

As at all other times, the... purchase of bonds. After complying with the law as positively required, and bonds sufficient for the purpose had been secured at a premium, it was not deemed prudent to further expend the surplus in such purchase until the authority to do so should be returned to the executive authority.

At first sight this would seem to be a profitable and sensible investment... the government represented by the difference between the amount of the bonds and the amount upon the sum paid for principal and premium and what it would have paid for interest at the rate specified in the bonds if they had run to their maturity, is about \$27,105,000.

Notwithstanding the large sums paid out in the purchase of bonds, the surplus in the treasury on the 30th day of November, 1888, was \$22,264,610.01, after deducting about \$50,000,000 just drawn out for the payment of pensions.

On the 30th day of November, 1888, \$318,470,000 had been actually in circulation, and \$27,418,940 in certificates. The secretary recommends an increase of the further collocation of silver, and in such recommendation I earnestly concur.

The actual expenditures of the war department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, amounted to \$1,161,107,077, of which \$9,158,518,618 was expended for public works, including river and harbor improvements.

The board of ordnance and fortifications, provided for under the act approved Sept. 23, 1887, was convened Oct. 30, 1888, and its first meeting was held on Nov. 13, 1888. The board has since that time held several meetings.

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United States acts. The only alternative provided by act of congress in case of refusal to assent to the proposed bill is that it be forwarded by pony express. This is but an illustration of ill fitting legislation, reasonable and proper at the time, but long since outgrown and requiring re-justification.

It is gratifying to note from the carefully prepared statistics accompanying the postmaster general's report, that notwithstanding the great expansion of the service, the rate of expenditure has been lessened, and efficiency has been improved in every branch; that fraud and crime have been decreased; that losses from mail have been reduced; and that the number of complaints of the service made to postmasters and to the department are far less than ever before.

The transactions of the department of justice for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1888, are contained in the report of the attorney general, as well as a number of valuable recommendations, the most of which are pertinent to the public interest, and ought to receive consideration.

It is stated in this report that though judgment in civil suits amounting to \$132,018.50 was rendered during the year, only the sum of \$152,984.45 was collected thereon, and that though fines, costs and forfeitures amounting to \$41,808.45, only \$109,648.65 of that sum was paid on account thereof.

The report of the secretary of the interior, which will be laid before you, under the conditions of the various branches of the department, and the operations during the past year, are fully explained. But a brief reference to some of the principal features is here made.

The number of prisoners added to the rolls during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, was 60,922; and increase of pensions was granted in 45,716 cases. The names of 15,750 persons were dropped from the rolls during the year for the reason that the close of the year the number of prisoners was 428,567.

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methods for detecting it. A part of the results of this work have already been published by the department, which, with the matter in course of preparation, will make the most complete and accurate record of the disease ever before published in any country.

The department seeks a progressive development. It would combine the discoveries of science with the experience of the farmer in the selection of rural practice. A supervision of the advanced experimental station system remains to be organized, and is now in operation. This supervision is very important, and should be made to the advantage of the department, and is now in operation.

The subject should be treated as a business proposition with a view to a final realization of the public credit in aid of the construction of their roads should receive early attention. The report of the majority of the commissioners appointed to examine the affairs and indebtedness of those roads, in which they favor an extension of the time for the payment of such indebtedness in at least one case where the corporation appears to be unable to pay, will be given.

The report of the commissioners of the District of Columbia, in their annual report, contains in detail the operations of the several departments of the District government, and the financial condition of the District at the close of the year.

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