THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Repre-

sentatives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous circumstances, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgment to beneficent Providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation. Peace and goodwill with all the nations of the earth continue unbroken.

A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal, and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen to whatever party he belongs or in whatever section of the

country he may reside. The extra session of this congress which closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required, and the people satisfied with its operation and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

Tariff legislation having been setttled by the extra session of congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM. The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government since 1866. With the great resources of the government and with the honorable example of the past before us we ought not to hesitate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations less onerous to the government and relieve our financial laws from ambiguity and

The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war to 1893 makes unreasonable and groundless any distrust either of our financial ability or soundness, while the situation from 1893 to 1897 must admonish congress of the immediate necessity of so legislating as to make the return of the conditions then prevailing impossi-

There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the evil. Before we can find the true remedy we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the government's pledge is out to keep it so, and that pledge will not be brokever, the guaranty of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advancing toward its ful-

fillment. The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money-that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, even under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the national

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption. We have \$900,000,000 of currency which the government by solemn enactment has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The government is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get gold is by borrowing. The government without any fixed gold revenue is pledged to maintain gold redemption, which it has steadily and faithfully done, and which under the authority now given it will continue

REPLENISHING GOLD RESERVE. The law which requires the government, after having redeemed its United States notes, to pay them out again as currency funds demands a constant replenishment of the gold reserve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. At such times the government has no other way to supply its deficit and maintain redemption but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when \$262,315,400 of 41/2 per cent bonds were issued and sold, and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the government in excess of the revenues and sustain the gold reserve. While it is true that the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was required to

maintain the gold reserve I earnestly recommend that as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold, and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States notes prefers the gold and gets it from the government he should not receive back from the government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes-a noninterest bearing debt. Surely it should

not pay them out again except on demand, and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them-another interest hearing debt to redeem a non-interest bear-

In my view it is of the utmost im. portance that the government should be relieved from the burden of providing all the gold required for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped.

If we are to have an era of prosperity in the country, with sufficient receipts for the exports of the government, we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency, but the danger still exists, and will be ever present, menacing us so long as the existing system continues.

ENDORSES GAGE'S PLAN. The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration.

I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of the bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposit of such bonds be reduced to one-half of 1 per cent per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks, with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of \$10 and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION. The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal pertaining to its foreign relations concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those new existing have confronted this government at various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward a larger enjoyment of liberty and self control; of organized resistance to the mother country; of depression after distress and warfare, and of ineffectual settlement, to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental possessions of Spain in the western continent has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused concern to the United States.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold upon the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of o a continental power called forth, between 1823 and 1860, various emphatic declarations of the policy of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain under the direction of independence or acquisition by us through purchase; nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upon the part of the government.

The revolution which began in 1868 lasted for ten years, despite the strenuous efforts of the successive peninsular governments to suppress it. Then, as now, the government of the United States testified its grave concern and offered its aid to put an end to bloodshed in Cuba. The overtures made by General Grant were refused, and the war dragged on, entailing great loss of life and treasure and increased injury to American interests, besides throwing enough announced burdens of neutrality upon this government. In 1878 peace was brought about by the truce of Zanjon, obtained by negotiations between the Spanish commander, Martinez DeCampos, and the insurgent

The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue it carried destruction to every quarter of the island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code of war has been disregarded no less so by the

Spaniards than by the Cubans. GRAVEST APPREHENSION. The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. There is no desire on the part of the people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of

their country. April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of this government, failed. Any mediation on our part was not accepted. In to be seriously considered whether the brief the answer read: "There is no effectual way to pacify Cuba unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother country." Then only could Spain act in the promised direction, of her own motion and after her own plans.

The cruel policy of concentration was initiated Feb. 16, 1896. The productive districts controlled by the Spanish armies were depopulated. The agricultural inhabitants were herded in and about the garrison towns, their lands up the elements of the problem: laid waste and their dwellings destroyed. The policy of the late cabinet of Spain justified this as a necessary cable and indefensible, the question measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents. It has utterly failed as a war measure. the parties to the contest. In a former It was not civilized warfare. It was

extermination. war I felt constrained on repeated oc- dreadful and devastating as were its casions to enter the firm and earnest incidents, did not rise to the fearful all offense ourselves, actuated only by both metals upon a basis which shall protest of this government. There was dignity of war. Now, as in its past upright and patriotic considerations,

treatment of American citizens by alleged illegal arrests and long imprisonment awaiting trial or pending protracted judicial proceedings. I felt it my first duty to make instant demand for the release or speedy trial of all American citizens under arrest. Before the change of the Spanish cabinet in October last 22 prisoners, citizens of the United States, had been given their freedom.

For the relief of our citizens suffering because of the conflict the aid of congress was sought in a special message, and under the appropriation of April 4, 1897, effective aid has been given to American citizens in Cuba, many of them at their own request having been returned to the United States.

OUR PROFFERED AID. The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid to ward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and to the Cuban people. It was stated that at this juncture our government was constrained to seriously inquire if the time was not ripe when Spain, of her own volition, moved by her own interest and every sentiment of humanity, should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and just to her Cuban colony. It was urged that as a neighboring nation, with large interests in Cuba, we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother country to establish its authority and restore peace and order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate an indefinite period for the accomplishment of this result.

No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and indeed the precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarrassment to that government. All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored. It so chanced that the consideration of this offer addressed to the Spanish administration, which had declined the tenders of my predecessor and which for more than two years had poured men and treasure into Cuba in the fruitless effort to suppress the revolt, fell to others.

The reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direction of a better understanding. It appreciates the friendly purposes of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba, and that its desires for peace are just. It declares that the present Spanish government is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the present premier, without halting for any consideration in the path which in its judgment leads to peace. The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane, and will be conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba, while guaran-

teeing Spanish sovereignty. WE MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL. tions and grant political reforms while try. The supposition of an indefinite the planting of cane and tobacco therein has been resumed, and that sy force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacification is hoped for.

Discussion of the question of interna-United States, as Spain understands them, is made with an apparent disposition to charge us with failure in this basis in fact. It could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of has made, at the cost of millions, to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be sufficient answer.

Of the untried measures there remain only: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of mor-

ality, would be criminal aggression. I am not unmindful that the two a condition of public war existed, rea state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which, however, was not brought to a vote in the house of representatives. In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legis-The offer made by my predecessor in tive to soberly consider the conditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification. It is Cuban insurrection possesses beyond dispute the attributes of statehood which alone can demand the recognition of belligerency in its favor.

QUOTES PRESIDENT GRANT. The wise utterances of President Grant in his memorable message of Dec. 7, 1875, are signally relevant to the present situation in Cuba, and it may be wholesome now to recall them. At that juncture General Grant uttered these words, which now, as then, sum

"A recognition of the independence of Cuba being, in my opinion, impractiwhich next presents itself is that of the recognition of belligerent rights in message to congress I had occasion to Against this abuse of the rights of the conclusion that the conflict in Cuba, much of public condemnation of the history, the United States should care- moved neither by passion nor selfish- citizens.

might lead it into the mazes of doubtful law and of unquestionable propriety, and adhere rigidly and sternly to the rule which has been its guide, of doing only that which is right and honest and of good report. The question of according of withholding rights of belligerency must be judged in every case, in view of the particular attending facts. Unless justified by necessity, it is always, and justly, regarded as an unfriendly act and a gratuitous demonstration of moral support to the rebellion.

"I fail to find in the insurrection the existence of such a substantial political organization, real, palpable and manifest to the world, having the forms and capable of the ordinary functions of government toward its own people and to other states, with courts for the administration of justice, with a local habitation, possessing such organization of force, such material, such occupation of territory as to take the contest out of the category of a mere rebellious insurrection or occasional skirmishes and place it on the terrible footing of war, to which a recognition of belligerency would aim to elevate it.

"The contest, moreover, is solely on land; the insurrection has not possessed itself of a single seaport whence it may send forth its flag, nor has it any means of communication with foreign powers except through the military lines of its adversaries. Considered as a question of expediency. I regard the accordance of belligerent rights still to be as unwise and premature as I regard it to be, at present, indefensible

as a measure of right.

DANGERS OF RECOGNITION. "Such recognition entails upon the country according the rights which flow from it difficult and complicated duties and requires the exaction from the contending parties of the strict observance of their rights and obligations. It confers the right of search upon the high seas by vessels of both parties; it would subject the carrying of arms and munitions of war which now may be transported freely and without in terruption, in vessels of the United States, to detention and to possible seizure; it would give rise to countless vexatious questions, would release the parent government from responsibility for acts done by the insurgents, and would invest Spain with the right to exercise the supervision recognized by our treaty of 1795 over our commerce on the high seas. There can be little doubt as to what such supervision would before long draw this nation." The president discusses at length the

recognition of beligerency, with the dangers which would necessarily threaten our shipping interests, and For these reasons I regard the recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents as now unwise, and there-

necessity for a policy of international

neutrality which must accompany the

fore inadmissible. Should that step hereafter be deemed wise as a measure of right and duty the executive will take it.

Intervention upon humanitarian grounds has been frequently suggested, and has not failed to receive my most anxious and earnest consideration. But should such a step be now taken when it is apparent that a hopeful change In the absence of a declaration of has supervened in the policy of Spain the measures that this government pro- toward Cuba? A new government has offices, it suggests that Spain is pledged in advance to the declaration be left free to conduct military opera- that all the effort in the world cannot suffice to maintain peace in Cuba by the the United States for its part shall en- | bayonet; that vague promises of reform force its neutral obligations and cut after subjugation affected no solution off the assistance which it is asserted of the insular problem; that with a the insurgents receive from this coun- substitution of commanders must come a change of the past system of warfare prolongation of the war is denied. It for one in harmony with a new policy is asserted that the western provinces which shall no longer aim to drive the are already well nigh reclaimed, that Cubans to the "horrible alternative of taking to the thicket or succumbing in misery.

The first acts of the new government lie in these honorable paths. The policy of cruel rapine and extermination that so long shocked the universal sentiment tional duties and responsibilities of the of humanity has been reversed. Under the new military commander a broad clemency is proffered. Measures have already been set on foot to relieve the regard. This charge is without any horrors of starvation. The power of the Spanish armies, it is asserted, is to be urged not to spread ruin and desothe constant efforts this government lation, but to protect the resumption of peaceful agricultural pursuits and productive industries. That past methods are futile to force a peace by subjugation is freely admitted, and that ruin without conciliation must evitably fail to win for Spain the fidel-

ity of a contented dependency. The president then details the scheme of autonomy for Cuba proposed by the Sagasta cabinet, declares that "the government of Sagasta has entered upon a course from which recession with honor is impossible," and de-

clares further: GIVE SPAIN A CHANCE.

I shall not impugn its sincerity nor should impatience be suffered to embarrass it in the task it has undertaken. houses of congress in the spring of 1896 It is honestly due to Spain and to our expressed the opinion by resolution that | friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance quiring or justifying the recognition of to realize her executions and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things, to which she stands irrevocably committed. She has recalled the commander whose brutal orders inflamed the American mind and shocked the civilized world She has modified the horrible order of concentration and lative branch, it behooves the execu- has undertaken to care for the helpless and permit those who desire to resume the cultivation of their fields to do so and assures them the protection of the Spanish government in their lawful occupations. She has just released the "Competitor" prisoners heretofore sentenced to death and who have been the subject of repeated diplomatic correspondence during both this and the preceding administration.

Not a single American citizen is now in arrest or confinement in Cuba of whom this government has any knowledge. The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to all our interests, so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that times comes that action will be determined in line of indisputable right agreement which will bring about recconsider this question, and reached and duty. It will be faced, without misgiving or hesitancy.

Sure of the right, keeping free from

fully avoid the false lights which ness, the government will continue its property of American citizens and will imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and

approval of the civilized world. HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

By a special message dated the 16th day of June last I laid before the senate a treay signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian Island as an integral part of the United States and under its sovereignty. The senate having removed the injunction of secrecy, although the treaty is still pending before that body, the subject may be properly referred to in this message, becaus the necessary action of the congress is required to determine by legislation many details of the eventual union should the fact of annexation be accomplished, as I believe it should be. While consistently disavowing from

a very early period any aggressive policy of absorbtion in regard to the Hawaiian group, a large series of declarations through three-quarters of a century has proclaimed the vital interest of the United States in the independent life of the islands and their intimate commercial dependence upon this country. At the same time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the entity of Hawaiian statehood cease by the passage of the islands under the domination or influence of another power than the United States. Under these circumstances the logic of events required that annexation, heretofore offered but declined, should in the ripeness of time come about as the natural result of the strengthening ties that bind us to those islands and be realized by the free will

of the Hawaiian state. That treaty was unanimously ratifled without amendment by the senate and president of the republic of Hawaii in the 10th of September last, and only awaits the favorable action of the American senate to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domain of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be, the political relation thereof to the United States, the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the inhabitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory, or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar condition thereof, the regulation if need be of the labor system therein, are all matters which the treaty has wisely relegated to the congress

SHOULD BE CONFIRMED. If the treaty is confirmed, as every consideration of dignity and honor requires, the wisdom of congress will see to it that, avoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship, and having due regard to the geographical conditions. the most just provisions for self rule in local matters, with the largest political liberties as an integral part of true every effort should be made to poses to take in carrying out its proffer taken office in the mother country. It our nation will be accorded to the Ha- afford relief. waiians. No less is due to a people who after nearly five years of demonstrated capability to fulfill the obligations of self governing statehood, come of their free will to merge their destinies in our body politic.

The questions which have arisen between Japan and Hawaii, by reason of the treatment of Japanese laborers emigrating to the islands under the Hawaiian-Japanese convention of 1888, are in a satisfactory stage of settlement by negotiation. This government has not been invited to mediate, and on the other hand has sought no intervention in that matter, further than to evince its kindliest disposition toward a speedy and direct adjustment by the two sovereign states in interest as shall comport with equity and honor. It is gratifying to learn that the apprehensions at first displayed on the part of Japan. lest the cessation of Hawaii's national life through annexation might impair priviliges to which Japan honorably laid claim, have given place to confidence in the uprightness of this government, and in the sincerity of its purpose to deal with all possible ulterior questions in the broadest spirit of

friendliness. The president declares that he has concluded that Mr. William L. Merry shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, as minister to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, and Mr. Godfrey Hunter as minister to Guatemala and Hon-

duras. The message deals but lightly with the Nicaragua canal project, declaring that in the future he will transmit to congress the report of the special commission now employed in making plans for its construction.

Regarding the appointment of Messrs. Wolcott, Stevenson and Paine as bimetallic commisioners the message THE BIMETALLIC COMMISSION.

The gratifying action of our sister republic of France in joining this country in the attempt to bring about an agreement among the principal commercial nations of Europe, whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assurance that we are not alone among the larger nations of the world in realizing the international character of the problem and in the desire of reaching some wise and practical solution of it. Our special envoys have not made their final report, as further negotiations between the representatives of this government and the governments of other countries are pending and in contemplation. They believe that doubts that have been raised in certain quarters respecting the position of maintaining the stability of the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further ne-

gotiations Meanwhile it gives me satisfaction to state that the special envoys have alfitness to deal with the subject, and it fact that but \$2,500,000 is offered for the is to be earnestly hoped that their labors may result in an international ognition of both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of work no injustice to any class of our | The message closes with a chapter on

Referring to the appointment of Hon. watchful care over the rights and John A. Kasson as a special commissioner to negotiate for the execution abate none of its efforts to bring about of the reciprocity provisions of the by peaceful agencies a peace which tariff law the president believes that shall be honorable and enduring. If by a careful exercise of the powers of it shall hereafter appear to be a duty that act our commercial exchanges may be enlarged with advantage to both contracting parties.

The president urges that special effort be made to extend our merchant marine, and then discusses the recent Bering sea seal negotiations, and referring to the conference with Canadian commissioners says:

The result of this conference was an agreement of important facts connected with the condition of seal herd heretofore in dispute, which should place beyond controversy the duty of the. governments concerned to adopt measures without delay for the preservation and restoration of the herd. Negotiations to this end are now in progress. the result of which I hope to be able to report to congress at an early day. INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

International arbitration cannot be omitted from the list of subjects claiming our consideration. Events have only served to strengthen the general views on this question expressed in my inaugural address. The best sentiment of the civilized world is moving toward the settlement of differences between nations without resorting to the horrors of war. Treaties embodying these humane principles on broad lines without in any way imperiling our interests or our honor shall have my constant encouragement.

Referring to the acceptance by this government of the invitation to participate in the French exposition of 1900, the message declares that our merchants will make a gratifying ex-

Urging the need for additional appropriation for the armor of three of the five battleships now in course of construction, the president says:

The present naval force, especially in view of its increase by the ships now under construction, while not as large as that of a few other powers, is a formidable force; its vessels are the very best of each type, and with the increase that should be made to it from time to time in the future, and careful attention to keeping it in a high state of efficiency and repair, it is well adapted to the necessities of the country. The great increase of the navv which has taken place in recent years was justified by the requirements for national defense and has received public approbation.

He then urges the construction of three or four large docks for the use of the navy on the Atlantic coast, at least one on the Pacific coast and a floating dock in the gulf, and earnestly recommends an increase in the number of enlisted men for the navy. He also concurs with the recommendation of the secretary of the navy that a battleship be constructed for the Pacific

coast. The need for the material changes in the laws governing Alaska, in view of the great influx of population to that territory, is strongly urged. The president also calls the attention of congress to "the startling though possibly exaggerated reports of the probable shortage of food in the Yukon country," and declares that should the reports prove

Discussing the Indian question th president says:

THE CIVILIZED TRIBES. For a number of years past it has been apparent that the under which the five civilized tribes were established in the Indian Territory under treaty provisions with the United States, with the right of self government and the exclusion of all white persons from within their borders, have undergone so complete a change as to render the continuance of the system thus inaugurated practically impossible. The total number of the five civilized tribes, as shown by the last census, is 45,494, and this num ber has not materialy increased; while the white population is estimated at from 200,000 to 250,000. The United States citizens residing in the Territory, most of whom have gone there by invitation or with the consent of the tribal authorities, have made permanent homes for themselves. Numerous towns have been built in which from 500 to 5,000 white people now reside. Valuable residences and business houses have been erected in many of them. Large business enterprises are carried on in which vast sums of money are employed, and yet these people, who have invested their capital in the development of the productive resources of the country, are without title to the land they occupy and have no voice whatever in the government either of the nations or tribes. Thousands of their children who were born in the Territory are of school age, but the doors of the schools of the nations are shut against them, and what education they get is by private contribution. No provision for the protection of the life or property of these white citizens is made by the tribal governments and courts.

The secretary of the interior reports that leading Indians have absorbed great tracts of land to the exclusion of the common people, and government by an Indian aristocracy has been practically established, to the detriment of the people. Friends of the Indians have long believed that the best interests of the Indians of the five civilized tribes would be found in American citizenship with all the rights and privileges which belong to that condition

Should the agreement between the Choctaws and Chickasaws be ratified by congress, and should the other tribes fail to make an agreement with the commission, then it will be necessary that some legislation shall be had by congress which, while just and honorable to the Indians, shall be equitable to the white people who have settled upon these lands by invitation of the tribal nations.

The president recommends a systematic bacteriological investigation to discover the exact cause of yellow fever, and thus prevent the spread of ready demonstrated their ability and the disease. He calls attention to the Kansas Pacific road, although the government's claim against the road is \$13,000,000, and asks whether the government shall purchase or redeem the road. Congress is congratulated on the establishment of the Congressional library, and its development is urged. the civil service system.