# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

In Favor of National Rather than State Pegulation Would Not Do Away With Them, but Would Eliminate the Evil in Them.

In his message to Congress President Roosevelt has this to say:

THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE. We still continue in a period of un-bounded prosperity. This prosperity is not the creature of law, but un-doubtedly the laws under which we work have been instrumental in creating the conditions which made it possible, and by unwise legislation it would be easy enough to destroy it. There will undoubtedly be periods of depression. The wave will recede, but the tide will advance. This nation is seated on a continent flanked by two great oceans. It is composed of men the descendants of pioneers, or, in a sense, pioneers themselves; of men winnowed out from among the nations of the old world by the energy, boldness, and love of adventure found in work have been instrumental in creness, and love of adventure found in their own eager hearts. Such a nation, so placed, will surely wrest success

As a people we have played a large part in the world, and we are bent upon making our future even larger than the past. In particular, the events of the last four years have defi-nitely decided that, for woe or for weal, our place must be great among the nations. We may either fail greatly or succeed greatly; but we can not avoid the endeavor from which either great failure or great success must come. Even if we would, we can not play a small part. If we should try, all that would follow would be that we should play a large part ignobly and

shamefully.
But our people, the sons of the men of the Civil war, the sons of the men who had iron in their blood, rejoice in the present and face the future high of heart and resolute of will. Ours is not the creed of the weakling and the coward; ours is the gospel of hope and of triumphant endeavor. We do not shrink from the struggle before us. There are many problems for us to face at the outset of the twentieth century—grave problems abroad and still graver at home; but we know that we can solve them and solve them well, provided only that we bring to the solution the qualities of head and heart which were shown by the men who, in the days of Washington. founded this government, and, in the

days of Lincoln, preserved it. THE EVIDENCES OF WEALTH.

No country has ever occupied a gher plane of material well-being

than ours at the present moment. This well-being is due to no sudden or accidental causes, but to the play of the economic forces in this country for over a century; to our laws, our sustained and continuous policies; above all, to the high individual average of our citizenship. Great fortunes have been won by those who have taken the lead in this phenomenal in-dustrial development, and most of these fortunes have been won not by doing evil, but as an incident to action which being been so widely diffused among our people. Great fortunes have been accumulated, and yet in the ag-gregate these fortunes are small indeed when compared to the wealth of the people as a whole. The plain peo-ple are better off than they have ever been before. The insurance compan-les, which are practically mutual benefit societies—especially helpful to men of moderate means-represent accumulations of capital which are among the largest in this the largest in this country, are more deposits in the savmore well-paid wage-workers in this country now than ever before in our history. Of course, when the condi-tions have favored the growth of so much that was good, they have also favored somewhat the growth of what It is eminently necessary that we should endeavor to cut out this evil, but let us keep a due sense of proportion; let us not in fixing our gaze upon the lesser cell forget the greater good. The evils are real and are the outgrowth, not of misery or decadence, but of prosperity—of the progress of our gigantic industrial development. This industrial develop-ment must not be checked, but side by side with it should go such progressive regulation as will diminish the evils. We should fail in our duty if we did shall succeed only if we proceed patiently, with practical common sense ns well as resolution, separating the good from the bad and holding on to the former while endeavoring to get rid of the latter.

THE REGULATION OF TRUSTS. In my message to the present Con-gress at its first session I discussed at length the question of the regulation of those big corporations commonly doing an interstate business, often with some tendency to monopoly which are popularly known as trusts The experience of the past year has emphasized in my opinion the desira-bility of the steps I then proposed. A fundamental requisite of social effi-ciency is a high standard of individual energy and excellence; but this is in no wise inconsistent with power to ett in combination for aims which car not so well be achieved by the indi-vidual acting alone. A fundamental base of civilization is the inviolability of property; but this is in no wise inconsistent with the right of socetey to egulate the exercise of the artificial lowers which it confers upon the owners of property, under the name of cor-porate franchises, in such a way as to prevent the misuse of these Corporations, and especially nations of corporations, should be man-aged under public regulation. Expe-rence has shown that under our sysom of government the necessary su-prision cannot be obtained by state ion. It must therefore be achieved national action. Our aim is not to do away with corporations; on the con-trary, these big aggregations are an initable development of modern indus-latism, and the effort to destroy om would be futile unless accom-ished in ways that would work the most mischief to the entire body

We can do nothing of good in the my of regulating ese corporations until we fix clearly our minds that we are not attacking corporations, but endeavoring to away with any evil in them. We not hostile to them; we are merely termined that they shall be subserve the public good. draw the line against misconduct,

Prosperity as a Topic.

DEALS WITH SUBJECT OF TRUSTS

In Favor of National Bather than prevent him from doing iil. Publicity can do no harm to the honest corporation; and we need not be overtender about sparing the dishonest corpora-

tion.

In curbing and regulating the combinations of capital which are or may become injurious to the public we must be careful not to stop the great enterprises which have legitimately reduced the cost of production not to abendon the place which our country has won in the leadership of the interprise of the industrial world not to terrational industrial world, not terrational industrial world, not to strike down wealth with the result of closing factories and mines, of turn-ing the wage-worker idle in the streets and leaving the farmer without a mar-ket for what he grows. Insistence upon the impossible means delay in achieving the possible, exactly as, on the other hand, the stubborn defense alike of what is good and what is bad in the existing system, the resolute ef-fort to obstruct any attempt at better-ment, betrays blindness to the historic truth that wise evolution is the sure safeguard against revolution.

#### INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

No more important subject come before the Congress than this of the regulation of interstate business. This country can not afford to sit supine on the plea that under our pe-

This country can not afford to sit supine on the plea that under our peculiar system of government we are helpless in the presence of new conditions, and unable to grapple with them or to cut out whatever of evil has arisen in connection with them.

The power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce is an absolute and unqualified grant, and without limitations other than those prescribed by the Constitution. The Congress has constitutional authority to make all laws necessary and proper for executing this power, and I am satisfied that this power has not been exhausted by any legislation now on the statute books. It is evident therefore, that evils restrictive of commercial freedom and entailing restraint upon national commerce fall within the regulative power of Congress, and that a wise and reasonable law would be a necessary and proper exercise of congressional authority to the end that such evils should be eradicated.

I believe that monopolies, unjust digeriminations, which prevent or cripular commercial or competition, fraudulent overcapi-

discriminations, which prevent or crip-ple competition, fraudulent overcapi-talization, and other evils in trust or-ganizations and practices which in-juriously affect interstate trade can be prevented under the power of Con-gress to "regulate commerce with forgress to "regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several
states" through regulations and requirements operating directly upon
such commerce, the instrumentalities
thereof, and those engaged therein.
I earnestly recommend this subject
to the consideration of the Congress
with a view to the passage of a law
reasonable in its provisions and effective in its operations, upon which

fective in its operations, upon which the questions can be finally adjudi-cated that now raise doubts as to the necessity of constitutional amendment. if it prove impossible to accomplish the purposes above set forth by such a law, then, assuredly, we should not shrink from amending the constitution

so as to secure beyond peradventure the power sought.

The Congress has not heretofore made any appropriation for the bet-ter enforcement of the anti-trust law as it now stands. Very much has been done by the department of justice in securing the enforcement of this law but much more could be done if Congress would make a special appropriation for this purpose, to be expended under the direction of the attorney

TRUSTS AND TARIFF SEPARATE One proposition advocated has been the reduction of the tariff as a mean of reaching the evils of the trusts which fall within the category I have described. Not merely would this be wholy ineffective, but the diversion of our efforts in such a direction would mean the abandonment of all intelligent attempt to do away with these evils Many of the largest corporations, many of those which should certainly be in cluded in any proper scheme of regu lation, would not be affected in slightest degree by a charge in the with the general prosperity of the country. The only relation of the tar-iff to big corporations as a whole is that the tariff makes manufacture profitable, and the tariff remady pro posed would be in effect simply to make manufactures unprofitable. To remove the tariff as a punitive measure di-rected against trusts would inevitably esult in ruin to the weaker competitors who are struggling against then Our alm should be not by unwise tariff changes to give foreign products the advantage over domestic products, but by proper regulation to give domest competition a fair chance; and this end cannot be reached by any tariff changes which would affect unfavora-bly all domestic competitors, good and bad alike. The question of regulation of the trusts stands apart from the uestion of tariff revision. Stability of enonomic policy must

ways be the prime economic need of this country. This stability should not be fossilization. The country has acquiesced in the wisdom of the protective tariff principle. It is exceed-ingly undestrable that this system be destroyed or that should be violent and radical changes therein. Our past experience shows that great prosperity in this country has always come under a protectly tariff; and that the country canno prosper under fitful tariff changes a short intervals. Moreover, if the tarif nes has prospered under them and is prospering, it is better to endure for time slight inconveniences and inequalties in some schedules than to upse business by too quick and too radica changes. It is most earnestly to be wished that we could treat the tarif from the standpoint solely of our busi-ness needs. It is, perhaps, too much o hope that partisanship may be entirely excluded from consideration of the subject, but at least it can be made secondary to the business interests o the country-that is, to the interests of our people as a whole. Unquestion ably these business interests will best be served if together with fixity of principle as regards the tariff we combine a system which will permit us from time to time to make the neces sary reapplication of the principle to the shifting national needs. take scrupulous care that the reap-plication shall be made in such a way that it will not amount to a dislocation of our system, the mere threat of which to speak of the performance would produce paralysis in the business energies of the community. first consideration in making these changes would, of course, be to preserve the principle which underlies our

whole tariff system-that is, the princi-

more than cover the difference between the labor cost here and abroad. The well-being of the wage-worker, like the well-being of the tiller of the soil, should be treated as an essential in shaping our whole economic policy. There must never be any change which There must never be any change which will jeopardize the standard of comfort, the standard of wages of the American wage-worker.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATIES.

One way in which the readjustment sought can be reached is by reciprocity treaties. It is greatly to be desired that such treaties may be adopted. They can be used to widen our markets and to give a greater field for the activities of our producers on the one hand, and on the other hand to secure in practical shape the lowering of duties when they are no longer need-ed fer protection among our own peo-ple, or when the minimum of damage done may be disregarded for the sake of the maximum of good accomplished.

If it prove impossible to ratify the pending treaties, and if there seem to he no warrant for the endeavor to exe-cute others, or to amend the pending treaties so that they can be ratified, then the same end—to secure reciprocty-should be met by direct legisla-

Wherever the tariff conditions are such that a needed change can not with advantage be made by the application of the reciprocity idea, then it can be made outright by a lowering of duties on a given product. If possible, such change should be made only after the fullest consideration by practical experts, who should approach the subexperts, who should approach the subject from a business standpoint, having in view both the particular interests affected and the commercial well-being of the people as a whole. The machinery for providing such careful investigation can readily be supplied. The executive department has already at its disposal methods of collecting desires additional consideration to that which will be given the subject by its own committees, then a commission of business experts can be appointed whose duty it should be to recommend action by the Congress after a deliberate and scientific examination of the various schedules as they are affected by the changed and changing conditions. The unburried and unbiased rewhat changes should be made in the various schedules, and how far these banges could go without also changing the great prosperity which this country is now enjoying, or upsetting its fixed economic policy.

The cases in which the tariff can The cases in which the tarif can produce a monopoly are so few as to constitute an inconsiderable factor in the question; but of course if in any case it be found that a given rate of

dity does promote a monopoly which works iil, no protectionist would object to such reduction of the duty as would equalize competition.

In my judgment, the tariff on anthracite coal should be removed, and anthracite put actually, where it now is nominally, on the free list. This would have no effect at all save in crises; but in crises it might be of service to the in crises it might be of service to the

NO FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION. Interest rates are a potent factor in business activity, and in order that these rates may be equalized to meet the varying needs of the seasons and of widely separated communities, and to prevent the recurrence of financial stringencies which injuriously affect legitimate business, it is necessary that there should be an element of clasticity in our monetary system.

Banks are the natural servants of commerce, and upon them should be placed, as far as practicable, the burden of furnishing and maintaining a circulation adequate needs of our diversified industries and of our domestic and foreign commerce; and the issue of this should be so regulated that a sufficient supply should

be always available for the business interests of the country. It would be both unwise and unnecssary at this time to attempt to reconstruct our financial system, which has been the growth of a century; but some additional legislation is, I think, desir-The mere outline of any plan suficiently comprehensive to meet these requirements would transgress the appropriate limits of this communica-It is suggested, however, that all future legislation on the subject should be with the view of encouraging the use of such instrumentalities as will automatically supply every legitimate lemand of productive industries and of commerce, not only in the amount, but in the character of circulation; and of making all kinds of money interhangeable, and, at the will of the

FAIR TREATMENT FOR LABOR. How to secure fair treatment alike for labor and for capital, how to hold in check the unscrupulous man, whether employer or employe, without weakening individual initiative, without hampering and cramping the in dustrial development of the country s a problem fraught with great difhighest importance to solve on lines of sanity and far-sighted common sense as well as of devotion to the right. This is an era of federation and combination. Exactly as business men find they must often work through cor-porations, and as it is a constant tendency of these corporations to grow larger, so it is often necessary for laboring men to work in federations, and these have become important factors of modern industrial life.

Both kinds of federation, capitalistic and labor, can do much good, and as necessary corollary they can do evil. Opposition to each kind of organization should take the form of opposition to whatever is bad in the conduct of any given corporation or union—not of attacks upon corporation as such nor upon unions as such; for some of the most far-reaching beneficent work for our people has been accomplished through both corporations and unions. Each must refrain from arbitrary or tyrannous i terference with the rights of others.

Organized capital and organized la-bor alike should remember that in the long run the interest of each must be brought into harmony with the interest of the general public: and the conduct of each must conform to the funda-mental rules of obedience to the law of individual freedom, and of justice and fair dealing toward all. Each should remember that in addition to it must strive after the realizapower tion of healthy, lofty, and generous

Every employer, every wage-worker must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor so long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others. It is of the highest importance that employer and employe alike should endeavor to appreciate each the view-point of the other and the sure disaster that will come upon both in the long run if either grows to take as habitual an attitude of sour hostility

and distrust toward the other. Few people deserve better of the country than those representatives both of capital and labor-and there are many such-who work continually

ple of putting American business interests at least on a fully equality with interests abroad, and of always alowing a sufficient rate of duty to more than cover the difference between the labor cost here and abroad. The we'l-being of the wage-worker, like the fare, than sectional, race or religious animosity. We can get good govern-ment only upon condition that we keep true to the principles upon which this nation was founded, and judge each man not as a part of a class, but upon

his individual merits.
All that we have a right to ask of All that we have a right to ask of any man, rich or poor, whatever his creed, his occupation, his birthplace, or his residence, is that he shall act well and honorably by his neighbor and by his country. We are neither for the rich man as such nor for the poor man as such; we are for the upright man, rich or poor. So far as the constitutional powers of the national government touch these matters of general and vital moment to the nation, they should be exercised in conformity with should be exercised in conformity with the principles above set forth.

ADOPTION OF CUBAN TREATY. I hope soon to submit to the Senate

a reciprocity treaty with Cuba. On May 20 last the United States kept its promise to the island by formally va-cating Cuban soil and turning Cuba over to those whom her own people had chosen as the first officials of the

cw republic. Cuba lies at our doors, and whatever affects her for good or for ill affects us also. So much have our people felt this that in the Platt amendment we definitely took the ground that Cuba must hereafter have closer political relations with us than with any other

Thus in a sense Cuba has become a part of our international political system. This makes it necessary that in return she should be given some of the benefits of becoming part of our economic system. It is, from our own standpoint, a short-sighted and mischievous policy to fail to recognize this need.

this need. Moreover, it is unworthy of a mighty and generous nation, itself the greatest and most successful republic in his-tory, to refuse to stretch out a helping hand to a young and weak sister re-public just entering upon its career of independence. We should always fear-lessly insist upon our rights in the face of the strong, and we should with unof the strong, and we should with un-grudging hand do our generous duty by the weak. I urge the adoption of reciprocity with Cuba not only because it is eminently for our own interests to control the Cuban market and by every means to foster our supremacy the tropical lands and waters south of us, but also because we, of the giant republic of the north, should make all our sister nations of the American continent feel that whenever they will permit it we desire to show ourselves disinterestedly and effectively their

#### THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL.

As civilization grows warfare be-comes less and less the normal condicomes less and less the normal condi-tion of foreign relations. The last cen-tury has seen a marked diminution of wars between civilized powers; wars with uncivilized powers are largely mere matters of international policy duty, essential for the welfare of the world. Wherever possible, arbitration or some similar method should be em-ployed in lieu of war to settle difficul-ties between civilized nations, although ployed in fleu of war to settle difficulties between civilized nations, although as yet the world has not progressed sufficiently to render it possible, or necessarily desirable, to invoke arbitration in every case. The formation of the international tribunal which sits at The Hague is an event of good omen from which great consequences for the welfare of all mankind may flow. It is far better, where possible, to invoke such a permanent tribunal than to create special arbitrators for a given

It is a matter of sincere congratula-tion to our country that the United DUITDORE States and Mexico should have beer the first to use the good offices of The Hague Court. This was done last summer with most satisfactory results in the case of a claim at issue between us and our sister republic. It is earnestly to be hoped that this first case will serve as a precedent for others in which not only the United States but foreign nations may take advant-age of the machinery already in existence at The Hague,

## THE ISTHMIAN CANAL

The Congress has wisely provided that we shall build at once an isthmian canal, if possible at Panama, attorney-general reports that we can undoubtedly acquire good title from the French Panama canal company. gotiations are now pending with Colombia to secure her assent to our building the canal. This canal will be one of the greatest engineering feats of the twentieth century; a feats of greater engineering feat than has yet een accomplished during the history of mankind. The work should be car ried out as a continuing policy with-out regard to change of administration; and it should be begun under cir-cumstances which will make it a mat-

cumstances which will hake it a mat-ter of pride for all administrations to continue the policy.

The canal will be of great benefit to America, and of importance to all the world. It will be of advantage to us industrially and also as improving our military position. It will be of ad-vantage to the countries of tropical It is earnestly to be hoped that all of these countries will do as some of them have already done with signal success, and will invite to their shores commerce and improve their material conditions by recognizing that stability and order are the prerequisites of successful development. No inde-pendent nation in America need have the slightest fear of aggression from the United States. It behooves each to maintain order within its own borders and to discharge its just obli-gations to foreigners. When this is done, they can rest assured that, they strong or weak, they have noth-ing to dread from outside interference More and more the increasing interde pendence and complexity of international political and economic relations render it incumbent on all civilized and orderly powers to insist on the proper policing of the world.

## WAR RECORD IN ORIENT.

On July 4 last, on the one hundred and twenty-sixth anniversary of the declaration of our independence, peace and amnesty were promulgated in the Philippine islands. Some trouble has since from time to time threatened with the Mohammedan Moros, but with the late insurrectionary Filipinos the war has entirely ceased. Civil government has now been introduced. Not only does each Filipino enjoy such rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as he has never before known during the recorded history of the islands, but the people taken as a whole now enjoy a measure of self-government greater than that granted to any other orientals by any foreign power and greater than that enjoyed by any other orientals under their own governments, save the Japanese alon We have not gone too far in granting these rights of liberty and self-gov-ernment; but we have certainly gone to the limit that in the interests of the Philippine people themselves it wise or just to go. To hurry matters, to go faster than we are now going ould entail calamity on the people the islands. No polley ever entered into bring about a good understanding of by the American people has vindicated

oner that itself in more signal to olicy of holding the P the triumph of our laws and princ has come sooner than we had any has come sooner than we had any right to expect. Too much pulse cannot he given to the army for what it has done in the Philippines both a warfare and from an administrative standpoint in preparing the way for civil government; and similar credit belongs to the civil authorities for the way in which they have planted the seeds of self government in the ground thus made ready for them. The carrage, the unflinching endurance, the high soldiery efficiency, and the seneral kind-heartedness and humanity of our troops have been strikingly manifested. There now remain only some fifteen thousand troops in the seand. All told, over one hundred thousand have been sent there. Of course, there have been individual instances of wrongdoing among them.

They warred under fearful difficulties of climate and surroundings; and under of climate and surroundings; and under the strain of the terrible provocations which they continually received from their foes, occasional instances of cruel retaliation occurred. Every effort has been made to prevent such cruelties, and finally these efforts have been completely successful. Every effort has also been made to detect and punish the wrongdoers.

After making all allowance for these miscleeds, it remains true that few in-

misdeeds, it remains true that few indeed have been the instances in which
war has been waged by a civilized
power against semi-civilized or barbarous forces where there has been so
little wrongdoing by the victors as in
the Philippine islands. On the other
had, the amount of difficult, important,
and beneficient work which has been
done is well-view instants his nisdeeds, it remains true that few indone is well-nigh incalculable.

#### THE NAVY AND ITS NEEDS.

For the first time in our history has val maneuvers on a large scale are be-ing held under the immediate com-mand of the admiral of the navy. Con-stantly increasing attention is being paid to the gunnery of the navy, but it is yet far from what it should be I carnestly urge that the increase asked for by the secretary of the navy in the appropriation for improving the marksmanship be granted. In battle the only shots that count are the shots that hit. It is necessary to provide ample funds for practice with the great guns in time of peace. These funds must provide not only for the purchase of projectiles, but for allowances for prizes to encourage the gun crews, and especially the gun pointers, and for perfecting an intelligent system under which alone it is possible to get good

There should be no halt in the work of building up the navy, providing every year additional fighting craft. We ery year additional fighting craft. We are a very rich country, vast in extent of territory and great in population; a country, moreover, which has an army diminutive indeed when compared with that of any other first-class power. We have deliberately made our own certain foreign policies which demand the possession of a first-class navy.

The isthmian canal will greatly increase the efficiency of our navy if the navy is of sufficient size; but if we have an inadequate navy, then the

then the have an inadequate navy, then the building of the canal would be merely giving a hostage to any power of su-perior strength. The Monroe Doc-trine should be treated as the cardinal

us if we can not do better than we us if we can not do better than we are now doing as regards securing the services of a sufficient number of the highest type of sailormen, of sea mechanics. The veteran seames of our war ships are of as high a type as can be found in any navy which lides the waters of the world; they are unsurpassed in darling, in resolution, in read-moss in thorough knowledge of their ness, in thorough knowledge of their profession. They deserve every con-sideration that can be shown them. They deserve every star ration that can be shown them.

It is no more possible to improvise a crew than it is possible to improvise a war ship. To build the flest ship. with the deadliest battery, and to send it affoat with a raw crew, no matter how brave they were individually, would be to insure disaster if a foe of average capacity were encountered. Neither ships nor men can be improviced when war has begun

We need a thousand additional officers in order to properly manthe ships new provided for and under construc-tion. The classes at the naval school at Annapolis should be greatly en-larged. At the same time that we thus at the officers where we need them, we should facilitate the retirment of those at the head of the list whose usefulness has become impaired. Prometion must be fostered if the service

The lamentable scarcity of officers. nd the large number of requits and of unskilled men necessarily put aboard the new vessels as they have been com-missioned, has thrown upon our officers, and especially on the lightenants and junior grades, unusual labor and fatigue and has gravely straked their povers of endurance. Nor is there sign of any immediate let-up in this strain. It must continue for some time longer, until more officers are grad-unced from Annapolis, and until the recruits become trained and akinful in their duties. In these difficulties inci-dent upon the development of our war flet the conduct of all our off been creditable to the service and the lientenants and junior grade in p ticular have displayed an ability an steadfast cheerfulness which enti them to the ungrudging thanks of all who realize the disheartening trials and fatigues to which they are of neces

There is not a cloud on the horizon at present. There seems not the slightest chance of trouble with a foreign power. We most earnestly hope that this state of things may continue that the way to insure its continuance is to provide for a thoroughly efficient navy. The refusal to maintain such navy would invite trouble, and if trou ble came would insure disaster, ucus self-complacency or vanity short-sightedness in refusing to pare for danger, is both foolish wicked in such a nation as ours, past experience has shown that fatuity in refusing to recognize or p pare for any crisis in advance is usually succeeded by a mad panie of hysterical fear once the crisis has actually

RURAL ROUTE APPROPRIATIONS. The striking increase in the revenues the postoffice department show arriy the prosperity of our people and the increasing activity of the busi

ness of the country. The receipts of the postoffice depart ment for the fiscal year ending June 2 last amounted to \$121,848,047.26 an in last amounted to \$121,848,047.26, an increase of \$10,216,853.87 over the preceding year, the largest increase known in the history of the postal service. The magnitude of this increase will best appear from the fact that the entire postal receipts for the year 1860 amounted to but \$8.518.067.

Rural free-delivery service is ser in the experimental stage: 10 dowing its introduction have fully justified the Congress in the large ap-propriations made for its establish-ment and extension. The average yearly increase in postoffice receipts in the rural districts of the country is about 2 per cent. We are now able, by actual results, to show that where rural free delivery service has been established to such an extent as to enable us to make comparisons the yearly increase has been upward of 10 per cent.

On November 1, 1902, 11,650 rural free delivery routes had been established and were in operation, covering about one-third of the territory of the United States available for rural free delivery service. There are now awaiting the action of the department petitions and applications for the establishment of 10,748 additional routes. This shows conclusively the want This shows conclusively the want which the establishment of the service has met and the need of further extending it as rapidly as possible. It is justified both by the financial results and by the practical benefits to our rural population: It brings the men who live on the soil into close relations with the active business world; t keeps the farmer in daily touch with the markets; it is a potential educational force; it enhances the value of farm property, makes farm life far pleasanter and less isolated, and will to much to check the undesirable current from country to city.

It is to be hoped that the Congress will make liberal appropriations for the continuance of the service already established and for its further extension.

### FOR IRRIGATION IN THE WEST.

Few subjects of more importance have been taken up by the Congress in recent years than the inauguration of the system of nationally-aided irrigation for the arid regions of the far west. A good beginning therein has been made. Now that this policy of national irrigation has been adopted the need of thorough and scientific forest protection will grow more rapidly than ever throughout the public land states.

So far as they are available for agriculture, and to whatever extent they may be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, the remaining public lands should be held rigidly for the home builder, the settler who lives on his land, and for no one else. In their actual use the desert-land law, the timber and stone law, and the commutation clause of the homestead law have been so perverted from the intention with which they were enacted as to permit the acquisition of large areas of the public domain for other than actual settlers and the consequent prevention of settlement. Moreover, the approaching exhaustion of the public ranges has of late led to much dis-cussion as to the best manner of using these public lands in the west which are suitable chiefly or only for gazing. The sound and steady develop-ment of the west depends upon the building up of homes therein. Much of our prosperity as a nation has been due to the operation of the home-stead law. On the other hand, we should recognize the fact that in the trine should be treated as the cardinal feature of American foreign policy; but it would be worse than idle to assert it unless we intended to back it up, and it can be backed up only by a thoroughly good navy. A good navy is not a provocative of war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.

Each individual unit of our navy should be the most edicaviated in the world it call your special atention to the need of providing for he manning of the ships. Serious triuble threatens us if we can not do better than we acres. In the past great he public domain have been. tracts of f v persons having no title fenced in thereto, in control forbidding the forbidding the maintenance con-struction of a by such Mawful inclos-ure of public ball. For various reasons there has been little interference-with such inclosures in the past, but imple notice has now been given the trespassers, and all the resources at command of the government willhereafter be used to put a stop to such,

## THE CARE OF INDIANS.

In dealing with the Indians our aim would be their ultimate absorption ino the body of our people. But in many ases this absorption must and should so very slow. In portions of the Ind-an Territory the mixture of blood has cone on at the same time with progss in wealth and education, so that here are plenty of men with varying egrees of purity of Indian blood who e absolutely indistinguishable in soint of social, political, and economic ability from their white associates. There are other tribes which have as yet made no perceptible advance toward such equality. To try to force such tribes too fast is to prevent their coing forward at all.

Moreover, the tribes live under widedifferent conditions. Where a tribe made considerable advance and s on fertile farming soil it is possito allot the members lands in sevralty much as is the case with white wch a course is not desirable. On the o induce the Indians to lead pastoral ather than agricultural lives, and to ermit them to settle in villages rather an to force them into isolation.

The large Indian schools situated reote from any Indian reservation do a pecial and peculiar work of great imortance. But, excellent though re an immense amount of additional work must be done on the reservations hemselves among the old, and above I among the young, Indians,

The first and most important step ward the absorption of the Indian is teach him to earn his living; yet not necessarily to be assumed that each community all Indians must come either tillers of the soil or tock raisers. Their industries may properly be diversified, and those who how special desire or adaptability for its should be encouraged so far as acticable to follow out each his own

Every effort should be made to declop the Indian along the lines of stural aptitude, and to encourage the esisting native industries peculiar to esitain tribes, such as the various kirds of basket weaving, canoe build-ing, smith work, and blanket work, Above all, the Indian boys and girls bould be given confident command of of equial English, and should ordi-narily be prepared for a vigorous druggle with the conditions under thich their people live, rather than for amediate absorption into some more nighty developed community.

The officials who represent the govement in dealing with the Indiana work under hard conditions, and also under conditions which render it easy o do wrong and very difficult to detect rong. Consequently they should be rong. other hand a particularly high stand-ard of conduct should be demanded from them, and where misconduct can be proved the punishment should be