

## President's Message.

(Continued from First Page.)

son silver dollars of equivalent value as bullion with gold dollars. This will defend no man, and will be in accordance with familiar precedents.

Congress, on several occasions, has altered the ratio of value between gold and silver, in order to establish and sustain the ratio of value between the actual ratio of value between the two metals.

In addition, legislation every session in the direction of greater fidelity in the discharge of pecuniary obligations has been found by experience to diminish the rate of interest which debtors are required to pay, and to increase the facility with which money may be obtained for every legitimate purpose. Our recent financial history shows how surely money becomes abundant whenever confidence in the exact performance of moneyed obligations is established.

### THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

The secretary of war reports that the expenditures of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880 were \$20,924,773.00. The appropriations made by this Department for the current fiscal year amount to \$21,000,000.

With respect to the Army, the Secretary invites attention to the fact that its strength is limited by statute section 1115, Revised Statutes, to not more than 25,000 enlisted men, but that previous contained in appropriation bills have limited expenditures to the enlistment of but 25,000. It is believed the full legal possibility is the least possible force at which the present organization can be maintained, having in view efficiency, discipline, and economy. While the enlistment of this force would add something to the appropriations for pay of the Army, the saving made in other respects would be more than an equivalent for this additional army, and the efficiency of the Army would be largely increased.

The rapid extension of the railway system west of the Mississippi river, and the great tide of settlers which has flowed in upon new territory, impose on the military an enormous and increasing load of small posts along wagon and stage roads, far removed from any regular quarters. Permanent quarters at points of great and most substantial character than those heretofore constructed, will be required. Under existing laws, permanent buildings cannot be erected without the sanction of Congress, and when acts of military sites and buildings have been authorized, the monies received have reverted to the Treasury, and only became available through a new appropriation. It is recommended that provision be made by a general statute for the sale of such abandoned military posts and buildings, as are found to be unnecessary, and for the application of the proceeds to the construction of other posts. While many of the present posts are of but slight value for military purposes owing to the changed condition of the country, their occupation is continued at great expense and inconvenience, because they afford the only available shelter for troops.

The absence of a large number of officers of the line, in active duty, from their regiments, is a serious detriment to the maintenance of the service. The constant demand for small detachments, each of which should be commanded by a commissioned officer, and the various details of officers for necessary service away from their commands, occasions a scarcity in the number required for company duties. With a view to lessening this drain to some extent, it is recommended that the law authorizing the detail of officers from the active list as professors of tactics and military science at certain colleges and universities, be so amended as to provide that all such details be made from the retired list of the army.

Attention is given to the necessity of providing by legislation for organizing, arming and disciplining the active military of the country, and liberal appropriations are recommended in this behalf. The reports of the Adjutant General of the Army and the Chief of Ordnance touching this subject, fully set forth its importance.

The report of the officer in charge of education in the army shows that there are seventy-eight schools now in operation in the army, with an aggregate attendance of 2,345 enlisted men and children. The secretary recommends the enlistment of 250 schoolmasters, with the rank and pay of commissary sergeants. An appropriation is needed to supply the judge advocates of the army with suitable libraries, and the Secretary recommends that the corps of judge advocates be placed upon the same footing, as to promotion, with the other staff corps of the army. Under existing laws, the Bureau of Military Justice consist of one officer, the Judge Advocate General, and the corps of judge advocates, of eight officers of equal rank (majors), with a provision that the limit of the corps shall remain at four, when reduced by casualty or resignation to that number. The consolidation of the Bureau of Military Justice, and the corps of judge advocates, upon the same basis with the other staff corps of the army, would remove an unjust discrimination against deserving officers, and subserve the best interests of the service.

Special attention is given to the report of the Chief of Engineers upon the condition of our national defences. From a personal inspection of many of the fortifications referred to, the Secretary is able to emphasize the recommendations made, and to state that their incomplete and defenceless condition is discreditable to the country. While other nations have been increasing their means for carrying on an offensive warfare and attacking maritime cities, we have been dormant in preparation for defence; nothing of importance has been done towards strengthening and finishing our castles since our late civil war, during which the great guns of modern warfare and the heavy armor of modern fortifications and ships came into use among the nations, and our earthworks left by a sudden failure of appropriations many years since, in all stages of incompleteness, are now being rapidly destroyed by the elements.

### WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS.

The completion of the new building for the War Department is urgently needed, and the estimates for continuing its construction are especially recommended.

The collections of books, specimens and records constituting the Army Medical Museum and Library

are of national importance. The library now contains about 51,000 volumes and 37,000 pamphlets relating to medicine, surgery, and allied sciences. The contents of the Army Medical Museum consists of 22,000 specimens, and are unique in the completeness with which both military surgery and diseases of armies are illustrated. Their de truction could be an irreparable loss not to the United States but to the world. They are filed in the record and pension division, over 16,000 other volumes of hospital records together with a great quantity of papers, embracing the original records of the hospitals of our armies during the civil war. Aside from their historical value, these records are daily searched for evidence needed in the settlement of large numbers of pension and other claims, for the protection of the government against anticipated frauds, as well as for the benefit of honest claimants. These valuable collections are now in a building which is peculiarly exposed to the dangers of destruction by fire. It is therefore earnestly recommended that an appropriate sum be made for a new fire-proof building, adequate for the present needs and reasonable future expansions of these valuable collections. Such a building should be absolutely fire-proof; an expenditure for more architectural display is required. It is believed that a suitable structure can be erected at a cost not to exceed \$250,000.

I commend to the attention of Congress the great services of the Commander-in-Chief of our armies during the war for the Union, whose wise, firm and patriotic conduct did so much to bring that momentous conflict to a close. The legislation of the United States contains many precedents for the recognition of distinguished military merit, authorizing ranks and emoluments to be conferred for eminent services to the country. An act of Congress authorizing the appointment of a Captain General of the Army, with suitable provisions relating to compensation, retirement, and other details, would, in my judgment, be altogether fitting and proper, and would be warmly approved by the country.

**THE CONGRESS OF THE NAVY.**  
The report of the Secretary of the Navy exhibits the successful and satisfactory management of that department during the last fiscal year. The total expenditures for the year were \$12,915,632.17, leaving unexpended at the close of the year \$2,111,682.23 of the amount of the available appropriations. The appropriations for the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1881 are \$15,000,000.45, and the total estimated for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1882 are \$15,000,000.61. The amount drawn by the Treasury from July 1, 1880 to November 1, 1881 is \$5,041,570.45.

The recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy that provision be made for the establishment of some form of civil government for the ports of Alaska is approved. At present there is no protection of persons or property in that Territory, except as is afforded by the officers of the United States ship Jamestown. This vessel was dispatched to Sitka, because of the fear that, without the presence of the national authority, there was impending danger of anarchy. The steps taken to restore order have been accepted in good faith by both white and Indian inhabitants, and the necessity for this method of restraint does not, in my opinion, now exist. It however, the Jamestown should be withdrawn, leaving the people, as at present, without the ordinary judicial and administrative authority of organized local government, serious consequences might ensue.

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The report of the Postmaster General exhibits the continual growth and the high state of efficiency of the postal service. The operations of no department of the government, perhaps, represent with greater exactness the increase in the population and business of the country. In 1870, the postal receipts were \$5,186,000, in 1880, the receipts were \$32,315,479.34. All the Indians in the country are directly and personally interested in having proper mail facilities, and naturally watch the postoffice very closely. This careful oversight on the part of the people has proven a constant stimulus to improvement. During the past year there was an increase of 2,134 post offices, and the mail routes were extended 27,177 miles, making an additional annual transportation of 10,804,191 miles. The revenues of the postal service for the current year are estimated at \$38,452,174.40, and the expenditures at \$42,475,932, leaving a deficiency to be appropriated out of the Treasury of \$3,623,757.92.

The Universal Postal Union has received the accession of almost all the countries and colonies of the Americas, and our earthworks left by a sudden failure of appropriations many years since, in all stages of incompleteness, are now being rapidly destroyed by the elements.

**EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS.**  
The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture expresses the confident belief that his efforts in behalf of the production of our own sugar and tea have been encouragingly rewarded. The importance of the results attained have attracted marked attention at home, and have received the special consideration of foreign nations. The successful cultivation of our own tea, the manufacture of our own sugar, would make a difference of many millions of dollars annually in the wealth of the nation.

The report of the Commissioner of Education attention to the confined prevalence of infections and contagious skin disease, known and dreaded in Europe and Asia as cattle plague, or pleuro-pneumonia. A mild type of this disease, in certain sections of our country, is the occasion of great loss to our farmers, and of serious disturbance to our trade with Great Britain, which furnishes a market for most of our live stock and dressed meats. The value of neat-cattle exported from the United States for the eight months ended August 31, 1880, was more than twelve million dollars, and nearly double the value for the same period in 1879, an unexampled increase of export trade.

**EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS.**

The Commissioner of Education reports a continued increase of public interest in educational affairs, and the public schools generally throughout the country are well sustained. Industrial training is attracting deserved attention, and colleges for instruction, theoretical and practical, in agriculture and the

mechanic arts, including the government schools recently established for the instruction of Indian youth, are gaining steadily in public estimation. The conduct of the Indians throughout the country, during the past year, with but few noteworthy exceptions, has been orderly and peaceful. The guerrilla warfare carried on for two years by Victoria and his band of Southern Apaches has virtually come to an end by the death of that chief and most of his followers, on Mexican soil. The disturbances caused on our northern frontier by Sitting Bull and his men, who had taken refuge in the British dominions, are also likely to cease. A large majority of his followers have surrendered to our military forces, and the remainder are apparently in process of disintegration.

The success of the public schools of the District of Columbia, and the progress made under the intelligent direction of the Board of Education and the superintendent, in supplying the educational requirements of the District, with thoroughly trained and efficient teachers, is very gratifying. The acts of Congress, from time to time, donating public lands to the several states and territories in aid of educational interests, and the income of which, and the remainder of the net annual proceeds, to be set aside in several, to be used for the instruction of Indian youth, are gaining steadily in public estimation. The Commissioner asks special attention to the deprivations committed on the lands reserved for the future support of public instruction, and to the very great need of help from the nation for schools in the territories and in the southern states. The recommendation herefore made, is repeated and urged, that an educational fund be set apart from the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands annually, the income of which, and the remainder of the net annual proceeds, to be distributed on some satisfactory plan to the states and territories and the District of Columbia.

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The attention of Congress is again asked to the wasteful expenditures committed on our public timber lands, and the rapid and indiscriminate destruction of our forests. The urgent necessity for legislation to regulate the disposal of public lands, become of more pressing necessity, and I therefore invite the consideration of Congress to the report and the accompanying draft of a bill, made by the Public Lands Commission, for summer months, to be submitted to the House of Representatives.

**THE INDIAN SERVICE.**

The report of the Secretary of the Interior presents an elaborate account of the operations of that department during the past year, which marks the prosperous growth of our agricultural industry, and a vigorous movement of population toward our unoccupied lands. As this movement proceeds, the codification of the laws of the circuit court in the circuit, as shown by the report of the Commissioners, are in a very satisfactory condition.

I have urged upon the attention of Congress that a suitable appellate court should be formed in each circuit, to consist of the circuit judges, and the circuit justices, and that in the event of the absence of either of these judges the place of the absent judge should be supplied by the judge of one of the districts in the circuit. Such an appellate court could be easily invested with large jurisdiction, and the circuit court, with the exception of the second circuit, should be increased by the addition of another judge; in the second circuit, that two should be added; and that an immediate appellate court should be formed in each circuit, to consist of the circuit judges, and the circuit justices, and that in the event of the absence of either of these judges the place of the absent judge should be supplied by the judge of one of the districts in the circuit. 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