

all further experience shall have developed the best policy to be ultimately adopted in regard to them. It is safer to suffer the inconveniences that now exist, for a short period, than, by premature legislation, to fasten on the country a system founded in error, which may prove the whole subject beyond the future of Congress.

The agricultural lands should, however, be surveyed and brought into market with as little delay as possible, that the titles may become settled, and the inhabitants stimulated to make permanent improvements, and enter on the ordinary pursuits of life. To effect these objects it is desirable that the necessary provision be made by law for the establishment of land offices in California and Oregon, and for the efficient prosecution of the surveys at an early day.

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are now extending to the sources of the great rivers which empty into, and form a part of the Mississippi, and the value of the public lands in those regions would be greatly enhanced by freeing the navigation of those waters from obstructions. In view, therefore, of this great interest, I deem it my duty again to urge upon Congress to make such appropriations for those improvements as they may deem necessary.

The survey of the Delta of the Mississippi, with a view to the prevention of the overflows that have proved so disastrous to that region of country, have been nearly completed, and the reports thereof are now in course of preparation, and will shortly be laid before you.

The protection of our southwestern frontier, and of the adjacent Mexican States, against the Indian tribes within our border, has claimed my earnest and constant attention. Congress having failed, at the last session, to adopt my recommendation that an additional regiment of mounted men specially adapted to that service should be raised, all that remained to be done was to make the best use of the means at my disposal. Accordingly, all the troops adapted to that service could properly be spared from other quarters, and were concentrated on that frontier, and officers of high reputation selected to command them. A new arrangement of the military posts has also been made, whereby the troops are brought nearer to the Mexican frontier and to the tribes they are intended to overawe.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to realize all the benefits that are expected to result from these arrangements, but I have every reason to hope that they will effectually check their marauding expeditions. The nature of the country, which furnishes little for the support of an army and abounds in places of refuge and concealment, is remarkably well adapted to this predatory warfare; and we can scarcely hope that our military force, combined with the greatest vigilance, can entirely suppress them.

By the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo we are bound to protect the territory of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border "with equal diligence and energy" as if the same were made within our territory or against our citizens. I have endeavored to comply, as far as possible, with this provision of the treaty. Orders have been given to the officers commanding on that frontier to consider the Mexican territory and its inhabitants as equally with our own entitled to their protection; and to make all their plans and arrangements with a view to the attainment of this object. Instructions have also been given to the Indian commissioners and agents among these tribes, in all treaties, to make the clauses designed for the protection of our own citizens as rigidly applicable to those of Mexico. I have no reason to doubt that these instructions have been fully carried into effect. Nevertheless, it is probable that, in spite of all our efforts, some of the neighboring States of Mexico may have suffered, as our own have, from depredations by the Indians.

To the difficulties of defending our own territory, I have above mentioned, I have added, in defending that of Mexico, those that arise from its remoteness, from the fact that we have no right to station our troops within her limits, and that there is no efficient military force on the Mexican side to co-operate with our own. So long as this shall continue to be the case, the number and activity of our troops will rather increase than diminish the evil, as the Indians will naturally turn towards that country where they encounter the least resistance. Our troops are necessary to subdue them, and to compel them to make and observe treaties. Until this shall have been done, neither country will enjoy any security from their attacks.

The Indians in California, who had previously appeared of a peaceable character, and disposed to cultivate the friendship of the whites, have recently committed several acts of hostility. The large portions of the reinforcements sent to the Mexican frontier were drawn from the Pacific, the military force now stationed there is considered entirely inadequate to its defence. It cannot be increased, however, without an increase of the army; and I again recommend that measure as indispensable to the protection of the frontier.

I invite your attention to the suggestions on this subject, and on other matters, which I have submitted in the report of the Secretary of War. The appropriations for the support of the army during the current fiscal year ending 30th June next, were reduced far below the estimate submitted by the Department. The consequence of this reduction is a considerable deficiency, to which I invite your early attention.

The expenditures of that Department, for the year ending 30th June last, were \$9,069,265 58. The estimate for the year commencing 1st July next, and ending June 30, 1853, are \$7,838,775 83; showing a reduction of \$1,161,492 75.

The Board of Commissioners, to whom the management of the affairs of the Military Asylum created by the act 3d March last was entrusted, have selected a site for the establishment of an Asylum in the vicinity of the city of Washington, and have submitted a report on the production of a satisfactory title.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy will exhibit the condition of the public service under the supervision of that Department. Our naval force afloat during the present year has been actively and usefully employed in giving protection to our widely extended and increasing commerce and interests in the various quarters of the globe, and our flag has everywhere afforded the same liberal and respectful intercourse, inspired by the justice and liberality of our intercourse, and the dignity and power of the nation.

The expedition commanded by Lieutenant De Haven, despatched in search of the British Commodore, Sir John Franklin, and his companions in the Arctic Sea, returned to New York in the month of October, after having undergone great peril and suffering from an unwholesome and dangerous climate, and the rigors of a northern climate, without any satisfactory information of the objects of their search, but with new contributions to science and navigation from the unrequited polar regions. The officers and men of the expedition, having been all volunteers for this service, and having so conducted it as to meet the entire approbation of the Government, it is suggested, as an act of grace and generosity, that the same allowances of extra pay and emoluments be extended to them that were made to the officers and men of like rating in the late exploring expedition to the South Seas.

I earnestly recommend to your attention the necessity of recognizing the Naval establishment, appropriating and fixing the number of officers in each grade, providing some mode of promotion to the higher grades of the navy, having reference to merit and capacity, rather than seniority or date of entry into the service, and for retiring from the effective list upon reduced pay those who may be incompetent to the performance of active duty. As a measure of economy as well as of efficiency in this arm of the service, the provision last mentioned is eminently worthy of your consideration.

The determination of the question of relative rank between the sea officers and civil officers of the navy, and between officers of the army & navy, in the various grades of each, will also merit your attention. The failure to provide any substitute, when corporal punishment was abolished for offences in the navy, has occasioned the convening of numerous courts-martial upon the arrival of vessels in port, and is believed to have had an injurious effect upon the discipline and efficiency of the service. To moderate punishment from one grade to another is among the humane reforms of the age; but to abolish one of severity, which applied so generally to offences on ship-board, and provide nothing in its stead, is to suppose a progress of improvement in every individual among seamen which is not assumed by the Legislature in respect to any other class of men. It is hoped that Congress, in the ample opportunity afforded by the present session, will thoroughly investigate this important subject, and establish such modes of determining guilt, and such gradations of punishment as are consistent with humanity

and the personal rights of individuals, and at the same time shall ensure the most energetic and efficient performance of duty and the suppression of crime in our ships of war.

The stone dock at the navy yard at New York, which was ten years in process of construction, has been so far finished as to be surrendered up to the authorities of the yard. The dry dock at Philadelphia is reported as completed, and is expected soon to be tested and delivered over to the agents of the Government. A contract for the construction of a floating sectional dock on the Bay of San Francisco, I invite your attention to the recommendation of the Department touching the establishment of a navy yard in conjunction with this dock on the Pacific. Such a station is highly necessary to the convenience and effectiveness of our fleet in that ocean, which must be expected to increase with the growth of commerce, and the rapid extensions of our whole fisheries over its waters.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis, upon a revised and improved system of regulations, now affords opportunities of education and instruction to the pupils quite equal to those enjoyed by the cadets in the Military Academy. A large class of acting midshipmen was received at the commencement of the last academic term, and a practice-ship has been attached to the institution, to afford the amplest means for regular instructions in seamanship, as well as for cruises during the vacations of three or four months in each year.

The advantages of science in nautical affairs have rarely been more strikingly illustrated than in the fact stated in the report of the Navy Department, that by means of the wind and current charts, projected and prepared by Lieutenant Maury, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ports of our country has been shortened by about forty days.

The estimate for the support of the Navy and Marine Corps the ensuing fiscal year will be found to be \$5,566,472 19, the estimates for the current year being \$5,900,621.

The estimates for special objects under the contract of this Department amount to \$3,684,220 89, against \$2,210,980 for the present year, the increase being occasioned by the additional mail service on the Pacific coast and the construction of the dock in California, authorized at the last session of Congress, and some slight additions under the head of improvements and repairs in navy yards, buildings and machinery.

I deem it of much importance to a just economy and a correct estimate of naval expenditures, that there should be an entire separation of the appropriations for the support of the naval service proper from those for permanent improvements at navy yards and stations and from ocean steam-mail service, and other special objects as assigned to the supervision of this Department.

The report of the Postmaster General, heretofore communicated, presents an interesting view of the progress, operations, and condition of his Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of mail routes within the United States was 136,280 miles; the annual transportation thereon \$3,272,352 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation \$3,421,754.

The length of the foreign mail routes is estimated at 12,314 miles; and the annual transportation thereon at \$13,306 miles. The annual cost of this service is \$1,472,187, of which \$438,937 is paid by the Post Office Department, and \$1,033,250 is paid through the Navy Department.

The annual transportation within the United States (excluding the service in California and Oregon, which is now, for the first time, reported and embraced in the tabular statements of the Department) exceeds that of the preceding year 6,162,853 miles, at an increased cost of \$47,110.

The whole number of Post offices in the U. States, on the 30th day of June last, was 19,796. There were 1,698 post offices established, and 256 discontinued during the year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year, including the appropriations for the franking expenses of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for, and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,866 78.

The expenditures for the same period (excluding \$20,599.49, paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress, for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postages collected for, and payable to that office) amounted to \$6,024,566 79; leaving a balance of revenue over the proper expenditures of the year of \$703,299 99.

The receipts for postages during the year (excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to \$6,245,747 21, being an increase of \$997,610 79, or 18.65 per cent, over the like receipts for the preceding year.

The reduction of postage, under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operation of the reduced rates, will not be settled before January next; and no reliable estimates of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that the surplus of short of those of the last year. The surplus of the revenues now on hand is, however, so large that no further appropriation from the treasury, in aid of the revenues of the department, is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first two quarters of the fiscal year shall be ascertained.

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He also recommends that the rates of postage on printed matter be so revised as to render them more simple, and more uniform in their operation upon the classes of printed matter. I submit the recommendations of the report to your favorable consideration.

The public statutes of the United States have now been accumulating for more than sixty years, and are interspersed with private acts, are scattered through numerous volumes, and from the cost of the whole, have become almost inaccessible to the great mass of the community. They also exhibit much of the incongruity and imperfection of laws emanating from a government that is generally conceded that there is no "common law" of the United States to supply the defects of their legislation, it is most important that that legislation should be as perfect as possible, defining every power intended to be conferred, every crime intended to be made punishable, and prescribing the punishment to be inflicted. In addition to some particular cases spoken of more at length, the whole criminal code is now lamentably defective. Some offences are imperfectly described, and others are entirely omitted; so that flagrant crimes may be committed with impunity. The scale of punishment is not in all cases graduated according to the degree and nature of the offence, and is often rendered more unequal by the different modes of imprisonment, or penitentiary confinement, in the different States.

It is often difficult to determine whether the particular clause expires with the temporary act of which it is a part, or continues in force. It has also frequently happened that enactments and provisions have been introduced into bills, with the title or general subject which they have little or no connection or relation. In this mode of legislation so many enactments have been heaped upon each other, and often with but little consideration, that, in many instances, it is difficult to search out and determine what is the law.

The Government of the United States is empowered by a government of written laws. The statutes should, therefore, as far as practicable, not only be made accessible to all, but be expressed in language so plain and simple as to be understood by all, and arranged in such method as to give perspicuity to every subject. Many of the States have revised their public acts in great and manifest benefit; and I recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States, arranging them in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting incongruities, simplifying their language, and reporting them to Congress for its action.

An act of Congress approved 30th September, 1850, contained a provision for the extension of the Capitol, according to such plan as might be approved by the President, and appropriated one hundred thousand dollars to be expended under his direction, by such architect as he should appoint to execute the same. On examining the various plans which had been submitted by different architects, in pursuance of an advertisement by a committee of the Senate, no one was found to be entirely satisfactory, and it was therefore deemed advisable to combine and adopt the advantages of several.

The great object to be accomplished was to make such an addition as would afford ample and convenient halls for the deliberations of the two Houses of Congress, with sufficient accommodations for spectators, and suitable apartments for committees and officers of the two branches of the Legislature. It was also desirable not to mar the harmony and beauty of the present structure, which, as a specimen of architecture, is so universally admired. Keeping these objects in view, I concluded to make the addition by wings, detached from the present building, yet connected with it by corridors. This mode of enlargement will leave the present Capitol unimpaired, afford the same advantages for ventilation and the admission of light, and will enable the work to progress without interrupting the deliberations of Congress. To carry this plan into effect I have appointed an experienced and competent architect. The cornerstone was laid on the 4th day of July last, with suitable ceremonies, since which time the work has proceeded with commendable rapidity, and the foundations of both wings are now nearly complete.

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It is deeply to be regretted that in several instances officers of the government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated and defeated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one instance such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury ensued to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws. Prosecutions have been instituted against the alleged offenders, so far as they could be identified, and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in the franking expenses of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for, and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,866 78.

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I again commend to your favorable regard the interests of the District of Columbia, and deem it only necessary to remind you, that although its inhabitants have no voice in the choice of representatives in Congress, they are not the less entitled to a just and liberal consideration in your legislation. My opinions on this subject were more fully expressed in my last annual communication.

Other subjects were brought to the attention of Congress in my last annual message, to which I would respectfully refer. But there was one of more than ordinary interest to which I again invite your special attention. I allude to the recommendation for the appointment of a commission to settle private claims against the United States. Justice and equity demand that to the Government imperatively demands that some more convenient and expeditious mode than an appeal to Congress should be adopted.

It is deeply to be regretted that in several instances officers of the government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated and defeated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one instance such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury ensued to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws. Prosecutions have been instituted against the alleged offenders, so far as they could be identified, and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in the franking expenses of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for, and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,866 78.

The expenditures for the same period (excluding \$20,599.49, paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress, for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postages collected for, and payable to that office) amounted to \$6,024,566 79; leaving a balance of revenue over the proper expenditures of the year of \$703,299 99.

The receipts for postages during the year (excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to \$6,245,747 21, being an increase of \$997,610 79, or 18.65 per cent, over the like receipts for the preceding year.

The reduction of postage, under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operation of the reduced rates, will not be settled before January next; and no reliable estimates of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that the surplus of short of those of the last year. The surplus of the revenues now on hand is, however, so large that no further appropriation from the treasury, in aid of the revenues of the department, is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first two quarters of the fiscal year shall be ascertained.

In his last annual report, the Postmaster General recommended a reduction of postage to rates which he deemed as low as could be prudently adopted, unless Congress was prepared to appropriate from the treasury, for the support of the Department, a sum more than equivalent to the mail services performed by it for the Government.

The recommendations of the Postmaster General in relation to letter postage, except on letters from and to California and Oregon, were substantially adopted by the last Congress. He now recommends adherence to the present letter rates, and advises against a further reduction until justified by the revenue of the Department.

One of the noblest traits of human character is gratitude for benefits received, and the heart which would forget the benefactor who made it happy, sinks below the level of the dumb brute. But how much pleasure too should we derive from doing good, not for the sake of being thanked and placing persons under obligations to us, but the sake alone of making them happy. The greatest benefit one can bestow upon another, is restoring him to health. Dr. C. M. Jackson, by the aid of Hoofland's German Bitters, sold at 120 Arch St., Phila., has been the instrument of saving thousands from an untimely grave.

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