

# The North Branch Democrat.

HARVEY SICKLER, Proprietor.

"TO SPEAK HIS THOUGHTS IS EVERY FREEMAN'S RIGHT."—Thomas Jefferson.

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HAVING resumed the proprietorship of the above Hotel, the undersigned still spare no effort to render the house an agreeable place of sojourn for all who may favor it with their custom. Wm. H. CORTRIGHT. June, 3rd, 1863

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The MEANS HOTEL, is one of the LARGEST and BEST ARRANGED Houses in the country. It is fitted up in the most modern and improved style, and no pains are spared to make it a pleasant and agreeable stopping place for all. v. 3, n. 21, ly.

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M. GILMAN, has permanently located in Tunkhannock, Pa., and respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of this place and surrounding country. ALL WORK WARRANTED, TO GIVE SATISFACTION. Office over Tutton's Law Office, near the Post Office. Dec. 11, 1864.

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NATIONAL CLAIM AGENCY, CONDUCTED BY HARVEY AND COLLINS. WASHINGTON, D. C.

In order to facilitate the prompt adjustment of Bounty, arrears of pay, Pensions and other Claims, due soldiers and other persons from the Government of the United States. The undersigned has made arrangements with the above firm, whose experience and close proximity to, and daily intercourse with the department, as well as the acknowledgment, acquired by them, of the decisions usually being made, enables them to prosecute claims more efficiently than Attorneys at a distance, possibly do. All persons entitled to claims of the Government can have them promptly attended to by sending on and entrusting them to my care. HARVEY SICKLER, Agt. for Harvey & Collins, Tunkhannock, Pa.

Lost. On Friday last, somewhere between Skinners' Edly and Tunkhannock, a HUNTER CASED WATCH—Cylinder escapement—half capped. Upon the face are the words "Marine Time Observer". \$5.00 Reward will be paid any person finding said watch and leaving it at Sterling's Store, Wall's Hotel, or with the driver on the route.

## LINCOLN'S ANNUAL MESSAGE, DECEMBER 1864.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Again the blessings of health and abundant harvest claim our profoundest gratitude to Almighty God.

The condition of our foreign affairs is reasonably satisfactory.

MEXICO.

Mexico continues to be a theater of civil war. While our political relations with that country have undergone no change, we have at the same time strictly maintained neutrality between the belligerents. At the request of the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, a competent engineer has been authorized to make a survey of the river San Juan, and the port of San Juan. It is a source of such satisfaction that the difficulties, which for a moment excited some political apprehensions, and caused a closing of the inter-oceanic transit route, have been adjusted and that there is a good prospect that the route will soon be reopened with an increase of capacity and adaptation. We could not exaggerate either the commercial or the political importance of that great improvement. It would be doing injustice to an important South American state not to acknowledge the directness, frankness, with which the United States of Columbia have entered into intimate relations with this government. A claim convention has been constituted to complete the unfinished work of the one which closed its session in 1861.

VENEZUELA.

The new liberal constitution of Venezuela having gone into effect with the universal acquiescence of the people, the government under it has been recognized, and diplomatic interest with it has been opened in a cordial and friendly spirit.

SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

The long deferred Aves Island claim has been satisfactorily paid and discharged. Mutual payments have been made of the claims awarded, by the late joint commission for the settlement of claims between the United States and Peru. An earnest and cordial friendship continues to exist between the two countries, and such efforts as were in my power have been used to remove misunderstanding, and avert a threatened war between Peru and Spain. Our relations are of the most friendly nature with Chile, the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, San Salvador, and Hayti. During the past year no differences of any kind have arisen with any of these republics. And, on the other hand, their sympathies with the United States are constantly expressed with cordiality and earnestness.

The claim arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig Macedonian, in 1824, has been paid in full by the government of Chili. Civil war continues in the Spanish part of San Domingo apparently without prospect of an early close.

LIBERIA.

Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of social and political progress in her republic. It may be expected to derive new vigor from American influence, improved by the rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States.

PROTECTION TO THE COLONY.

I solicit your authority to furnish to the republic a gunboat, at a moderate cost, to be reimbursed to the United States by installments. Such a vessel is needed, for the safety of that state against the native African race, and in Liberia hands it would be more effective in arresting the African slave-trade than a squadron in our own hands. The possession of the least organized naval force would stimulate a generous ambition in the republic, and the confidence which we should manifest by furnishing it, would win forbearance and favor toward the colony from all civilized nations. The proposed overland telegraph between America and Europe by the way of Behr's straits and Asiatic Russia, which was sanctioned by Congress at the last session, has been undertaken under very favorable circumstances by association of American citizens with the cordial good will and support as well of this government as of those of Great Britain and Russia.

Assurances have been received from most of the South American states of their high appreciation of the enterprise and their readiness to co-operate in constructing lines tributary to that world-enriching communication.

THE GREAT TELEGRAPH.

I learn with much satisfaction that the noble design of a telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America and Great Britain has been renewed with a full expectation of its early accomplishment. Thus it is hoped that with the return of domestic industry we shall be able to resume with energy and advantage her former high career of commerce and civilization. Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt died in April last. An unpleasant altercation, which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the government of the Pacha, resulted in a suspension of intercourse. The evil was promptly corrected on the arrival of the successor in the consulate, and our relations with Egypt, as well as our relations with the Barbary powers are entirely satisfactory.

China. The rebellion which has so long been flagrant in China has at last been suppressed with the co-operating good offices of this government and the other western commercial states. The judicial consular establishment has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative requisition to adapt it to the extension of our commerce, and to the more intimate intercourse which has been instituted with the government and people of that vast empire.

China seems to be accepting, with hearty good will, the conventional laws which regulate commercial and social intercourse among the western nations.

JAPAN.

Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan, and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that empire in performing treaty stipulations is inconstant and capricious. Nevertheless, good progress has been effected by the Western powers moving with enlightened concert. Our own pecuniary claims have been allowed or put in course of settlement, and the inland sea has been reopened to commerce.

There is reason also to believe that these proceedings have increased rather than diminished the friendship of Japan toward the United States.

SOUTHERN PORTS.

The ports of Norfolk, Ferdinandina, and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will now consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other ports than it is to pursue through many hazards and at a vast cost, a contraband trade with other ports which are closed, if not by actual military operations, at least by a lawful and effective blockade.

For myself, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the executive, under the law of nations to exclude enemies of the human race from an association with the United States. If Congress should think that proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further regulated by it, I recommend that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring domicile and facilities for their criminal occupation in our country.

It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the light they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval belligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are, and always have been, equally of ships and of ports and harbors. Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous, nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts under favor of that privilege to embroil our country in foreign wars. The desire and determination of the maritime states to defeat that design are believed to be as sincere as, and cannot be more earnest than, our own; nevertheless, unforeseen political difficulties arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required and are likely to continue to require the practice of constant vigilance and a just and conciliatory spirit on the part of the United States as well as of the nations concerned and their governments. Commissioners have been appointed under the treaty with Great Britain on the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies on Oregon, and are now proceeding to the execution of trust assigned to them.

In view of the insecurity of life in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by recent assaults and depredations committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months, the period conditionally stipulated in the existing arrangements with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament upon the lakes, if they shall find that proceeding necessary. The condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the rights of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulations of imposts which were temporarily established by the Reciprocity Treaty of the 5th of June, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood, while making this statement, that the colonial authorities are not deemed to be intentionally unjust or unfriendly toward the United States, but, on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of the imperial government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the border.

EMIGRATION.

The act passed at the last session for the encouragement of emigration has, as far as was possible, been put into operation.

It seems to need amendment, which will enable the officers of the government to prevent the practice of frauds against the immigrants while on their way and on their arrival in the ports, so as to secure them here a

free choice of advocations and places of settlement. A liberal disposition toward this great national policy is manifested by most of the European states, and ought to be reciprocated on our part by giving the immigrants effective national protection. I regard our emigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams which are appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war and its wastes of national strength and health. All that is necessary is to secure the flow of that stream in its present fullness, and to that end the government must in every way make it manifest that it neither needs nor designs to impose involuntary military service upon those who come from other lands to cast their lot in our country.

REVENUE AND TAXATION.

The financial affairs of the government have been successfully administered. During the last year the legislation of the last session of Congress has beneficially affected the revenue although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to experience the full effect of several of the provisions of the acts of Congress imposing increased taxation. The receipts during the year from all sources upon the basis of warrants signed by the Secretary of the Treasury including loans, and the balance in the treasury on the first day of July, 1863, were \$1,394,796,007.62 and the aggregate disbursements upon the same basis were \$1,298,056,101.89, leaving a balance in the treasury, as shown by warrants, of \$96,739,905.73. Deducted from these amounts the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed, and the amount of issues in substitution thereof, and the actual cash operation of the treasury were: Receipts, \$4,076,746.77; disbursements, \$865,234,087.86, which leaves a cash balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558.71. Of the receipts, there were derived from customs, \$108,316,152.99; from lands, \$588,333.29; from direct taxes, \$475,648.96; from internal revenue, \$109,741,134.10; from miscellaneous sources, \$47,511,448.10; and from loans applied to actual expenditures, including former balance, \$623,443,629.13. There were disbursed for the civil service, \$27,505,599.46; for pensions and Indians, \$7,317,930.97; for the War Department, \$90,791,842.97; for the Navy Department, \$85,733,292.79; for the public debt, \$1,239,680,021.69; making an aggregate of \$865,234,087.86, and leaving a balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558.71, as above stated.

THE TREASURY.

For the actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the three remaining quarters of the current fiscal year, and the general operations of the Treasury in detail, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. I concur with him in the opinion that the proportion of the moneys required to meet the expenses consequent upon the war, derived from taxation, should be still further increased, and I earnestly invite your attention to this subject to the end that there may be such additional legislation as shall be required to meet the just expectations of the secretary.

The public debt on the first day of July last, as appears by the books of the treasury, amounted to one billion seven hundred and forty thousand million, six hundred and ninety thousand, four hundred and eighty nine dollars and forty nine cents. Probably, should the war continue for another year, that amount may be increased by not far from five hundred millions. Hold as it is for the most part by our own people, it has become a substantial branch of national, though private property. For obvious reasons the more nearly this property can be distributed among all the people the better. To favor such general distributions, greater inducements to become owners might, perhaps, with good effect, and without injury, be presented to persons of limited means.—With this view, I suggest whether it might not be both expedient for Congress to provide that a limited amount of some future issue for public securities might be held by bona fide purchaser exempt from taxation, and from seizure or debt, under such restrictions and limitations as might be necessary to guard against abuse of so important a privilege. This would enable prudent persons to set aside a small annuity against a possible day of want. Privileges like these would render the possession of such securities to the amount limited most desirable to every person of small means who might be able to save enough for the purpose. The great advantage of citizens being creditors as well as debtors, with relation to the public debt, is obvious. Men readily perceive that they cannot be much oppressed by a debt which they owe to themselves. The public debt on the first day of July last, although somewhat exceeding the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury made to Congress at the commencement of last session, falls short of the estimate of that officer made in the preceding December, as to its probable amount at the beginning of this year, by the sum of \$3,995,079.33. This fact exhibits a satisfactory condition and conduct of the operations of the Treasury.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The national banking system is proving to be acceptable to capitalists and to the people.

On the 25th day of November, 684 national banks had been organized, a considerable

number in which were conversions from state banks. Changes from the state system to the national system, are rapidly taking place and it is hoped that very soon there will be in the United States no banks of issue not authorized by Congress, and no bank note circulation not secured by the government, that the government and the people will derive general benefit from this change in the banking system in the country can hardly be questioned. The national system will create a reliable and permanent influence in support of the national credit, and protect the people against losses in the use of paper money.—Whether or not any further legislation is advisable for the suppression of state bank issues, it will be for Congress to determine.—It seems quite clear that the treasury cannot be satisfactorily conducted unless the government can exercise a restraining power over the bank note circulation of the country.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of war, and the accompanying documents, will detail the campaigns of the armies in the field since the date of the last annual message, and also the operation of the several administrative bureaus of the War Department during the last year.

It will also specify the measures deemed essential for the national defense, and to keep up and supply the requisite military force. The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a comprehensive and satisfactory exhibit of the affairs of the department, and of the naval service. It is a subject of congratulation, and laudable pride to our countrymen that a navy of such vast proportions has been organized in so brief a period and conducted with so much efficiency and success.

CONDITION OF THE NAVY.

The general exhibit of the navy, including vessels under construction on the 1st of December, 1864, shows a total of 671 vessels carrying 4,610 guns and 610,396 tons, being an actual increase during the year, over and above all losses by shipwreck or in battle, of 83 vessels, 167 guns, and 42,427 tons. The total number of men at this time in the naval service, including officers, is about 51,000.—There have been captured by the navy during the year 224 vessels, and 44,000 number of naval captures since hostilities commenced is 1,379, of which 267 are steamers. The gross proceeds arising from the sale of condemned prize property, thus far reported, amount to \$14,396,250.51. A large amount of such proceeds is still under adjudication, and yet to be reported. The total expenditures of the Navy Department, of every description, including the cost of the immense squadrons that have been called into existence from the 4th of March, 1861, to the 1st of November, 1864, are \$238,647,262.35.—Your favorable consideration is invited to the various recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy, especially in regard to a navy yard and suitable establishment for the construction and repair of iron vessels and the machinery and armature for our ships, to which reference was made in my last annual message.

Your attention is also invited to the views expressed in the report in relation to the legislation of Congress at its last session, in respect to prize on our inland waters.

THE VICE-ADMIRALTY.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the secretary, as to the propriety of creating the new rank of vice-admiral in our naval service.

THE POSTOFFICE.

Your attention has been invited to the report of the Postmaster General for a detailed account of the operations and financial condition of the Post-office Department. The postal revenue for the year ending June 30th, 1864, amounted to \$12,438,253.78, and the expenditures to \$12,644,786.20; the excess of expenditures over receipts being \$206,532.42.

The views presented by the Postmaster-General on the subject of special grants by the government in aid of the establishment of new lines of ocean mail steamships, and the policy he recommends for the development of increased commercial intercourse with adjacent and neighboring countries, should receive the careful consideration of Congress.

It is of noteworthy interest that the steady expansion of population, improvement and governmental institutions over the new and unoccupied portions of our country, have scarcely been checked, much less impeded or destroyed, by our great civil war, which at first glance would seem to have absorbed almost the entire energies of the nation.

NEVADA.

The organization and admission of the State of Nevada has been completed, in conformity with law, and thus our excellent system is firmly established in the mountains, which once seemed a barren and uninhabitable waste, between the Atlantic States and those which have grown up on the coast of the Pacific ocean.

THE TERRITORIES.

The territories of the Union are generally in a condition of prosperity and rapid growth Idaho and Montana, by reason of their great distance and the interruption of communica-

tion with them by Indian hostilities, have been only partially organized; but it is understood that these difficulties are about to disappear, which will permit their governments, like those of the others, to go into speedy and full operation as intimately connected with and promotive of this material growth of the nation, I ask the attention of Congress to the valuable information and important recommendations relating to the public lands, Indian affairs, the Pacific railroads, and mineral discoveries, contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith transmitted, and which report also embraces the subjects of patents, pensions, and other topics of public interest pertaining to his department. The quantity of public land disposed of during the five quarters ending on the thirtieth of September last, was 4,221,342 acres, of which, 1,538,614 acres were entered under the homestead law. The remainder was located with military land warrants, agricultural scrip certified to states for railroads, and sold for cash. The cash received from sales and location free was \$1,073,446. The income from sales during the fiscal year, ending June 30th 1864, was \$678,007.21, against \$136,077.95 received during the preceding year. The aggregate number of acres surveyed during the year has been equal to the quantity disposed of, and there is open to settlement about 133,000,000 acres of surveyed land.

PACIFIC RAILWAY AND TELEGRAPH.

The great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific states by railways and telegraph lines has been entered upon with a vigor that gives assurance of success, notwithstanding the embarrassments arising from the prevailing high prices of materials and labor. The route of the main line of the road has been definitely located for one hundred miles westward from the initial point at Omaha City, Nebraska, and a preliminary location of the Pacific Railroad of California has been made from Sacramento eastward to the great bend of Mucker river in Nevada. Numerous discoveries of gold, silver, and cinnabar mines, have been added to the many heretofore known, and the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains and the subordinate ranges, new terms with enterprising labor, which is richly remunerative. It is believed that the products of the mines of precious metals in region has during the year reached, if not exceeded \$100,000,000 in value. It was recommended in my last annual message that our Indian system be remodeled. Congress at its last session, acting upon the recommendation, did provide for reorganizing the system in California; and it is believed that under the present organization the management of the Indians there will be attended with reasonable success. Much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country, to render it secure for the advancing settler and to provide for the welfare of the Indian. The secretary reiterated his recommendations, and to them the attention of Congress is invited. The liberal provisions made by Congress for paying pensions on invalid soldiers and sailors of the republic, and to the widows and orphans, and dependent mothers of those who have fallen in battle or died of disease contracted, or of wounds received, in the service of their country have been diligently administered.

PENSION BUREAU.

There have been added to the pension rolls during the year ending the 30th day of June last the names of 16,770 invalid soldiers, and of 271 disabled seamen, making the present number of army invalid pensioners 22,767, and of navy enrolled pensioners 712. Of widows, orphans, and mothers 22,198 have been placed on the army pension rolls, and 248 on the navy rolls. The present number of army pensioners of this class is 25,433, and of navy pensioners 793.

At the beginning of the year the number of revolutionary pensioners was 1,430. Only twelve of them were soldiers, of whom seven have since died. The remainder are those who, under the law, receive pensions because of relationship to revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending the 30th June, 1864 \$4,504,616.92 have been paid to pensioners of all classes.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

I cheerfully commend to your continued patronage the benevolent institutions of the District of Columbia, which have hitherto been established or fostered by Congress, and respectfully refer for information concerning them, and in relation to the Washington aqueduct, the capitol, and other matters of local interest to the report of the secretary.

AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural Department, under the supervision of its present energetic and faithful head, is rapidly commending itself to the great and vital interest it was created to advance. It is peculiarly the People's Department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other. I commend it to the continued attention and fostering care of Congress.

THE WAR—PROGRESS MADE.

The war continues. Since the last annual message all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced thus liberating the regions left in the rear, le-