

UNITED STATES NAVY.

Annual Report of Secretary Herbert—Increase Strongly Urged.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—Secretary of the Navy Herbert has made his annual report to President Cleveland, in which he strongly urges the increase of the navy.

"We are not in want of ordinary unarmored cruisers or of gunboats," he says, "but we are lamentably deficient in torpedo boats, and we certainly need more battleships. An inspection of the building programmes of other nations will demonstrate that the lessons taught at Yalu and Wei-Hai-Wei have tended to confirm the belief of naval experts throughout the world in the efficiency of these two classes of vessels." The secretary recommends the construction of two battleships and at least two torpedo boats, and shows that they can be built now at a reduction of from 20 to 25 per cent. from former prices.

Three vessels built by contract, the Olympia, Minneapolis and Katahdin, have been completed since last year's report, and also three built at navy yards, the Maine, Texas and Amphitrite.

The United States has three battleships in service and five building; sixteen coast defense vessels in service and four building; one armored cruiser in service and one building; thirty-three unarmored cruisers in service and one building; eight gun vessels in service and nine building.

The report shows that the entire expense of the navy department for the year ended June 30, 1895, was \$12,148,376, of which more than half was for the pay of the navy. The appropriation for the current year is \$29,334,025, and the estimate for next year \$29,311,096.

The report also shows the condition of foreign navies.

PRELIMINARY WORK.

First Week of the Fifty-fourth Congress—A Forecast.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The first week of the Fifty-fourth congress, which convenes to-day, promises nothing at either end of the capitol in the way of actual legislation. The time before the Christmas holidays is usually devoted to preliminary matters and the work of the session does not begin until after the recess. The new congress will probably not be an exception to this rule. The senate proceedings may be enlivened by an attempt at reorganization, but in the house nothing can be done until the committees are appointed. Speaker-elect Reed says the committees will not be announced this week, with, perhaps, a single exception—the committee on rules. This committee formulates the rules which are to govern the house during its sessions, and it is customary for the speaker to name it during the first week in order that it can immediately begin its labors. While it is believed the rules of the Fifty-first congress, over which Mr. Reed presided, will be reported for the guidance of the present house, it is understood a few changes will be made as a result of experience, which are designed to still further improve the house machinery and the facilitation of public business.

A KENTUCKY TRAGEDY.

Farmer Eals Shot to Death After He Had Killed Three Persons.

CYNTHIANA, Ky., Dec. 2.—Murderer Orville Eals, while resisting arrest by a posse yesterday, was shot to death, after he had butchered his wife, killed an officer and badly wounded two other men. Eals was a farmer living near Brownsville, and his wife had deserted him for John Fields, a tenant on the place. Eals induced his wife to return on Tuesday, and killed Fields. Eals, who defied arrest, was well armed and took refuge in a hut. A large posse came upon the hut late Saturday night, and Sunday at dawn the attack was made. When the rush was made from the heavy timber, Eals began firing. A man named McCombs fell mortally wounded, and two men, named Wells and Herbert, were seriously shot. The storming party effected an entrance to the hut, and a horrible sight met their gaze. On the floor lay the mutilated body of Mrs. Eals, almost nude and covered with ugly wounds, while near by lay a bloody hatchet with which she had been killed. The posse fired a fusillade of shots as it entered the hut, and Eals was shot to pieces.

Seals Will Soon Be Gone.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—An official report received at the treasury department states that by actual count 28,000 seals died of starvation on the Pribilof islands last summer, because their mothers had been killed at sea, and that fully 5,000 more were on the islands in a starving condition and would die before the season closed. It is estimated that at this rate of loss, the seals in the Behring sea will have become extinct within the next three or four years at the farthest.

Skiff Upset and Four Drowned.

UNIONTOWNS, Pa., Dec. 2.—Four persons were drowned in the Monongahela river below Brownsville last night about midnight. John Pickup, Miss Laura Stevenson and Mr. and Mrs. McEnford were returning from Brownsville to their home at Wood Run in a skiff. They got too close to the steamer James G. Blaine, which was coming up stream, and the waves upset the skiff, throwing them all into deep water. Nothing could be done to help them in the darkness.

LAMONT'S REPORT.

The Number of Enlisted Men in the Army Is 25,706—In Fine Condition.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Secretary of War Lamont has submitted his annual report to President Cleveland. The feature of it is a showing of the tardiness with which the plans for coast defenses and armaments are being carried out. "The original plan," says Secretary Lamont, "contemplated an expenditure of \$97,782,800 by the end of the present year. The actual expenditures and appropriations for armament and emplacements have, however, been but \$10,631,000. The average annual appropriations for these two objects has been less than \$1,500,000. The work has therefore been conducted at about a seventh of the rate proposed. If future appropriations for the manufacture of guns, mortars and carriages be no larger than the average authorized for the purpose since 1888, it will require twenty-two years more to supply the armament of the eighteen important ports for which complete projects are approved. If the appropriations for the engineer work are to continue at the rate of the annual appropriations since 1890, it will require seventy years to complete the emplacements and platforms for this armament for the ports referred to. It rests with congress to determine by its appropriations the period which shall elapse before our coasts shall be put in a satisfactory condition of defense. The amount required for the eighteen ports is about \$18,000,000, and the entire work can be completed within ten years."

The report shows that the expenses of the war department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895, were \$52,987,780. The appropriation for the current fiscal year is \$46,466,571, and the estimate for the following year, \$51,945,643.

"The army," says Secretary Lamont, "is better fed, clothed and housed than ever before, and the policy zealously pursued of promoting the personal comfort of the officers and men has resulted in a devotion to the service which is everywhere apparent. It can be said with confidence that never in its history has the present condition of the army been surpassed."

The number of enlisted men in the army as shown by the report, is 25,706, and the effective list is placed at 20,584.

Secretary Lamont renews his recommendation of last year that the president be authorized to appoint ten cadets at large to the military academy at West Point each year, to fill vacancies caused by the failure of representatives to appoint.

BUSINESS ABOUT THE SAME.

Slight Shrinkage in Prices Occurs from Natural Causes—Wheat Being Held.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade, says: Business has not improved, though there is very little change except in the shrinkage of prices which a period of inaction naturally causes. After the extraordinary buying of the summer and early fall, a marked decrease was inevitable and it is yet too early in most branches to judge how far the future was anticipated in purchases. Retail stocks are still reported full in nearly all branches, with delayed distribution in many on account of unfavorable weather. The movement of crops is only fair, both cotton and wheat being largely kept back in the hope of higher prices, and there is a prevalent feeling that foreign imports will fall off.

The woolen business makes scarcely any gain, although clay worsteds are largely sold at the advanced prices recently made and some dress goods and overcoatings at prices partly higher and partly lower. The sales of wool, which to a large extent represents speculation and supplies for the future rather than present consumption have been, at the three chief markets during the past four weeks, 24,295,050 pounds, against 16,129,100 last year, and 24,371,821 in 1893, and 21,457,600 in the same weeks of 1892.

The western receipts of wheat continue larger than last year—for the week, 4,505,291 bushels against 3,565,404 a year ago, and for four weeks of November, 29,902,521 against 15,880,078 last year. As before, Atlantic exports are relatively small, and for four weeks have been only 8,267,106 bushels (flour included) against 6,742,495 last year. It is evident that with such movements higher prices can hardly be expected, nor can the exchange situation be favorably affected.

During the past week failures have been 279 in the United States against 289 last year and 47 in Canada against 36 last year.

SHOT HIMSELF.

Peter McGeech, the Lord Speculator, Commits Suicide.

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 29.—Peter McGeech, capitalist, known throughout the country as a daring speculator and keen financier, shot himself yesterday at his home at National avenue, just outside of the city. Mr. McGeech was found dead in the bath room of his house at 11:35 o'clock. He had placed the muzzle of a revolver in his mouth and fired. The bullet took an upward course and penetrated the brain. His domestic relations undoubtedly led Mr. McGeech to take his life. His wife, to whom he was married eight years ago, had filed suit for divorce and the publicity of his domestic troubles led to his suicide.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report of the Secretary—Reforms Suggested.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Secretary Hoke Smith, of the interior department, has made his annual report to the president. The secretary dwells upon the necessity of eliminating politics from the management of Indian affairs, and of conducting each reservation upon strictly business principles, the object being to make every Indian who remains upon the reservation self-supporting and ready, as soon as possible, to assume the duties of citizenship and be freed from the paternal care of the government.

The secretary recommends the reorganization of the bureau as follows:

First—That instead of a single commissioner of Indian affairs, the Indian service be placed in charge of three commissioners—two of them to be civilians—to be appointed from different political parties, and one to be a detailed army officer.

Second—That the tenure of office of an Indian agent be conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties, and appointments and removals to be made by the president upon the recommendation of the three commissioners of Indian affairs.

Third—That the classified service be extended over all the subordinate positions, both at the agencies and at the schools.

Referring to the subject of the allotments, the secretary says there are a number of changes which should be made in the present allotment system, which require congressional action. According to the present law an Indian becomes a citizen of the United States upon receiving his allotment. In any case he is ready to receive land before he is prepared for the consequences of citizenship. Allotments should be made long before reservations are opened. Each Indian should be settled upon his homestead and be self-supporting before citizenship is conferred upon him. When citizenship is conferred, the government ought to let him alone and allow him to take his place, surrounding him with no more restraint and giving him no more help than is accorded to other citizens. Under the present system Indians to whom allotments have been made and upon whom citizenship has been conferred still receive enormous gratuities and need every dollar they receive. Upon each reservation a part of the Indians will be ready for citizenship before others, and all are ready to own land and work it before they are ready for citizenship. The law should be changed so that allotment can be made upon the recommendation of the agent to those who are ready for it, and patents should be issued later, with the approval of the secretary of the interior, to those Indians showing themselves fitted to receive the lands so assigned.

The secretary presents a copy of the report of the Dawes commission, which recommends:

First—A territorial government over the five civilized tribes, adapted to their peculiarly anomalous conditions, so framed as to secure all rights of residents in the same, and without impairing the vested rights of the citizen, Indian or other person not an intruder.

Second—The extension of the jurisdiction of the United States courts in the territory, both in law and equity, to hear and determine all controversies and suits of any nature concerning any right in or use and occupation of the tribal lands of the several nations, to which any citizen, Indian or other person, or the tribal government of any nation, is or may be made a party, plaintiff or defendant.

The report estimates the amount of public lands undisposed of to be about 600,000,000 acres at the close of the fiscal year, and shows that the total receipts during the year for public lands amounted to over \$2,000,000. The unadjusted land grants to railroads amount to nearly 90,000,000 acres.

After reviewing in detail the work of the land office during the past twelve months, the secretary takes up the question of the disposition of the arid lands and the preservation of the forests. He urges that these two questions are closely allied, for the quantity of arid lands far exceeds the present water supply, even if it were all utilized for irrigation. The increase of the water supply must depend upon the growth and preservation of the forests. Attention is called to the failure of the Carey bill to accomplish the results expected; the secretary attributes this to the fact that the bill intended that money for the irrigation should be raised upon the arid lands given the states. This has been impossible on account of the fact that sufficient control over the lands was not given to the states to make them available as security for the money expended in their reclamation. The secretary suggests the advisability of patenting these lands to the states after it is fully determined that the selections made by them under the Carey act are arid lands.

Want a Bounty on Wheat.

LONDON, Nov. 29.—The marquis of Salisbury, replying to a letter in which the writer points out that during the past ten years the country has spent £32,000,000 on imported wheat and flour, and the import of flour instead of wheat had resulted in a loss of £18,000,000, promises to consider the writer's suggestion regarding the payment of a bounty to wheat growers and the admission of wheat free, while a duty is planned for imported flour.

NATIONAL BANKS.

Report of the Comptroller of the Currency—Number of National Banks—Suggestions Relative to the Increase of Note Issues.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The report of Hon. James H. Eckels, comptroller of the currency, gives information in detail in regard to the organization, supervision and liquidation of the national banks for the year ended October 31, 1895, and similar information as far as obtainable relative to banks, banking companies and savings institutions organized and doing business under the laws of the several states and territories.

The total number of national banks organized since the date the first certificate of authority was issued, June 20, 1863, to the close of the report year, has been 5,023, making a yearly average of 152. Of the number organized, there were in active operation on October 31 last 3,715, with an authorized capital stock of \$664,136,915, represented by 285,190 shareholders, or an average capital stock of \$178,772 for each bank; average number of shares to each, 2,136, and of shareholders, 77. The total amount of their circulation outstanding was \$213,887,630, of which amount \$190,180,961 was secured by United States bonds and \$23,706,669 by lawful money deposited with the treasurer of the United States.

During the report year forty-three banks were organized, located in twenty different states, with an aggregate capital stock of \$4,890,000. Of these new banks, twenty-eight, with a capital stock of \$2,530,000, are in the northern and northwestern section of the country, and fifteen, with a capital stock aggregating \$2,360,000, in the south and southwest. The number of banks organized during the year was less than 30 per cent. of the yearly average.

The comptroller recommends a number of amendments to the national banking law.

In making suggestions relative to the increase of note issues, the comptroller uses the following language:

The issuing of circulating notes to the par value of bonds deposited to secure the same and the reducing of the per cent. of semi-annual tax levied upon such notes has been urged by all the secretaries of the treasury who have touched upon the subject at all and by every comptroller from the time of and including Comptroller Knox. The provision of the law prohibiting the former and the provision of the law governing the amount of the latter, however, are still unchanged upon the statute book.

At a time when the desire is so frequently expressed that there be a larger issue of bank notes and complaint is made that national banks are indifferent to the note issuing function vested in them, it may well be considered by congress whether it would not be wise to do that which will make it of sufficient interest to the national banks to pay greater attention to note issues. The profit of banking in the United States is now largely in the deposit feature of it, and thus it is of greater concern under existing circumstances to the banks to secure deposits than it is to issue notes upon a return so small as to scarcely justify the expense and trouble entailed thereon.

Banks are not eleemosynary institutions, and therefore engage only in that which promises a margin of profit. While on the one hand entitled to no more favors than are granted to other corporations or enterprises carried on by associated individuals, on the other they should not be denied any privileges which they may justly claim, and for the denial of which no possible excuse can be given. It is unquestionably true that national banks would largely increase their note circulation if the embarrassment arising from the needless locking up of a large part of their capital, available for other purposes, and the lessened profit through excessive taxation now imposed did not confront them. They certainly would do so if the legal tender issues of the government were paid and cancelled and the channel now clogged by them freed for bank-note circulation.

The experience of this and other countries conclusively demonstrates that the best and most rational note issues are those put forth by banks. It likewise demonstrates that issues made direct by government are always expensive, and under every circumstance a source of danger to such governments and loss to their people's business interests. No clearer proof of this could be had than that furnished by the difficulties which we have witnessed on the part of this government in its efforts to maintain the full credit of its practically limitless amount of demand obligations.

The advantage accruing to the government by the substitution of a bank note for a treasury note currency would be immeasurably great. The need of maintaining a gold reserve to meet the recurring demand obligations, now never retired, would, within a reasonable time, be obviated, and, delivered from this vexatious and expensive difficulty, the treasury department could return to its legitimate function of collecting the revenues of the government and meeting governmental expenses and discharging the same.

With the relief gained to it through the removal of this burden would come a greater one to the business interests of the individual citizen, whose every operation would no longer be harassed by the uncertainty springing from a fear that either in the present or the future the currency obligations now forced by his government through the provisions of an inflexible law into the avenues of trade and commerce may be discredited and dishonored. The relegating of note issue entirely to the banks would give a better guarantee of meeting the varying wants of trade, which is impossible with a legal mandate decreeing an amount of treasury issues of no greater and no less volume at one season of the year than another, whether or not there be a corresponding increase or lessening of the demand for currency to transact the business in hand.

It is suggested in connection with the above that as a necessary element to the security of proper elasticity of issue in our bank-note currency section 9 of the act of July 12, 1882, regulating the retirement and issuing of circulation to banks within a fixed period of time, should be repealed and also that such amendment should be made to the law as will necessitate the banks keeping in the office of the comptroller of the currency a sufficient amount of bank notes as will enable them to secure circulation at once, instead of after a period of delay, frequently of sufficient duration as to make the issue unavailable to relieve the pressure existing at the time of ordering the same.

BAD TRAIN WRECK.

The Coaches Take Fire and Panic-Stricken Passengers Have a Close Call.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 2.—The New York and Philadelphia express on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, which leaves Syracuse at 10:10 p. m., was wrecked 1/4 mile north of Preble station, 23 miles south of this city, at 12:30 this morning. The train, which consisted of one baggage car, one mail car, two day coaches and a sleeper, was running at a rate of 50 miles an hour when the wreck occurred. The siding at Preble had been opened to allow a freight train to get out of the way of the express and the switch was left open. The train crashed into the freight cars on the siding, completely telescoping three of them. The engine and tender of the express were completely demolished, and the engineer, George Young, of Syracuse, was instantly killed. Webster Roof, of Syracuse, the fireman, was taken from beneath the wreck of the engine and died soon afterward. At least a dozen passengers are badly injured. No sooner had the wreck occurred than the baggage car, which was reduced to kindling wood in the collision, caught fire from the engine. The panic-stricken passengers had hardly time to get out of the car before the whole train was in a blaze.

MISSOURI MANUFACTURES.

Interesting Points from the Report of the State Labor Commissioner.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 2.—According to the annual report of State Labor Commissioner Meriwether, 864 principal manufacturers of the state have \$75,617,475 capital and buildings, grounds and machinery worth \$46,621,296 more. They produced goods worth \$113,849,063, and employ 4,236 clerks at an aggregate of \$5,294,951 in wages and 42,006 laborers at an aggregate of \$17,854,028 wages—an average of \$415 for each. The selling value of the goods amounted to \$2,647 for each workman. Brewery men were paid an average of \$615, brickmakers an average of \$309 and distillery workers an average of \$700. The lowest average was \$214 to coffin makers. More goods were manufactured in the tobacco than in any other one industry, the selling value of the tobacco manufactured being \$14,474,938, not including \$1,188,220 worth of cigars. The next largest item of manufacture is \$12,463,153 worth of pork and beef. Breweries come third with a total of 2,133,713 barrels of beer, worth \$11,008,452. The revenue tax on beer aggregated \$2,055,755 and on tobacco \$3,388,914.

CONDITION OF OKLAHOMA.

Interesting Facts Taken from the Annual Report of Gov. Renfrow.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Gov. William C. Renfrow, in his report on the condition and progress of the territory of Oklahoma for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895, shows that the taxable property in the territory has increased from \$19,547,922.86 in 1894 to \$39,275,189.21 in 1895. He anticipates a great increase next year in real estate, as many farmers are making final proof on their claims.

Education has received much attention from the people, and an excellent system of public schools has been established. The university is prospering, and has an attendance of 190. The agricultural college is doing good work, and has an attendance of 143. The normal school is efficient in its work, and has an attendance of 161 students. The report respecting the leasing of school, college and public building lands is very satisfactory, and shows the net proceeds for the year to have been \$88,627.07. The governor asks that all the public lands in the territory, not filed on at this time, be donated to the territory for the use and benefit of public schools.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS.

They Hold a Caucus and Select Candidates for the Various Offices.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The republicans of the house of representatives met in caucus Saturday night and unanimously nominated ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, for speaker of the Fifty-fourth congress. This action was anticipated, as at no time had any effort been inaugurated to contest his election. Mr. Reed's election was followed by the election of the entire combine ticket, with the exception of Rev. H. D. Fisher, of Kansas, for chaplain. Rev. Fisher came within one vote of receiving the nomination, and Representative Miller, of Fisher's district, the Second Kansas, refused to vote for him and give him the nomination. The other officers selected were: Alexander McDowell, Pennsylvania, for clerk; B. F. Russell, Missouri, sergeant-at-arms; William J. Glenn, New York, doorkeeper; Joseph C. McElroy, New York, postmaster; Rev. H. N. Conden, Michigan, chaplain.

HOLMAN'S SUCCESSOR.

Congressman Culberson Chosen Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The house democratic caucus, before proceeding to the nomination of officers, elected Congressman Culberson, of Texas, permanent chairman of the caucus, to succeed Judge Holman, of Indiana. Messrs. Rusk, of Maryland, and Robertson, of Louisiana, were chosen permanent secretaries. Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, nominated Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, for speaker.