

ANNUAL MESSAGE

PRESIDENT GRANT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1873.

The year that has passed since the session of my last message to Congress has been an eventful one to the country.

THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.

In executing the will of Congress, as expressed in its resolution of the 14th of February last, the people of the United States were authorized to attend the exhibition at Vienna, as on the part of the United States.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

It is my pleasant duty to announce to Congress that the Emperor of China, on attaining his majority, received the diplomatic representation of the United States.

THE MONEY AWARDS.

The money awarded to the United States by the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva, was paid by His Majesty's Government on the 10th day of January.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.

I repeat my recommendation, made at the opening of the last session of Congress, that a commission be created for the purpose of ascertaining the amounts of the several direct losses growing out of the destruction of vessels and their cargoes by the Alabama, the Florida, or the Shenandoah.

OUR BOUNDARY LINES.

By an act of Congress on the 11th day of February last, Congress made provision for completing, jointly, with an officer or commission to be named by Her Britannic Majesty, the determination of the boundary between the United States and the possessions of Great Britain.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

The mixed commission organized under the provision of the Treaty of Washington, for settling and determining the claims against the provisions of the claims presented by the British Government.

A SPECIAL COURT RECOMMENDED.

I recommend legislation to create a special court, to consist of three judges, who shall be empowered to hear and determine all claims of compensation.

The recent reference under the Treaty of 1802, to the claims of British subjects arising during the period named in the treaty, but it is understood that there are other British claims of a similar nature.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Official information being received from the Department of a state of war between the king of the Netherlands and the sultan of Athens, the officers of the United States who were in the seat of war were instructed to observe a friendly and impartial neutrality.

AFFAIRS WITH MEXICO.

The joint commission, under the convention with Mexico in 1868, having again been legally prolonged, has resumed its business, which it is hoped will terminate in an early conclusion.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The Venezuelan Government has been apprised of the sense of Congress in regard to the award of the joint commission, under the convention of the 25th of April, 1866, as expressed in the act of the 25th of February last.

JURISDICTION ON THE HIGH SEAS.

It is a well established principle, asserted by the United States, from the beginning of their national independence, recognized by Great Britain and other maritime powers.

THE CONFERENCE.

A copy of a protocol of a conference between the Secretary of State and the Spanish Minister, in which the terms of this arrangement were agreed to, transmitted herewith.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

The embargo of American vessels in Cuba, cruelty to American citizens detected in no act of hostility to the United States, is a subject of great concern.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Assuming from the action of the last Congress in directing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to prepare and report a bill to amend the Constitution.

THE SPANISH REPUBLIC.

In a communication with the request of Congress, transmitted to the American Minister at Madrid, with instructions to have it presented to the Spanish Government.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The receipts of the Government, from all sources, for the last fiscal year, were \$33,735,234, and the expenditures, on all accounts, \$29,345,235.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

I commend to Congress such economy, and I point out two sources where it is possible to save money.

THE REVENUE-SPECIE PAYMENTS.

The revenues have materially fallen off for the first five months of the present year, and the Government is expected to produce, owing to the general panic now prevailing, which commenced about the middle of September last.

THE VIRGINIA AFFAIR.

The steamer Virginia was, on the 25th day of September, 1873, duly registered at the port of New York, as a part of the commercial marine of the United States.

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OUR PENSIONERS.

At the close of the fiscal year there were on the rolls 119,084 invalid military pensioners and 92,994 widows, orphans and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers, making a total of 212,078.

EDUCATION.

The evidently increasing interest in the cause of education is a most encouraging sign, and the general progress of the cause of education is a most encouraging sign.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Under the very efficient management of the Government and the Board of Public Works of this district, the city of Washington is rapidly assuming the appearance of a capital of which the world has never seen the like.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A complete exhibit is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster General of the operations of the Postoffice Department during the year.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

I respectfully invite your attention to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Patents on this subject.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

In further connection with the Treasury Department I recommend a revision of the tariff laws, and the opening of more mints for coining money, with authority to coin for such nations as may apply.

WAR REPORT.

The attention of Congress is invited to the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary of War, herewith accompanying.

PAYMASTERS.

At this time it is necessary to employ contract surgeons to supply the needs of military medical attendance required by the army.

PENNSYLVANIA.

There was paid during the last fiscal year for pensions, including the expense of disbursement, \$29,185,289.62, being an amount less by \$94,959.93 than was expended for the same purpose the previous year.