

THE MESSAGE.

President Harrison Discusses National Affairs.

In His Annual Communication to Congress

He Urges the Passage of the Lodge Election Bill

And Says the McKinley Tariff Law Must Be Given a Fair Trial.

Our Foreign Relations in a Satisfactory Condition.

The State of the Nation's Finances Discussed—Reciprocity Indorsed.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

They Are Friendly.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: The efforts of the several executive departments, which will be before Congress in the usual course, will exhibit in detail the operations of the Government for the last fiscal year. Only the more important incidents and results, and chiefly such as may be the foundation of the recommendations I shall submit, will be referred to in this annual message.

The vast and increasing business of the Government has been transacted by the several departments, and, during the year, with the utmost faithfulness, energy and success. The revenue from customs, to above four hundred and fifty million dollars, have been collected and disbursed without revealing, so far as I can ascertain, a single case of doleration or embezzlement. An earnest effort has been made to secure a sense of responsibility and public duty in all the officers and employees of every grade, and the work done by them has almost wholly escaped unfavorable criticism. I speak of these matters with freedom and frankness, for this goes to the credit of our country, and is shared by the heads of the several departments with the great body of faithful officers and employees who serve under them. The closest scrutiny of Congress is invited to all methods of administration and to every item of expense.

The friendly relations of our country with the nations of Europe and the East have been undisturbed, while the ties of good-will and commercial interest which bind us to the States of the western hemisphere have been greatly strengthened by the conference held in this city to consider measures for the general welfare. Pursuant to the invitation authorized by Congress, the representative of every independent state of South America, and Hayti met in conference in this capital in October, 1889, and continued in session until the 19th of last April. This important convocation marks a most interesting and influential epoch in the history of the western hemisphere. It is noteworthy that three inviations were issued by the imperial government, shared as a Reynosa, in the deliberations and results of the conference. The recommendations of this conference were all transmitted to Congress at the last session.

Divers Foreign Matters. The communications of the Chinese Minister have brought into view the whole subject of our conventional relations with his country, and at the same time this Government, through its legation in Peking, has sought to arrange various matters and complete the independence and protection of our citizens in China.

In pursuance of the concurrent resolution of Oct. 1, 1889, I have proposed to the Government of Mexico and Great Britain to consider a convenient regulation of the passage of Chinese laborers across our southern and northern frontiers.

On the 22d of August last Sir Edmund Monson, the arbitrator, selected under the award of the Hague Tribunal, 1888, rendered an award to the effect that the compensation to be paid by the Danish Government to the United States on account of what is commonly known as the Copenhagen Butterfield claim.

Our relations with the French republic continue to be amicable. Our representatives at that court have very diligently urged the removal of the restrictions placed upon our meat products, and it is believed that substantial progress has been made toward a just settlement.

The Samoan treaty, signed last year at Berlin by the representatives of the United States, Germany and Great Britain, after due ratification, has begun to produce salutary effects. The estimates of the cost of the government upon will soon appear, the disbursements of the past by a stable administration, alike just to the natives and equitable to the three powers most concerned in trade and intercourse with Samoa.

The Chief Justice has been chosen by the King of Siam, and now sits on the invitation of the three powers, and will soon be installed. The Land Commission and the Municipal Council are in process of organization. A rational and evenly distributed system of taxation, both municipal and upon imports, is in operation. Malteos is respected as king.

The new treaty of extradition with Great Britain, after due ratification, was proclaimed on the 23d of last March. Its beneficent working is already apparent.

The Seal Question.

The difference between the two governments touching the fur seal question in the Behring Sea is not yet adjusted, as will be seen by the correspondence which will soon be laid before Congress, in order to submit the question to arbitration, as proposed by his Majesty's Government, has not been accepted, for the reason that the form of submission proposed is not thought to be calculated to assure a conclusion at an early date.

It is sincerely hoped that before the opening of another session, a date will be selected which will assure to the United States a property right, derived from Russia, which was not disregarded by any nation for more than eighty years preceding the outbreak of the existing trouble.

In the tariff act a wrong was done to the Kingdom of Hawaii which I am bound to presume was wholly unintentional. Duties were levied on certain commodities, and are included in the reciprocity treaty now existing between the United States and the Kingdom of Hawaii, without indicating necessary exception in favor of that Kingdom. I hope Congress will repair what might have been done to a breach of faith on the part of the Government.

An award in favor of the United States in the matter of the claim of Mr. Van Bokhoven against Hayti was rendered the 4th of December, 1888, but owing to disorders there and afterward prevailing in that country, the award was not observed. A new agreement as to the time of payment has been approved and is now in force. Other just claims of citizens of the United States for redress of wrongs suffered by the two powers against Hayti will, it is hoped, speedily yield to friendly treatment.

Propositions for the amendment of the treaty of extradition between the United States and Italy are now under consideration.

It will be an object of the means of securing the ratification of the Italian Government to take part in an approaching conference to consider the adoption of a universal prime meridian from which to reckon longitude and time. The proposed plan follows in the track of the reform sought to be initiated in the international conference at Washington, held at the invitation of this Government, the United States should manifest a friendly interest in the Italian project.

In this connection I may refer with approval to the suggestion of my predecessors that standing provision be made for accepting whenever deemed advisable, the frequent invitations of foreign governments to conferences touching the advancement of international reforms in regard to science, sanitation, commercial law, and procedure, and other matters affecting the intercourse and progress of modern communities.

The Portuguese Incident.

In the summer of 1889 an incident occurred which for some time threatened to interrupt the cordiality of our relations with the Government of Portugal. That country seized the Delagoa Bay railway, which was then under a concession granted to an American citizen, and at the same time annulled the charter. The concessionary, who had embarked his fortune in the enterprise, and whose property, moreover, had been confiscated, was compelled to invoke the protection of his Government. Our representations, made coincidently with those of the Brussels Government, whose subjects were also largely interested, happily resulted in the recognition by Portugal of the propriety of submitting the claim

for indemnity growing out of its action to arbitration. This plan of settlement having been agreed upon, the interested powers readily concurred in the proposal to submit the case to the judgment of three eminent jurists, to be designated by the Presidents of the three countries whose governments had been seeking a remedy; and the United States, Great Britain, and Portugal, has selected persons well qualified for the task before them.

The revision of our treaty relations with the Empire of Japan has continued to be the subject of consideration and of correspondence. The questions involved are both grave and delicate; and, while it will be my duty to do my best to expedite the transaction, I sincerely hope that such revision as will satisfy the legitimate expectations of the Japanese Government, and maintain the present and long existing friendly relations between Japan and the United States.

The friends of our country and Mexico, born of close neighborhood and strengthened by many considerations of intimate intercourse and reciprocal interest, have never been more conspicuous than now, nor more hopeful of a permanent and happy union. The intercourse of the two countries by rail, already great, is making constant growth.

The established lines and those recently projected add to the intimacy of traffic and open new channels of access to fresh areas of trade and supply. The hospital service records of the hospital service records of the volume of service are very remarkable. This change was effected in July, 1889, and at that time there were 40,654 cases awaiting attention, more than twice as many as in 1887. The office for information necessary in the adjudication of pension claims. On the 30th day of June last, though over 300,000 new calls had come in, there was not a single case that had not been examined and answered.

Good Friends with Spain. I concur in the recommendations of the Secretary of State that adequate and regular appropriations be continued for coast-defense works and fortifications. Plans have been practically agreed upon, and there can be no good reason for delaying the execution of them; while the defenseless state of our coast subjects furnishes an urgent reason for wise expenditure.

The Militia. The encouragement that has been extended to the State militia, and most appropriately displayed in the "National Guard," should be continued and enlarged. These military organizations constitute, in a large sense, the army of the United States, while about five-sixths of the annual cost of their maintenance is defrayed by the States.

THE NATIONAL LAWS. The disability pension act, which was approved by the House and Senate, and went into operation as rapidly as practicable. The increased clerical force provided was selected and assigned to work, and a considerable part of the force engaged in examinations in the force recalled, and added to the working force of the recalled. The examination and adjudication of claims has been by reason of improved methods, been more rapid than ever before. There is no economy to the Government in delay, while there is much hardship in inaction. The anticipated increase in the number of claims awaiting attention, while very large, will not be believed to be in excess of the estimates made before the enactment of the law. This liberal general law should suggest a more careful scrutiny of bills for special relief, both as to the cases where relief is granted and as to the amount.

Useless Public Building Bills.

At the last session I had occasion to return with great objection to bills making provisions for the erection of public buildings, for the reason that the expenditures contemplated were, in my opinion, greatly in excess of any public need. No class of legislation is more liable to abuse, or to degenerate into an unnecessary waste of public money, than this. The anticipated expenditure, while very large, will not be believed to be in excess of the estimates made before the enactment of the law. This liberal general law should suggest a more careful scrutiny of bills for special relief, both as to the cases where relief is granted and as to the amount.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Farmers Prospering.

The report of the Secretary of Agriculture deserves special attention in view of the fact that the year has been marked in a very unusual degree by agitation and organization among the farmers, looking to an increase in the profits of their business. It will be found that the efforts of the Department have been intelligently and zealously devoted to the promotion of the interests intrusted to its care.

A vigorous and in many an effective effort has been made to bring to trial and punishment all violators of the law; but, at the same time, care has been taken that the provisions of the law, intended to protect the well-disposed citizens. Especial attention is called to the facts connected with the prosecution of violations of the election laws and of the laws of the states. Officers.

The restoration of the remains of John Ericsson to Sweden affording a gratifying occasion to those who memory of the great inventor to whom our country and the world owes so much, and to all who witness to the unbroken record which has existed between the land which bore him and our own, which claimed him as a citizen.

OUR CONSULAR SERVICE.

On the 1st of September last the commission appointed to advise the Secretary of State concerning the claim of the United States against Venezuela, brought its labor to a close within the period fixed for that purpose. The proceedings of the last commission, of which the character of the trial was of a technical nature, should be continued and enlarged. These military organizations constitute, in a large sense, the army of the United States, while about five-sixths of the annual cost of their maintenance is defrayed by the States.

SATISFACTORILY ADMINISTERED.

The report of the Attorney General is under the law submitted directly to Congress, but, as the Department of Justice is one of the executive departments, some reference to the work of the department is in order.

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Fraudulent Naturalization.

The report of the Attorney General from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, were \$163,963,080.55, and the total expenditure for the same period were \$163,618,08.52. The public receipts have not been included in the statement of these aggregates, and for the purpose of comparison the sum of \$92,582,072.97 should be deducted from both sides of the account.

The report of the year, including the amount deducted for the same period, shows that the sum of \$163,618,08.52, and the expenditures \$153,739,871 in excess of those of 1889. The customs receipts increased from \$16,000,000, and the receipts from internal revenue \$11,000,000, on the side of expenditures, that for pensions was \$19,312,075.96 in excess of the preceding year.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

METHODS GREATLY IMPROVED.

The report of the Postmaster General shows the great improvement made in the important work committed to his direction. The methods have been greatly improved. A large economy in expenditures and an increase of four and three-quarters millions in receipts have been realized. The deficiency of \$1,775,761, or 1.77 per cent., over \$100,000,000 last year, notwithstanding the great increase in the volume of business, has been entirely removed.

For the year 1892, the local estimated receipts are \$73,000,000, and the estimated expenditures \$67,147,793.58 as the sum available for the reduction of outstanding bonds or other uses.

The estimates of receipts and expenditures for the year 1893 are \$73,000,000, but from this is deducted the amount of \$1,775,761, or 1.77 per cent., over \$100,000,000 at the beginning of the year.

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