

Treasury Report.

The Journal of Commerce gives the following digest of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury:

The receipts of the last fiscal year, ending 30th June, 1853, were from customs \$55,931,865; lands, \$1,667,058; miscellaneous, \$738,624. Total, \$61,337,764. Expenditures, \$64,026,818. Excess of receipts 7,310,766. Which added to the balance on hand at the beginning of the year, makes a balance on hand at the end of the year, June 30, 1853, of \$21,942,392.

During the first quarter (ending 30th September,) of the present fiscal year, the receipts from customs were \$19,718,822; from lands, \$1,499,562; miscellaneous, \$136,995. Total, \$21,355,389. Expenditures same period, \$15,081,384. Balance in the Treasury 30th Sept. last, \$21,275,886.

A large encroachment has been made during the year upon the public debt, which has been reduced to \$56,363,157.62. The amount of debt redeemed and purchased from 4th March last to 3d Dec. inst., is \$12,822,779.75. The Hon. Secretary states that the condition and prospects of the Treasury justify the application of \$15,000,000 more towards the purchase of the remaining portion of the debt.

The premiums paid by Uncle Sam have varied from \$4 to 21 per cent, according to the periods which the stock had to run.

Imports and Exports.—The value of imports during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1853, was \$267,978,647, and of exports \$230,452,250. Excess of imports \$37,526,317. This is the largest excess of imports that has occurred in any year since 1836. But, says the Secretary, a fair estimate, for profits on our exports and the freight of our vessels, would cast the balance of this account in our favor, without estimating the money brought in by emigrants, of which no account is taken.

The Tariff.—It is proposed to remove the duties entirely from certain articles of import, which now yield a revenue of about \$3,000,000. Also to arrange the articles which still continue to pay duty, into two classes, the one class to pay 100 per cent duty, and the other class 25 per cent.

It is calculated that these modifications of the Tariff, to go into effect 1st January 1855, will reduce the revenue to about \$15,000,000 from Customs, below which it is not proposed to go until the public debt is paid. Among the articles recommended to be thrown into the free list, are the raw materials used in our manufactures. Also salt,—on which the average revenue for the last five years has amounted to only \$232,284, while the annual fishing bounties, for which the salt duty is made a pretext, amount to \$289,432. With the duty on salt it is proposed to repeal also the fishing bounties.

The total tonnage of the United States now amounts to 4,107,010 tons, being an increase upon the last year, of 268,000 tons.

The Mint.—The entire coinage at the United States Mint from its origin to 31st of October last, was \$370,083,192.50. The gold coinage from 1st January last to 1st of October, was \$46,998,945.60; and the silver coinage \$8,996,255. Within four years, \$13,572,055.73 has been added to the gold and silver coin of the country, and above what has been exported, without including what has been brought by immigrants. A Branch Mint has been constructed at San Francisco and will be in working order by the 1st of Feb. next. It will be capable of coining \$30,000,000 per annum. It is officially stated that the property in Wall street, adjoining the Custom House, and lately occupied by the Bank of Commerce, has been leased by the Government for an assay Office at \$55,000 per annum for two years, with the privilege of purchasing within two years at \$53,000, with interest, from the date of the lease, the payments to be deducted from the half price.

European News.—By the arrival of the Asia at New York, we have three days later advices that previously received. A heavy decline in the Liverpool grain market is reported. The ear has gone down two chaffings per barrel. There had also been a fall in Consuls.

From the seat of war we have very important news. Winter having fairly commenced, the bad weather had prevented any extended movements in either army. In Asia the success of the Turks has been as yet uninterrupted, and it is stated that they have captured several important fortresses. Hostilities by sea had commenced, and several vessels are reported to have changed hands.

It is stated positively from Paris, that a new conference will be held at London, Paris or Vienna, for the settlement of difficulties. It is also reported that the Czar has positively refused to accept any arrangement, and that henceforth the fate of arms must decide the matter. The opinion is gaining strength in England that there is now very little chance of an adjustment of affairs by the amiable efforts of England and France. On the whole, we do not think the news by this steamer to be so favorable to the Turks as the previous advices. —*Daily Register*, 16th.

Use of "CONFIDENTIAL" Letters.—In a ruling upon this subject in the U. S. Circuit Court yesterday morning, Judge Sprague decided that a person exhibiting another letter marked "confidential" or otherwise using its contents thus publicly to the injury of the writer, or a third party, was guilty of a gross violation of privilege and might be held personally liable for the damages resulting from such a breach of confidence. This legal construction of the term "confidential" is in perfect accordance with the definition of the word as given by Webster, viz.: "That which is to be treated or kept in confidence; private, admitted to special confidence." And so plainly a common sense view of the matter that it seems strange any honorable persons should misname their confidential letters except through thoughtlessness and inadvertence. —*Boston Transcript*.

More adequate appropriations for fortifications are urged, and arrangements for Texas and the Pacific are immediately necessary. Better means for conveying public stores are also needed, and 4,600 recruits are required.

The Secretary thinks that the soldiers should be better paid, and more in proportion to what they can earn in civil employments. In an army of 10,000 men, which is about the actual strength of our military establishment, as at present organized, there will be annually, under existing circumstances of pay and service, 1,290 discharges by expiration of enlistment; 725 discharges for disability, &c.; 330 deaths, and 1,465 desertions; or 3,711 vacancies annually, of which only 219 are filled by re-enlistments. The actual annual loss to the Army to be supplied by the enlistment of new men will therefore be 3,592. Or in other words, more than one third of the Army must every year be recruited, and transferred from the depots to their regiments. In view of these experiences, the Secretary recommended the adoption of such measures as will prevent desertions and keep the ranks full. Among such he suggests:

1. An increase of ten per cent, of the present pay of the soldiers.

2. An additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain in the Army.

3. Provision for promotion to the lower grade of commissioned officers, of the army as may be found qualified for, and by their conduct, character, and services, entitled to such advancements.

He also recommends that honorably discharged soldiers who enlisted within a month, should receive 20 per cent additional pay for five years. Numerous other recommendations for increasing the strength of the army are given. The en-

couragement of regularly uniformed corps of militia is recommended, and that they should be provided with books of tactics. The report embraces many other topics connected with the Department.

Report of the Department of the Interior.

We take the following synopsis of the report of this department from the N. Y. Times:

During the year the survey of the public lands has been steadily prosecuted, large bodies of new lands brought into market, the wants of the emigrant fully met, and choice selections offered to the hardy pioneer.

The Land System is nearly correct in principle. Its details need but little modification. During the year 9,191,411 acres have been surveyed, 10,365,891 acres brought into market, and 1,082,495 acres sold. The number of land warrants issued up to the 30th September last was 266,048, of which there were 17,048 unexpired.

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The Susquehanna Register.

H. H. FRAZIER, EDITOR.

MONTROSE, PENNSYLVANIA.

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