

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Notwithstanding the added burdens rendered necessary by the war, our people rejoice in a very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity, evidenced by the largest volume of business ever recorded.

A review of the relation of the United States to other powers, always appropriate, is this year of primary importance.

In my last annual message very full consideration was given to the question of the duty of the Government of the United States toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection as being by far the most important problem with which we have been called upon to deal.

The war continued on the old footing without comprehensive plan, developing only the same spasmodic encounters, barren of strategic result, that had marked the course of the earlier ten years' rebellion as well as the present insurrection from its start. No alternative save physical exhaustion of either combatant and thereafter the practical ruin of the island lay in sight, but how far distant no one could venture to conjecture.

At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battle ship, the Maine, while rightfully lying in the harbor of Havana on a mission of international courtesy and good will—a catastrophe the suspicious nature and horror of which stirred the nation's heart profoundly. The finding of the Naval Board of Inquiry established that the origin of the explosion was external by a submarine mine and only halted, through lack of positive testimony, to fix the responsibility of its authorship.

All these things carried conviction to the most thoughtful, even before the finding of the naval court, that a crisis in our relations with Spain and toward Cuba was at hand.

Nor was the apprehension of coming strife confined to our own country. It was felt by the continental powers, which, on April 6, through their Ambassadors and Envoys, addressed to the Executive an expression of hope that humanity and moderation might mark the course of this Government and people, and that further negotiations would lead to an agreement which, while securing the maintenance of peace, would afford all necessary guarantees for the re-establishment of order in Cuba.

In responding to that representation, I said I shared the hope the Envoys had expressed that peace might be preserved in a manner to terminate the chaotic condition of disturbance in Cuba.

I again reviewed the alternative courses of action which had been proposed, concluding that the only one compatible with our firm-set historical traditions, was intervention as a neutral to stop the war and check the hopeless sacrifice of life, even though that resort involved hostile constraint upon both the parties to the contest, as well to enforce a truce as to guide the eventual settlement.

The grounds justifying that step were the interests of humanity; the duty to protect the life and property of our citizens in Cuba; the right to check injury to our commerce and people through the devastation of the island, and, most important, the need of removing at once and forever the constant menace and the burdens entailed upon our government by the uncertainties and perils of the situation caused by the unendurable disturbance in Cuba. I said:

That the long truce has proved that the object for which Spain has waged the war cannot be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smolder, smolder with varying intensity, but it can not be extinguished by present methods. The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests which gave us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop.

In view of this, the Congress was asked to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full termination of hostilities between Spain and the people of Cuba.

The response of the Congress, after nine days of earnest deliberation, during which the almost unanimous sentiment of your body was developed on every point save as to the expediency of coupling the proposed action with a formal recognition of the Republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that island—a proposition which failed of adoption—the Congress, after conference on the 19th day of April, by a vote of 32 to 25 in the Senate and 311 to 5 in the House of Representatives, passed the memorable joint resolution, declaring:

First.—That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be free and independent.

Second.—That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third.—That the President of the United States, be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States, the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth.—That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination that that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

This resolution was approved by the Executive on the next day, April 20. A copy was at once communicated to the Spanish Minister at this capital, who forthwith announced that his continuance in Washington had thereby become impossible and asked for his passports, which were given him. He thereupon withdrew from Washington, leaving the protection of Spanish interests in the United States to the

French Ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian Minister.

Simultaneously with this communication to the Spanish Minister here, Gen. Woodford, the American Minister at Madrid, was telegraphed confirmation of the text of the joint resolution and directed to communicate it to the Government of Spain with the formal demand that it at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its forces therefrom coupling this demand with the announcement of the intentions of this Government as to the future of the island, in conformity with the fourth clause of the resolution, and giving Spain until noon of April 23 to reply.

That demand, although as above shown, officially made known to the Spanish Envoy here, was not delivered at Madrid. After the instruction reached Gen. Woodford on the morning of April 21, but before he could present it, the Spanish Minister of State notified him that upon the President's approval of the joint resolution the Madrid Government regarding the act as "equivalent to an evident declaration of war" had ordered its Minister in Washington to withdraw, thereby breaking off diplomatic relations between the two countries and ceasing all official communication between their respective representatives. Gen. Woodford thereupon demanded his passports and quitted Madrid the same day.

Spain having thus denied the demand of the United States and initiated that complete rupture of relations which attends a state of war, the executive powers authorized by me to meet the enlarged contingency of actual war between sovereign states.

On April 22 I proclaimed a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Paha Honda, and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba, and on the 23d called for volunteers to execute the purpose of the resolution. By my message of April 25 the Congress was informed of the situation, and I recommended formal declaration of war between the United States and Spain. The Congress accordingly voted on the same day the act approved April 25, 1898, declaring the existence of such war from and including the 21st day of April, and re-enacted the provision of the resolution of April 20 directing the President to use all the armed force of the nation to carry that act into effect.

Our Country thus, after an interval of half a century of peace with all nations, found itself engaged in deadly conflict with a foreign enemy. Every nerve was strained to meet this emergency. The response to the initial call for 125,000 volunteers was instant and complete, as was also the result of the second call of May 25 for 75,000 additional volunteers, and the ranks of the regular army were increased to the limits provided by the act of April 26, 1898.

The story of this successful campaign is told in the report of the Secretary of War, which will be laid before you. The individual valor of officers and soldiers was never more strikingly shown than in the several engagements leading to the surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successive victories won instant and universal applause. To those who gained this complete triumph, which established the ascendancy of the United States upon land, as the light of Santiago had fixed our supremacy on the seas, the earnest and lasting gratitude of the nation is unparalyingly due. Nor should we alone remember the gallantry of the living. The dead claim our tears, and our losses by battle and disease must cloud any exultation at the result and teach us to weigh the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal the victory.

It is fitting that I should bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of the large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, fortunately was not required outside of the United States. They did their whole duty, and, like their comrades at the front, have earned the gratitude of the nation.

In like manner the officers and men of the army and navy who remained in their departments and stations faithfully performing most important duties connected with the war, and whose requests for assignments in the field and at sea I was compelled to refuse because their services were indispensable here, are entitled to the highest commendation. It is my regret that there seems to be no provision for their suitable recognition.

In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation the timely and useful work of the American Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assembly, and, later, under the able and experienced leadership of the president of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba. Working in conjunction with the Governmental authorities and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic cooperation of many patriotic women and societies in the various States, the Red Cross has fully maintained its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise the noble purposes of its international organization, thus justifying the confidence and support which it has received at the hands of the American people. To the members and officers of this society and all who aided them in their philanthropic work, the sincere and lasting gratitude of the soldiers and the public is due and freely accorded.

In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for his watchful care over us and his safe guidance for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayers for the continuance of His favor.

I do not discuss at this time the government or the future of the new possessions which will come to us as a result of the war with Spain. Such discussion will be appropriate after the certainty of peace shall be ratified in the meantime, and until the Congress has legislated otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since our occupation, and give to the people

security in life and property and encouragement under a just and beneficent rule.

As soon as we are in possession of Cuba and have pacified the island it will be necessary to give aid and direction to its people to form a government for themselves. This should be undertaken at the earliest moment consistent with safety and assured success. It is important that our relations with this people shall be of the most friendly character and our commercial relations close and reciprocal. It should be our duty to assist in every proper way to build up the waste places of the island, encourage the industry of the people, and assist them to form a government which shall be free and independent, thus realizing the best aspirations of the Cuban people. Spanish rule must be replaced by a just, benevolent and humane government, created by the people of Cuba, capable of performing all internal obligations, and which shall encourage thrift, industry and prosperity and promote peace and good will among all of the inhabitants, whatever may have been their relations in the past. Neither revenge nor passion should have a place in the new Government. Until there is complete tranquillity in the island and a stable Government inaugurated, military occupation will be continued.

On the 10th of September, 1897, a conflict took place at Lattimer, Pa., between a body of striking miners and the Sheriff of Luzerne County and his deputies, in which twenty-two miners were killed and twelve of the wounded were Austrian and Hungarian subjects. This deplorable event naturally aroused the sympathy of the Austro-Hungarian Government, which, on the assumption that the killing and wounding involved the unjustifiable misuse of authority, claimed reparation for the sufferers. Apart from the searching investigation and peremptory action of the authorities of Pennsylvania, the Federal Executive took appropriate steps to learn the merits of the urgent complaint of a friendly power. The Sheriff and his deputies, having been indicted for murder, were tried and acquitted after protracted proceedings and the hearing of hundreds of witnesses, on the ground that the killing was in the line of their official duty to uphold law and preserve public order in the State. A representative of the Department of Justice attended the trial and reported its course fully. With all the facts in his possession, this Government expects to reach a harmonious understanding on the subject with that of Austria-Hungary, notwithstanding the renewed claim of the latter, after the result of the trial, for indemnity for its injured subjects.

I trust that Belgian restrictions on United States originally adopted as a day be relaxed as to their present sanitary precaution, will at an early date be removed, and that the features of hardship and discrimination, so as to admit live cattle under due regulation of their slaughter after landing.

I am hopeful, too, of favorable change in the helpful treatment of our preserved and salted meats. The growth of direct trade between the two countries, not alone for Belgian consumption and Belgian products, but by way of transit from and to other Continental States, has been both encouraging and beneficial.

No efforts will be spared to enlarge its advantages by seeking the removal of needless impediments and by arrangements for increased commercial exchanges.

The Nicaragua Canal Commission, under the chairmanship of Rear Admiral John C. Walker appointed July 24, 1897, under the authority of a provision in the Sturdy Civil act of June 4 of that year, has nearly completed its labors, and the results of its exhaustive inquiry into the proper route, the feasibility and the cost of construction of an interoceanic canal by a Nicaraguan route will be laid before you.

Nevertheless it appears that the Government of Nicaragua, as one of its last sovereign acts before merging its powers in those of the newly formed United States of Central America, has granted an optional concession to another association, to become effective on the expiration of the present grant. It does not appear what surveys have been made or what route is proposed under the present contingent grant; so that an examination of the feasibility of its plans is necessarily not embraced in the report of the Canal Commission. All these circumstances suggest the urgency of some definite action by the Congress at this session, if the labors of the past are to be utilized and the linking of the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans by a practical waterway is to be realized.

That the construction of such a maritime highway is now more than ever indispensable to that intimate and ready intercommunication between our eastern and western seabords demanded by the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands and the prospective expansion of our influence and commerce in the Pacific, and that our national ever calls for its control by this Government are propositions which, I doubt not, the Congress will duly appreciate and wisely act upon.

The United States has not been an indifferent spectator of the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, whereby portions of its maritime provinces are passing under the control of various European powers; but the prospect that the vast commerce which the energy of our citizens and the necessity of our staple productions for Chinese uses has built up in those regions may not be prejudiced through any exclusive treatment by the new occupants, has obligated the need of our country becoming an actor in the scene. Our position among nations, having a large Pacific coast, and a constantly expanding direct trade with the farther Orient gives us the equitable claim to consideration and friendly treatment in this regard, and it will be my aim to subscribe our large interests in that quarter by all means appropriate to the constant policy of our Government.

The territories of Kiau Chou, of Wei Wai and of Port Arthur and Tallien, leased to Germany, Great Britain and Russia, respectively, for terms of years, will, it is announced, be open to international commerce during such alien occupation; and if no discriminating treatment of American citizens and their trade be found to exist, or be hereafter developed, the desire of this

Government would appear to be realized.

There is now every prospect that the participation of the United States in the Universal Exposition to be held in Paris in 1900, will be on a scale commensurate with the advanced position held by our products and industries in the world's chief marts.

The commercial arrangement made with France on the 25th of May, under the Tariff act of 1897, went into effect on the first day of June following. It has relieved a portion of our export trade from serious embarrassment.

Further negotiations are now pending under section 4 of the same act, with a view to the increase of trade between the two countries, to their mutual advantage. Negotiations with other governments, in part interrupted by the war with Spain, are in progress under both sections of the tariff act. I hope to be able to announce some of the results of these negotiations during the present session of Congress.

Negotiations to the same end with Germany have been set on foot. Meanwhile no effort has been relaxed to convince the Imperial Government of the thoroughness of our inspection of pork products for exportation, and it is trusted that the efficient administration of this measure by the Department of Agriculture will be recognized as a guarantee of the healthfulness of the food staples we send abroad to countries where their use is large and necessary.

Our relations with Great Britain have continued on the most friendly footing. Assenting to our request, the protection of American and their interests in Spanish jurisdiction was assured by the diplomatic and consular representatives of Great Britain, who fulfilled their delicate and arduous duty with tact and zeal, eliciting high commendation. I may be allowed to make fitting allusion to the instance of Mr. Ramsden, Her Majesty's Consul at Santiago de Cuba, whose untimely death after distinguished service and untiring efforts during the siege of that city was sincerely lamented.

It will give me special satisfaction if I shall be authorized to communicate to you a favorable conclusion of the pending negotiations with Great Britain in respect to the Dominion of Canada. It is the earnest wish of this Government to remove all sources of discord and irritation in our relations with the neighboring Dominion. The trade between the two countries is constantly increasing, and it is important to both countries that all reasonable facilities should be granted for its development.

The Government of Greece strongly urges the onerousness of the duty here imposed upon the currants of that country, amounting to 100 per cent or more of their market value. This fruit is stated to be exclusively a Greek product, not coming into competition with any domestic product. The question of reciprocal commercial relations with currants to the free list, is under consideration.

Pending the consideration by the Senate of the treaty signed June 15, 1897, by the Plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the Republic of Hawaii providing for the annexation of the islands, a joint resolution to accomplish the same purpose by accepting the offered cession and incorporating the ceded territory into the Union was adopted by the Congress and approved July 7, 1898. I thereupon directed the United States ship Philadelphia to convey Rear Admiral Miller to Honolulu and entrusted to his hands this important legislative act, to be delivered to the President of the Republic of Hawaii, with whom the Admiral and the United States Minister were authorized to make appropriate arrangements for transferring the sovereignty of the islands to the United States. This was simply but impressively accomplished on the 12th of August last, by the delivery of a certified copy of the resolution to President Dole, who thereupon yielded up to the representative of the Government of the United States the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands.

Pursuant to the terms of the joint resolution, and in exercise of the authority thereby conferred upon me, I directed that the civil, judicial and military powers theretofore exercised by the officers of the Republic of Hawaii should continue to be exercised by those officers until Congress shall provide a government for the incorporated territory, subject to my power to remove such officers and to fill vacancies.

The President, of course, and troops of the Republic thereupon took the oath of allegiance to the United States, thus providing for the uninterrupted next territory until Congress shall otherwise enact.

Following the further provisions of the joint resolution, I appointed the Hon. Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, John T. Morgan of Alabama, Robert H. B. Hitt of Illinois, Stanford B. Dole of Hawaii and Walter F. Frear of Utah to recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they should deem necessary or proper. The Commissioners having fulfilled the mission confided to them their report will be laid before you at an early day.

The question heretofore pending between Hawaii and Japan growing out of the alleged mistreatment of Japanese immigrants were, I am pleased to say, adjusted before the act of transfer by the payment of a reasonable indemnity to the Government of Japan.

The important question of the claim of Switzerland to the perpetual cantonal allegiance of American citizens of Swiss origin has not made hopeful progress toward a solution, and controversies in this regard still continue.

The newly accredited Envoy of the United States to the Ottoman Porte carries instructions looking to the disposal of matters in controversy with Turkey for a number of years. He is especially charged to press for a just settlement of our claims for indemnity by reason of the destruction of property of an American missionary resident in that country during the Armenian troubles of 1895, as well as for the recognition of older claims of equal justice.

The experience of the last year wrought forcibly home to us a sense of the burdens and the waste of war. We desire, in common with most civilized nations, to reduce to the lowest possible point the damages sustained in time of war by peaceable trade and commerce. It is true we may suffer in

such cases less than other communities but all nations are damaged more or less by the state of uneasiness and apprehension into which an outbreak of hostilities throws the entire commercial world. It should be our object, therefore, to minimize, so far as practicable, this inevitable loss and disturbance. This purpose can probably best be accomplished by an international agreement to exempt from capture or destruction by the forces of belligerent powers, the United States Government has for many years advocated this humane and beneficent principle, and is now in a position to recommend it to other powers without the imputation of selfish motives. Therefore suggest for your consideration that the Executive be authorized to correspond with the Governments of the principal maritime powers with a view of incorporating into the permanent law of civilized nations the principle of the exemption of all private property from capture or destruction by belligerent powers.

The provisions made for strengthening the resources of the Treasury in connection with the war have given increased confidence in the purposes and power of the Government to maintain the present standard and have established more firmly than ever the national credit at home and abroad.

There can be no question that at this time, and probably for some time in the future 100,000 men will be none too many to meet the necessities of the situation. At all events, whether that number shall be required permanently or not, the power should be given to the President to enlist the force in his discretion it should be necessary and the further discretion should be given him to recruit to the army within the above limit from the inhabitants of the islands with the government of which we are charged. It is my purpose to muster out the entire volunteer army as soon as Congress shall provide for the increase of the regular establishment. This will only be an act of justice, and will be much appreciated by the brave men who left their homes and employment to help the country in its emergency.

The following recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy relative to the increase of the navy have my earliest approval:

Three-sheathed and coppered and coppered sailing ships of about 13,500 tons displacement, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class and to have the radius of action. Estimated cost, exclusive of armor and armament, \$3,600,000 each.

Three-sheathed and coppered armored cruisers of about 12,000 tons displacement, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class, and to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action; estimated cost, exclusive of armor and armament, \$4,600,000 each.

Three-sheathed and coppered protected cruisers of about 6,000 tons displacement; to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action, and to carry the most powerful ordnance suitable for vessels of their class. Estimated cost, exclusive of armor and armament, \$2,150,000 each.

Six-sheathed and coppered cruisers of about 2,500 tons displacement, to have the highest speed compatible with good cruising qualities, great radius of action and to carry the most powerful ordnance suited to vessels of their class. Estimated cost, exclusive of armor, \$1,141,800 each.

I join with the Secretary of the Navy in recommending that the grades of Admiral and Vice-Admiral be temporarily revived, to be filled by officers who have specially distinguished themselves in the war with Spain.

I earnestly urge upon Congress the importance of early legislation providing for the taking of the twelfth census. This is necessary in view of the large amount of work which must be performed in the preparation of the schedules preparatory to the enumeration of the population.

The special attention of the Congress is called to that part of the report of the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the five civilized tribes. It is noteworthy that the general condition of the Indians shows marked progress. But one outbreak of a serious character occurred during the year, and that among the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, which, happily, has been suppressed.

In the year 1900 will occur the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Washington for the permanent capital of the Government of the United States by authority of an act of Congress, approved July 16, 1790, in May, 1800, the archives and general offices of the Federal Government were removed to this place. On November 17, 1800, the National Congress met here for the first time, and assumed exclusive control of the Federal district and city. This interesting event assumes all the more significance when we recall the circumstances attending the choosing of the site, the naming of the capital in honor of the Father of His Country and the interest taken by him in the adoption of plans for its future development on a magnificent scale.

These original plans have been wrought out with a constant progress and signal success even beyond anything their framers could have foreseen. The people of the country are justly proud of the distinctive beauty and government of the capital, and the rare instruments of science and education which here find their natural home.

A movement lately inaugurated by the citizens to have the anniversary celebrated with fitting ceremonies, including perhaps the establishment of a handsome permanent memorial to mark so historical an occasion, has met with general favor on the part of the public.

I recommend to Congress the grant of an appropriation for this purpose and the appointment of a commission from its respective bodies, it might also be advisable to authorize the President to appoint a commission from the country at large, which, acting with the Congressional and District of Columbia Committees, can complete the plans for an appropriate celebration.

The alien contract law is shown by experience to need some amendment; a measure proving better protection for

seamen is proposed; the rightful application of the eight-hour law for the benefit of labor and of the principal of arbitration are suggested for consideration, and I commend these subjects to the careful attention of the Congress.

The several department reports will be laid before you. They give in great detail the conduct of the affairs of the Government during the past year and discuss in many questions upon which the Congress may feel called upon to act.

WILLIAM McKINLEY,
Executive Mansion, Dec. 5, 1898.

SECRETARY GAGE'S REPORT

Total For the Fiscal Year 1899 1900 Is Figured at More Than \$593,000,000.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—The Secretary of the Treasury today transmitted to Congress the estimates of appropriations required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900. Including permanent annual appropriations, these aggregate \$593,048,378, against \$802,875,513, the amount of the appropriations, including deficiencies and miscellaneous, for the fiscal year 1899, and \$462,647,885, the amount of the estimates for 1899. The figures, compared with those of a year ago, are as follows:

	Estimates for 1900.	Estimates for 1899.
Peys.	\$6,190,000	\$4,405,582
Contingent	84,760,935	84,405,431
Unexpended	22,304,112	24,025,432
Deficiencies	7,732,000	687,620
Carried over	1,874,028	1,870,228
Contingent	145,119,431	147,116,842
Unexpended	3,114,632	20,320,559
Deficiencies	7,969,316	7,375,617
Carried over	145,273,839	141,257,750
Contingent	56,927,080	73,394,134
Unexpended	4,235,888	6,48,112
Deficiencies	37,314,203	35,187,402
Carried over	128,978,220	117,836,220
Total	\$593,048,378	\$462,647,885

The appropriations for the military establishment for the fiscal year 1899 amounted to \$287,711,446, and for the fiscal year 1900, \$317,816,468. The important items in the estimate for 1900, with the increase in each item over the estimates for 1899, are as follows:

Pay and traveling expenses, \$7,430,900, increase \$41,443,842; subsistence, \$17,682,477, increase about \$3,000,000; regular supplies quartermaster's department, \$14,000,000, increase \$12,000,000; incidental expenses armistice's department, \$3,900,000, increase \$3,300,000; transportation and supplies, \$29,813,875, increase about \$3,000,000; clothing and equipment, \$4,744,431, increase about \$13,000,000; trunks and quarters, \$2,500,000, increase \$1,750,000; medical and hospital department, \$2,200,000, increase \$1,375,000; ordnance stores and supplies, \$1,500,000, increase \$7,150,000; manufacture of arms, \$806,000, increase \$400,000.

For the naval establishment these are the principal items:—Pay of navy, \$3,226,440, increase about \$4,500,000; increase of navy, \$10,192,402, increase about \$1,750,000; ordnance and ordnance stores, \$1,875,000, increase \$884,000; equipment of vessels, \$2,225,480, increase \$741,824; provisions, \$3,000,000, increase \$1,505,000; construction and repair, \$3,000,000, increase \$500,000; repairs to Constitution, \$150,000.

Among the items under the head of public works are: Post office at Buffalo, N. Y., \$231,000; Mint Building, Philadelphia, \$600,000.

The most important items submitted by the lighthouse service are:—For light and fog signal stations as follows:—Near Black Ledge, New London, Conn., \$45,000; Hog Island Shoal, Narragansett Bay, R. I., to replace light-sills, \$35,000; at Green's Ledge, Norfolk, Conn., \$60,000 at Peck Ledge, Norfolk, Conn., \$10,000; on Chatham Shoal, St. Lawrence River, \$25,000; improvements at Tompkinsville, N. Y., \$0,000; lighthouse depot, Buffalo, \$50,000.

The following are the estimates for public works under the Navy Department:—Improvements at Portsmouth Navy Yard, \$306,000; at Boston Navy Yard, \$267,000; at Brooklyn Navy Yard, \$12,000; at League Island Navy Yard, \$15,767; at Washington Navy Yard, \$95,000; at Norfolk Navy Yard, including concrete and granite dry dock, \$2,000,000; dredging at naval station, New London, Conn., \$25,000; improvements at Port Royal Naval Station, \$45,000; at Key West Naval Station, including purchase of additional land, \$12,520; improvements at Mare Island Navy Yard, \$851,750; improvements at Naval Academy, \$2,120,000.

Under the War Department these estimates are made:—Gun and mortar batteries, \$4,410,000; armament for fortifications, \$7,071,538. The total amount asked for fortifications and other works of defense is \$12,481,538, and the buildings and grounds at West Point, there is asked \$239,778, and for construction of buildings at military posts, \$1,000,000.

The total amount asked for continuing improvements of rivers and harbors is \$28,523,778, the largest items being:—Buffalo harbor, \$485,498; harbor of refuge, Delaware Bay, \$587,500; Providence River and Narragansett Bay, R. I., \$400,000; removing obstructions in East River and Hell Gate, New York, \$100,000; improving Harlem River, \$200,000; improving Hudson River, \$100,000; improving Delaware River, \$300,000; harbor of refuge at Cape Ann, Mass., \$250,000; harbor of refuge at Point Judith, R. I., \$103,000; breakwaters at New Haven, Conn., \$70,000; continuing improvement, New York harbor, N. Y., \$390,000; Tomawards River and Niagara River, N. Y., \$100,000; Rattitan Bay, N. Y., \$100,000.

The Postmaster General estimates the deficiency in the postal revenues for 1900 at \$4,245,885.

The estimate for army and navy pensions is \$144,000,000; cost of pensions service, \$1,233,830; total, \$145,233,830. This is nearly \$4,000,000 increase from the figures for the last fiscal year.

Rattlesnakes and White Ash. Rattlesnakes are said to have a natural antipathy to the leaves of the white ash. Some naturalists assert that the rattlesnake placed in a circle composed of half ash leaves and half hot coals will cross the coals before he will enter the ash leaves.