

In attempting to regain our lost commerce and carrying trade, I have heretofore called attention to the States south of us, and offering a bold scheme which might be accomplished. To further this object, I suggest that a small appropriation be made, accompanied with authority for the Secretary of the Navy to fit out a naval vessel to ascend the Amazon river to the mouth of the Madeira, thence to explore that river and its tributaries into Bolivia, and to report to Congress, at its next session, or as soon as practicable, the accessibility of the country by water, its resources and the population so reached. Such an exploration will cost but little, and can do no harm, and may result in establishing a trade of value to both nations.

In further connection with the Treasury Department I would recommend that a revision and codification of the tariff laws, and the opening of new markets for raising money, and authority to coin for such nations as may apply.

The attention of Congress is invited to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary of War, herewith accompanying. The apparent great cost of supporting the army is fully explained by this report, and I hope will receive your attention. While giving your general attention to all the recommendations made by the Secretary of War, there are two which I would especially invite you to consider.

First, The importance of preparing for war in time of peace, by providing a proper armament for our coast defense. A proper armament is of vast importance than fortifications. The latter can be supplied very speedily for temporary purposes when needed. The former cannot.

The second is the necessity of reopening promotion in the staff corps of the army. Particularly is this necessary in the Medical, Pay and Ordnance Departments at this time. It is necessary to employ contract surgeons to supply the necessary medical attendance required by the army. With the present force of the Pay Department it is now difficult to make the payments to troops provided for by law. Long delays on payments are productive of desertion and other demoralization, and the law prohibits the payment of troops by other than regular army paymasters. There are now sixteen vacancies in the Ordnance Department, the leaving of which branch of the service without sufficient officers to conduct the business of the different arsenals on a large scale, is ever required.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.
During the past year our navy has been depleted by the sale of some vessels no longer fit for naval service, and by the condemnation of others not yet disposed of. This, however, has been more than compensated for by the repair of six of the old wooden ships, and by the building of eight new sloops of war authorized by the last Congress. The building of those latter has occurred at a doubly fortunate time. They are being completed at a time when they may possibly be much needed, and the work upon them has not only given direct employment to thousands of men, but, has, no doubt, been the means of keeping open establishments for other work at a time of great financial distress. Since the commencement of the last month, however, the distressing occurrences which have taken place in the waters of the Caribbean Sea, almost on our very seaboard, while they illustrate most forcibly the necessity always existing that a nation situated like ours should maintain in a state of readiness a navy adequate to its responsibility, has at the same time demanded that all the effective forces we really have shall be put in immediate readiness for warlike service. This has been and is being done promptly and efficiently, and an assured that all the available ships and crews authorized man of the American navy will be ready for whatever action is required for the safety of our citizens or the maintenance of our honor. This, of course, will require the expenditure in a short time of some of the appropriations which were calculated to extend through the fiscal year; but Congress will, I doubt not, understand and appreciate the emergency, and will provide adequately not only for the present preparations, but for the future maintenance of our navy, for the Secretary of the Navy has during the past year, been most effective in his condition for service, and thus the exigency finds us in a much better condition for work than we could possibly have been without his action.

A complete exhibit is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster General of the operations of the Postoffice Department during the year. The ordinary postal revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1873, amounted to \$22,996,751.67, and the expenditures of all kinds to \$29,054,945.67. The increase of revenues over 1872 was \$1,081,315.20, and the increase of expenditures \$2,426,753.36. Independent of the payments made from special appropriations for mail steamship lines, the amount drawn from the general Treasury to meet deficiencies was \$5,265,475. The constant and rapid extension of our postal service, particularly upon the railroad routes, and the improved facilities for the collection, transmission, distribution and delivery of the mails, which are constantly being provided, account for the increased expenditures of this popular branch of the public service. The total number of post-offices in operation on the 30th of June, 1873, was 32,214, an increase of 1,381 over the number reported the preceding year. The number of Presidential officers was 1,363 an increase of 163 during the year. The total length of railroad mail routes at the close of the year was 62,475 miles, an increase of 5,646 miles over the year 1872. Fifty-nine railway postoffice lines were in operation on the 30th of June 1873, extending over 1,866 miles of railroad routes, and performing an aggregate service of 34,925 miles daily. The number of letters exchanged with foreign countries was 27,459,185, an increase of \$3,096,685 over the previous year, and the postage there on amounted to \$2,021,510.86. The total weight of correspondence exchanged in the mails with European countries exceeded 912 tons, an increase of 92 tons over the previous year. The total cost of the United States ocean mail steamship service, including \$725,000 paid from special appropriations to subsidized lines, was \$1,047,271.35. New or additional postal conventions have been concluded with Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Newfoundland and Japan, reducing the postal rates on correspondence exchanged with those countries, and further efforts have been

the whites they have been punished, and will continue to be for like offenses. The Indian Territory, south of Kansas and west of Arkansas, is sufficient in area and agricultural resources to support all the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains. In time, no doubt, all of them, except a few who select to make their homes among the white people, will be collected there. As a preparatory step for this consummation, I am now satisfied that a territorial form of Government should be given them which will secure the treaty rights of the original allottees, and protect their interests from alienations for a period of twenty-five years.

PATENTS.
The operations of the Patent Office are growing to such a magnitude and the accumulation of materials is becoming so great that the necessity for more room is becoming more obvious day by day. I respectfully invite your attention to the reports of the Secretary of the Interior, and Commissioners of Patents on this subject.

PUBLIC LANDS.
The business of the General Land Office exhibits a material increase in all its branches during the last fiscal year. During that term there were disposed of out of the public lands 13,039,606 acres, being an amount greater by 1,165,631 acres than was disposed of the preceding year. Of the amount disposed of, 1,626,266 acres were sold for cash, 214,940 acres were located with military land warrants, 3,763,612 acres were taken for homesteads, 604,436 acres were located with agricultural college scrip, 6,983,536 acres were certified by railroad, 7,476 acres were granted on wagon roads, 238,248 acres were approved to States as swamp lands, 138,681 acres were certified for agricultural colleges, common schools and seminaries, 190,775 acres were approved to States for internal improvements, 14,332 acres were located with Indian scrip. The cash receipts during the same time were \$3,408,515.50, being \$190,415.50 in excess of the receipts of the previous year. During the year 30,488,132 acres of public land were surveyed, an increase over the amount surveyed the previous year of 1,607,193 acres, and added to the area previously surveyed, aggregates 616,554,895 acres which have been surveyed, leaving 1,218,443,705 acres of the public land still unsurveyed. The increased and steadily increasing facilities for reaching our unoccupied public domain and for the transportation of surplus products to the markets of the world for desirable homestead locations, thus stimulating settlement, and extending year by year, in a gradually increasing ratio, the area of occupation and cultivation.

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. As a rule I am opposed to the further division of public lands into 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 100 to 165 miles perfectly valuable for the occupation of man for the 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 portion of settlements connecting the present population of the mountain regions with that of the older States. All the reclaimed would be retained by the Government, I would suggest that the retained portion be thrown open to entry under the homestead laws, or sold to actual settlers at a very low price.

GENERAL AMNESTY.
I renew my previous recommendation for general amnesty. The number engaged in the late rebellion yet laboring under disabilities is very small, but enough to keep up a constant circulation. 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 the enfranchised.

Result of Lamp Explosions.
The ill-effects of the explosions of kerosene lamps, which have been so common, have been enlarged upon by the newspaper. The following incident, which the Lawrence [Mass.] American of Monday relates, is perhaps to be put down on the other side of the account: "About five months ago we published an account of the explosion of a remarkable lamp which a highly esteemed and well known young lady of this city—Miss Maggie Umack. At that time she was seized with a fainting sensation, finding upon recovery that her voice had gone. We are now most happy to announce in a still more remarkable manner she has suddenly regained her power of speech. On Sunday evening, while reading a letter from a friend, the contents alluded to her loss of voice, the kerosene lamp near at hand exploded. Immediately on recovering from the shock caused by the explosion, the young lady found she had regained her voice in its full capacity, and at once hastened to her friends to make them know the fact."

Duty of Agricultural Papers.
The *Turf, Field and Farm* recently says: "None of the agricultural discoveries and improvements of modern times, whether at home or abroad, escape the vigilance of the numerous and ably-edited periodicals devoted to that interest, and these make their way to the remotest limits of our planet. This is certainly a service of incalculable value; but there are steps beyond this which they should not hesitate to take; and these are to teach the farmers the politics of agriculture as distinguished from party politics—teach them that the same co-operation which enables a political party to sweep all opposition before it would enable the agricultural interest to assume its natural position as the leading, and not the subordinate interest to all others, as it is now."

Some wag at Fort Wayne mailed letters to a score of business men telling them to look out for a man who would visit their houses that evening, and to see that their wives and children were ready for the coming of a man who would surprise their wives by coming home two hours ahead of time.

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