

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The president's message read to congress today is as follows:

To the congress of the United States:
The constitutional duty which 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.

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 spirit of fairness and love of justice, which, joined with consistent firmness, characterizes a truly American foreign policy.

Brazil and Chile.
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 in an attack upon the national capital and chief seaport, and lacking, as it does, the elements of divided administration, I have failed to see that the insurgents can reasonably claim recognition as belligerents.

Thus far the position of our government has been that of an attentive but impartial observer of the unfortunate conflict. Emphasizing our fixed policy of impartial neutrality in such a condition 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, being indisposed to countenance an act calculated to give gratuitous sanction to the local insurrection.

The convention between our government and Chile having for its object the settlement and adjustment of the demands of the two countries against each other, has been made effective by the organization of the claims commission provided for. The two governments failing to agree upon the third member of the commission, the good offices 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 Geary Law.
The legislation of last year known as the Geary law met with much opposition from Chinamen in this country. Acting upon the advice of eminent 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 renewed 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.

The Nicaragua Canal.
Nicaragua has recently passed through two revolutions, the party at first successful having in turn been displaced by another. Our newly appointed minister, by his timely good offices, aided in a peaceful adjustment of the controversy involved in the first conflict. The large American interests established in that country in connection with the Nicaragua canal were not molested.

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 distinctly 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 civilization, 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 dissolution 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 Hawaiian Matter.
It is hardly necessary for me to state that the questions arising from our relations with Hawaii have caused serious embarrassment. Just prior to the installation of the present administration the existing government of Hawaii had been suddenly overthrown, and a treaty of annexation had been negotiated between the provisional government of the islands and the United States and submitted to the senate for ratification. This treaty I withdrew for examination and dispatched Hon. James H. Blount of Georgia to Honolulu as a special commissioner to make an impartial investigation of the circumstances attending the change of government and of all the conditions bearing upon the subject of the treaty.

After a thorough and exhaustive examination Mr. Blount submitted to me his report, showing beyond 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 an armed naval 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 to pursue 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 within 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 in my hand, accompanied by a special executive message detailing all 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.

International Arbitration.
April 18, 1890, the International American conference of Washington by resolution expressed the wish that all controversies between the republics of America and the nations of Europe might be settled by arbitration, and recommended that the government of each nation represented in that conference should communicate 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, cordially sympathizing 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.

It affords me signal pleasure to lay this parliamentary resolution before the congress and to express my sincere gratification that the sentiment of two great and kindred nations is thus authoritatively manifested in favor of the rational and peaceable settlement of international quarrels by honorable resort to arbitration.

The Consular Service.
During my former administration I took occasion to recommend a re-organization of the consular service, in order that it might become a more efficient agency in the promotion of the interests it was intended to subserv. The duties and powers of consuls have been expanded with the growing requirements of our foreign trade. Discharging important duties affecting our commerce and American citizens abroad, and in certain countries exercising judicial functions, these officers should be men of character, intelligence and ability.

Financial Suggestions.
The recent repeal of the provision of law requiring the purchase of silver bullion by the government as a feature of our 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 be 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 turn away from alluring 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 adjourned to 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 resumption 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 fair prospect of accomplishing an international agreement on the subject of coinage.

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 bonds authorized are disadvantageous to the government both as to the time of their maturity and rate of interest.

National Quarantine.
The admissions of the last two years touching our public health and the demonstrated danger of the introduction of contagious diseases from foreign ports has invested the subject of national quarantine with increased interest. A more general and harmonious system than now exists, acting promptly and directly everywhere, and constantly operating by preventive means to shield our country from the invasion of disease, and at the same time having due regard to the rights and duties of local agencies, would, I believe, add greatly to the safety of our people.

Army Recommendations.
The secretary of war reports that the strength of the army on the 30th day of September last was 25,778 enlisted men and 2,144 officers. The total enrollment of the militia of the several states was, on the 31st of October of the current year, 112,597 officers and enlisted men.

The adoption of battalion formations for infantry regiments, the strengthening of the artillery force, the abandonment of the smaller and unnecessary posts and the massing of the troops at important and accessible stations all promise to promote the efficiency of the army. In the judgment of army officers, with but few exceptions, the operation of the law forbidding the re-enlistment of men after 10 years' service has not proved its wisdom, and while the arguments that led to its adoption were not without merit, the experience of the year constrains me to join in the recommendation for its repeal.

Seacoast Defense.
It is gratifying to note that we have begun to attain completed results in the comprehensive scheme of seacoast defense and fortification, entered upon eight years ago. A large sum has been already expended, but the cost of maintenance will be inconsiderable 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 gun lifts and carriages, and seventy-five 13 inch mortars. In addition to the purchase of the army gun factory, now completed at Watervliet, the government has contracted with private parties for the purchase of 100 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.

Federal Courts.
The report of the attorney general contains the usual summary of affairs and proceedings of the department of justice for the past year, together with certain recommendations as to needed legislation on various subjects. I cannot too heartily endorse the proposition that the fee system as applicable to the compensation of United States attorneys, marshals, clerks of federal courts and United States commissioners, should be abolished with as little delay as possible. It is clearly in the interest of the community that the business of the courts, both civil and criminal, shall be as small and as inexpensively transacted as the ends of justice will allow.

The system is therefore thoroughly vicious which makes the compensation of such officials depend upon the volume of such business, and thus creates a conflict between a proper execution of the law and private gain, which cannot fail to be dangerous to the rights and freedom of the citizen and an irresistible temptation to the unjustifiable expenditure of public funds. If in addition to this reform another was inaugurated which would give to United States commissioners the final disposition of petty offenses within the grade of misdemeanors, especially those coming under the internal revenue laws, a great advance would be made toward a more decent administration of the criminal law.

In my first message to congress, dated Dec. 8, 1885, I strongly recommended these changes and referred somewhat at length to the evils of the present system. Since that time the criminal business of the federal courts and the expense attending it have enormously increased. The expense of the United States courts, exclusive of judges' salaries, for the year ending July 1, 1885, was \$2,874,733.11, and for the year ending July 1, 1886, \$4,528,676.57.

It is therefore apparent that the reasons given in 1885 for a change in the manner of enforcing the federal criminal law have gained cogency and strength by lapse of time.

I also heartily join the attorney general in recommending legislation fixing degrees of the crime of murder within federal jurisdiction, as has been done in many of the states, authorizing writs of error on behalf of the government in cases where final judgment is rendered against the sufficiency of an indictment or against the government upon any other question arising before a trial, limiting the right of review in cases of felony judgments only by fine and imprisonment to the circuit court of appeals and making speedy provision for the construction of such prisons and reformatories as may be necessary for the confinement of United States convicts.

The Postal Service.
The business of the mails indicates with absolute certainty the condition of the business of the country, and depression in financial affairs inevitably and quickly reduces the postal revenues. Therefore a larger discrepancy than usual between the postoffice receipts and expenditures is the expected and unavoidable result of the distressing stringency which has prevailed throughout the country during much of the time covered by the postmaster general's report. At a date when better times were anticipated it was estimated by his predecessor that the deficiency on the 30th day of June, 1893, would be but a little over \$1,500,000. It amounted, however, to more than \$5,000,000.

At the same time, and under the influence of like anticipations, estimates were made for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, which exhibited a surplus of revenue over expenditures of \$672,245.71; but now, in view of the actual receipts and expenditures during that part of the current fiscal year already expired, the present postmaster general estimates that at its close instead of a surplus there will be a deficiency of nearly \$8,000,000.

The postoffice receipts for the fiscal year amount to \$75,295,653.16 and its expenditures to \$81,074,104.90. This postoffice deficiency would disappear or be immeasurably decreased if less matter was carried free through the mails, an item of which is upward of 300 tons of seeds and grain from the agricultural department.

Forty-two free delivery offices were added during the year to those already existing, making a total of 610 cities and towns provided with free delivery on June 30, 1893. Ninety-three other cities and towns are now entitled to this service under the law, but it has not been accorded them on account of insufficient funds to meet the expense of its establishment.

I am decidedly of the opinion that the provisions of the present law permit as general an introduction of this feature of mail service as is necessary or justifiable, and that it ought not to be extended to smaller communities than are now designated.

There were 6,401 additions to the domestic money order offices during the last fiscal year, being the largest increase in any year since the inauguration of the system. The total number of these offices at the close of the year was 18,434.

During the year 195 international money order offices were added to those already provided, making a total of 2,407 in operation on June 30, 1893. The total issue of money orders and postal notes for the year amounted to \$156,821,348.24.

The number of letters and packages mailed during the year for special delivery was 3,975,093, an increase over the preceding year of nearly 22 per cent. The special delivery stamps used amounted to \$337,503.30, and the messengers' fees amounted to \$296,592.71, leaving a profit to the government of \$80,976.59.

Railway Mail Service.
The railway mail service not only adds to the promptness of mail delivery at all offices, but it is the special instrumentalities which puts the smaller and way places in the service on an equality in that regard with the larger and terminal offices. This branch of the postal service has therefore received much attention from the postmaster general, and though it is gratifying to know that it is in a condition of high efficiency and great usefulness I am led to agree with the postmaster general that there is room for its further improvement.

There are now connected with the postoffice establishment 28,324 employees who are in the classified service. The head of this great department gives conclusive evidence of the value of civil service reform when, after an experience that renders his judgment on the subject absolutely reliable, he expresses the opinion that without the benefit of this system it would be impossible to conduct the vast business entrusted to him.

I desire to commend as especially worthy of prompt attention the suggestion of the postmaster general relating to a more sensible and businesslike organization and a better distribution of responsibility in his department.

The Navy.
The report of the secretary of the navy contains a history of the operations of his department during the past year, and exhibits a most gratifying condition of the personnel of our navy.

During the past six months the demands for cruising vessels have been many and urgent. There have been revolutions calling for vessels to protect American interests in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Argentina and Brazil, while the condition of affairs in Honolulu has required the constant presence of one or more ships. With all these calls upon our navy it became necessary, in order to make up a sufficient fleet to patrol the Behring sea under the modus vivendi agreed upon with Great Britain, to detail to that service one vessel from the fish commission and three from the revenue marine.

Progress in the construction of new vessels has not been as rapid as was anticipated. There have been delays in the completion of unarmored vessels, but for the most part they have been such as are constantly occurring even in countries having the largest experience in naval shipbuilding. The most serious delays, however, have been in the work upon armored ships. The trouble has been the failure of contractors to deliver armor as agreed. The difficulties seem now, however, to have been all overcome, and armor is being delivered with satisfactory promptness.

The following vessels are in process of construction: The second class battleships Maine and Texas, the cruisers Montgomery and Marblehead and the coast defense monitors Terror, Fairfax, Amphitrite and Monardnock, all of which will be completed within one year; the harbor defense gun Katabdin and the protected cruisers Columbia, Minneapolis, Olympia, Cincinnati and Raleigh, all of which will be completed prior to July 1, 1895; the first class battleships Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts and Oregon, which will be completed Feb. 1, 1896, and the armored cruiser Brooklyn, which will be completed by Aug. 1 of that year. It is also expected that the three gunboats authorized by the last congress will be completed in less than two years.

Since 1886 congress has at each session authorized the building of one or more vessels, and the secretary of the navy presents an earnest plea for the continuance of this plan. He recommends the authorization of at least one battleship and six torpedo boats.

While I am distinctly in favor of consistently pursuing the policy we have inaugurated of building up a thorough and efficient navy, I cannot refrain from the suggestion that the congress should carefully take into account the number of unfinished vessels on our hands and the depleted condition of our treasury in considering the propriety of an appropriation at this time to begin new work.

The method of employing mechanical labor at navy yards through boards of labor and making efficiency the sole test by which laborers are employed and continued is producing the best results, and the secretary is earnestly devoting himself to its development.

Pensions.
The secretary of the interior has the supervision of so many important subjects that his report is of especial value and interest.

On the 30th day of June, 1893, there were on the pension rolls 966,012 names, an increase of 89,944 over the number on the rolls June 30, 1892. Of these there were 17 widows and daughters of Revolutionary soldiers, 86 survivors of the war of 1812, 5,425 widows of soldiers of that war, 21,518 survivors and widows of the Mexican war, 3,882 survivors and widows of Indian wars, 284 nurses, and 470,645 survivors and widows and children of deceased soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion. The latter number represents those pensioned on account of disabilities or death resulting from army and navy service. The number of persons remaining on the rolls June 30, 1893, who were pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, which allows pensions on account of death and disability not chargeable to army service, was 456,155.

The number added to the rolls during the year was 123,634, and the number dropped was 33,650.

Although the law of 1890 permits pensions for disabilities not related to military service, yet as a requisite to its benefits a disability must exist incapacitating applicants "from the performance of manual labor to such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support." The execution of this law in its early stages does not seem to have been in accord with its true intention, but toward the close of the last administration an authoritative construction was given to the statute, and since that time this construction has been followed. This has had the effect of limiting the operation of the law to its intended purpose.

The discovery having been made that many names had been put upon the pension roll by means of wholesale and gigantic frauds, the commissioner suspended payments upon a number of pensions which seemed to be fraudulent or unauthorized pending a complete examination, giving notice to the pensioners, in order that they might have an opportunity to establish, if possible, the justice of their claims, notwithstanding apparent invalidity.

This, I understand, is the practice which has for a long time prevailed in the pension bureau, but after entering upon these recent investigations the commissioner modified this rule so as not to allow, until after a complete examination, interference with the payment of a pension apparently not altogether void, but which merely had been fixed at a rate higher than that authorized by law.

I am unable to understand why frauds in the pension rolls should not be exposed and corrected with thoroughness and vigor. Every name fraudulently put upon these rolls is a wicked imposition upon the kindly sentiment in which pensions have their origin. Every fraudulent pensioner has become a bad citizen. Every false oath in support of a pension has made perjury more common and undervalued and pensioners rob the people not only of their money, but of the patriotic sentiment which the survivors of a war fought for the preservation of the Union ought to inspire.

The sum expended on account of pensions for the year ending June 30, 1893, was \$156,740,467.14.

The commissioner estimates that \$165,000,000 will be required to pay pensions during the year ending June 30, 1894.

Land for the Poor Indian.
The condition of the Indians and their ultimate fate are subjects which are related to a sacred duty of the government, and which strongly appeal to the sense of justice and the sympathy of our people. Our Indian number about 248,000. Most of them are located on 161 reservations, containing 86,116,581 acres of land. About 110,000 of these Indians have to a large degree adopted civilized customs. Lands in general have been allotted to many of them. Such allotments have been made to 10,000 individuals during the last fiscal year, embracing about 4,000,000 acres. The number of Indian government schools open

during the year was 195. The total number of Indian children enrolled during the year as attendants of all schools was 21,188, an increase of 1,251 over the enrollment for the previous year.

I am sure that secular education and moral and religious teaching must be important factors in any effort to save the Indian and lead him to civilization. I believe, too, that the relinquishment of tribal relations and the holding of land in severalty may in favorable conditions aid this consummation. It seems to me, however, that allotments of land in severalty ought to be made with great care and circumspection.

The law providing that, except in special cases, army officers shall be detailed as Indian agents, it is hoped will prove a successful experiment.

The vast area of land which but a short time ago constituted the public domain is rapidly falling into private hands. It is certain that in the transfer the beneficent intentions of the government to supply homes for its domain to the industrious and worthy home seekers is often frustrated. Through the speculator, who stands with extortionate purpose between the land office and those who, with their families, are invited by the government to settle on the public lands, is a despicable character who ought not to be tolerated, yet it is difficult to thwart his schemes.

The recent opening to settlement of the lands of the Cherokee outlet, embracing an area of 6,500,000 acres, notwithstanding the utmost care in framing the regulations governing the selection of locations and notwithstanding the presence of United States troops, furnished an exhibition, though perhaps in a modified degree, of the mad scramble, the violence and the fraudulent occupation which have accompanied previous openings of public land.

I concur with the secretary in his belief that these outrageous incidents cannot be entirely prevented without a change in the laws on the subject, and I hope his recommendations in that direction will be favorably considered.

I especially commend to the attention of the congress the statements contained in the secretary's report concerning forestry. The time has come when efficient measures should be taken for the preservation of our forests from indiscriminate and remediless destruction.

Agricultural Department.
The report of the secretary of agriculture will be found exceedingly interesting, especially to that large part of our citizens intimately concerned in agricultural occupations.

On the 7th day of March, 1893, there were upon its payrolls 2,430 employees. This number has been reduced to 1,850 persons. In view of the depleted public treasury and the imperative demands of the people for economy in the administration of their government, the secretary has entered upon the task of rationally reducing expenditures by the elimination from the payrolls of all persons not needed for an efficient conduct of the affairs of the department.

The exports of agricultural products from the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, attained the enormous figure of \$800,000,000 in round numbers, being 78.7 per cent of our total exports. In the last fiscal year this aggregate was greatly reduced, but nevertheless reached \$615,000,000, being 75.1 per cent of all American commodities exported.

A review of our agricultural exports with special reference to their destination will show that in almost every line the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland absorbs by far the largest proportion. Of cattle the total exports aggregated in value for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, \$26,000,000, of which Great Britain took considerably over \$23,000,000. Of beef products of all kinds our total exports were \$28,000,000, of which Great Britain took \$24,000,000. Of pork products the total exports were \$84,000,000, of which Great Britain took \$53,000,000. In breadstuffs, cotton and minor products like proportions sent to the same destination are shown.

Concerning Seeds.
During the last fiscal year the cost of seeds purchased was \$66,548.61. The remainder of an appropriation of \$185,000 was expended in putting them up and distributing them. It surely never could have entered the minds of those who first sanctioned appropriations of public money for the purchase of new and improved varieties of seeds for gratuitous distribution that from this would grow large appropriations for the purchase and distribution by members of congress of ordinary seeds, bulbs and cuttings which are common in all the states and territories and everywhere easily obtainable at low prices.

In each state and territory an agricultural experiment station has been established. These stations, by their proper character and name, are the proper agencies to experiment with and test new varieties of seeds, and yet this indiscriminate and wasteful distribution by legislation and legislators continues, answering no purpose unless it be to remind constituents that their representatives are willing to remember them with gratuities at public cost.

In view of these facts this enormous expenditure without legitimate returns of benefit ought to be abolished. Anticipating a consummation so manifestly in the interest of good administration, more than \$100,000 has been stricken from the estimate made to cover this object for the year ending June 30, 1895, and the secretary recommends that the remaining \$85,000 of the estimate be conserved strictly to the purchase of new and improved varieties of seeds, and that these be distributed through experiment stations.

Thus the seed will be tested, and after the test has been completed, by the experiment station the propagation of the useful varieties and the rejection of the valueless may safely be left to the common sense of the people.

Civil Service.
The continued intelligent execution of the civil service law and the increasing approval by the people of its operation are most gratifying. The recent extension of its limitations and regulations to the employees of free delivery postoffices, which has been honestly and promptly accomplished by the commissioner, with the hearty co-operation of the postmaster general, is an immensely important advance in the usefulness of the system.

I am, if possible, more than ever convinced of the incalculable benefits conferred by the civil service law, not only in its effect upon the public service, but also in elevating the tone of political life generally.

The course of civil service reform in this country instructively and interestingly illustrates how strong a hold a movement gains upon our people which has underlying it a sentiment of justice and right, and which at the same time promises better administration of their government.

The law embodying this reform found its way to our statute book more from fear of the popular sentiment existing in its favor than from any love for the reform itself on the part of legislators, and it has lived and grown and flourished in spite of the covert

as well as open hostility of spoilsmen and notwithstanding the querulous impracticability of many self constituted guardians. Beneath all the vagaries and sublimated theories which are attracted to it there underlies this reform a sturdy common sense principle not only suited to this mundane sphere, but whose application our people are more and more recognizing to be absolutely essential to the most successful operation of their government, if not to its perpetuity.

It seems to me to be entirely inconsistent with the character of this reform, as well as with its best enforcement, to oblige the commission to rely for clerical assistance upon clerks detailed from other departments. There ought not to be such a condition in any department that clerks hired to do work there can be spared to habitually work at another place, and it does not accord with a sensible view of civil service reform that persons should be employed on the theory that their labor is necessary in one department when in point of fact their services are devoted to entirely different work in another department.

Economy in Expenditure.
Economy in public expenditure is a duty that cannot innocently be neglected by those entrusted with the control of money drawn from the people for public uses. At this time, when a depleted public treasury confronts us, when many of our people are engaged in a hard struggle for the necessities of life, and when enforced economy is pressing upon the great mass of our countrymen, I desire to urge with all the earnestness at my command that congressional legislation be so limited by strict economy as to exhibit an appreciation of the condition of the treasury and a sympathy with the straitened circumstances of our fellow citizens.

The duty of public economy is also of immense importance in its intimate and necessary relation to the task now in hand of providing revenue to meet government expenditures and yet reducing the people's burden of federal taxation.

Tariff Reform.
After a hard struggle tariff reform is directly before us. Nothing so important claims our attention, and nothing so clearly presents itself as both an opportunity and a duty—an opportunity to deserve the gratitude of our fellow citizens and a duty imposed upon us by our oft repeated professions and by the emphatic mandate of the people. After full discussion our countrymen have spoken in favor of this reform, and they have confided the work of its accomplishment to the hands of those who are solemnly pledged to it.

If there is anything in the theory of a representation in public places of the people and their desires, if public officers are really the servants of the people, and if political promises and professions have any binding force, our failure to give the relief so long awaited will be sheer recreancy. Nothing should intervene to distract our attention or distract our effort until this reform is accomplished by wise and careful legislation.

While we should stanchly adhere to the principle that only the necessity of revenue justifies the imposition of tariff duties and other federal taxation, and that they should be limited by strict economy, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that conditions have grown up among us which in justice and fairness call for discriminating care in the distribution of such duties and taxation as the emergencies of our government actually demand.

Manifestly, if we are to add the people directly through tariff reform, one of its most obvious features should be a reduction in present tariff charges upon the necessities of life. The benefits of such a reduction would be palpable and substantial, seen and felt by the people, and would be better fed and better clothed and better sheltered. These gifts should be the willing benefactions of a government whose highest function is the promotion of the welfare of the people.

Raw Material.
Not less closely related to our people's prosperity and well being is the removal of restrictions upon the importation of the raw materials necessary to our manufactures. The world should be open to our national ingenuity and enterprise. This cannot be while federal legislation through the imposition of high tariff forbids to American manufacturers as cheap materials as those used by their competitors. It is quite obvious that the enhancement of the price of our manufactured products resulting from this policy not only confines the market for these products within our own borders, but the direct disadvantage of our manufacturers, but also increases their cost to our citizen.

The interests of labor are certainly, though indirectly, involved in this feature of our tariff system. The sharp competition and active struggle among our manufacturers to supply the limited demand for their goods soon fill the narrow market to which they are confined. Then follows a suspension of work in mills and factories, a discharge of employees and distress in the homes of our workmen.

Even if the often disproved assertion could be made good that a lower rate of wages would result from free raw materials and low tariff duties, the intelligence of our workmen would lead them quickly to discover that their steady employment, permitted by free raw materials, is the most important factor in their relation to tariff legislation.

A measure has been prepared by the appropriate congressional committee embodying tariff reform on the lines suggested, which will be promptly submitted for legislative action. It is the result of much patriotic and unselfish work, and I believe it deals with its subject consistently and as thoroughly as existing conditions permit.

I am satisfied that the reduced tariff duties provided for in the proposed legislation, added to existing internal revenue taxation, will in the near future, though perhaps not immediately, produce sufficient revenue to meet the needs of the government.

Internal Revenue and Income Taxes.
The committee, after full consideration and to provide against a temporary deficiency which may exist before the business of the country adjusts itself to the new tariff schedules, have wisely embraced in their plan a few additional internal revenue taxes, including a small tax upon incomes derived from certain corporate investments.

These new assessments are not only absolutely just and easily borne, but they have the further merit of being such as can be remitted without unfavorable business disturbance whenever the necessity of their imposition no longer exists.

In my great desire for the success of this measure I cannot restrain the suggestion that its success can only be attained by means of unselfish counsel on the part of the friends of tariff reform and as a result of their willingness to subordinate their desires and ambitions to the general good. The local interests affected by the proposed reform are so numerous and so varied that if all are insisted upon the legislation embodying the reform must inevitably fail.

In conclusion, I desire to express my responsibility impels me to invoke for the manifold interests of a generous and considerate people the most scrupulous care, and to pledge my willing support to every legislative effort for the advancement of the greatness and prosperity of our beloved country.

GROVER CLEVELAND.