

have been but few or no jury trials in the district courts of that Territory since the last session of Congress. Property and life are without protection by the courts, and crimes go unpunished. To prevent anarchy there, it is absolutely necessary that Congress provide the courts with some mode of obtaining jurors, and I recommend legislation to that end, and also that the probate court of the Territory, assuming to issue writs of injunction and habeas corpus, and to try criminal cases and questions as to land titles, be denied all jurisdiction not possessed ordinarily by courts of that description.

#### REPEAL OF THE BANKRUPT LAW RECOMMENDED.

I have become impressed with the belief that the act approved March 2, 1867, entitled "An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States" is productive of more evil than good at this time. No considerations might be urged for its repeal, but this is considered inadvisable. I think it will not be seriously questioned that the portions of said act providing for what is called involuntary bankruptcy operate to increase the financial embarrassments of the country. Careful and prudent men very often become involved in debt in the transaction of business, and though they may possess ample property, if it could be made available for that purpose, to meet all their liabilities, yet on account of the extraordinary scarcity of money they may be unable to meet all their obligations as they become due, and consequently of what they are liable in their business by proceedings in bankruptcy.

At the instance of creditors people are now so seriously alarmed as to monetary matters that the mere filing of a petition in bankruptcy by an unfriendly creditor will necessarily embarrass and often accomplish the financial ruin of a responsible business man. Those who otherwise might make lawful and just arrangements to relieve themselves from difficulties produced by the present stringency in money are prevented, by proceedings against them in bankruptcy; and besides, the law is made, in many cases, by obdurate creditors, to frighten or force debtors into compliance with their wishes and into acts of injustice to the other creditors.

#### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

In three successive messages to Congress I have called attention to the subject of civil service reform. Action has been taken so far as to authorize the appointment of a board to devise rules governing the methods of making appointments and promotions, but there has never been any action making these rules or any rules binding, or even entitled to observance. When persons desire the appointment of a friend or the removal of an officer who may be disagreeable to them, to have any rules effective, they must have the acquiescence of Congress as well as of the Executive. I recommend, therefore, the subject to your attention, and suggest that a special committee of Congress might confer with the Civil Service Board during the present session, for the purpose of devising such rules as can be maintained, and which will secure the services of honest and capable officials, and which will also protect them in a degree of independence while in office.

Proper rules will protect Congress as well as the executive from much needless persecution and will prove of great value to the public at large.

#### ADMISSION OF COLORADO.

I would recommend for your favorable consideration the passage of an enabling act for the admittance of Colorado as a State in the Union. It possesses all the elements of a prosperous State, agricultural and financial, and I believe has a population now to justify such admission. In connection with that I would also recommend the encouragement of a canal for purposes of navigation from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri river.

#### PUBLIC LANDS.

As a rule I am opposed to further donation of public lands for internal improvements, and controlled by private corporations, but in this instance I would make an exception. Between the Missouri river and the Rocky Mountains there is an arid belt of public land from one hundred to one hundred and five miles, perfectly valueless for the occupation of man for want of sufficient rain to secure the growth of any products. An irrigating canal would make productive a belt as wide as the supply of water could be made to spread over, across the entire country, and would secure a cordon of settlements connecting the present population of the mountains and mining regions with that of older States. All the land claimed would be clear gain, if alternate sections are retained by the Government, and would suggest that retained regions be thrown open to enter under the homestead laws or sold to actual settlers for a very low price.

#### AMNESTY.

I renew my previous recommendation to Congress for general amnesty to the members engaged in the late rebellion, yet laboring under disabilities very small, but enough to keep up a constant agitation. No possible danger can accrue to the Government by restoring them to eligibility to hold office.

#### CIVIL RIGHTS.

I suggest for your consideration the enactment of a law to better secure the civil rights which freedom should secure, but has not effectually secured to those enfranchised.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT.

#### PROTOCOL.

Of conference held at Department of State, at Washington, on the 29th of November, 1871, between Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, and Rear Admiral Don Jose Polo de Barnabe, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister of Spain.

The undersigned having met for the purpose of entering into a definite agreement respecting the case of the steamer *Virginus*, which, while under the flag of the United States, was on the thirty-first day of October last captured on the high seas by the Spanish man-of-war *Tornado*, reached the following conclusion:

Spain on her part stipulated to restore forthwith the vessel and the survivors of her passengers and crew, and on the twenty-fifth day of December next to salute the flag of the United States. If, however, before that date Spain would prove to the satisfaction of the government of the United States that the *Virginus* was not entitled to carry the flag of the United States, and was carrying it at the time of her capture without right and improperly, the salute will be spontaneously dispensed with as in such case not being necessarily required, but the United States will expect in such case a disclaimer of intent of indignity to its flag in the act which was committed.

#### COLLISION AT SEA.

#### STEAMER VILLE DU HAVRE SUNK.

#### 336 LIVES LOST.

Only 87 of the Crew and Passengers Saved.

New York, Dec. 1.

Dispatches from London give the following particulars of the loss of the steamer *Ville du Havre*, from New York. The ship *Trimountain*, from New York, arrived at Cardiff at an early hour this morning, bringing intelligence of a dreadful disaster to the steamer *Ville du Havre*, which left New York November 15, for Havre, under command of Captain Burnout. At two o'clock in the morning, 23d November, the *Ville du Havre* collided with the British ship *Lookaloe*, from London for New York, and sunk shortly after. Two hundred and twenty-six of the passengers on the steamer lost their lives. The *Trimountain* rescued eighty-seven of the passengers, and crew and

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