

any foreign State, to permit exclusively to the Government of the United States, under such limitations and conditions as Congress may impose. In the absence of legislation by Congress I was unwilling, on the one hand, to yield to a foreign State the right to say that its grantees should land on our shore, while I denied a similar right to our people to land on the shore; and, on the other hand, I was reluctant to deny to the great interests of the world and of civilization the facilities of such communication as were proposed. This communication was not to be in the nature of a cable, on condition that the offensive monopoly feature of the concession be abandoned, and that the right of any cable which may be established by authority of this Government to land on French territory and to connect with French land lines to enjoy the necessary facilities and privileges favorable to any other company, be conceded. As the result thereof, the company in question renounced the exclusive privilege, as was informed by the French Government, of understanding this relinquishment to be construed as granting the entire monopoly and equal facilities which had been demanded, the opposition to the cable under this French concession was landed in the month of July, 1876, and has been an efficient and valuable agent of communication between this country and the other continent. It soon passed under the control of those who had the management of the cable connecting Great Britain with this continent, and thus whatever benefit to the public might have issued from competition between the two lines was lost. Having the control of the cable, an additional line, and the additional security of accident to one of them, these increased facilities and this additional facility, together with the combined control of the capital of two companies, give a greater power to prevent the future construction of other lines, and to limit the control of telegraphic communication between the two continents to those possessing the lines already laid. Within a few months a cable has been laid, connecting the United States directly with Great Britain. As soon as this cable was reported to be in good working order, the rates of the existing consolidated company were greatly reduced. Soon thereafter a new cable was announced in this country, and immediately the rates of the other line, which had been reduced, were again raised. This cable being repaired, the rates appear not to be reduced by the other company, but are charged by the other company. There is reason to believe that large amounts of capital, both at home and abroad, are ready to seek profitable investment in the advancement of the useful most civilized means of intercourse and communication. They await, however, the assurance of the means and conditions on which they may safely be made tributary to the public good. As these cable telegraph lines connect separate States, there are questions to their organization, and the control which probably can be best if not solely settled by conventions between the respective States. In the absence, however, of international conventions on the subject, a municipal regulation may secure many points which appear to be important, if not indispensable for the protection of the public against the extortions which may result from a monopoly of the right of operating cable telegraphs, or from a combination between several lines. First, no line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States under the concession from another power, which does not admit the right of any other line or lines formed in the United States to land and connect with and operate through the land lines. Second, no line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States which is not by treaty stipulation with the Government from whose shores it proceeds, or by provision in its charter or other law, to the satisfaction of this Government, prohibited from consolidating or amalgamating with any other cable telegraph line, or combining therewith, for the purpose of regulating and maintaining the rates of communication. Third, all lines should be bound to give precedence in the transmission of the official messages of the Governments of the two countries between which it may be laid. Fourth, a power should be reserved to the two Governments either conjointly or to each, as regards the messages dispatched from its shores, to fix a limit to the charges to be maintained for the transmission of messages. I present this subject to the earnest consideration of Congress. In the meantime, and unless Congress otherwise direct, I shall not oppose the landing of any telegraphic cable which complies with and assents to the points above enumerated, but will feel it my duty to prevent the landing of any which does not conform to the first and second points as stated, and which will not stipulate to concede to this Government the precedence in the transmission of its official messages, and will not enter into a satisfactory arrangement as regards its charges.

**FRAUDULENT NATURALIZATION AND EXPATRIATION.**  
Among the pressing and important subjects to which, in my official reports, the attention of Congress should be directed, are those relating to fraudulent naturalization and expatriation. The United States, with great liberality, offers its citizenship to all who, in good faith, comply with the requirements of the law, and upon as favorable terms as the emigrant as the high privilege to which he is admitted can or should permit. I do not propose any additional requirements to those which the law demands; but the very simplicity and want of necessary formality in our law have made fraudulent naturalization not infrequent, to the detriment and injury of all honest citizens. Cases of this character are continually being brought to the notice of the Government by our representatives abroad; and also those of persons residing in other countries, have frequently those who, if they were permitted to enter this country, would be entitled to the same naturalization, have generally not much overpassed that period, and have returned to the country of their origin, where they reside, avoiding all duties to the United States by their absence, and claiming to be exempt from all duties to the country of their native land and of their residence, by reason of their alleged naturalization. It is due to this Government itself and to the great mass of the naturalized citizens who, entirely, both in name

and in fact, become citizens of the United States, that the high privilege of citizenship of the United States should not be held by fraud or in derogation of the laws or the good name of every honest citizen. On many occasions it has been brought to the knowledge of the Government that certificates of naturalization are held and protection or interference claimed by parties who admit that not only they were not within the United States at the time of the pretended naturalization, but that they have never resided in the United States. In other, the certificate and record of the court show on their face that the person claiming to be naturalized had not resided the required time in the United States. In other, it is manifest upon examination that the requirements of law have not been complied with. In some cases even, such certificates have been matters of purchase. These are not isolated cases, arising at rare intervals, but of constant occurrence, and are reported from all quarters of the globe. Such occurrences cannot and do not fail to reflect upon the Government and injure all honest citizens. Such a fraud being discovered, however, there is no practicable means within the control of Government by which the record of naturalization can be vacated; and should the certificate be taken up as it usually is by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Government to whom it may have been presented, there is nothing to prevent the person, claiming to have been naturalized, from obtaining a new certificate from the court in place of that which had been taken from him. The evil has become so great and of such frequent occurrence that I can not too strongly recommend that some effective measures be adopted to provide a proper remedy and means for the vacating of any record thus fraudulently made, and punishing the guilty parties to the transaction. In this connection, I also refer to the question of expatriation and the election of nationality. The United States was foremost in upholding the right of expatriation, and was principally instrumental in overthrowing the doctrine of perpetual allegiance. Congress has declared the right of expatriation to be a natural and inherent right of all people; but while many other nations have laws providing what formalities shall be necessary to work a change of allegiance, the United States has neglected the provisions of law, and makes no respect marked out how and when expatriation may be accomplished by its citizens. Instances are brought to the attention of the Government where citizens of the United States, born naturalized or native born, have formally become citizens of subjects of foreign powers, but who nevertheless, in the absence of any provisions of legislation on these questions, when involved in difficulties or when it seems to be their interest, claim to be citizens of the United States, and demand the intervention of a Government which they have long since abandoned, and to which for years they have rendered no service, nor held themselves in any manner amenable. In other cases, naturalized citizens, immediately after naturalization, have returned to their native country, have become engaged in business, have accepted of honors or pursuits inconsistent with American citizenship, and evinced no intention to return to the United States until called upon to discharge some duty to the country where they are residing, when at once they assert their citizenship, and call upon the representatives of the Government to aid them in their unjust pretension. It is but justice to all honest citizens that no doubt should exist on such questions, and that Congress should determine by enactment of law how expatriation will be accomplished, and change of citizenship be effected. I also invite your attention to the necessity of regulating by law the STATUS OF AMERICAN WOMEN WHO MAY MARRY FOREIGNERS, and of defining more fully that of children born in a foreign country of American parents who may reside abroad, and also of some further provision for giving legal effect to the marriages of American citizens contracted in foreign countries. The correspondence submitted herewith shows a few of the constantly recurring questions on these points presented to the consideration of the Government. There are many who are engaged in the attention of Congress on which more delicate relations are depending.

**NEW STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING.**  
In the month of July last the building erected for the Department of State was taken possession of and occupied by that department. I am happy to say that the archives and valuable papers of the Government in the custody of that department are now safely deposited and properly cared for.

**OUR NATIONAL FINANCES.**  
The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows the receipts from customs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1876, to have been \$103,883,69, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, to have been \$157,167,722 35, a decrease for the last fiscal year of \$53,936,111 24. The receipts from internal revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1874, were \$102,409,784 99, and for the year ending 30th June, 1875, were \$110,007,493 58, an increase of \$7,597,708 68. The report also shows a complete history of the workings of the departments for the last year, and contains the recommendations for reforms and for legislation which I concur in, but cannot comment on so fully as I should like to if space would permit, but will confine myself to a few suggestions which I look upon as vital to the best interests of the whole people, coming within the purview of the treasury.

**I MEAN SURETY RESUMPTION.**  
Too much stress cannot be laid upon this question, and I hope Congress may be induced to take practical steps, to insure the consummation of the act of the last Congress, at its last session, to bring about specie resumption on and after the 1st day of January, 1877, at furthest. It would be a great blessing if this could be consummated, and at an earlier day. Nothing seems to me more certain than that a full, healthy and permanent reaction can not take place in favor of the industries and financial welfare of the country until we return to a measure of values recognized throughout the civilized world. While we use a currency not equivalent to this standard, the world's recognized standard—specie—becomes a commodity like any other product of the soil, the surplus value of which is absorbed by the system we should want none, or would we have any were it not that customs dues must be paid in coin,

and because the pledge to pay the interest of the public debt in coin, the yield of precious metals would flow out for the purchase of foreign products, and leave the United States the buyers of wood and drugs, and the water because of the knowledge of the subject of finance by the nations with whom we have dealings. I am not prepared to say that I can suggest the best legislation to secure the end most heartily commended. It will be a source of great gratification to me to be able to approve any measure of Congress looking effectively toward securing resumption. Unmitigated inflation would probably speedily about any specie payments looking to the redemption of legal tenders in coin; but it would be the expense of honor. The legal tenders would have no value beyond settling present liabilities, or properly settling, repudiate them. They would buy nothing after debts were fully settled. There are a few measures which seem to me important in this connection, and which I commend to your earnest consideration: A repeal of so much of the legal tender act as makes the notes receivable for debts contracted after a date to be fixed in the act itself, say not later than the 1st of January, 1877. We should then have quotations at real values, not fictitious ones. Gold would no longer be at a premium, but currency at a discount.

**A HEALTHY REACTION WOULD SET IN** at once, and with it a desire to make the currency equal to what it purports to be. The merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen of every calling could do business on a fair margin of profit. The money received having an unvarying value, laborers and all classes who work for stipulated pay or salary would receive the full value of their labor, and the case extra profits would no longer be charged by the capitalists to compensate for the risk of a downward fluctuation in the value of the currency.

**CONTRACTS RECOMMENDED.**  
Second, that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to redeem, month by month, legal tender notes, by issuing in their stead long bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3 to 5 per cent. per annum, of denominations ranging from fifty to \$1,000 each. This would in time reduce the legal tender notes to a volume that could be kept aloft without demanding redemption in large sums suddenly.

Third, that additional power be given to the Secretary of the Treasury to accumulate funds for the final redemption of the currency, by increasing the revenue, curtailing expenses, or both. It is preferable to do both, and I recommend that a reduction of expenditures be made wherever it can be done without impairing the Government's obligations, or crippling the due execution thereof.

**RESTORATION OF DUTY ON TEA AND COFFEE.**  
One measure for increasing the revenue, and the only one, I think, is the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee. These duties would add probably eighteen million dollars to the present amount received for imports from the United States, and the prices paid for these articles by the consumers. These articles are the products of countries collecting revenue from exports, and as we, the largest consumers, reduce the amount of revenue to the United States, and thereby proportionately increase them. With this addition to the revenue, many duties now collected and given but an insignificant return for the cost of collection, might be remitted, and to the direct advantage of consumers at home. I would mention these articles which enter into manufactures of all sorts, and duty paid upon such articles go directly to the cost of the article when manufactured here, and must be paid for by the consumers. The duties not only come from the consumers at home, but also from the consumers of foreign manufacturers of the same completed articles in our own and distant markets. I will suggest or mention another subject bearing upon the problem of how to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to accumulate a balance, it is to devise some better method of verifying claims against the Government than at present exists through the Court of Claims, especially those claims growing out of the late war. Nothing is more common than a large percentage of the amounts passed and paid are part or wholly fraudulent, or are in excess of the real losses sustained. The large amount of losses proved on good testimony, by affidavits of fictitious or unscrupulous persons, to have been sustained on small farms and plantations, are not only far beyond the possible yield of those places for any one year, but, as every one who knows who has experience in tilling the soil, and who has visited the scenes of these plantations, are in many instances more than the individual claimants were ever worth, including their personal and real estate.

The report of the Attorney General which was submitted to Congress at an early day, contains a detailed history of the awards made of claims presented.

**THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.**  
Accompanying this message, gives a detailed account of army operations for the year just passed, the expenses for maintenance, &c., with recommendations for legislation, to which I respectfully invite your attention. First, of these I invite special notice. First, the necessity of making \$30,000 of the appropriation for the Subsistence Department available before the beginning of the next fiscal year. Without this provision, troops are sent distant from supply and protection most often go without food or the existing laws must be violated. It is not attended with cost to the treasury. Second, his recommendations of an enactment of a system of annuities for the families of deceased officers by regular deductions from the monthly pay of officers. This again is not attended with burden upon the treasury, and would for the future relieve most distress which every old army officer has witnessed in the past, officers dying suddenly or being killed, leaving families without even the means of reaching their friends, if fortunate enough to have friends at all. Third, the repeal of the law abolishing mileage, and a return to the old system.

Fourth, the trial with torpedoes under the Corps of Engineers, and the appropriation for the same. Should we ever occur between the United States and any maritime power, torpedoes will be among, if not the most effective and cheapest auxiliaries for the defense of harbors, and for the destruction of operations, that we can have, hence it is advisable to learn by experiment their best construction and application, as well as

effect. Fifth, a permanent organization for the Signal Service Corps.—This service has now become a necessity of peace as well as war, under the advancement made by the water service in taking the place of the appropriation for completing the official record of the war, &c.

**THE CONDITION OF OUR NAVY.**  
At this time is a subject of satisfaction. It does not contain, it is true, any of the powerful cruising iron-clads which make so much of the maritime strength of some other nations; but neither our continental situation nor our foreign policy requires that we should have a large number of ships of this character, while this situation and the nature of our ports continue to make those of other nations little dangerous to us under any circumstances. Our navy does contain, however, a considerable number of iron-clads of the monitor class, which, though not properly cruisers, are powerful and effective for harbor defense and for operations near our own shores. Of these all the single turreted ones, the *Timber Culture* and *Albatross*, and the *Albatross* and *Albatross*, supposed to be found in the grasshopper scourge and the droughts which prevailed so extensively in some of the four-teen States and territories during that time as to discourage and deter enterprise by actual sailing, and the *Albatross* and *Albatross*, the cash receipts were less by \$90,322, 25 than during the preceding year. The entire surveyed area of the public domain is 680,259,094 acres, of which 26,677,531 acres were surveyed during the past year, making 1,134,471, 252 acres surveyed. The report of the Commissioner presents many interesting suggestions in regard to the management and disposition of the public domain, and the modification of existing laws, and the importance of which should secure for them the careful consideration of Congress.

**PENSIONERS.**  
The number of pensioners still continues to decrease, the highest number having been reached during the year ending June 30, 1873. During the last year 11,567 names were added to the list, and 12,977 were discharged, showing a net decrease of 1,410. But while the number of pensioners have decreased, the annual amount due on the pension rolls has increased \$44,733 73. This is caused by the greatly increased average rate of pensions, which by the liberal legislation of Congress, has increased from \$20.25 in 1872, to \$103.91 in 1875—to each individual pensioner an increase in the average rate of fifteen per cent. in the three years.

During the year ending June 30th, 1875, there was paid on account of pensions, including the expenses of disbursement, \$29,638,116 being \$910,632 less than was paid during the preceding year. This reduction in the amount of expenditures was produced by the decrease in the amount of arrearsages due on allowed claims, and the rate of interest, which was increased by the legislation of the preceding session of Congress.

At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension rolls 234,821 persons, of whom 210,363 were living, and 24,458 were dead. Of invalids, 104,885 widows and dependent relatives; 3,420 were navy pensioners, of whom 1,636 were invalids and 1,784 widows and dependent relatives; 21,038 were pensioners of the war of 1812, 15,875 of whom were survivors and 5,163 were widows.

It is estimated that \$29,535,000 will be required for the payment of pensions for the next fiscal year, an amount \$965,000 less than the estimate for the present year.

**GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS.**  
The geological explorations have been prosecuted with energy during the year, covering an area of about 50,000 square miles in the Territories of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, developing the agricultural and mineral resources, and furnishing interesting scientific and topographical details of that region.

**THE INDIAN PEACE POLICY.**  
The method for the treatment of the Indians, adopted at the beginning of my first term, has been steadily pursued, and with success, and encouraging results. It has been productive of evident improvement in the condition of that race, and will be continued with only such modifications as further experience may indicate to be necessary.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS.**  
As this will be the last annual message which I shall have the honor of transmitting to Congress before my successor is chosen, I will repeat or recapitulate the questions which I deem of real importance, and which should be legislated upon and settled at this session:

First, That the States shall be required to afford the opportunity of a good common school education to every child within their limits.

Second, That the Territories shall ever be taught in any school supported in whole or in part by the State, or by the proceeds of any tax levied upon any community. Make education compulsory so far as to deprive all persons who cannot read the English language of the right to vote, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of taxation.

Fourth, Drive out licensed immorality, such as polygamy and the importation of women for illegitimate purposes.

To recur again to the Centennial year, it would seem as though now, when we are about to begin the second century of our national existence, we should be the most fitting time for these reforms.

Fifth, Enact such laws as will insure a speedy return to a sound currency, such as will command the respect of the world.

Believing that these views will commend themselves to the great majority of the right thinking and patriotic citizens of the United States, I submit them to Congress.

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Governor Hartran, General Burnside, General Porter and a large number of officers of distinction will be in the region of the surviving members of the United States, I submit them to Congress.

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