Madame Furtado Heine is dead. She was decorated by the late President Carnot for her charity.

A board of army officers are engaged in testing the alleged defective armor plates at Newport News.

The Marquis of Montcalm, the last male descendant of the defender of Quebec, died on Wednesday at Montpellier.

Spanish papers bitterly criticise President Cleveland's message and blame Minister De Lome for not correcting "false" statements

Attorney-General McCormick may bring suit against the reorganized Reading Railroad to determine whether it is a bona fide corporation.

The entire plant and fixtures of the Nebraska City Distillery were sold for \$60,000 by Gen. John McNulta, the receiver of the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Company. The Southern part of Bacyrus, O., is

aroused and armed forces of men are in search of an unknown tramp who killed a brakeman on the Chicago and Erie Rail-The tariff committee's report to the Cham-

ber of Deputies insists upon making the

French sugar bounties equal to those of Austria and Germany. M. Lockroy, formerly French Minister of Marine, has now withdrawn his naval pro_ posals, which involve the appropriation of

200,000,000 francs for building new battle-An oil and gas well was drilled on a farm near Findley, O., which promises to be one of the greatest in the Ohio field. It has an estimate capacity of 15,000,000 cubic feet of

gas a day and 50 barrels of oil an hour. A general resumption of operations in the river coal mines will take place in a few days, giving employment to about 6,000 men. The miners will receive an advance in wages of 3714 cents per 100 bushels, the agreement holding good until July next.

At a meeting of the Jockey Club in New York, a number of amendments to the rules of racing were adopted. An entirely new feature is a scale of weights, which will materially add to the weights heretofore car ried by the jockeys, and will, in this way

favor riding by heavier boys. At the quarterly meeting and dinner of the directors of the Home Market Club, in Boston, a strong memorial addressed to President Cleveland and the Senate of the United States was adopted in favor of immediate action in the line of the Dingley emergency

tariff bill. The Court of Appeals has decided the state '..w of Kentucky exempting whiskey in Federal bond from taxation during the bonded period as unconstitutional. This will materially increase the tax list in Kentucky, and will also bring into the state treasury considerable arrears of taxes.

At a meeting of the Michigan Maple Asso-Mation in Grand Rapids, Mich., sometimes called the Hardwood Lumber Trust, held at Traverse City, prices on maple lumber were reduced \$1 per 1,000 feet, and all grades to a basis of \$10 per 1,000 for the log run.

A club of Cuban sympathizers is being organized in Butte, Mont., to join the insurgents in January. Captain Bordeaux is the organizer, and nearly 200 names are now on

the list. Ex-Judge Patrick Mallon, one of the elder members of the bar of Cincinnati, died suddenly Tuesday.

In Columbus, O., Ex-Senator William Gear was acquitted of the charge of soliciting a bribe from Ex-Senator Gaumer. Gear represented Wyandot county.

J. G. Gould, vice-president and secretary of the Leland & Smith Co., the leading tobacconists of Toledo, O., has mysteriously disappeared. It is believed his mind is af-

fected. The Illinois State Grange adopted resolutions indorsing J. H. Brigham, of Ohio, master of the National Grange, for appointment as Secretary of Agriculture by Presi-

dent-elect McKinley. A special from Geneseo, N. Y., says: "Jas. B. Hampton, treasurer of Livingston county, has resigned, and his whereabouts are unknown. His accounts are in bad shape, and there is a possible shortage on his books of

several thousand dollars. P. Frank Evans, who manufactured cattle medicine, was found dead in his father's eigar factory at Warwick, Pa., with a bullethole in his temple. He had committed suicide during the night. No cause can be assigned for the suicide.

The works of the Roxbury Carpet Company, Boston, Mass, which were shut down the day before Thanksgiving, resumed operations on full time. About 2,000 hands are employed.

A special from Lima, O., says: "Charles D. Steeps, of Van Wert, O., an attorney, and Secretary for the Columbian Building and Loan Association of Columbus, has fled. He is a defaulter for a large amount,"

About 1 o'clock Monday morning a mob of Ray county farmers broke into the county jail at Lexingron, Mo , secured Jesse Winner and James Nelson, held for the murder of Mrs. Winner and her two bables and lynch-

Populist Gov.-Elect John W. Leedy, of Kans s, in an interview outlines a proposition to unite Kansas Populists, Democrats and Silver Republicans into one party. "We are only different in name," said he. "I want to see these factions united."

Frederick Loveland, the oldest and bestknown guide in the Adfrondacks, has been accidently killed. He was struck and his skull was crushed by a tree which he was feiling. Loveland, who was a giant in statue and possessed of remarkable strength, was 70 years old.

The will of William Ivison, the publisher who died last May, leaving an estate valued at nearly \$5,000,000, is being contested by a large number of nephews and nieces, to whom bequests were not made. The bulk of the fortune was left to David B. Ivison, a nephew, who was named as executor

M. Saint-Saens, the French composer, is about to start on one of his long journeys that he so frequently takes, being often absent from Paris Months at a time, leaving his friends entirely in the dark as to where he

Official reports of General Weyler's progress through Cuba, represent the country as desolate and in ruin, where formerly it was picturesquely beautiful, Gen. Galixto Garcia peports a victory over the Spanish forces.

THE MESSAGE.

Mr. Cleveland's Last Review of the Country's Condition.

CUBA THE CHIEF TOPIC.

Cuban Home Rule Under Our Guarantee Suggested to Spain.

When Spain is Helpless in the Island Then Mr. Cleveland Thinks We Should Interfere---"A Limit to Our Waiting"---Turkish Atracities Scored and Venezuelan Dispute Declared Ended .-- The Present Tariff Law is Approved --- Currency Reforms Suggested --- Greenbacks Should Be Retired by Long-Term Bonds .-- The Reports of Departments.

WASHINGTON, December 8 .- In his annual message to Congress President Cleveland

To the Congress of the United States:

As representatives of the people in the legislative branch of their Government, you have assembled at a time when the strength and excellence of our free institutions and the fitness of our citizens to enjoy popular rate have been again made manifest. A political contest involving momentous consequences, fraught with feverish apprehension and creating aggressiveness so intense as to approach bitterness and passion, has been waged throughout our land, and determined by the decree of free and independent suf-frage, without disturbance of our tranquillity or the least sign of weakness in our National structure.

When we consider these incidents and contemplate the peaceful obedience and manly submission which have succeeded a heated clash of political opinions, we discover abundant evidence of a determination en the part of our countrymen to abide by every verdict of the popular will, and to be controlled at all times by an abiding faith in the agencies established for the direction of the affairs of their Government.

In obedience to a constitutional requirement, I herein submit to the Congress cer-tain information concerning national affairs, with the suggestion of such legislation as in my judgment is necessary and expedient. To secure brevity and avoid tiresome narration, I shall omit many details concerning matters within Federal control, which, though by no means unimportant, are more profitably discussed in departmental reports.

The Armenian Question. At the outset of a reference to the more important matters affecting our relations with foreign powers, it would afford me satisfaction if I could assure the Congress that the disturbed condition in Asiatic Turkey had during the past year assumed a less hideous and bloody aspect, and that either as a con-sequence of the awakening of the Turkish Government to the demands of humane civiization, or as the result of decisive action or the part of the great nations having the right by treaty to interfere for the protection those exposed to the rage of mad bigotry and ernel fanaticism, the shocking features of the situation had been mitigated. Instead, however, of welcoming a softened disposition or protective intervention, we have been afflioted by continued and not unfrequent reports of the wanton destruction of homes and the bloody butchery of men, women and obildren, made martyrs to their profession

While none of our citizens in Turkey have thus far been killed or wounded, though often in the midst of dreadful scenes of danger, their safety in the future is by no means sured. Our Government at home and our Minister at Constanttople have left nothing andone to protect our missionaries in Ottoman territory, who constitute nearly all the individuals residing there who have a right to claim our protection on the score of American citizenship. Our efforts in this direction will not be relaxed; but the deep feeling and sympathy that have been aroused among ought not to so far blind their reason and judgment as to lead them to de-mand impossible things. The outbreaks of blind fury which lead to murder and piliage in Turkey occur suddenly and without notice, and an attempt on our part to force such a hostile presence there as might be effective for prevention or protection would not only by resisted by the Ottoman Government, but would be regarded as an interruption of their plans by the great nations who assert their exclusive right to intervene in their own time and method for the security of life and property in Turkey.

Caring for Our Subjects in Turkey. Several naval vessels are stationed in the Mediterranean as a measure of caution and to furnish all possible relief and refuge in

case of emergency. We have made claims against the Turkish Government for the pillage and destruction seionary property at Harpoot and Marash during uprisings at those places. Thus far the validity of these demands has not been admitted, though our Minister, prior to such outrages and in anticipation of danmer, demanded protection for the persons and property of our missionary citizens in alities mentioned, and notwithstanding that strong evidence exists of actual complicity of Turkish soldiers in the work of

destruction and robbery. The facts as they now appear do not permit us to doubt the justice of these claims, and nothing will be omitted to bring alo t

their prompt settlement. A number of Armenian refugees having arrived at our ports, an order has lately been obtained from the Turkish Government permitting the wives and children of such refugrees to join them here. It is hoped that hereafter no obstacle will be interposed to prevent the escape of all those who seek to avoid the perils which threaten them in

Turkish dominions. Our recently appointed Consul to Erzerum is at his post and discharging the duties of his office, though for some unaccountable on his formal exequatur from the Sultan

has not been issued. I do not believe that the present sombre prospect in Turkey will be long permitted to offend the sight of Christendom. It so mars the humane and enlightened civilization that gs to the close of the nineteenth cen tury that it seems hardly possible that the carnest demand of good people throughout the Christian world for its corrective treatment will remain unanswered.

The Insurrection in Cabs. The insurrection in Cuba still continues with all its perplexities. It is difficult to perceive that any progress has thus far been made toward the pacification of the island or that the situation of affairs as depicted in my last annual message has in the least improved. If Spain still holds Havana and the seaports and all the considerable towns, the insurgents still roam at will over at least two-thirds of the inland country. I the determination of Spain to put down the insurrection seems but to strengthen with he lapse of time, and is evinced by her hesitating devotion of largely increased mil-lary and naval forces to the task, there is much reason to believe that the insurgents have gained in point of numbers and character and resources, and are none the less in-flexible in their resolve not to succumb,

without practically securing the great objects for which they took up arms. If Spain has not yet re-established her authority. neither have the insurgents yet made good their title to be regarded as an independent State. Indeed, as the contest has gone on, the pretence that civi government exists on the island, except so far as Spain is able to maintain it, has been practically abandoned. Spain does keep on foot such a government, more or less im-perfectly, in the large towns and their immade, the entire country is either given over to anarchy or is subject to the military occupation of one or the other party. It is reported, indeed, on reliable authority that, at the demand of the Commander-in-Chief of the insurgent army, the putative Cuban Government has now given up all attempt to exercise its functions, leaving that government confessedly (what there is the best reason for supposing it always to have been in fact) a government merely on paper. Thinks the Cuban War May Be Pro-longed Indefinitely.

Were the Spanish armies able to meet heir antagonists in the open, or in pitched battle, prompt and decisive results might be looked for, and the immense superiority of the Spanish forces in numbers, discipline and equipment could hardly fail to tell greatly to their advantage. But they are called upon to face a foe that shuns general ingagements, that can choose and does thoose its own ground, that from the nature of the country is visible or invisible at pleasure, and that fights only from ambusde and when all the advantages of position and numbers are on its side. In a country where all that is indispensable to life in the way of food, clothing and shelter is so easily obtainable, especially by those born and bred on the soil, it is obvious that there is hardly a limit to the time during which hostilities of this sort may be prolonged. Meanwhile, as in all cases of pro-tracted civil strife, the passions of the com-batants grow more and more inflamed and excesses on both sides become more frequent and more deplorable. They are also particl pated in by bands of marauders, who, now in the name of one party and now in the name of the other, as may best suit the oc easion, harry the country at will and plun der its wretched inhabitants for their advantage. Such a condition of things would inevitably entail immense destruction of property, even if it were the policy of both parties to prevent it as far as practicable. But while such seemed to be the origi-nal policy of the Spanish Government, it has now apparently abandoned it and is acting upon the same theory as the insurgents, namely, that the exigencies of the contest renire the wholesale annihilation of property.

hat it may not prove of use and advantage It is to the same end that in pursuance of general orders Spanish garrisons are now being withdrawn from plantations and the rural population required to concentrate it-self in the towns. The sure result would seem to be that the industrial value of the island is fast diminishing, and that unless there is a speedy and ratical change in existing conditions it will soon disappear altogether. That value consists very largely, course, in its capacity to prosugar-a capacity already much age, which have taken place during the last two years. It is reliably asserted that should these interruptions continue during the current year and practically extend, as s now threatened, to the entire sugar-produc ing territory of the island, so much time and so much money will be required to restore the land to its normal productiveness that it is extremely doubtful if capital can be in-

duced to even make the attempt. Our Pecuniary Interest in Cobs. The spectacle of the utter ruin of an adining country, by nature one of the most ertile and charming on the globe, would enage the serious attention of the Governman and people of the United States in any cir-cumstances. In point of fact, they have a oncern with it which is by no means of a wholly sentimental or philanthropic charac-ter. It lies so near to us as to be hardly separated from our territory. Our actual pecuniary interest in it is second only to that of the people and Government of Spain. is reasonably estimated that at least from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 of American capital are invested in plantations and in railroad, mining and other business enterprises on the island. The vol-ume of trade between the United States and Cubs, which in 1889 amounted to about \$64,990,000, rose in 1893 to about \$193,000, 000, and in 1894, the year before the present insurrection broke out, amounted to nearly \$96,000,000. Besides this large pecuniary stake in the fortunes of Cuba, the United States fluds itself inextricably involved in the present contest in other ways both vexa-

lious and costly. Many Cubans reside in this country and inlirectly promote the insurrection through the press, by public meetings, by the pur-chase and shipment of arms, by the raising of funds, and by other means, which the pirit of our institutions and the tenor of our laws do not permit to be made the subject of riminal prosecutions. Some of them, though Cubans at heart and in all their feelings and interests, have taken out papers as naturalized citizens of the United States, a proceeding resorted to with a view to possible protection by this Government, and not usnat-urally regarded with much indignation by the country of their origin. The insurgents are undoubtedly encouraged and supported by the widespread sympathy the people this country always and instructively feel or every struggle for better and freer government, and which, in the case of the more adventurous and restless elements of our population, leads in only too many instances to active and personal participa tion in the contest. The result is that this Government is constantly called upon to rotect American citizens, to claim damages for injuries to persons and property, now es-timated at many millions of dollars, and to ask explanations and apologies for the acts of Spanish officials, whose zeal for the repression of rebellion sometimes blinds them to the immunities belonging to the unoffending citizens of a freedly power. It follows from the same cause that the United States is compelled to actively police a long line of sea cost against unlawful expeditions, the which the utmost vigitance will

not always suffice to prevent. The Question of Intervention. These inevitable entanglements of the United States with the rebellion in Cuba, the large American property interests affected, and con-iderations of philanthropy and hudemand in various quarters for some sort of intervention on the part of United States. It was at first proposed that belligerent rights should be accorded to the insurgents—a proposition no longer urged because untituely and in practical operation clearly perilous and injurious to our own interests. It has since been and is now ometimes contended that the independence of the insurgents should be recognized. But imperfect and restricted as the Spanish government of the island may be, no other exists there—unless the will of the military officer in temporary command of a particular district can be disnified as a species of government. It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the islanda suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidence of a desire of willingness on the part of Spain to entermin such a proposal. It is urged, finally, that, all other methods failing, the existing internecine strife in Cuba should be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of a war between the United States and Spain—a war could be neither large in its proportions no

doubtful in its issue.

The correctness of this forecast need h neither affirmed nor denied. The United States has nevertheless a character to maintain as a nation, which plainly dictates that right and not might should be the rule of its conduct. And yet neither the Government nor the people of the United States have shut their eyes to the course of events in Cuba, or have failed to realize the exister ended grievance, which have led to the present revolt from the authority of Spain-grievances recognized by the Queen Regent and by the Cories, voiced by the most patri-otic and enlightened of Spanish statesmen, without regard to party, and demonstrated by reforms proposed by the executive and approved by the legislative branch of the Spanish Government. It is in the assumed emper and disposition of the Spanish Government to remedy these grievances, fortifled by indications of influential public opinion in Spain, that this Government has hoped to discover the most promising and effective means of composing the present trife, with bonor and advantage to and with the achievement of all the reason able objects of the insurrection

Cleveland's Plan for Ending the War. It would seem that if Spain should offer Cuba genuine autonomy-a measure of ome rule which, while preserving the sovreignty of Spain, would satisfy all rational requirements of her Spanish subjects—there should be no just reason why the pacification of the island might not be effected on that asis. Such a result would appear to be in the true interest of all concerned. It would at once stop the conflict which is now conuming the resources of the island and making it worthless for whatever party may ultimately prevail. It would keep intact the possessions of Spain without touching her honor, which will be consulted rather than impugned by the adequate redress of admitted grievances. It would put the prosperity of the island and the fortunes of is inhabitants within their own control, without severing the natural and ancient ies which bind them to the mother country, and would yet enable them to test their caeacity for self government under the most avorable conditions. It has been objected on the one side that Spain should not prome autonomy until her insurgent subjects lay down their arms; on the other side, that omised autonomy, however liberal, is inufficient, because without assurance of the ise being fulfilled.

But the reasonableness of a requirement by Spain, of unconditional surrender on the part of the insurgent Cubans before their autonomy is conceded, is not altogether aparent. It ignores important features of the ituation-the stability two years' duration as given to the insurrection; the feasibility f its indefinite prolongation in the nature of things, and as shown by past experience; the utter and imminent ruin of the island, unless thapresent strife is speedily composed above all, the rank abuses which all parties in Spain, all branches of her Government and il her leading public men concede to exist and profess a desire to remove facing such circum tances, to withhold the proffer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at mercy by throwing down their arms, has the appearance of neglecting the gravest of perils and inviting suspicion as to the sincerity of any professed willing-ness to grant reforms. The objection on behalf of the insurgents-that promised reforms cannot be relied upon—must of course be considered, though we have no right to assume, and no reason for assuming, that anything Spain undertakes to do for the relief of Cuba will not be done according to both the spirit and the letter of the under-

United States' Offered Guarantee. Nevertheless, realizing that suspicions and precautions on the part of the weaker of two combiliate are always natural and not always unjustifiable - being sincerely desir-ous in the interest of both, as well as on its own account, that the Cuban problem should be solved with the least possible delay-it was intimated by this Government to the Government of Spain some months ago that, if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents, and would be accepted by them upon a guaranty of its execution, the United States would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guaranty. While no definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish Government, it is believed to be not altoltogether unwelcome, while, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents, Neither party can fall to see the importance of early action, and both must realize that to ong the present state of things for even a short period will add enormously to the time and labor and expenditure necessary to bring about the industrial recuperation of the Island. It is therefore fervently hoped on all grounds that earnest efforts for healing the breach between Spain and the insurgent Cubans, upon the lines above indicated, may be once inaugurated and pushed to an in mediate and successful issue. The friendly offices of the United States, either in manner above outlined or in any other way consistent with our Constitution and laws,

will always be at the disposal of either party Whatever ofrcumstances may arise, our policy and our interests would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other

A Limit to Our Patience in Regard to Spain. It should be added that it cannot be reasonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United States will be indenitely maintained. While we are anxious to accord all due respect to the sovereignty of Spain, we cannot view the pending conflict in all its features, and properly apprehend our inevitably close relations to it, and its possible results, without considering that by the course of events we may be drawn into such an unusual and unprecedented condition as will fix a limit to our patient waiting for Spain to end the contest, either alone and in her own way, or with our

friendly co-operation.

When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and wh eless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means noth ing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the ulter destruction of the very subject-matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be supersedly hesitate to recognize and discharge. Deerring the choice of ways and methods until the time for action arrives, we should make them depend upon the precise condi-tions then existing; and they should not be determined upon without giving careful heed to every consideration involving our honor and interest, or the international duty we owe to Spain. Until we face the contin gencies suggested, or the situation is by should continue in the line of conduct here. exhibiting our obedience to the require-ments of public law and our regard for the

duty enjoined upon us by the position we occupy in the family of nations. A contemplation of emergencies that may arise should plainly lead us to avoid their creation, either through a careless disregard of present duty or even an undue simila-tion and ill-timed expression of feeling. But I have deemed it not amiss to remind the Congress that a time may arrive when a well as a regard for the interests of other na tions and their citizens, joined by considera-tions of humanity and a desire to see a rich and fertile country, intimately related to us, saved from complete devastation, will con-strain our Government to such action as will subserve the interests thus involved and at the same time promise to Cuba and its inhabitants an opportunity to enjoy the bless ings of peace.

The Venezuelan Boundary.

The Venezuelan boundary question has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States, their respective Governments having agreed upor the substantial provisions of a treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela submitting the whole controversy to arbitration. The provisions of the treaty are so eminently just and fair, that the assent of Venezuela thereto may confidently be anticipated.

Arbitration Treaty With England. Negotiations for a treaty of general arbi-tration for all differences between Great Britain and the United States are far ad-vanced and promise to reach a successful consummation at an early date.

Facts From Department Reports. Having discussed the Cuban question at langth, the President turns to other matters, He repeats his recommendation "in favor of providing at public expense official resi lences for our ambassadors and ministers at

foreign capitals." Figures are given showing that the Government's receipts last year were \$409,475, 408.78 while expenditures in the same time were \$,434,678,654.48, the expenditures receipts thus amounting to \$25,203,245.70.

The number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the fiscal year wis 343,267, of whom 340,468 were permitted to land, and 2799 were deburred, on various grounds prescribed by law, and returned to the countries whence they came, at the ex-pense of the steamship-companies by which they were brought in. The increase in immigration over the preceding year amounted

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits satisfactory conditions in the severa branches of the public service intrusted to

The Post Office Department is in good condition, and the exhibit made of its open ation during the fiscal year ended June 30 1896, if allowance is made for imperfection in the laws applicable to it, is very satisfac

"The construction of vessels for our new

navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present Administration upon the general line previously adopted, the Department having seen no necessity for radical changes in prior methods under which the work was found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory. There have been authorized by Congress ce March, 1893, five battleships, six light-

draft gunboats, sixteen torpeeo boats and one submarine torpedo boat. Contracts for the building of all of them have been let. The Secretary expresses the opinion that we have for the present a sufficient supply of cruisers and gunboats, and that hereafter the construction of battleships and torpedo boats will supply our needs.

The President endorses "the recommenda tion made by the present Secretary of the Interior, as well as his predecessor, that a permanent commission, consisting of three members, one of whom shall be an army officer, be created to perform the duties now devolving upon the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The management of the Bureau involves such numerous and diverse details, and the advantages of an uninterrupted policy are so apparent that I hope the change suggested will meet the approval of the Congress." Pensions.

The diminution of our enormous pension roll and the decrease of pension expendi-ture, which have been so often confidently foretold, still fail in material realization. The number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was 970,678. This is the largest ever reported. The amount paid exclusively for sions during the year was \$138,214,761.94, a slight decrease from that of the preceding year, while the total expenditures on account of pensions, including the cost of maintaining the Department and expenses attending pension distribution, amounted to \$142,206, 550,59, or within a very small fraction of one-third of the entire expense of supporting the Government during the same year. The number of new pension certificates issued was 93,640. Of these 40,374 represent original allowances of claims and 15,878 in-

reases of existing pensions. The number of persons receiving pensions from the United States but residing in foreign countries at the close of the last fiscal year was 3781, and the amount paid to them during the year was \$582,735.38

The sum appropriated for the payment of June 30, 1897, is \$140,060,000, and for the succeeding year it is estimated that the same amount will be necessary.

The Commissioner of Pensions reports that during the last fiscal year 339 indictments were found against violators of the ension laws. Upon these indictments 167 convictions resulted.

In my opinion, based upon such statements as these and much other information and observation, the abuses which have been allowed to creep into our pension system have done incalculable harm in demoralizing our people and undermining good citisenship. I have endeavored within my sphere of official duty to protect our pension roll and mage it what tt should be, a roll of honor, containing the names of those disabled in their country's seivice and worthy of their country's affectionate remembrance. When I have seen those who pose as the soldiers friends, active and alert in urging greater laxity and more reckless pension expenditure, while nursing selfish schemes, I have deprecated the approach of a situation ways ssary retrenchment and enforced econ omy may lead to an attack upon pension abuses, so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those who, worthy of a nation's care, ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude.

Agriculture. Under the present management of the Department of Agriculture its usefulness has been enhanced in every direction, and at the same time strict economy has been enforced to the utmost extent permitted by Congres sional action. From the report of the Secretary it appears that through careful and prudent financial management he has annually saved a large sum from his appropriations, aggregating during his incumbency and up to the close of the present fiscal year nearly one-fifth of the entire amount ap-propriated. These results have been accom-plished by a conscientious study of the real needs of the farmer and such a regard for economy as the genuine farmer ought to appreciate, supplemented by a rigid adherence to civil service methods in a Department which should be conducted in the interest of

agriculture instead of partisan politics. The Secretary reports that the value of our exports of farm products during the last fiscal year amounted to \$570,000,000, an increase of \$17,900,000 over those of the year immediately preceding. This statement is not the less welcome because of the fact that, notwithstanding such increase, the proportion of exported agricultural products to our total exports of all descriptions fell off during the year. The benefits of an increase in agricultural exports being assured, the de-crease in its proportion to our total exports is the more gratifying when we consider that it is owing to the fact that such total exports for the year increased more than \$75,000,000.

The large and increasing exportation of

our agricultural products suggests the great usefulness of the organization lately estab-lished in the Department for the purpose of giving to those engaged in farming reliable information concerning the condi-tion, needs and advantages of different foreign markets. Inasmuch as the success of the farmer depends upon the advantageous sale of his products, and inasmuch as foreign markets must larkely be the destination of such products, it is quite apparent that a knowledge of the conditions and wants that affect those markets ought to result in sowing more intelligently and reaping with a better promise of profit. Such information the selection and cultivation of crops and to m the bondage of u monotony of production, a glutted and de-pressed market and constantly recurring

Opposed to Free Sceda In my opinion the gratuitious distribution

In my opinion the gratuitious distribution of seeds by the Agricultural Department as at present conducted ought to be discontinued. No one can read the statement of the Secretary on this subject and doubt the extravagance of questionable results of this practice. The professed friends of the farmer, and certainly the farmers the asselves, are naturally expected to be willing to rid a Department devoted to the promotion of farming interests of a feature which tends so much to its discredit.

The Weather Bureau, now attached to the

The Weather Bureau, now attached to the Department of Agriculture, has continued to extend its sphere of usefulness, and by an uninterrupted improvement in the accuracy of its forecasts has greatly increased its efficiency as an aid and protection to all whose

occupations are related to weather condi-

Civil Service,

The progress made in Civil Service Reform furnishes a cause for the utmost congratula-tion. It has survived the doubts of its friends as well as the rancor of its enemie and has gained a permanent place among the agencies destined to cleanse our politics and to improve, economize and elevate the

The Civil Service rules as amended during the last year provide for a sensible and uni-form method of promotion, basing eligibility to better positions upon demonstrated efficiency and faithfulness. The absence of fixed rules on this subject has been an infirmity in the system more and more apparent as its other banefits have been better appreciated.

The Matter of Tariff.

Concerning the tariff the President says that "our tariff laws are only primarily justified as accrees of revenue to enable the Government to meet the necessary expenses of its maintenance," and adds: "I believe our present tariff law, if allowed a far op-portunity, will in the near future yield a revenue which, with reasonably economica expenditures, will overcome all deficiencies. In the meantime no deficit that has occurred or may occur need excite or disturb us. To meet any such deficit we have in the Treasury in addition to a gold reserve of \$100,000,000, a surplus of more than \$128,000,000 applica-ble to the payment of the expenses of the Government, and which must, unless ex-pended for that purpose, remain a useless hoard, or, if not extravagantly wasted, must in any event be perverted from the purpose of its exaction from our people. The payment, therefore, of any deficiency in the revenue from this fund is nothing more than its proper and legitimate use. The Govern-ment thus applying a surplus fortunately in its Treasury to the payment of expenses not met by its current revenues, is not at all to be likened to a man living bayond his income and thus incurring debt or encroaching

on his principal. "It is not one of the functions of our Government to accumulate and make additions to a fund not needed for immediate expenditure. With individuals it is the chief object of struggle and effort. The application of an accomulated fund by the Government to the payment of its running expenses is a duty. An individual living beyond his come and embarrassing himself with debt, or drawing upon his accumulated fund of principal, is either unfortanate or improvi-The distinction is between a government charged with the duty of expending for the benefit of the people and for proper purposes all the money it receives from any source, and the individual who is expected to manifest a natural desire to avoid debt or to accumulate as much as possible and to live within the income derived from such accumulations, to the end that they may be increased or at least remain unmpaired for the future use and enjoyment of himself or the objects of his love and affec-

tion who may survive him.
"It is immeasurably better to appropriate our suuplus to the payment of justifiable expenses than to allow it to become an invitaion to reckless appropriations and extrava-

gant expenditures. "I suppose it will not be denied that under the present law our people obtain the neces-saries of a comfortable existence at a cheaper rate than formerly. This is a matter of upreme importance, since it is the palpable duty of every just Government to make the burdens of taxation as light as possible. The people should not be required to relinquish this privilege of cheaper living except under the stress of their Government's necessity made plainty manifest."

Reform in Finance.

Upon the question of reforming the finance system of the country the President says: I am more convinced than ever that we can have no assured financial peace and afety until the Government currency gations upon which gold may be demanded from the Treasury are withdrawn from circulation and cancelled. This might be lone, as has been heretofore recommended.

Another topic in which our people right-fully take a deep interest may be here briefly considered. I refer to the existence of trusts ommerce and to stifle wholesome competi-on. When these are defended it is usually on the ground that though they increase pro-fits they also reduce prices and thus may ben-efft the public. It must be remembered, how-ever, that a reduction of prices to the people is not one of the real objects of these organiz-ations, nor is their tendency necessarily in that direction, If it occurs in a particular case, it is only because it accords with the purposes or interests of those managing the

Such occasional results fall far short of compensating the palpable evils charged to the account of trusts and monopolies. Their tendency is to crush out individual indepen-dence and to hinder or prevent the free was of human faculties and the full devolopment of human incurres and the full development of human character. Through them the farmer, the artisan shot the small trader is in danger of dislodgment from the proud position of being his own master, watchful of all that touches his country's prosperity, in which he has an individual lot, and interested in all that affects the advantages of business of which he is a factor, to be relegated to the level of a mere appurienance to a great machine, with little free will, with no duty but that of a passive obedience, and with little hope or opportunity of rising in the scale of responsible and

helpful citizenship.

To the instructive belief that such is the inevitable trend of trusts and monopolies is due the widespread and deep seated popular aversion in which they are held and the not unreasonable insistence that, whatever may be their incidental economic advantages, their general effect upon personal character, pros-pects, and usefulness cannot be otherwise

than in rious.

Though Congress has attempted to deal with this matter by legislation, the laws passed for this matter by legislation, the laws passed to that purpose thus far have proved ineffective, not because of any lack or disposition, or al-tempt to enforce them, but simply because the laws themselves as interpreted by the courts do not reach the difficulty. If the insufficiencies of existing laws can be remedied by further legislation it should be done. The fact must be recognized, however, that all Federal legislation on this subject may fall short of its purpose because of inherent ob-stacles, and also because of the complex charstacles, and also because of the complex character of our governmental system. which while making the Federal authority supreme within its sphere, has carefully limited that sphere by metes and bounds which cannot be transgressed. The decision of our highest court on this precise question renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated brough Federal action, unless they seek directly and purposely to include in their objects transportation or intercourse between States or between the United States and foreign countries.

It does not follow, however, that this is the limit of the remedy that may be applied. Even though it may be found that I eleral authority is not broad enough to fully rath the case, there can be no doubt of the power of the several States to act effectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judiciously exercise

An Appeal fer Economy.

In concluding this communication, its last words shall be an appeal to the Congress for the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the money it holds in trust for the people. The way to perplexing extravagance is easy, but a return to frugality is difficult. When, however, it is considered that those who bear the burdens of taxation have no guaranty of honest care save in the fidelity of their public servants, the duty of all possible retreechment is plainly manifest.

When our differences are forgoiten, and our contests of political opinion are no longer remembered, nothing in the retrospect of our public service will be as fortunate and comforting as the recollection of jofficial duty well performed and the memory of a constant An Appeal for Economy.

well performed and the memory of a constant devotion to the interests of our confiding fel low countrymen.

Executive Mansion, Dec. 7, 1896.

John Williams, a colored laborer at a stone quarry opposite Georgetown, D. C , plunged a stick of dynamite into a pot of boiling water. It exploded, together with thirty other sticks near by. Williams was instantly killed, and Jefferson Hughes, the foreman,