

THE MESSAGE.

President Cleveland Discusses Public Affairs.

WAITING FOR NEWS FROM HAWAII.

Tariff Reform to Be Applied With Discriminating Care.

NEED FOR PUBLIC ECONOMY.

At the opening of Congress today the President's annual message was delivered and read to both houses. Following is the full text of the message:

To the Congress of the United States—The Constitution of the United States requires the President from time to time to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, is fittingly entered upon by commending to the Congress a careful examination of the detailed statements and well-supported recommendations contained in the reports of the heads of Departments, who are chiefly charged with the executive work of the Government. In an effort to abridge this communication as much as is consistent with its purpose, I shall supplement a brief reference to the contents of these departmental reports by the mention of such executive business and incidents as are not embraced therein, and by such recommendations as appear to be at this particular time appropriate.

Foreign Relations.

While our foreign relations have not at all times during the past year been entirely free from perplexity, no embarrassing situation remains that will not yield to the joint of fairness and love of justice, which, joined with consistent firmness, characterize a truly American foreign policy.

My predecessor having accepted the office of arbitrator of the long-standing missions boundary dispute, tendered to the President by the Argentine Republic and Brazil, it has been my agreeable duty to receive the special envoys commissioned by those States to lay before me evidence and arguments in behalf of their respective Governments.

The outbreak of domestic hostilities in the Republic of Brazil found the United States alert to watch the interests of our citizens in that country, with which we carry on important commerce. Several vessels of our new Navy are now, and for some time have been, stationed at Rio de Janeiro. The struggle being between the established government, which controls the machinery of administration, and with which we maintain friendly relations, and certain officers of the navy employing the vessels of their command to the detriment of the Government.

Thus far the position of our Government has been that of an attentive but impartial observer of the unfortunate conflict. Emphasizing our policy of impartial neutrality in such a contest of affairs as now exists, I deemed it necessary to disavow, in a manner not to be misunderstood, the unauthorized action of our late naval commander in those waters in saluting the revolted Brazilian admiral, and in endeavoring to countenance an act calculated to give gratuitous sanction to the local insurrection.

Chile.

The convention between our Government and Chile, having for its object the settlement and adjustment of the demands of two countries against each other, has been made effective by the organization of the Claims Commission provided for. The two Governments have agreed upon the third member of the Commission, the most officers of the President of the Swiss Republic were invoked, as provided in the treaty, and the selection of the Swiss representative in this country to complete the organization was gratifying alike to the United States and Chile.

The vexatious question of so-called legal asylum for offenders against the State and its laws was presented and settled by the unauthorized action of the late United States minister in receiving into his official residence two persons who had just fallen in an attempt at revolution and against whom criminal charges were pending growing out of a former abortive disturbance. The doctrine of asylum as applied to this case is not sanctioned by the precedents and, when allowed, tends to encourage sedition and strife. Under no circumstances can the representatives of this Government be permitted, under the ill-defined fiction of extraterritoriality, to interrupt the administration of criminal justice in the country to which they are accredited. A temperate demand having been made by the Chilean Government for the correction of this conduct in the instance mentioned, the minister was instructed no longer to harbor the offenders.

Chinese Legislation.

The legislation of last year, known as the Geary law, requiring the registration of all Chinese laborers entitled to reside in the United States, and the deportation of all not complying with the provisions of the act within the time prescribed, met with much opposition from Chinese in this country. Acting upon the advice of our counsel that the law was unconstitutional, the great mass of Chinese laborers, pending judicial inquiry as to its validity, in good faith declined to apply for the certificates required by its provisions. A test case upon proceeding by habeas corpus was brought before the Supreme Court, and on May 15, 1893, a decision was made by that tribunal sustaining the law.

It is believed that under the recent amendment of the act extending the time for registration, the Chinese laborers thereto entitled, who desire to reside in this country, will now avail themselves of the new privilege thus afforded of establishing by lawful procedure their right to remain, and that thereby the necessity of enforced deportation may to a great degree be avoided.

It has developed upon the United States minister at Peking, as dean of the diplomatic body, and in the absence of a representative of Sweden and Norway, to press upon the Chinese Government the propriety for the recent murder of Swedish missionaries at Sung-pu. This question is of vital interest to all countries whose citizens engage in missionary work in the interior.

The African Slave Trade.

By Article XII of the General Act of Brussels, signed July 2, 1890, for the suppression of the slave trade and the restriction of certain injurious commerce in the Independent State of the Congo and in the adjacent zone of central Africa, the United States and the other signatory powers

agreed to adopt appropriate means for the punishment of persons selling arms and ammunition to the natives and for the confiscation of the prohibited articles. It being the plain duty of this government to aid in suppressing the nefarious traffic, impairing as it does the paleseworth and civilizing efforts now in progress in that region, I recommend that an act be passed prohibiting the sale of arms and ammunition to natives in the regulated zone by our citizens.

Costa Rica has lately testified its friendship by surrendering to the United States, in the absence of a convention of extradition, but upon duly submitted evidence of criminality, a noted fugitive from justice. It is trusted that the negotiation of a treaty with that country to meet recurring cases of this kind will soon be accomplished. In my opinion treaties for reciprocal extradition should be concluded with all those countries with which the United States has not already conventional arrangements of that character.

I have deemed it fitting to express to the Governments of Costa Rica and Colombia the kindly desire of the United States to see their pending boundary dispute finally closed by arbitration in conformity with the spirit of the treaty concluded between them some years ago.

Our relations with the French Republic continue to be intimate and cordial. I sincerely hope that the extradition treaty with that country, as amended by the Senate, will soon be operative.

While occasional questions affecting our naturalized citizens returning to the land of their birth, have arisen in our intercourse with Germany, our relations with that country continue satisfactory.

Great Britain.

The questions affecting our relations with Great Britain have been treated in a spirit of friendliness.

Negotiations are in progress between the two Governments with a view to such concurrent action as will make the award and questions agreed upon by the Behring Sea Tribunal of Arbitration practically effective; and it is not doubted that Great Britain will co-operate freely with this country for the accomplishment of that purpose.

A dispute between the United States and Great Britain, arising out of the discriminating tolls imposed in the Welland Canal, upon cargoes of cereals bound to and from the lake ports of the United States, was adjudged by the substitution of a more equitable schedule of charges, and my predecessor thereupon suspended his proclamation imposing discriminating tolls upon British transit through our canals.

A request for additions to the list of extraterritorial privileges covered by the existing treaty between the two countries, is under consideration.

During the past year an American citizen employed as a foreign commercial agent in Haiti, after suffering a protracted imprisonment on an unfounded charge of smuggling, was finally liberated on judicial examination. Upon urgent request of the Haitian Government, a suitable indemnity was paid to the sufferer.

By a law of Haiti, a sailing vessel, having discharged her cargo, is refused clearance until the duties on such cargo have been paid. This measure, which is directed upon American shipowners who conduct the bulk of the carrying trade of that country has been insisted on with a view to touching at the port of Amapias, because her captain refused to deliver up a passenger in transit from Nicaragua to Guatemala upon demand of the military authorities of Honduras, our minister to that country under instructions protested against the wanton act and demanded satisfaction. The Government of Honduras, actuated by sense of justice, and in spirit of the utmost friendship, promptly disavowed the illegal conduct of its officers, and expressed sincere regret for the occurrence.

It is confidently anticipated that a satisfactory adjustment will soon be reached of the questions arising out of the seizure and use of American vessels by insurgents in Honduras, with the result of the successful Government of commercial privileges to those vessels on that account. A notable part of the southeastern coast of Liberia between the Cavalry and San Pedro rivers, which for nearly half a century has been generally recognized as belonging to that Republic by cession and purchase, has been claimed to be under the protectorate of France in virtue of the discovery of the French of the natives tribes over whom Liberia's control has not been well maintained.

More recently, negotiations between the Liberian representative and the French minister in Liberia, resulted in the signing of a treaty whereby an adjustment, certain Liberian territory is ceded to France. This convention at last advances had not been ratified by the Liberian legislature, and the question of its place without her unconstrained consent.

Our relations with Mexico continue to be of that close and friendly nature which should always characterize the intercourse of two neighboring Republics. The work of relocating the monuments marking the boundary between the two countries from Paso del Norte to the Pacific is now nearly completed.

The Commission recently organized under the conventions of 1884 and 1889 it is expected will speedily settle disputes growing out of the shifting currents of the Rio Grande River east of El Paso.

Nicaragua and the Canal.

Nicaragua has recently passed through two revolutions, the party at first successful having been displaced by another. Our newly appointed minister, by his timely good offices, aided in a peaceful adjustment of the controversy involved in a first conflict. The large American interests in that country, and the connection with the Nicaragua Canal were not interested. The canal company has, unfortunately, become financially seriously embarrassed, but a generous treatment has been extended to it by the Government of Nicaragua. The United States are especially interested in the successful achievement of the vast undertaking this company has in charge. That it should be accomplished under distinctive American auspices, and its enjoyment assured not only to the vessels of this country as a channel of communication between our Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, but to the ships of the world in the interests of commerce, is a proposition which, in my judgment, does not admit of question.

Guatemala has also been visited by the political vicissitudes which have afflicted her central American neighbors, but the reputation of its legislature and the proclamation of a dictatorship have been unattended with civil war.

An extradition treaty with Norway has recently been exchanged and proclaimed. The extradition treaty with Russia, signed in March, 1887, and amended and confirmed by the Senate in February last, was duly proclaimed last June.

The Samoan Protectorate.

Led by a desire to compose differences and contribute to the restoration of order in Samoa, which for some years previous had been the scene of conflicting foreign pretensions and native strife, the United States, departing from its policy consecrated by a century of observance, entered four years ago into the treaty of Berlin, thereby becoming jointly bound with England and Germany to establish and maintain Maitoa Laupapa as King of Samoa. The treaty provided for a foreign court of justice; a municipal council for the district of Apia, with a foreign president thereof, authorized to advise the king; a tribunal for the settlement of native and foreign land titles, and a revenue system for the kingdom. It entailed upon the three powers that part of the cost of the new government not met by the revenue of the islands.

Early in the life of this triple protectorate the native dissensions it was designed to quell revived. Rivals defied the authority of the new king, refused to pay tribute, and demanding the election of a ruler by native suffrage. Mataafa, an aspirant to the throne, and a large number of his native adherents were in open rebellion at the request of the king, and the request of the other powers, and in fulfillment of its treaty obligation, this government agreed to unite in a joint military movement of such dimensions as would probably secure the surrender of the insurgents without bloodshed.

The war ship Philadelphia was accordingly put under orders for Samoa, where she arrived in time to prevent conflict with the king Maitoa's attack upon the insurgent camp. Mataafa was defeated and a number of his men killed. The British and German naval vessels, upon the substantial security of the surrender of Mataafa and his adherents. The defeated chief and ten of his principal supporters were deported to a German island where they were held as prisoners under the joint responsibility and cost of the three powers.

This incident and the events leading up to it signify illustrate the impolicy of entangling alliances with foreign powers.

Claims Against Spain. More than fifteen years ago this government preferred a claim against Spain, in behalf of our citizens, for property seized and confiscated in Cuba. In 1886 the claim was adjusted, Spain agreeing to pay, unconditionally, as a fair indemnity, \$1,000,000. A respectful but earnest note was recently addressed to the Spanish Government insisting upon prompt fulfillment of its long-neglected obligation.

Other claims, preferred by the United States against Spain, in behalf of our citizens for property seized and confiscated in Cuba, have been pending for many years.

At the time Spain's title to the Caroline Islands was confirmed by arbitration, that Government agreed that the rights of our citizens for property seized and confiscated in Cuba, should be recognized and respected. It is sincerely hoped that this pledge will be observed by allowing our missionaries, who were expelled from Cuba, to return to their field of usefulness.

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all question that the constitutional government of Hawaii had been subverted with the active aid of our representative to that government and through the intimidation caused by the presence of the United States force of the United States which was landed for that purpose at the instance of our minister. Upon the facts developed it seemed to me the only honorable course for our government in this case was to undo the wrong that had been done by those representing us and to restore as far as practicable the status existing at the time of our forcible intervention. With a view of accomplishing this result without the constitutional limits of executive power, and recognizing all our obligations and responsibilities growing out of any changed conditions brought about by our unjustifiable interference, our present minister at Honolulu has received appropriate instructions to that end. Thus far no information of the accomplishment of any definite results has been received from him.

Additional advice are soon expected. When received they will be promptly sent to the Congress, together with all other information at hand, accompanied by a special executive message. It is probable that the facts necessary to a complete understanding of the case, and presenting a history of all the material events leading up to the present situation.

The Arbitration Movement. By a concurrent resolution, passed by the Senate February 14, 1890, and by the House of Representatives on the 3d of April following, the President was requested "to inquire, from time to time, what could be accomplished by negotiations with any Government with which the United States has or may have diplomatic relations, to the end that any differences or disputes arising between our citizens and such Government may not be adjusted by diplomatic agency but be referred to arbitration and be peaceably adjusted by such means." April 18, 1890, the International American Conference of Washington, in a conference held at the wish that controversies between the Republics of America and the nations of Europe might be settled by arbitration and recommended that the government of each nation should endeavor to secure the communication of this wish to all friendly powers. A favorable response has been received from Great Britain in the shape of a resolution adopted by Parliament July 16 last, whereby Great Britain, with the purpose in view, and expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government will lend ready co-operation to the Government of the United States upon the basis of the concurrent resolution above quoted, to raise the grade of our envoys to correspond with the rank in which foreign countries accredit their agents here, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany have conferred upon our minister at London the honor of ambassador, and I have responded by accrediting the agents of the United States to that city.

The Bond Question. I desire also to earnestly suggest the wisdom of amending the existing statutes in regard to the issuance of government bonds. The authority now vested in the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds is not as clear as it should be, and the authorities are disadvantageous to the Government.

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It is estimated that on the first day of July, 1893, the metallic stock of money in the United States, consisting of coin and bullion, amounted to \$1,213,659,168, of which \$97,697,652 was gold and \$915,961,484 was silver.

One hundred and nineteen national banks were organized during the year ending October 31, 1893, with a capital of \$11,290,000. Forty-six went into voluntary liquidation and one hundred and fifty-eight suspended. Sixty-four of the suspended banks were insolvent, eighty-six resumed business, and seven remain in the hands of bank examiners, with prospects of speedy resumption. Of the new banks organized during the year, 41 were located in the Eastern States, 41 west of the Mississippi River, and 34 in the Central and Southern States. The total number of national banks in existence on the 31st day of October, 1893, was 3,796, having an aggregate capital of \$955,558,120. The net increase in the circulation of these banks during the year was \$36,886,972.

Effect of the Silver Repeal.

The recent repeal of the provision of law requiring the purchase of silver bullion by the government as a feature of its monetary scheme has made an entire change in the complexion of our currency affairs. I do not doubt that the ultimate result of this action will be most salutary and far-reaching. In the nature of things, however, it is impossible to know at this time precisely what conditions will be brought about by the change, or what, if any, supplementary legislation may, in the light of such conditions, appear to be essential or expedient. Of course, after the recent financial perturbation, time is necessary for the re-establishment of business confidence. When, however, through this restored confidence the money which has been frightened into hoarding places is returned to trade and enterprise, a survey of the situation will probably disclose a safe path leading to a permanently sound currency, abundantly sufficient to meet every requirement of our increasing population and business.

In the pursuit of this object we should resolutely avoid any course of hasty and temporary expedients, determined to be content with nothing less than a lasting and comprehensive financial plan. In these circumstances I am convinced that a reasonable delay in dealing with this subject, instead of being injurious, will increase the probability of wise action.

The Monetary Conference which assembled at Brussels upon our invitation was held on the 30th day of November in the present year. The considerations just stated and the fact that a definite proposition from us seemed to be expected upon the reassembling of the conference, led me to express a willingness to have the meeting still further postponed.

It seems to me that it would be wise to give general authority to the President to invite other nations to such a conference at any time when there should be a prospect of accomplishing an international agreement on the subject of coinage.

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able as compared with the expense of construction and ordnance. At the end of the current calendar year the War Department will have nine 12-inch guns, twenty 10-inch, and thirty-four 8-inch guns, ready to be mounted on the new armor plate. The total number of mortars in the Army is seventy-five 12-inch mortars. In addition to the product of the Army Gun Factory, now completed at Watervliet, the Government has contracted with private parties for the purchase of one hundred guns of these calibers, the first of which should be delivered to the Department for test before July 1, 1894.

The manufacture of heavy ordnance keeps pace with current needs; but to render these guns available for the purposes they are designed to meet, emplacements must be prepared for them. Progress has been made in this direction, and it is desirable that Congress by adequate appropriations should provide for the uninterrupted prosecution of this necessary work.

After much preliminary work and exhaustive examination in accordance with the requirements of the law, the board appointed to select a magazine rifle of modern type with which to replace the obsolete Springfield rifle of the last Infantry service, has completed its labors during the last year, and the work of manufacture is now in progress at the National Armory at Springfield. It is confidently expected that by the time the current-annual infantry rifle will be supplied with a weapon equal to that of the most progressive armies of the world.

The work on the projected Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has been prosecuted with vigor during the year, and its opening will be celebrated during the coming year. Over nine square miles of the Chickamauga battle field have been acquired, twenty-five miles of roadway have been constructed and permanent tablets have been placed at many historical points, while the invitation to the states to mark the positions of their troops participating in the battle has been very generally accepted.

The work of locating and preserving the lines of battle at the Gettysburg battle field is making satisfactory progress on the plans directed by the War Department. The reports of the Military Academy at West Point and the several schools for special instruction of officers, show marked advance in the education of the army and a commendable attention among its officers to excel in the military profession and to fit themselves for the highest service to the country.

Under the supervision of Adj. Gen. Robert Williams, lately retired, the bureau of military information has become well established, and is performing a service that will put in possession of the government in time of war most valuable information, and at the same time serve a purpose of great value in keeping the army advised of the world's progress in all matters pertaining to the art of war.

The Department of Justice.

The report of the Attorney-General contains a summary of the affairs and proceedings of the Department of Justice for the past year, together with certain recommendations as to needed legislation. Various details of the work of the Department are given, and the system of the Department is shown to be in keeping the army advised of the world's progress in all matters pertaining to the art of war.

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