



THE MESSAGE.

The President's Recommendations to the Lawmakers. A NEW SCHEDULE OF FINANCE. Diverge the Government from the Business of Banking. URGED BY SECRETARY CARLISLE

And Unqualifiedly Indorsed by the Chief Magistrate—The New Tariff Law Needs Important Amendments If It Is to be Effectively Enforced—Favors Free Ships, Free Coal and Free Iron and the Striking Off of the Differential Sugar Duty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—President Cleveland's message was sent to both houses of congress at noon yesterday. It was not as long as was expected, and dealt in generalities to a great extent, considerable space being given to matters pertaining to the diplomatic service. He says the tariff act passed at the last session of congress needs amendments, and he favors free coal and free iron, as well as a striking off of the differential sugar duty. The changes in the national banking system suggested by Secretary Carlisle are approved. Extended reference is made to the work of the various departments.

After referring to his efforts to impress upon the Belgian government the need for the Belgian government's necessities and positive harmfulness of its restrictions upon the importation of our food products, our government's attitude in the Brazilian revolution, and the request of China and Japan that the agents of our government in those countries should afford protection to the subjects during the war, the president says: Acting under a stipulation in our treaty with Korea (the first concluded with a western power) I felt constrained at the beginning of the controversy to tender our good offices to induce an amicable arrangement of the initial difficulty growing out of the Japanese demands for administrative reforms in Korea, but the unhappy precipitation of actual hostilities defeated this kindly purpose.

Deplored the destructive war between the two most powerful of the eastern nations, and anxious that our commercial interests in those countries may be preserved and that the safety of our citizens there shall not be jeopardized, I would not hesitate to heed any intimation that our friendly aid for the honorable termination of hostilities would be acceptable to both belligerents. Brief references to the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela regarding the British Guiana boundary, the recognition of the Hawaiian republic and our peaceful relations with Mexico follow, and then this reference is made to Nicaragua.

The Troubles in Nicaragua. Prominent among the questions of the year was the Bluefields incident, in what is known as the Mosquito Indian strip, bordering on the Atlantic ocean and within the jurisdiction of Nicaragua. By the treaty of 1850 between Great Britain and Nicaragua the former government expressly recognized the sovereignty of the latter over the strip, and a limited form of self government was guaranteed to the Mosquito Indians. Early in the past year efforts of Nicaragua to maintain sovereignty over the Mosquito territory led to serious disturbances culminating in the suppression of the native government and the attempted substitution of an impracticable composite administration, in which Nicaraguans and alien residents were to participate. Failure was followed by an insurrection.

For some months ago, and during part of the year two of our naval ships have been stationed at Bluefields for the protection of all legitimate interests of our citizens. In September last the government at Managua expelled from its territory twelve or more foreigners, including two Americans, for alleged participation in the seditious or revolutionary movements against the republic at Bluefields already mentioned; but through the earnest remonstrance of this government the two Americans have been permitted to return to the personal management of their business. Our naval commanders at the scene of these disturbances, by their constant exhibition of firmness and good judgment, contributed largely to the prevention of more serious consequences and to the restoration of quiet and order.

Then follows reference to the death of Czar Alexander, the assassination of President Carnot, the seal fisheries, the Salvadorean revolution, the abuse of Armenian Christians by Turkey, etc., after which comes an exhaustive review of the report of the secretary of the treasury on government receipts and expenditures, coinage, etc.

The recommendations of the secretary of war that the army be increased to the legal strength is approved. Regarding the use of regulars in the Chicago strike he says: Troops in the Chicago Strike. It is hardly necessary to recall the fact that in obedience to the commands of the constitution and the laws, and for the purpose of protecting the property of the United States, aiding the process of federal courts and removing lawless obstructions to the performance by the government of its legitimate functions, it became necessary in various localities during the year to employ a considerable portion of the regular troops. The duty was discharged promptly, courageously and with marked discretion by the officers and men, and the most gratifying proof was thus afforded that the army deserves that complete confidence in its efficiency and discipline which the country has at all times manifested.

The president recommends the temporary revival of the grade of lieutenant general of the army in behalf of General John M. Schofield. The report of the postmaster general is reviewed at length, and regarding the deficit the message says: The postmaster general states that this deficiency is unnecessary and might be obviated at once if the law regulating rates upon mail matter of the second class was modified. The rate received for the transmission of this second class matter is one cent per pound, while the cost of such transmission to the government is eight times that amount. Pretended newspapers are started, by business houses for the mere purpose of advertising goods,

complying with the law in form only and deserting the public interests as soon as the point of advertising is reached. The result is a great loss of revenue to the government, besides its demoralizing effect as an agency used in carrying out the scheme of a business house to advertise its goods by means of a trick upon the fixed rates and the regular legitimate newspapers.

Urging Additional Warships. The recommendation of the secretary of the navy for the acquisition of additional battleships and torpedo boats is approved.

Referring to pension funds the president says: The large and extensive pension funds existing under the direction of the courageous and generous veteran soldier now at the head of the bureau have no room for the claim that no purgation of our pension rolls was needed, or that continued vigilance and prompt action are not necessary to their care.

The recommendation contained in the report of the secretary of agriculture for 1883, that the vitium system of promiscuous free distribution of its departmental documents be abandoned is again urged. These publications may well be furnished without cost to public libraries, educational institutions, and the officers and libraries of states and of the federal government. Half a million of copies of the report of the secretary of agriculture are printed for distribution at an annual cost of about \$300,000. The secretary also recommends that the gratuitous distribution of seeds cease, and that no money be appropriated for that purpose, except to experimental stations. I fully concur in the conclusions which he has reached.

Adherence to the principle of civil service reform is urged and a national board of health recommended. Then comes reference to the appointment of the commissioners to investigate the Chicago strike. Regarding their report the president says: Their work has been well done, and their standing and intelligence give assurance that the report and suggestions they make are worthy of careful consideration.

Then the president comes to a discussion of the tariff question, saying in part: Amend the Tariff Bill. The tariff act passed at the last session of congress needs important amendments if it is to be executed effectively and with certainty. In addition to such necessary amendments as will not change rates of duty I am still very decidedly in favor of putting coal and iron upon the free list.

So far as the sugar schedule is concerned I would be glad, under existing aggravations, to see every particle of differential duty in favor of refined sugar stricken out of our tariff law. If with all the favor now accorded the sugar refining interest in our tariff laws it still languishes to the extent of closed refineries and thousands of discharged workmen, it would seem to present a hopeless case for reasonable legislative aid. Whatever else is done or omitted, I earnestly repeat here the recommendation that the additional duty of one-tenth of a cent per pound, laid upon sugar imported from countries paying a bounty on its export, be abrogated.

With the advent of a new tariff policy not only calculated to relieve consumers of our land in the cost of their daily life, but to invite a better development of American thrift and create for us closer and more profitable commercial relations with the rest of the world, it follows as a logical and imperative necessity that we should at once remove the chief, if not the only, obstacle which has so long prevented our participation in the foreign carrying trade of the sea. The ancient proverb of our law depicting American vessels as ships built (directly or indirectly) by American hands in the light of present conditions not only to be a failure for good at every point, but to be a source of burden rather than anything that exists under the sanction of a statute of the United States. I earnestly recommend its prompt repeal.

During the last month the gold reserved in the treasury for the purpose of redeeming the notes of the government circulating as money in the hands of the people became so reduced, and its further depletion in the near future seemed so certain that in the exercise of proper care for the public welfare it became necessary to replenish this reserve. Resort was necessarily had to the resumption act of 1875, and pursuant to its provisions bonds were issued drawing interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum and maturing ten years after their issue.

A New Financial Policy. Questions relating to our banks and currency are closely connected with the subject just referred to, and they are presented in a satisfactory manner. Prominent among them are the lack of elasticity in our currency circulation and its frequent concentration in financial centers when it is most needed in other parts of the country.

The absolute divorcement of the government from the business of banking is the ideal relationship of the government to the circulation of the currency of the country. This condition can not be immediately reached; but as a step in this direction and as a means of securing a more elastic currency and obviating other objections to the present arrangement of bank circulation the secretary of the treasury presents in his report a scheme modifying present banking laws and providing for the issue of circulating notes by state banks free from taxation under certain limitations.

The secretary explains his plan so plainly and its advantages are developed by him with such remarkable clearness that any effort on my part to present argument in its support would be superfluous. I shall, therefore, content myself with an unqualified indorsement of the proposed changes in the law and a brief and imperious statement of their prominent features.

The Banking System. It is proposed to repeal all laws providing for the deposit of United States bonds as security for circulation; to permit national banks to issue circulating notes not exceeding in amount 75 per cent of their paid up and unimpaired capital, provided they deposit with the government, as a guarantee fund, in United States legal tender notes, including treasury notes, of 1900, a sum of—on account of 75 per cent of the notes to be issued, but not less than \$100,000, to be maintained at all times, but whenever any bank retires any part of its circulation a proportional part of its guarantee fund shall be returned to it; to permit the secretary of the treasury to prepare and deposit hand ready for issue in case an emergency in circulation is desired blank national bank notes for each bank having circulation; and to repeal the provisions of the present law imposing limitations and restrictions upon bank checks to reduce or increase their circulation; thus permitting such increase or reduction within the limit of 75 per cent of capital to be readily made as emergencies arise.

It is proposed to amend the law so that if it is proposed to increase the authorized amount of a bank's circulation, the bank should be required to deposit with the government a sum of money equal to 75 per cent of the increase, and to maintain this amount in United States legal tender notes, including treasury notes, of 1900, as a guarantee fund. When a bank has deposited this amount it is to be paid into the treasury and the bank is to be authorized to issue its circulation up to the amount of such fund. The immediate result of such a law would be to place the issue of circulating notes in the hands of the people, and to place the responsibility of such issue upon the banks, the contributions constituting a first lien upon the assets of the bank in favor of the contributing banks. A further security is contemplated that the existing provision fixing the individual liability of stockholders is to be retained and the bank's indebtedness on account of its circulating notes is to be made a first lien on all its assets.

State Bank Taxation. For the purpose of meeting the expense of printing notes, official supervision, cancellation, and other like charges, there shall be imposed a tax of say one-half of 1 per cent per annum upon the average amount of notes in circulation. It is further provided that there shall be no national bank notes issued of less denomination than \$10; that such national bank, except in case of a failed bank, shall redeem or retire its notes in the first instance at its own office, or at agencies to be designated by it, and that no fixed reserve need be maintained on account of deposits.

Another very important feature of this plan is the exemption of state banks from taxation by the United States in cases where it is shown to the satisfaction of the secretary of the treasury and comptroller of the currency by banks claiming such exemption that they have not had outstanding their circulating notes exceeding 75 per cent of their paid up and unimpaired capital; that their stockholders are individually liable for the redemption of their circulating notes to the full extent of their ownership of stock; that the liability of said banks upon their circulating notes constitutes under their state law a first lien upon their assets; that such banks have kept and maintained a guarantee fund in United States legal tender notes, including treasury notes of 1900, equal to 75 per cent of their outstanding circulating notes; and that such banks have promptly redeemed their circulating notes when presented at their principal or branch offices.

THE PASSING OF DAY. Blue bloom is on the distant hill; Mystic grasps the twilight still. The low winds say: "Farewell to day. Keening is on her way." She walks the waters and the land. She and Quiet, hand in hand. The low winds say: "Sweet sounds, obey. Soft colors fade away." And all the lovely colors go. All the sounds, and very low. The winds say: "Do they say? No whisper. Day is gone. —John Vance Cheney in Century.

LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES. A Famous Surgeon Who Had the Detective Instinct. The nervous qualities of dissection and analysis which Dr. Conan Doyle invests his mythical character, Sherlock Holmes, are manifested at times by individuals in real life. Probably it is due to the possibilities of the occurrence that make Dr. Doyle's stories so attractive.

An actual case of accurate analysis and judgment is reported in an old-time medical journal of Sir Astley Cooper, the famous London surgeon of 50 years ago, between whom and our own Dr. Valentine Mott there existed a warm personal friendship and some slight professional rivalry each having performed for his time wonders in surgery.

It is related of Sir Astley that he was once called to perform an almost hopeless operation upon a Mr. Blight, who had been shot by an unknown assassin. The prominence of the man and the mystery surrounding the shooting rendered the case celebrated at the time of the occurrence.

Mr. Blight was unconscious at the time of the examination, and nothing could be obtained from him. The moment Sir Astley examined the wound he turned to his assistant and said, "A pistol has been fired at him with the left hand." Then he explained the reasons for his conclusions.

While he was still engaged in this Mr. Blight's partner, a Mr. Patch, a man esteemed as reputable, entered the house and was shown to the room. Something about his manner and his countenance attracted the attention of Sir Astley, and he whispered to his colleague, "If that gentleman were left handed, I should suspect him of the crime." The next instant he turned to Patch and said, "Will you kindly hand me that lint?" Patch did so, utilizing his left hand. Mr. Blight died. Patch was accused of the murder, and upon being tried and condemned on circumstantial evidence confessed his guilt. He was duly executed. —New York Herald.

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