

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

M'KINLEY ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

CURRENCY REFORM—CUBA.

Prompt Legislation to Correct Financial Complications Urged—Greenbacks and Gold—Grant's Cuban Declaration Quoted—Annexation—Italians.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Following is the President's message to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth Congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many able Senators and Representatives. I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgments to the beneficent Providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation.

Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth remain unbroken. A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and amity of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisan prejudice or former sectional defenses. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division of ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, of permanent and temporary, the irrevocability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen to whatever party he belongs in whatever section of this country he may reside.

The extra session of this Congress which closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. Its permanent value for longer or shorter time will be required and the people, satisfied with its operations and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

Currency Reform Urged. Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of Congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency. The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money, that, keeping all of them at par with gold, the burden is longer and heavier than it should be, and the people, even under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the national credit.

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemption. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, or limit the amount of redemption of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption. We have 1,000,000,000 of currency which the government by solemn enactment has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold, but the government is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it.

If no further legislation is had, and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then Congress should give the Secretary of the Treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods, bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law. I earnestly recommend that the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold.

This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold and gets it from the government he should not receive any part of the interest. The United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a non-interest-bearing debt. It should not pay them out again except on demand for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt.

In my view it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the business of providing all the gold for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone to be borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped.

The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the financial recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and saving us from the usual embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration. I concur with the secretary that national banks be allowed to issue notes of any value for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposit of such bonds be reduced to one-half of 1 per cent per annum.

I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs. I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of ten dollars and upwards. The suggestions I have herein made should have the approval of Congress. I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

The Conflict in Cuba. The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal, pertaining to it, foreign relations, concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurgents. The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. Its chief aim has been to liberate the island from the Spanish rule and to reorganize the government.

The existing conditions cannot but fill the government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cuban people prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self-control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their country.

The offer made by my predecessor in April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of the government failed. Any mediation on our part was not accepted. In brief, the answer read: "There is no effectual way to pacify Cuba unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother." Then only could Spain act in the promised direction of her own motion and after her own plan.

The cruel policy of concentration was initiated in February, 1896. This policy the late cabinet of Spain justified as a necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents. It has utterly failed as a war measure. It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination. Against the rebels the rights of war I have felt constrained to extend on occasions to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government.

Spain's Recent Promise. The instructions given to our minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and no proposal was made which would avoid embarrassment to that government. All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored.

Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival in Spain, a statesman who had shaped the policy of his country fell by the hand of an assassin, and although the cabinet of the late premier still held office and received from our envoy the proposals he bore, that cabinet gave place within a few days to another administration under the leadership of Sagasta.

The reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direction of the friendly purposes of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba and that its desires for peace are just. It declares that the present Spanish government is bound by every sacred and international obligation to satisfy the Cuban people within a reasonable time. To this end Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the present premier, without halting for the better or the worse, but in its judgment leads to peace.

The military operations, it is said, will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba under the Spanish sovereignty. It is claimed, will result in investing Cuba with a distinct personality; the island to be governed by an executive and by a local council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and the national administration.

It suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant political reforms, while the United States for its part shall enforce its neutral obligations and cut off its assistance which, it is asserted, the insurgents receive from this country. It supposes of an indefinite prolongation of the war is denied. The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is promised, as well as the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States.

Discussion of the question of international duties and responsibilities of the United States as Spain understands them, is premature and an apparent disposition to charge us with failure in this regard.

Spain's Charges Repeated. This charge is without any basis in fact. It has been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant efforts of the government to make at the cost of millions by the employment of the administrative machinery of the nation at command to perform its full duty according to the obligations which it has successfully prevented the departure of a Spanish military expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient answer. But of this aspect of the Spanish note it is not necessary to speak further now. Firm in the conviction of a wholly unformed obligation due to our people, this charge has been made in diplomatic issues. Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace government has never in any way abandoned its protest against the violation of its policy and course according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own people should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

The Question of Recognition. Of the untold measures there remain only: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents, recognition of the independence of Cuba, neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, that cannot be effected by our code of morality would be criminal aggression.

Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has been often canvassed as a possible, if not inevitable, step, both in regard to the previous ten years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unmindful that the two houses of Congress in the spring of 1896 expressed the opinion by concurrent resolution that a condition of public war existed requiring or justifying intervention of a state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which however, was not brought to a vote in the House. In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legislative branch it behooves the executive to soberly consider the conditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification. It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurgents possess beyond dispute the attributes of a nation, and whether in demand the recognition of belligerency in its favor.

President Grants Views. The wise utterances of President Grant in his memorable message of December 7, 1875, are signally relevant to the present situation in Cuba, and it may be wholesome now to recall them. At that time a wholesome conflict and for seven years wasted the question which next presented itself was an utter disregard of the laws of civilized warfare, and which called forth expressions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom and which were unheeded.

At that juncture President Grant uttered these words, which now, as then, sum up the elements of the problem: "A recognition of the independence of Cuba being, in my mind, impracticable and indefensible, the question which next presents itself is that of the recognition of belligerent rights in the parties to the contest.

"Such recognition entails upon the country according to the rights which flow from it, difficult and complicated duties, and requires the exacting from the contending parties of the strict observance of their rights and obligations. It centers the right of search upon the high seas by vessels of both parties, it would subject the carrying of arms and munitions of war, which now may be transported freely and without interruption, in vessel of the United States to detention and to possible seizure; it would give rise to countless vexatious questions, would release the parent government from responsibility for acts done by the insur-

gents, and would invest Spain with the right to exercise the prerogative recognized by our treaty of 1795 over our commerce on the high seas, a very large part of which, in its traffic between the Atlantic and the Gulf States and between all of them and the western coast of Africa, passes through the waters which wash the shores of Cuba. The exercise of this prerogative could scarce fail to lead, if not to abuses, certainly to collisions perilous to the peaceful relations of the two states. There can be no doubt that the exercise of such a prerogative would before long draw to our attention. It would be unworthy of the United States to inaugurate the possibilities of such results by measures of questionable right or expediency or by any indirection.

"When according to the legal belligerent rights defined by public law to each party in our ports and waters would be imposed on both, while, while nominally equal, would weigh heavily in behalf of Spain heretofore, a navy and controlling the ports of Cuba, it might be asserted not only for the military investment of the island, but up to the margin of our own territorial waters, and a condition of things would exist for which the Cubans would not be prepared to accept. To create a parallel to the Cuban case, though old or sympathy from within our domain would be even more impossible than now, with the additional obligations of international neutrality we would perform assume."

Against Intervention Now. The enforcement of this enlarged and onerous code of neutrality would only be influential within our own jurisdiction by land and sea and applicable by our own instrumentalities. It could impart to the United States no jurisdiction between Spain and the insurgents. It would give the United States no right of intervention to enforce the conduct of the strife within the paramount authority of Spain according to the international code of war.

For these reasons I regard the recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents as a most delicate and difficult task. Should that step here to be deemed wise as a measure of right and duty the executive will take it.

Intervention upon humanitarian grounds has been frequently suggested and has not failed to receive our anxious and earnest consideration. But should such a step be now taken when it is apparent that a hopeful change has supervened in the policy of Spain toward Cuba?

That the government of Sagasta has an honorable position which recession with honor is impossible, and that it is questioned, that in the few weeks it has existed it has made earnest of the sincerity of its professions is undeniable. I shall not impugn its sincerity, nor should impatience be felt toward it. It is not my task here to undertake now. It is not my task here to undertake now. It is not my task here to undertake now.

The Policy of this Country. The new future will demonstrate whether the international recognition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will be imposed upon us. When that time comes that action will be determined in the line of the indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy, in the light of the obligation which government owes to itself, to the people who have trusted in its protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity.

Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by the love of national glory nor by the desire to continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abide none of its efforts to bring about peaceful agencies a peace which shall be hereafter to be imposed on the obligations to ourselves, to civilization, to humanity, to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to invite our support and approval of the civilized world.

Hawaii's Annexation Urged. By a special message dated the 16th day of June last I laid before the Senate a treaty signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian Islands as an integral part of the United States, and under its sovereignty.

That treaty was unanimously ratified without amendment by the Senate and President of the Republic of Hawaii on the 10th of September last, and only awaits the favorable action of the House of Representatives to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domain of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be, the political relation thereof to the United States, the character of the local administration, the degree of the franchise of the inhabitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar condition thereof, the regulation of trade, and all matters upon which the acts, has wisely been relegated to Congress.

If the treaty is confirmed, as every consideration of dignity and honor requires, the wisdom of Congress will see to it that a treaty so hardy yet fitted to the highest franchises of citizenship, and having due regard to the geographical conditions, the most just provisions for self rule and liberties, and the largest part of our nation will be accorded to the Hawaiian people, who are due to a people who, after nearly five years of demonstrated capacity to fulfill the obligations of self-governing statehood, come of their free will to merge their destinies in our body politic.

The questions which have arisen between Japan and Hawaii by reason of the treatment of Japanese laborers emigrating to the islands under the Hawaiian-Japanese agreement, have been settled in a satisfactory stage of settlement by negotiation.

Humiliation. The special envoys have been diligent in their efforts to see the concurrence and co-operation of European countries in the international settlement of the question, but up to this time have not been able to secure an agreement contemplated by their mission.

The gratifying action of our great sister republic of France in joining this country in the attempt to bring about an agreement between the principal commercial nations of Europe whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assurance that we are not alone among the larger nations of the world in realizing the international character of the problem and in the desire of bringing some wise and practical solution of it.

Our special envoys have not made their final report as further negotiations between the representatives of this government and the governments of other countries are in the hands of their plenipotentiaries. They believe that doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possibility of maintaining the stability of

the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further negotiations. Meanwhile it gives me satisfaction to state that the special envoys have already demonstrated their abilities and fitness to deal with the subject and it is to be earnestly hoped that the negotiations will result in an international agreement of both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of our metals upon a basis which shall work no injustice to any class of our citizens.

Legislation for Alaska. The territory of Alaska requires the prompt and early attention of Congress. The conditions now existing demand material changes in the laws relating to the territory.

I concur with the Secretary of War in his suggestion as to the necessity for a military force in the territory of Alaska for the protection of persons and property. The startling, though possibly exaggerated, reports from the Yukon river country of the probable shortage of food for the winter by the people who are wintering there without the means of leaving the country are confirmed in such measure as to justify bringing the matter to the attention of Congress. Access to that country this winter can be had only by the passes from the interior, which is a most difficult and perhaps impossible task. However, should these reports of the suffering of our fellow citizens be further verified every effort on my cost should be made to carry them relief.

Reciprocity and Seals. In order to execute as early as possible the provisions of the third and fourth sections of the revenue act approved July 24, 1897, I appointed the Hon. John A. Kasson, former special commissioner plenipotentiary to undertake the requisite negotiation with foreign countries desiring to avail themselves of these provisions. The negotiations are now proceeding with several governments, both European and American, and the careful exercise of the powers conferred by the act will so strengthen the general views on this question expressed in my inaugural address.

The acceptance by this government of the invitation of the republic of France to participate in the universal exposition of 1900 at Paris was immediately followed by the appointment of a special commissioner to represent the United States in the proposed exposition and a liberal appropriation is urged.

The Merry Cases. As to the representation of this government to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, a treaty was concluded by Mr. William L. Merry, confirmed as minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, and there temporarily establish the headquarters of the United States to those three states.

I took this action for what I regarded as the paramount interests of this country. It was developed upon an investigation by the Secretary of State that the governor of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to receive Mr. Merry, did not intend to receive him to do so on account of the compact concluded June 20, 1895, whereby that republic and those of Salvador and Honduras, forming the Greater Republic of Central America, had surrendered to the United States the exclusive right to receive and send diplomatic agents. The treaty was not willing to accept him because he was not accredited to that body. I could not accredit him to that body because the laws of nations do not permit.

Mr. Baker, the present minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, has been directed to present his letters of recall. Mr. W. G. Hunter has likewise been directed to recall the governments of Guatemala and Honduras, and to present his letters of recall. Guatemala is not a member of the Greater Republic of Central America but Honduras is. Should this latter government decline to receive him, he has been instructed to recall. The present area of the territory of the United States is 2,969,000 square miles, which is 25,699,564 acres, much of which is very fertile land.

The United States citizens residing in the territory, most of whom have gone there to engage in agriculture, have made homes for themselves. Numerous towns have been built in which from 500 to 5,000 white people now reside. Valuable residences and business houses have been erected in many of them. Large business enterprises are carried on, which vast sums of money are employed.

Injustice to the Whites. And yet these people, who have invested their capital in the development of the productive resource of the country, are without title to the land they occupy and have no voice whatever in the government either secure to the individual Indian his full enjoyment of the territory and the children of school age, but the doors of the schools of the nation are shut against them and what education they get is by private contribution. No provision for the protection of the life property of these white citizens is made by the tribal governments and courts.

The secretary of the interior reports that leading Indians have absorbed great tracts of land under the common law of the people and government by an individual title. The system has been practically established, to the detriment of the people. It has been found impossible for the United States to keep its citizens out of the territory and the executive conditions contain'd in treaties with these nations have for the most part become impossible of execution. Nor has it been possible for the tribal governments to secure to the individual Indian his full enjoyment of the territory and the children of the common property of the nation.

The Dawes Commission's Duties. Friends of the Indians have long believed that the best interests of the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes would be found in American citizenship with all the rights and privileges which belong to that condition. By the act of March 3, 1893, the President was authorized to appoint three commissioners to enter into negotiations with the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (or Creek) and Seminole tribes in the Indian Territory. A little more than three years after the organization the commission effected an

agreement with the Choctaw nation alone. The Chickasaws, however, refused to agree to its terms and, as they have a common said nations of the agreement with the latter nation could have no effect without the consent of the former. On April 23, 1897, the commission effected an agreement with both tribes—the Choctaws and Chickasaws. This agreement, it is understood, has been ratified by the constituted authorities of the respective tribes and nations parties thereto, and only requires ratification by Congress to make it binding.

Mr. Dawes' Suggestion Upheld. On the 27th of September, 1897, an agreement was effected with the Creek nation, but it is understood that the national council of said nation has refused to ratify the same.

The provision in the Indian appropriation act, approved June 10, 1893, makes it the duty of the commission to investigate and determine the rights of applicants for citizenship in the Five Civilized Tribes. The work amount to leaving the state and appointments for taking the census of the people up to and including the 30th of the present month.

Negotiations are yet to be had with the Cherokee, the most populous of the five civilized tribes, and with the Seminole, the smallest in point of numbers and territory. Should the agreement between the Choctaws and Chickasaws be ratified by Congress and should the other tribes fail to enter into an agreement with the commission, then it will be necessary that some legislation shall be had by Congress which, while just and honorable to the Indians, shall be equitable to the white people who have settled upon these lands by invitation of the tribal nations.

The Hon. Henry L. Dawes, chairman of the commission, in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, under date of October 11, 1897, says: "Individual ownership in their (the commission's) opinion absolutely essential to any permanent improvement in present conditions, and the lack of it is the root of nearly all the evils which so grievously afflict these people. Allotment by agreement is the only possible method, unless the United States courts are clothed with authority to apportion the lands among the citizen Indians for those whose use it was originally granted."

I concur with the Secretary of the Interior that there can be no cure for the evils engendered by the perversion of these public trusts except by their resumption by the government which created them.

A Kansas Pacific Bid. The Union Pacific railway main line was sold under the decree of the United States court for the district of Columbia on the 1st and 2d of November of this year. The amount due the government consisted of the principal of the subsidy bonds, \$7,226,512, and the accrued interest thereon, \$31,217,417, making a total indebtedness of \$38,443,929.75. The bid received covered the first mortgage lien and the entire mortgage claim of the government, principal and interest.

The sale of the subsidized portion of the Kansas Pacific line, upon which the government holds a second mortgage lien, has been postponed at the instance of the government to December 16, 1897. The debt of this division of the Union Pacific railroad to the government on November 13, 1897, was the principal of the subsidy bonds, \$5,303,000, and the unpaid and accrued interest, \$6,628,690.33, making a total of \$11,931,690.33. The sale of this road was originally advertised for November 4, 1897, but the purpose of securing the utm at public notice of the extent to which the accrued interest, \$6,628,690.33, making a total of \$11,931,690.33. The sale of this road was originally advertised for November 4, 1897, but the purpose of securing the utm at public notice of the extent to which the accrued interest, \$6,628,690.33, making a total of \$11,931,690.33.

The Kansas Pacific Matter. By the decree of the court the up-set price on the sale of the Kansas Pacific will yield to the government the sum of \$2,500,000 over all prior liens, costs and charges. If no other of better bid is made this sum is to be paid to the government. The government's claim of nearly \$13,000,000. The government has no information as to whether there will be other bidders or a better bid than the maximum amount of \$2,500,000. Upon the acceptance of the bid, the authority given by the act of March 3, 1887, purchase or redeem the road in the event that a bid is not made by private parties covering the entire government claim. To qualify the government to bid at the sales will require a deposit of \$500,000 and in each of the first mortgage causes \$200,000, and in the latter the deposit must be in cash. Payments at the sale are as follows: In the government cause \$500,000 and in each of the first mortgage causes \$200,000, and in the latter the deposit must be in cash. Payments at the sale are as follows: In the government cause \$500,000 and in each of the first mortgage causes \$200,000, and in the latter the deposit must be in cash.

The Government Will Bid. I believe that under the act of 1887 it has the authority to do this, and in absence of an active law to the contrary, I shall direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make the necessary deposit as required by the court's decree to qualify as a bidder and to bid at the sale a sum which will at least equal the principal of the debt due to the government. It is clearly my mind that the government should not permit the property to be sold at a price which will yield less than one-fifth of its entire debt, principal and interest. But whether the government, rather than accept less than the claim, should become a bidder and thereby the owner of the property, I submit to Congress for action.

Civil Service—Economy. The important branch of our government known as the civil service, the practical improvement of which has long been a subject of earnest discussion, has of late years received increased legislative and executive approval. Much, of course, still remains to be accomplished before this system can be made reasonably perfect for our needs. There are places now in the classified service which ought to be exempted and others not classified may properly be included. I am not hesitate to exempt cases which I think have been improperly included in the classified service, or include those which, in my judgment, will best promote the public service. The system has the approval of the people, and it will be my endeavor to uphold and extend it.

Strict Economy Called For. I am forced by the length of this message to omit many important references to affairs of the government with which Congress will have to deal at the present session. They are fully discussed in the departmental reports, to all of which I invite your earnest attention. The estimates of the expenses of the government by the several departments will, I am sure, have your careful scrutiny. While the Congress may not find it an easy task to reduce the expenses of the government, it should not encourage their increase. These expenses will, in my judgment, admit of a decrease in many branches of the government without injury to the public service. It is a commanding duty to keep the appropriations within the receipts of the government, and thus avoid a deficit.

Place for Mgr. Schoeder. BENNIS, Dec. 6.—Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph Schoeder, late professor of dogmatic theology at the Catholic university at Washington, has been appointed by the Prussian minister of education and ecclesiastical affairs to the faculty of the Catholic academy at Muenster, capital of Westphalia.

Mormonism in Politics. SALT LAKE, Utah, Dec. 6.—James Charles Bowen, a member of one of the teachers' quorums of the Mormon church, has been disaffiliated because at the recent election he worked for E. B. Critchlow, a non-Mormon, and against Charles W. Synoux, a Mormon.

Ives Challenges Skoson. NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Frank C. Ives, smarting under his defeat by George E. Skoson, has issued a challenge to Skoson for a match game of billiards according to championship rules.

BRITONS IN NICARAGUA.

Got a Concession Which is in Apparent Conflict With the Canal Scheme.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec. 6.—L. Wichmann, representing the English corporation known as the Atlas Steamship Company, has deposited with the treasurer of Nicaragua \$5,000 in gold as the company's guarantee under its contract with the Nicaraguan government, by the terms of which the company receives the exclusive right of steam navigation for thirty years on the San Juan del Norte, with the exclusive right also for the same time of constructing tramways and railroads along the lines and at the best places to avoid the obstacles in the river San Juan.

WOMAN'S TRAGIC ACT. Mrs. Howell Ends Her Suffering With a Bullet. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Lillian Howell, 36 years, a student at the Kansas City Homeopathic college, ended her life with a bullet at 11:15 o'clock Saturday night in a room at 703 East Eleventh street. She had been confined to her bed for three weeks with lung trouble and it is believed her act was prompted by the thought that she would never regain her health. She had sent her husband to telephone for a doctor and while he was gone she secured a revolver, muffled with bed clothes and shot herself.

Aged Bridegroom Suicides. NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—On Thanksgiving evening Samuel G. Parkhill, 74 years of age, of Brooklyn married Miss Annie Kirkland of Brooklyn, who was fifty years his junior. To-day Parkhill committed suicide at his home in Brooklyn by shooting himself through the brain with a revolver. When the couple were married the families of both parties objected strongly to the tie on account of the disparity in their ages. The couple were forced to separate, and since that time Parkhill had appeared somewhat depressed.

Germany's Army in China. BERLIN, Dec. 6.—When the German reinforcements, consisting of four companies of marines, numbering twenty-three officers and 2,200 men, and a company of naval artillery arrive at Kiaochow bay, for which point they soon set out, they will bring the total German force there up to 4,566 men, the largest body Germany has ever sent beyond European waters. It is understood that the reserves had to be drawn upon.

A Race With Death. CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—Twelve men composing the crew of the steamer George W. Morley had a race with death on Lake Michigan this evening. Fire broke out in the hold of the vessel seven miles off Evanston. All steam was crowded on, the safety valves were tied down and with men working like trojans in the blinding smoke, the run for shore commenced. As the flames burst through the cabin, land was reached and the crew saved.

1,008 Steerage Passengers. NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The Prince line steamer, Trojan Prince, which arrived to-day from Lagnorn, Genoa and Naples, brought from the latter port 1,008 steerage passengers, the greater portion of them being women and children. This is the largest number of Italian immigrants brought by any steamer to this port in many months. The state of health on board was excellent.

Only Collecting Her Salary. ARMORE, I. T., Dec. 6.—"Sam'l of Posen," by M. B. Curtis' company, was presented at the opera house here last night. At the close of the performance the lady cashier, Miss Nellie R. Fillmore, disappeared with the evening's receipts. She was found and placed under arrest. She gave bond. She claims Curtis owed her, and that she took the only means at her command for paying herself.

Weds a Waitress. NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—It came out to-day that the man who was married last Sunday in "The Little Church Around the Corner" to Juliette Maier, a waitress, is William Copeland Rhinelander, the eldest son of William Rhinelander, head of a family that has been prominent in New York for nearly a century.

Italian Ministry Quits. ROME, Dec. 6.—The cabinet has resigned. General Pelloux's action is regarded as a political move to make it possible for the Marquis di Rudini to secure a unanimous ministry. The ministers of finance, justice and public works in the retiring cabinet will not appear in its successor.

Place for Mgr. Schoeder. BENNIS, Dec. 6.—Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph Schoeder, late professor of dogmatic theology at the Catholic university at Washington, has been appointed by the Prussian minister of education and ecclesiastical affairs to the faculty of the Catholic academy at Muenster, capital of Westphalia.

Mormonism in Politics. SALT LAKE, Utah, Dec. 6.—James Charles Bowen, a member of one of the teachers' quorums of the Mormon church, has been disaffiliated because at the recent election he worked for E. B. Critchlow, a non-Mormon, and against Charles W. Synoux, a Mormon.

Ives Challenges Skoson. NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Frank C. Ives, smarting under his defeat by George E. Skoson, has issued a challenge to Skoson for a match game of billiards according to championship rules.