VETOED.

The President Refuses to Sign the Seigniorage Bill.

He Sends a Message to Congress Giving in Detail His Reasons for This Action—He Says the Bill is Neither Wise Nor Opportune—Full Text of the Veto.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The following is the full text of the president's message vetoing the Bland seigniorage bill:

To the House of Representatives:

I return without my approval house bill numbered 4956, entitled "An act directing the coinage of the silver bullion held in the treasury and for other purposes."

My strong desire to avoid disagreement with those in both houses of congress who have supported this bill, would lead me to approve it if I could believe that the public good would not be thereby endangered and that such action on my part would be a proper discharge of official duty. Inasmuch, however, as I am unable to satisfy myself that the proposed legislation is either wise or opportune, my conception of the obligations and responsibilities attached to the great office I hold forbids the indulgence of my personal desire, and inexorably confines me to that course which is dictated by my reason and judgment, and pointed out by a sincere purpose to protect and promote the general interests of our people.

The financial disturbance which swept over the country during the last year was unparalleled in its severity and disastrous consequences.

There seemed to be almost an entire displacement of faith in our financial ability and a loss of confidence in our fiscal policy. Among those who attempted to assign causes for our distress it was very generally conceded that the operation of a provision of law then in force which required the government to purchase monthly a large amount of silver bullion and issue its notes in payment therefor, was either entirely, or to a large extent, responsible for our condition. This led to the repeal on the 1st day of November, 1893, of this statutory provision. We had, however, fallen so low in the depths of depression, and timidity and apprehension had so completely gained control in financial circles that our rapid recuperation could not be reasonably expected.

Our recovery has, nevertheless, steadily progressed, and though less than five months have elapsed since the repeal of the mischievous silver purchase requirement, a wholesome improvement is unmistakably apparent. Confidence in our absolute solvency is to such an extent reinstated and faith in our disposition to adhere to sound financial methods is so far restored as to produce the most encouraging results both at home and abroad. The wheels of domestic industry have been slowly set in motion and the tide of foreign investment has again started in our direction.

Our recovery being so well under way, nothing should be done to check our convalescence; nor should we forget that a relapse at this time would almost surely reduce us to a lower stage of financial distress than that from which we are just emerging. I believe that if the bill under consideration should become a law it would be regarded as a retrogression from the financial intentions indicated by our recent repeal of the provision forcing silver bullion purchases; that it would weaken, if it did not destroy, returning faith and confidence in our sound financial tendencies and that as a consequence our progress to renewed business health would be unfortunately checked and a return to our recent distressing plight seriously threatened.

This proposed legislation is so related to the currency conditions growing out of the law compelling the purchase of silver by the government, that a glance at such conditions and a partial review of the law referred to, may not be unprofitable.

Between the 14th day of August, 1890, when the law became operative, and the 1st day of November, 1893, when the clause it contained directing the purchase of silver was repealed, there were purchased by the secretary of the treasury more than 168,000,000 ounces of silver bullion. In payment for this bullion the government issued its treasury notes of various denominations, amounting to nearly 156,000,000, which notes were immediately added to the currency in circulation among our people. Such notes were by the law made legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, except when otherwise expressly stipulated, and were made receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues, and when so received might be reissued. They were also permitted to be held by the banking associations as a part of their lawful reserves.

On the demand of the holders these treasury notes were to be redeemed in gold or silver coin in the discretion of the secretary of the treasury; but it was declared as a part of this redemption provision that it was "the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio or such ratio as may be provided by law."

The money coined from such bullion was to be standard silver dollars, and after directing the immediate coinage of a little less than 28,000,000 ounces, the law provided that as much of the remaining bullion should be thereafter coined as might be necessary to provide for the redemption of the treasury notes issued on its purchase, and that "any gain or seigniorage arising from such coinage shall be accounted for and paid into the treasury."

This gain or seigniorage indicates so much of the bullion owned by the government as should remain after using a sufficient amount to coin as many standard silver dollars as should equal in number the dollars represented by the treasury notes issued in payment of the entire quantity of bullion. These treasury notes now outstanding and in circulation amount to $152,951,280, and although there has been thus far but a comparatively small amount of this bullion coined yet the so-called gain or seigniorage as above defined, which would arise from the coinage of the entire mass, has been easily ascertained to be a quantity of bullion sufficient to make when coined fifty-five million, one hundred and fifty-six thousand, six hundred and eighty-one standard dollars. Considering the present intrinsic relation between gold and silver the maintenance of the parity between the two metals, as mentioned in this law, can mean nothing less than the maintenance of such a parity in the estimation and confidence of the people who use our money in their daily transactions.

Manifestly the maintenance of this parity can only be accomplished, so far as it is affected by these treasury notes, and in the estimation of the holders of the same, by giving to such holders, on their redemption, the coin, whether it is gold or silver, which they prefer. It follows that while in terms the law leaves the choice of coin to be paid on such redemption to the discretion of the secretary of the treasury, the exercise of this discretion, if opposed to the demands of the holder, is entirely inconsistent with the effective and beneficial maintenance of the parity between the two metals.

If both gold and silver are to serve us as money, and if they together are to supply our people a safe and stable currency, the necessity of preserving this parity is obvious. Such necessity has been repeatedly conceded in the platforms of both political parties and in our federal statutes. It is nowhere more emphatically recognized than in the recent law which repealed the provision under which the bullion now on hand was purchased. This law insists upon the maintenance of the parity in value of the coins of the two metals and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the markets and in the payment of debts."

The secretary of the treasury has, therefore, for the best of reasons not only promptly complied with every demand for the resumption of these treasury notes in gold, but the present situation, as well as the letter and spirit of the law, appear plainly to justify, if they do not enjoin upon him, a continuation of such redemption. The conditions I have endeavored to present may be thus summarized:

First—The government has purchased and now has on hand sufficient silver bullion to permit the coinage of all the silver dollars necessary to redeem, in such dollars, the treasury notes issued for the purchase of said silver bullion and enough besides to attain a gain or seigniorage of 55,156,681 additional standard silver dollars.

Second—There are outstanding and now in circulation treasury notes issued in payment of the bullion purchased amounting to $152,951,280. These notes are legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, except when otherwise expressly stipulated; they are receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues; when held by banking associations they may be counted as part of their lawful reserves and they are redeemed by the government in gold at the option of the holders. These advantageous attributes were deliberately attached to these notes at the time of their issue; they are fully understood by our people to whom such notes have been distributed as currency and have inspired confidence in their safety and value and have undoubtedly thus induced their continued and contented use as money, instead of anxiety for their redemption.

Having referred to some incidents which I deem relevant to the subject, it remains for me to submit a specific statement of my objections to the bill now under consideration. This bill consists of two sections, excluding one which merely appropriates a sum sufficient to carry the act into effect. The first section provides for the immediate coinage of the silver bullion in the treasury which represents the so-called gain or seigniorage which would arise from the coinage of all the bullion on hand, which gain or seigniorage this section declares to be $55,156,681. It directs that the money so coined, or the certificates issued thereon, shall be used in the payment of public expenditures, and provides that if the needs of the treasury demand it, the secretary of the treasury may, in his discretion, issue silver certificates in excess of such coinage, not exceeding the amount of seigniorage in said section authorized to be coined.

The second section directs that as soon as possible after the coinage of this seigniorage the remainder of the bullion held by the government shall be coined into legal tender standard silver dollars and that they shall be held in the treasury for the redemption of the treasury notes issued in the purchase of said bullion. It provides that as fast as the bullion shall be coined for the redemption of said notes they shall not be reissued, but shall be canceled and destroyed in amounts equal to the coin held at any time in the treasury derived from the coinage provided for, and that silver certificates shall be issued on such coin in the manner now provided by law. It, however, especially declared in said section that the act shall not be construed to change existing laws relating to the legal tender character or mode of redemption of the treasury notes issued for the purchase of silver bullion to be coined.

The entire bill is most unfortunately constructed. Nearly every sentence presents uncertainty and invites controversy as to its meaning and intent. The first section is especially faulty in this respect, and it is extremely doubtful whether its language will permit the consummation of its supposed purposes. I am led to believe that the promoters of the bill intended in this section to provide for the coinage of the bullion constituting the gain or seigniorage as it is called, into standard silver dollars; and yet there is positively nothing in the section to prevent its coinage into any description of silver coins now authorized under any existing law. I suppose this section was also intended, in case the needs of the treasury called for money faster than the seigniorage bullion could actually be coined, to permit the issue of silver certificates in advance of such coinage; but its language would seem to permit the issuance of such certificates to double the amount seigniorage as stated, one-half of which would not represent an ounce of silver in the treasury.

The debate on this section in the congress developed an earnest and positive difference of opinions as to its object and meaning. In any event I am clear that the present perplexities and embarrassments of the secretary of the treasury ought not to be augmented by devolving upon him the execution of a law so uncertain and confused.

I am not willing, however, to rest my objection to this section solely on these grounds; in my judgment sound finance does not commend a further infusion of silver into our currency at this time unaccompanied by further adequate provision for the maintenance in our treasury of a safe gold reserve. Doubts also arise as to the meaning and construction of the second section of the bill. If the silver dollars therein directed to be coined are, as the section provides, to be held in the treasury for the redemption of treasury notes, it is suggested that, strictly speaking, certificates cannot be issued on such coin "in the manner now provided by law," because these dollars are money held in the treasury for the express purpose of redeeming treasury notes on demand.

Whatever else may be said of the uncertainties of expression in this bill, they certainly ought not to be found in legislation affecting subjects so important and far-reaching as our finances and currency. In stating other and more important reasons for my disapproval of this section, I shall, however, assume that under its provisions the treasury notes issued in payment for silver bullion will continue to be redeemed as heretofore, in silver or gold, at the option of the holders; and that if when they are presented for redemption, or reach the treasury in any other manner, there are in the treasury coined silver dollars equal in nominal value to such treasury notes, then and in that case, the notes will be destroyed and silver certificates to an equal amount be substituted. I am convinced that this scheme is ill-advised and dangerous.

We have now outstanding more than $338,000,000 in silver certificates issued under existing laws. They are serving the purpose of money usefully and without question. Our gold reserve, amounting to only a little more than $100,000,000, is directly charged with the redemption of $346,000,000 of United States notes. When it is proposed to inflate our silver currency it is a time for strengthening our gold reserve instead of depleting it. I cannot conceive of a longer step toward silver monometallism than we take when we spend our gold to buy silver certificates for circulation, especially in view of the practical difficulties surrounding the replenishment of our gold.

This leads me to earnestly present the desirability of granting to the secretary of the treasury a better power than now exists to issue bonds to protect our gold reserve when for any reason it should be necessary. Our currency is in such a confused condition and our financial affairs are apt to assume at any time so critical a position that it seems to me such a course is dictated by ordinary prudence.

I am not insensible to the arguments in favor of coining the bullion seigniorage now in the treasury and I believe it could be done safely and with advantage if the secretary of the treasury had the power to issue bonds at a low rate of interest under authority in substitution of that now existing and better suited to the protection of the treasury.

I hope a way will present itself in the near future for the adjustment of our monetary affairs in such a comprehensive and conservative manner as will accord to silver its proper place in our currency; but in the meantime I am extremely solicitous that whatever action we take on this subject may be such as to prevent loss and discouragement to our people at home and the destruction of confidence in our financial management abroad.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 29, 1894.

Eight Children Burned to Death.

MCKENDREE, W. Va., March 30.—When Watchman W. B. Wilt returned to his home at an early hour yesterday morning, he found that his home had been burned down during his absence on duty. He at once began an investigation, assisted by neighbors. To the horror of the searchers it was discovered that Wilt's eight children and the hired girl had perished in the flames. One by one their charred and unrecognizable remains were dragged out of the debris until all the family except the mother had been accounted for. She was later found wandering about some distance, crazed with grief.

Sudden Death.

CHICAGO, March 30.—Prof. J. M. Ellis, of Oberlin college, died suddenly at the Santa Fe railway station yesterday. In company with a party of traveling friends, he was waiting for a noon train. Shortly after 11:30 he was attacked with a sudden spasm and died before medical aid could reach him.

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

THERE was a concerted move the other day by the express companies doing business in Indiana, attacking the law passed by the last legislature, which multiplied several times the taxes which the express companies have hitherto contributed to the state treasury. Separate suits were filed by the American, the United States and the Adams Express Co.'s. The American Express Co., in its complaint, alleges that its assessment, $480,000, was based by the state board of tax commissioners upon the market quotations of its stock, and that the assessment is exorbitant and unreasonable; that the stock representing the property is held by 4,000 shareholders residing in fifteen different states, and many of them outside of this country. The constitutionality of the act is attacked, it being alleged that the bill passed the senate the last night of the session, while the constitution provides that no bills shall pass either branch of the general assembly during the last three days. The complaints filed by the Adams and United States Companies are in the same general terms as that filed by the American. The sleeping-car, dining-room car and fast freight lines are preparing also to make an onslaught on this same law, which has proven very obnoxious to all the companies whose taxes were increased. The three suits were filed in the circuit court at Indianapolis.

SUMMITVILLE veterans are highly indignant because Charles Hamilton, one of their number, has been dropped from the pension rolls.

JOHN OSBORN, manager of the Evansville cotton mill, was fined $506 for working children under 14 years of age over eight hours.

WM. PARKER, aged 93, the oldest man in Morgan county, is dead.

THE Potts schoolhouse near Crawfordsville burned.

THE strike at the Indiana Wire Fence works, Crawfordsville, is ended and the men have returned to work.

AT Anderson the populists have nominated a municipal ticket.

SEVEN members of a family named Core, at Irvington, are prostrated by trichinocia. The poisoning was contracted by eating bologna sausage purchased at a public mart.

HOWARD DUFFY, the largest poultry and egg dealer in southern Indiana, failed.

A POST OFFICE was established at Justus, Scott county, and Wilmer J. Smith, was appointed postmaster.

AT Milton, a carriage works, a planing mill and two flouring mills are running full time with a full force of men.

ROGERS & CORLAM, book dealers at Madison, were closed by the sheriff on an execution for $500, in favor of Geo. K. Birge & Co., of New York.

R. T. MCDONALD has purchased the interest of Aaron Rothschild in the Crescent Paper mill at Hartford City. This gives him the controlling interest in one of the largest paper mill plants in the west.

THE new courthouse at Monticello will be of stone and will cost $70,461.

AT Angola the jury in the Samuel Deetars trial, after being out 16 hours, brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, and sentenced him to the penitentiary for life. The crime for which Deeters was tried was committed August 30, 1893, near Butler, when he shot Laura Lowe and Amos Bachtel and seriously injured William Yates. The defense was insanity.

GEORGE BARKUS, an employe of the Standard Oil Co., in Columbus, with clothing saturated with oil, stood too near a stove and his clothing ignited. Barkus was fearfully and fatally burned. The building was set on fire but saved by the fire department.

MONTGOMERY county thief detectives held a convention at Crawfordsville. Delegates were present from eighteen lodges, and it was shown by the reports that the order was in good condition and was doing much good.

THE death of Kossuth brings to mind the fact that Mrs. C. C. Yunker, of Winchester, has several bills dated February 2, 1852, and signed by Kossuth in his endeavor to raise funds to carry on his war in Hungary.

POSTMASTER A. WEINBERG, of Boone Grove, Porter county, put a charge of buckshot into one of four burglars who entered his store, adjoining his home, early the other morning. The burglars got away, but a pool of blood showed that the postmaster's aim had been true. They fired two shots at him, but both missed. He found that they had rifled his cash drawer of small change. A fuse and a hole that had been drilled into the door of the safe, in which were $500, showed that they had but just begun their work when he interrupted them.

AT Morristown the child of John Huffman was dangerously scalded by an upsetting coffee pot.

ENGLISH is experiencing a well-defined boom.

A CHAIR factory is to be started at Goshen.

J. D. BERGER, one of the wealthy merchants of Albion, was sandbagged the other evening about 8 o'clock while on his way home. The robbery occurred on one of the principal streets, which at the time was thronged with pedestrians Mr. Berger is a hardware dealer and as a general rule carries considerable money with him, but on this occasion the robbers only secured a few dollars.

AT Bloomington, James R. Hicks was indicted for murder in the first degree for killing his 10-year-old child. The crime was revealed by its mother.

THE free lodging house at Elkhart has closed. During the three months of its existence it cared for 1,135 unfortunates.

THE cold wave which swept over the country has probably cut the chances for a fruit crop in this state down to a very low degree. Cherries, plums and apples are almost totally destroyed in the central and northern part of the state, but it is hoped that the hills in the southern part, the great apple section, have saved the staple fruit.

SPRING ELECTIONS.

Result of the Vote for Municipal Officers in Several States.

CINCINNATI, April 4.—The municipal campaign which ended with the election of Monday was one of the hottest political fights known in the history of the Queen City. The result is a victory for the republicans. The returns show the election of Hon. John A. Caldwell by a plurality of 6,760. He will therefore resign his seat in congress and a special election will be in order in the Second district of Ohio. All the other names on the republican ticket were renominations and consequently reelections, and by pluralities ranging up to 13,000.

The vote on mayor is: Caldwell (rep.), 26,672; Miller (dem.), 11,855; Horstman (citizen), 19,912; people's, 255; prohibition, 79. On the rest of the ticket the vote averaged: Republicans, 28,000; democrats, 14,000; citizens, 15,000. The total vote is about 14,000 below the registration.

The republicans carried everything at Lima, Hamilton, Wapakoneta and other places for the first time. Wapakoneta elects a republican mayor and two republican councilmen. The republicans never before had a councilman at Wapakoneta.

Hamilton, which had a normal democratic majority of 1,400, elects Henry Lots (rep.) city commissioner by 1,100 majority. All minor ward offices were carried by the republicans except those of the First ward. Republican success is reported at Wooster, Piqua, Dennison, Urichsville, London, Waverly, Washington Court House and Fostoria, Toledo, Newark and many other points. The vote at nearly all places is heavy.

CLEVELAND, O., April 4.—Official returns from about one-half of the city show that the republicans have won by pluralities ranging from 3,000 to 5,000. In the presidential election of 1892 the city went democratic by 4,000 and last spring the democratic candidate for mayor had nearly 1,500 plurality. The vote was very light Monday, the election being only for school director and members of the school council and city council.

COLUMBUS, O., April 4.—The republicans have swept everything in Columbus, electing the police judge and the entire ticket. Seventy out of seventy-five precincts show that the majority of Bigger for judge will be about 3,000. The city was carried for the democratic mayor last spring by 1,000. The majorities on the balance of the ticket will range from 2,000 to 2,500. The republicans also elect seventeen of the twenty-two councilmen and about the same majority on the school board.

DETROIT, Mich., April 4.—The returns from the municipal elections held in this state are mostly in favor of the republicans. There seems to have been a general change of political sentiment, especially in cities and towns which have heretofore been counted as safely democratic. In Grand Rapids the entire democratic ticket was defeated. Ten out of twelve aldermen elected are republicans. In Saginaw the democrats elected mayor by 46 plurality. Republicans elect the other officers. In Bay City democrats elect recorder and only two of twelve aldermen. Republicans made clean sweeps in St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Adrian, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Cadillac, Big Rapids, Jackson. Grand Haven republicans get the city offices except marshal. At Muskegon the republicans made a clean sweep. In the smaller towns and townships the returns thus far received also show republican gains.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., April 4.—The largest vote ever polled was cast here Monday. The republicans have elected the entire city ticket with the exception of one alderman and one constable in doubt. The vote on county seat removal is 1,246 in this city. With St. Joseph's vote the twin cities have cast 2,200 for removal. Reports from outlying districts come in slowly, but it is generally conceded that the removal proposition has carried.

DUBUQUE, Ia., April 4.—The entire democratic city ticket was elected Monday by 600 majority. They also elected four democratic aldermen and one independent republican, Crawford, in the Fourth ward, who ran against O'Neil, citizens' candidate.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 4.—The republicans here elected the whole city ticket by majorities from 1,000 to 1,400. They also elected eight of the nine aldermen.

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 4.—In none of the Minnesota town elections held Monday were political issues at stake. Only a few reports are at hand. In only a few towns was the liquor question voted upon. Lanesboro and Litchfield are among the towns that decided upon no license. Winnebago City voted for license. St. Cloud elected a republican mayor. The democrats have a majority in the council.

ABILENE, Kan., April 4.—At Enterprise, in this county, the women had an entire city ticket, with Mrs. C. Kohler for mayor. They conducted an active campaign, and polled nearly all the women votes. Their ticket was, however, defeated by 100 votes. Politics cut no figure in this unique contest. It was a fight by the women against saloons and for a purer municipal government.

Important Nominations.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The president has sent the following nominations to the senate: Thomas E. Benedict, of New York, to be public printer; James D. Yeomans, of Iowa, to be interstate commerce commissioner.

Chopped His Head Off.

LEBANON, Ky., April 4.—Lewis J. Ratliff was killed at Howardstown Sunday by a man named Mahoney. Ratliff went to Mahoney's distillery early and quarreled with the owner, who struck him a fearful blow in the head with a hatchet. The infuriated man then dragged Ratliff's lifeless form a short distance and placing his neck across a log, completely severed the head from the body.

On Trial for Murder.

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., April 4.—Mrs. Emily Bennett was placed on trial here for the murder of Miss Anna Weise.