumonia and other contagious diseases of athimals was one of the chief topics of discussion. The commissioner invites your investigation into the causes of these diseases, and providing methods of their prevention and cure.

I trust that congress will not fail at its present session, to put ALASKA

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ALASKA

under the protection of our laws. Its people have repeatedly demonstrated against our neglect to afford them the maintenance and protection expressly guaranteed by the terms of the treaty, whereby the territory was ceded to the United States. For sixteen years they have pleaded in vain for that which they should have received without asking. They have to law for the collection of debt, the support of education, the conveyance of property, the administration of sta es or the enforcement of contracts. None indeed for the punishment of criminals except such as are offered as against certain customs of commerce and navigation acts.

The resources of Alaska, especially in fur mines and lumber, are considerable in extent and capable of large development, while its geographical situation is one of political and commercial importance. The promptings of interest, therefore, as well as considerations of honor and good faith, demand the immediate establishment of civil government in that territory.

Complaints have lately been general and urgent that certain corporations, controlling in whole or in part the facilities for the inter state carriage of persons and merchandise over the great railroads of the country, have resorted, in their dealings with the people, to divers measures, unjust and oppressive in their character. In some instance, the state forts have attacked and suppressed these evils, but in others they have been unable to afford adequate relief because of the jurisdictional limitations which are imposed upon them by the federal constitution. The question, how far the national government should interfere in the premises, and what, if any, supervision of control it ought to exercise, is one which merits your careful consideration. While we can't fail to recognize the importance of the

VAST RAILWAY SYSTEMS

of the country, and their great help and benefit

of the country, and their great help and benefit to the development of our material wealth, we should, on the public treasury, as I have already intimated, makes the pre-ent an auspicious time for putting this branch of service in a state of efficiency. It is no part of our policy to create and maintain a navy able to cope with that of the other great powers of the world.

We have no wish for foreign conquest; and the peace which we have long enjoyed is in no seeming danger of interruption. But that our naval strength should be made adequate for the defense of our harbors, the protection of our commercial interests, and the maintenance of our national honor, is a proposition from which no patriotic citizen can withhold his assent.

THE REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL contains a gratifying exhibit of the condition and prospects of the interesting branch of the public service committed to his care.

The whole number of postoffices was 47,863, of which 1.632 were established during the previous fiscal year. The number of offices operating under the system of free delivery was 154. At these latter offices the postage on mail matter amounted to \$4,185,230.52, a sum exceeding by \$1,021,894.04 the entire cost of the carrier's service in the country. The rate of postage on drop letters passing through these offices is now fixed by law at two cents per half-pounce. the necessity of protecting, by suitable legislation, the forests situated on the public domains in numerous portions of the west. The pursuit of general agriculture is only made practicable by resort to irrigation. While successful irrigation would be impossible without the aid afforded by forests in contributing to the regularity and customary supply of water, during the past year severe suffering and great loss of properly have been occasioned by profuse floods, followed by periods of unusually low water. In many of the great rivers of the country these irrigations were in a great measure caused by the removal from about the sources of the streams in question the timber by which the water supply had been nourished and protected. The preservation of such portion of the forests on the national domain as essentially contribute to the flow of important water courses, is of the highest consequence. Important tributaries of the Missouri, the Columbia and Saskatchewan rise in the mountains of Moniana, near the northern boundary of the United States, between the Black Feet and Flat Head Indian reservations. This region is unsuitable for settlement, but upon the rivers which flow from it depend the future agricultural development of a vast tract of country. The attention of congress is called to the necessity of withdrawing from the public sale this part of the public domain and establishing there a forest preserve.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS

own collection and delivery of all other classes, and I am confident after full consideration of the subject, that the reduction of the subject, that the reduction of the rate would be followed by such a growth of business as to occasion but slight and temporary less to the revenue of the post-office. The Postmaster-General devotes much of his report to the consideration on its various aspects of the RELATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE TELEGRAPH Such reflection as I have been able to give to the subject since my last annual message has not led me to change the view which I then expressed in dissenting from the recommendation of the Postmaster General, that the government assume the same control over the telegraph which it has always had over the majis. Admitting that its ternational character, foreign governments with which the United States maintain relations, with which the United States maintain relations, have been invited to participate. The promoters of this important undertaking have already received assurances of the lively interest which it has excited abroad.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The report of the commissioner of the District of Columbia is herewith transmitted. I ask for it your careful attention, especially for those por-tion, which relate to assessments of taxes for arrears, and water supply.
CIVIL SERVICE.

tion, which relate to assessments of taxes for arrears, and water supply.

CIVIL SERVICE.

The commissioners were appointed under the act of July 16, 1883, entitled "an act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States," entered promptly upon the discharge of these duties. A series of rules framed in accordance with the spirit of the statute, was approved and promulgated by the president. In some particulars, wherein they seemed defective, those rules were subsequently amended. It will be perceived that they discountenance any political or religious tests for admission to the officer of the public service to which the statutes relates. The act is limited in its original application to the classified clerkship in the several executive departments at Washington, numbering about 5,000, and to similar positions in custom districts and post offices.

Where as many as fifty persons are employed a classification of the positions analogous to that existing in the Washington offices was duly made before the law went into effect. Eleven custom districts and twenty-three post offices were thus brought under the immediate operation of the statute. The annual report of the civil service commission which will soon be submitted to c on gress will doubtless afford the measure of a more definite judgment than I am now prepared to expose as to the merits of the new system. I am persuaded that is effects have thus far proved beneficial Practical methods appear to be adequate for the ends proposed and there has been no serious difficulties in carrying them into effect. Sixce the 16th of July last, no person, so far as I am aware, has been appointed to the public service in the class fied portion thereof at any of the departments or at any of the power ment without a constitutional head. It is possible, of course, that a similar continuence in the subject which will soon be submitted to be completed on the basis of the examination held in conformity to rules.

At the time when the present executive entered upon his

strict legislation to prevent fraud under the pension laws. The statute which prescribes by definition and punishment of crimes relating to pension and punishment of the consideration of the possion that federal and should be extended to public primary education wherever adequate provision that recent of the consideration of the possion that federal and should be extended to public primary education wherever adequate provision the recent election in that territory pursuant to the secterary of the Interior its second annual report as a result of its labors in supervising the recent election in that territory pursuant to the act of March 22, 182. It appears that the persons by that act disqualified numbered about 12,000, and that number were swords of the constitution where the opposition of polyganuy. All the members of the legislature are mormons and there are good reasons to believe that this government is seeding to suppress, and that its set of the constitution which prevised the crimal fine shall devolve upon the vice previous and the p

ment. The fourteenth amendment of the constitution confers the rights of citizenship upon all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof. It was the special purpose of this amendment to insure members of the colored race the full enjoyment of civil and political rights. Certain statutory provisions intended to secure the enforcement of those rights have been recently declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. Any legislation whereby congress may lawfully supplement the guarantees which the constitution affords for equal enjoyment by all the citizens of the United States of every right, privilege and immunity of citizenship will receive my unhesitating approval. Signed.

CHESTER A ARTHUR.

Washington, D. C., December 3, 1883.

Not Human Beings.

A Chinese placard posted over the Yunan Province, next to Tonquin, gives this interesting information:
"The European do not belong to the human race. They are descended from monkey and from geese; besides, they much resemble monkeys.
Their hearts are like the
heart of the devil; therefore they are called Koui-Tse, which
signifies European devils. These savages believe neither in heaven or eartk, do not honor their fathers or mothers, do not venerate their ancestors; the sancity of family ties are unknown among them. They are a veritable herd of pigs, a pack of dogs, they are even talking about equality; they have no notion of social rank, and make no distinction between father and son, kind and subject. You will ask, perhaps, how it is that such savages could be skillful enough to make steamers, railroads and watches. Know, then, that those who come among us under pretext of preaching religion, do tear out the eyes and the brains of dying Chinese, and collect the blood of our children to manufacture into pills, which they sell to their countrymen in order to make them skillful. Only those among them who have thus eaten of our substance become intelligent enough to make those discoveries of which they are so vainglorious."

The Penitent Parrot.

M. D. Conway in San Francisco Chroniele.

For fear some of your readers may not have heard of this remarkable bird, I will mention that it once mingled with speech attractive to the young a profanity shocking to their mammas. Without being in the least annoyed by any one, and while seemingly looking out in a dreamy mood over the deep blue sea, this bird would suddenly break out with a volley of mariners' patois and oaths enough to turn the air purple around it. At length, when it was heard that some ladies had declared that they would never again sail on a ship with such a bird, it was resolved that the parrot must be cured of its bad habits. And it was. Its oaths were invariably followed by a ducking. A large bucket of salt water was emptied on the poor bird's head, each splash accompanied with the remark: "You've been swearing." Polly was thoroughly cured by this. Once when the boat shipped a heavy sea, which gave the reformed parrot a severe ducking, the bird, conscious of its own innocence, desended from its perch and repaired to the place of poultry; there it walked up and down before the deluged fowls, saying to them: "You've been swearing! You've been swearing!"

Herbert Pope, 29 years of age, a compositor, of Barnsbury, was charg-ed with being concerned with other son of Sohn Burnett, butler, night of the 25th of August. prosecutor stated that he was walking near the Grand hotel, Islington, shortly after midnight on the day named, and was rather the worse for liquor. Two men came up to him and took the ring from his finger before he had time to resist. He managed to catch held of them both, but the prisoner arrived and rescued them, and they all made off. He did not see the prisoner again until Wednesday night, when he saw him in the same neighborhood and at once gave him into custody. He added that the ring was given to him by Gen. Stonewall Jack on, in America, by whom he had been employed as valet. The prisoner said he knew nothing of the matter adding: "Before God and man I swear I am innocent." Mr. Hannay said there was not sufficient evidence adding: to detain the prisoner. The prosecu-tor admitted having taken too much drink at the time, ane his memory could not be altogether relied upon. discharged the prisoner.

Snakes in Nebraska.

According to science the number of snakes killed near Falls City, Neb., during the late overflow of the Nehema River is almost beyond belief. They were driven by the water from the bottom lands to the higher grounds and especially to the embankments thrown up for railways. It is estimated that 2,009 snakes were killed within a mile from town, They were chiefly garter snakes, but water moccasins, blue racers, and rattlesnakes were also killed. A horse confined in a pasture in the everflowed district who, when found was discovered to have several snakes in his mane. The overflowed district would not average more than a mile in width, and it is astonishing where so many snakes found hiding-places. Nearly all the snakes in this country are