

authorize an invitation to Germany, in accordance with impending reciprocity negotiations, for scientific experts and practical men of affairs to conduct a searching investigation of food production and exportation in both countries and report to their respective legislatures for the adoption of such remedial measures as they might recommend for either, the way might be opened for the desirable result indicated.

Efforts to obtain for American life insurance companies a full hearing as to their business operations in Prussia have, after several years of patient representation, happily succeeded, and one of the most important American companies has been granted a concession to continue business in that kingdom.

I am also glad to announce that the German insurance companies have been readmitted by the superintendent of insurance to do business in the state of New York.

Subsequent to the exchange of our peace treaty with Spain, Germany acquired the Caracoe Islands by purchase paying therefor \$5,000,000. Assurances have been received from the German government that the rights of American missionaries and traders there will be considerably observed.

DIFFERENCES WITH CANADA.

In my last annual message I referred to the pending negotiations with Great Britain in respect to the Dominion of Canada. By means of a tentative agreement a joint high commission had been created for the purpose of adjusting all unsettled questions between the United States and Canada, embracing twelve subjects, among which were the questions of the fur seals, the fisheries of the coast and contiguous inland waters, the Alaskan boundary, the transit of merchandise in bond, the alien labor laws, mining rights, reciprocity in trade, revision of the agreement respecting naval vessels in the great lakes, a more complete marking of parts of the boundary, provision for the conveyance of criminals and for wrecking and salvage.

Much progress had been made by the commission toward the adjustment of many of these questions when it became apparent that an irreconcilable difference of views had arisen regarding the delimitation of the Alaskan boundary. In the failure of an agreement as to the meaning of articles III and IV of the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain, which defined the boundary between Alaska and Canada, the American commissioners proposed that the subject of boundary be laid aside and that the remaining questions of difference be proceeded with, some of which were so far advanced as to assure the probability of a settlement. This being declined by the British commissioners, an agreement was taken until the boundary should be adjusted by the two governments. The subject has been receiving the careful attention which its importance demands, with the result that a modus vivendi for provisional demarcations in the region about the head of the canal has been agreed upon and it is hoped that the negotiations now in progress between the two governments will end in an agreement of a permanent boundary.

Apart from these questions growing out of our relationship with our northern neighbor, the most friendly disposition and readiness to cooperate in the discussion of numerous matters arising out of the vast and intimate intercourse of the United States with Great Britain.

NEUTRAL IN THE BOER WAR.

This government has maintained an attitude of neutrality in the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer states of Africa. We have remained faithful to the precept of avoiding entangling alliances as to affairs not of our direct concern. Had circumstances suggested that the parties to the quarrel would have welcomed any kindly expression of the hope of the American people that war might be averted, good offices would have been gladly tendered. The United States' representative at Pretoria was early instructed to see that all neutral American interests be respected by the combatants. This has been an easy task in view of the positive declarations of both British and Boer authorities that the personal and property rights of our citizens should be observed.

Upon the withdrawal of the British agent from Pretoria the United States consul was authorized, upon the request of the British government, and with the assent of the South African and Orange Free State governments, to exercise the customary good offices of a neutral for the care of British interests. In the discharge of this function I am happy to say that abundant opportunity has been afforded to show the impartiality of this government toward both the combatants.

LYNCHING OF THE ITALIANS.

For the fourth time in the present decade a question has arisen with the government of Italy regarding the lynching of Italian subjects. The latest of these deplorable events occurred at Tallulah, La., whereby five unfortunate Italian origin were taken from jail and hanged.

The authorities of the state and a representative of the Italian embassy having separately investigated the occurrence, with discrepant results, particularly as to the alleged citizenship of the victims, and it not appearing that the state had been able to discover and punish the violators of the law, an independent investigation has been set on foot through the agency of the Department of State and is still in progress. The result will enable the executive to treat the question with the government of Italy in a spirit of fairness and justice and a satisfactory solution will doubtless be reached.

The recurrence of these distressing manifestations of blind mob fury directed at dependents or motives of a foreign country suggests that the contingency has arisen for action by congress in the direction of conferring upon the federal courts jurisdiction in this class of international cases where the ultimate responsibility of the federal government may be involved. The suggestion is not new. In his annual message of December 9, 1891, my predecessor, President Harrison, said:

"It would, I believe, be entirely competent for congress to make offenses

against the treaty rights of foreigners domiciled in the United States cognizable in the federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene, either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to follow, in this state of the law, that the officers of the state charged with police and judicial powers in such cases must, in the consideration of international questions growing out of such incidents be regarded in such sense as federal agents as to make this government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if the United States had used its constitutional power to define and punish crimes against treaty rights."

A bill to provide for the punishment of violations of treaty rights of aliens was introduced in the senate March 1, 1892, and reported favorably March 20. Having doubtless in view the language of that part of article III of the treaty of February 26, 1871, between the United States and Italy, which stipulates that "the citizens of each of the high contracting parties shall receive, in the states and territories of the other, most constant protection and security for their persons and property, and shall enjoy in this respect the same rights and privileges as are or shall be granted to the natives, on their submitting themselves to the conditions imposed upon the natives." The bill so introduced and reported provided that any act committed in any state or territory of the United States in violation of the rights of a citizen or subject of a foreign country, secured to such citizen or subject by treaty between the United States and such foreign country and constituting a crime under the laws of the state or territory, shall constitute a like crime against the United States and be cognizable in the federal courts. No action was taken by congress in the matter.

I earnestly recommend that the subject be taken up anew and acted upon during the present session. The necessity for some such provision abundantly appears. Precedent for constituting a federal jurisdiction in criminal cases where aliens are sufferers is rationally deducible from the existing statute, which gives to the district and circuit courts of the United States jurisdiction of civil suits brought by aliens where the amount involved exceeds a certain sum. If such jealous solicitude be shown for alien rights in cases of merely civil and pecuniary import how much greater should be the public duty to take cognizance of matters affecting the life and the rights of aliens under the settled principles of international law, no less than under treaty stipulation, in cases of such transcendent wrongdoings as mob murder, especially when experience has shown that local justice too often helps rather than punishes the offenders?

After many years of endeavor on the part of this government to that end the Italian government has consented to enter into negotiations for a naturalization convention, having for one of its objects the regulation of the status of Italians (except those engaged for active military service), who having been naturalized in the United States, may revisit Italy. It is hoped that with the mutually conciliatory spirit displayed a successful conclusion will be reached.

JAPANESE TREATY OPERATIVE.

The treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and Japan on November 22, 1894, took effect in accordance with the terms of its sixth article on the 17th of July last, simultaneously with the ratification of like treaties with the other powers, except France, whose convention did not go into operation until August 4, the United States being, however, granted up to that date all the privileges and rights accorded to French citizens under the old French treaty. By this notable convention, reform Japan's position as a fully independent sovereign power is assured, control being gained in taxation, customs revenues, judicial administration, coasting trade and all other domestic functions of government and foreign and extra territorial rights being renounced.

Comprehensive codes of civil and criminal procedure according to western methods, public instruction, patents and copyrights, municipal administration, including jurisdiction over the territory of foreign settlements, customs tariffs and procedure, public health and other administrative measures have been proclaimed. The working of the new system has given rise to no material complaints on the part of the American citizens or interests, a circumstance which attests the ripe consideration with which the change has been prepared.

Valuable assistance was rendered by the Japanese authorities to the United States transport ship Morgan City, while stranded at Kobe. Permission has been granted to land and pasture army horses at Japanese ports of call on the way to the Philippine Islands. These kindly evidences of good will are highly appreciated.

The Japanese government has shown a lively interest in the proposition of the Pacific Cable company to add to its projected cable lines to Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines a branch connecting with the coast of Japan. It would be a gratifying consummation were the utility of the contemplated scheme enhanced by bringing Japan and the United States into direct telegraphic relation.

Without repeating the observations of my special message of February 10, 1899, concerning the necessity of a cable to Manila, I respectfully invite attention to it.

I recommend that in case the congress should not take measures to bring about this result by direct action of the government, the postmaster general be authorized to invite competitive bids for the establishment of a cable, the company making the best responsible bid to be awarded the contract, the successful company to give ample bonds to insure the completion of the work within a reasonable time.

MEXICO A GOOD NEIGHBOR.

The year has been marked by constant increase in the intimacy of our relations with Mexico, and in the magnitude of mutually advantageous interchanges. This government has omitted no opportunity to show its

strong desire to develop and perpetuate the ties of cordiality now so long happily unbroken.

Following the termination on January 20, 1899, by Mexico of the convention of extradition of December 21, 1861, a new treaty morally accordant with the ascertained needs of both countries was signed February 22, 1899, and exchanged in the City of Mexico on the 23d of April last. Its operation thus far has been effective and satisfactory. A recent case has served to test the application of its fourth article, which provides that neither party shall be bound to deliver up its own citizens, but that the executive authority of each shall have the power to deliver them up if in its discretion it be deemed proper to do so. The extradition of Mrs. Mattie Rich, a citizen of the United States, charged with homicide committed in Mexico, was after mature consideration, directed by me, in the conviction that the ends of justice would thereby subserved. Similar action on appropriate occasion by the Mexican executive will not only tend to accomplish the objects of the treaty, but also to repress the lawlessness along the border line of the two countries.

The new treaty stipulates that neither government shall assume jurisdiction in the punishment of crimes committed exclusively within the territory of the other. They will obviate in future the embarrassing controversies which have heretofore arisen through Mexico's assertion of a claim to try and punish an American citizen for an offense committed within the jurisdiction of the United States.

The International Water Boundary commission, organized by the convention of March 1, 1889, for the adjustment of questions affecting the Rio Grande frontier, has not yet completed its labors under discussion of its term for one year until December 24, 1899, was effected by a convention signed December 2, 1898, and exchanged and proclaimed in February last.

An invitation extended to the president of Mexico to visit Chicago in October in the observance of the cornerstone of the United States government building in that city was cordially accepted by him with the necessary consent of the Mexican congress, but the illness of a member of his family prevented his attendance.

The minister of foreign affairs, however, came as the personal representative of President Diaz, and in that high character was duly honored.

Claims growing out of the seizure of American sailing vessels in Bering sea have been under discussion with the government of Russia for several years, with the recent happy result of an agreement to submit them to the decision of a single arbitrator. By this act Russia affords proof of its adherence to the beneficent principle of arbitration which its plenipotentiary conspicuously favored at the Hague disarmament conference when it was advocated by the representatives of the United States.

A suggestion for a permanent exposition of our products and manufactures in Russia, although not yet fully shaped, has recently been advanced, which, if adopted by the imperial government, may result in a fitting place in whatever legislation the congress may adopt looking to enlargement of our commercial opportunities abroad.

KEEPING FAITH WITH CUBA.

My annual message of last year was necessarily devoted in great part to a consideration of the Spanish question, of the results it wrought and the conditions it imposed for the future. I am gratified to announce that the treaty of peace has restored friendly relations between the two powers. Effect has been given to its most important provisions. The evacuation of Porto Rico having already been accomplished, and on the 18th of October, 1898, nothing remained necessary there but to continue the provisional military control of the island until the congress should enact a suitable government for the ceded territory. Of the character and scope of the measures to that end I shall treat in another part of this message.

The withdrawal of the authority of Spain from the island of Cuba was effected by January 1, so that the full re-establishment of peace found the re-occupied territory held by us in trust for the inhabitants maintaining, under the direction of the executive, such government and control therein as should conserve public order, restore the productive conditions of peace so long disturbed by the instability and disorder which prevailed for the greater part of the preceding decades, and build up that tranquil development of the domestic state whereby alone can be realized the high purpose proclaimed in the joint resolution adopted by the congress on April 19, 1898, by which the United States, claiming the exercise of its authority to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction of control over Cuba, except for the pacification thereof, and declared its intention when that was accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people. The pledge contained in this resolution is of the highest honorable obligation and must be sacredly kept.

I believe that substantial progress has been made in this direction. All the administrative measures adopted in Cuba have aimed to fit it for a regenerated existence by enforcing the supremacy of law and justice; by placing wherever practicable the machinery of administration in the hands of the inhabitants; by instituting sanitary reforms; by spreading education; by fostering industry and trade; by inculcating public morality; and, in short, by taking every rational step to aid the Cuban people to attain to that plane of self-conscious respect and self-reliance which fits an enlightened community for self-government within its own sphere, while enabling it to fulfill all outward obligations.

This nation has assumed before the world a grave responsibility for the future good government of Cuba. We have accepted a trust the fulfillment of which calls for the sternest integrity of purpose and the exercise of the highest wisdom. The new Cuba yet to arise from the ashes of the past must needs be bound to us by ties of singular intimacy and strength if its enduring welfare is to be assured. Whether those ties shall be organic or conventional, the destiny of Cuba, in some rightful form and manner irre-

vocably linked with our own, but how and how far is for the future to determine in the ripeness of events. Whatever be the outcome, we must see to it that free Cuba be a reality, not a name, a perfect entity, not a hasty experiment bearing within itself the elements of failure. Our mission, to accomplish which we took up the wages of battle is not to be fulfilled by turning drift into loosely framed commonwealth to face the vicissitudes that too often attend weaker states whose natural wealth and abundant resources are offset by the incongruities of their political organization and the recurring occasions for international rivalries to sap their strength and dissipate their energies. The greatest blessing which can come to Cuba is the restoration of her agricultural and industrial prosperity which will give employment to the masses and re-establish the pursuits of peace. This is her chief and immediate need.

On the 19th of August, last, an order was made for the taking of the census in the island, to be completed on the 30th of November. By the treaty of peace the Spanish people on the island have until April 11, 1899, to elect whether they will remain citizens of Spain or become citizens of Cuba. Until then it cannot be definitely ascertained who shall be entitled to participate in the formation of the government of Cuba. By that time the results of the census will have been related and we shall proceed to provide for elections which will commit the municipal governments of the island to the officers elected by the people. The experience thus acquired will prove of great value in the formation of a representative government for the people to draft a constitution and establish a general system of independent government for the island. In the meantime and so long as we exercise control over the island the products of Cuba should have a market in the United States on as good terms and with as favorable rates of duty as are given to the West India islands under treaties of reciprocity which shall be made.

For the relief of the distressed in the island of Cuba the war department has issued supplies to destitute persons through the channels of the army, which have amounted to 5,493,000 rations, at a cost of \$1,417,554.97.

To promote the disarmament of the Cuban volunteer army and in the interest of public peace and the welfare of the people, the sum of \$75 was paid to the Cuban soldiers to buy the authenticated rolls, on condition that he should deposit his arms with the authorities designated by the United States. The sum thus disbursed aggregated \$2,647,750, which was paid from the emergency fund provided by the act of January 8, 1899, for that purpose.

Out of the Cuban islands revenues during the six months ending June 30, 1899, \$1,712,014.20 was expended for sanitations, \$293,881.70 for charities and hospitals and \$88,944.03 for aid of the destitute.

SETTLE SAMOAN QUESTION.

Important events have occurred in the Samoan islands. The election, according to the laws and customs of Samoa, of a successor to the late King Malletoa Lauepa developed a contest as to the validity of the result, which, by the terms of the general act, was to be decided by the chief justice. Upon his rendering a judgment in favor of Malletoa Tama, the rival chief, Mataafa, took up arms. The active intervention of American and British war ships became imperative to restore order, at the cost of sanguinary encounters. In this emergency a joint commission of representatives of the United States, Germany and Great Britain was sent to Samoa to investigate the situation and provide a temporary remedy. By its active efforts a peaceful solution was reached for the time being, the kingship being abolished and a provisional government established. Recommendations unanimously made by the commission for the settlement of the Samoan question were taken under consideration by the three powers parties to the general act. But the more they were examined the more evident it became that a radical change was necessary in the relations of the powers to Samoa.

The inconveniences and possible perils of the tripartite scheme of supervision and control in the Samoan group by powers having little interest in common in that quarter beyond commercial rivalry has been once more emphasized by the recent events. It suggests the expediency of a joint commission, like the scheme it aimed to replace, amounted to what has been styled a tridominium, being the exercise of the functions of sovereignty by an unanimous agreement of three powers. The situation had become far more embarrassing than at any previous point of view than it was when my predecessor in 1894 summed up its perplexities, and condemned the participation in it of the United States.

The arrangement under which Samoa was administered had proved impracticable and unacceptable to all the powers concerned. To withdraw from the agreement and abandon the islands to Germany and Great Britain would not be compatible with our interests in the archipelago. To relinquish our rights in the harbor of Pago Pago, the best anchorage in the Pacific, the occupancy of which had been leased to the United States in 1878 by the first foreign treaty ever concluded by Samoa, was not to be thought of either as regards the needs of our navy or the interests of our growing commerce with the east. We would not have consented to a proposition for the abrogation of the tripartite control which did not confirm us in all our rights and safeguards of all our national interests in the islands.

Our views commended themselves to the other powers. A satisfactory arrangement was concluded between the governments of Germany and of Great Britain by which we retired from Samoa in view of compensations in other directions and both powers renounced in favor of the United States all their rights and claims over and in respect to that portion of that group lying to the east of the 171st degree of west longitude, embracing the islands of Tutuila, Ofu, Olosenga and Manua. I transmit to the senate for its constitutional action thereon a convention, which, besides the provisions above mentioned, also guarantees us the same rights and conditions in respect to commerce and commercial vessels

in all of the islands of Samoa as those possessed by Germany.

Claims have been preferred by white residents of Samoa on account of injuries alleged to have been suffered through the acts of the treaty governments in putting down the late disturbances. A convention has been made between the three powers for the investigation and settlement of these claims by a neutral arbitrator, to which the attention of the senate will be invited.

NOW AT PEACE WITH SPAIN.

Following the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace the two governments accredited ministers to each other. Spain sending to Washington the duke of Arcos, an eminent diplomatist, previously stationed in Mexico, while the United States transferred to Madrid Hon. Bellamy Storer, its minister at Brussels. This was followed by respective appointments of consuls, thereby fully resuming the relations interrupted by the war. In addition to its consular representation in the United States the Spanish government has appointed consuls for Cuba, who have been provisionally recognized during the military administration of the affairs of that island.

Judicial intercourse between the courts of Cuba and Porto Rico and of Spain has been established as provided by the treaty of peace. The Cuban political prisoners in Spanish penal institutions have been and are being released and being returned to their homes in accordance with article VI of the treaty. Negotiations are about to be had for defining the conventional relations between the two countries, which fell into abeyance by reason of the war. I trust that those will include a favorable arrangement for commercial reciprocity under the terms of sections 3 and 4 of the current tariff act. In these, as in all matters of international concern, no effort will be spared to respond to the good disposition of Spain and to cultivate in all practicable ways the intimacy which should prevail between the two nations whose past history has so often and in so many ways been marked by sincere friendship and by community of interests.

I would recommend appropriate legislation in order to carry into execution article VII of the treaty of peace with Spain, by which the United States assured the payment of certain claims for indemnity of its citizens against Spain.

TURKEY A POOR PAYMASTER.

The United States minister to Turkey continues under instructions to press for a money payment in satisfaction of the just claims for injuries suffered by American citizens in the disorders of several years past and for wrongs done to them by the Ottoman authorities. Some of these claims are of many years standing. This government is hopeful of a general agreement in this regard.

In the Turkish empire the situation of our citizens remains unsatisfactory. Our efforts during nearly forty years to bring about a convention of naturalization seem to be on the brink of failure through the announced policy of the Ottoman porte to refuse recognition of the alien status of native Turkish subjects naturalized abroad since 1861. Our statutes do not allow this government to admit any distinction between the treatment of native and naturalized Americans abroad, so that ceaseless controversy arises in cases where persons owing in the eye of international law, a dual allegiance are prevented from entering Turkey or are expelled after entrance. Our law in this regard contrasts with that of the European states. The British act, for instance, does not claim effect for the naturalization of an alien in the event of his return to his native country, unless the change be recognized by the law of that country, or stipulated by treaty between it and the naturalizing state.

The arbitrary treatment, in some instances, of American productions in Turkey has attracted attention of late, notably in regard to our flour. Large shipments by the recently opened direct steamship line to Turkish ports have been denied entrance on the score that, although of standard composition and unquestioned purity, the flour was pernicious to health because of deficient "elasticity" as indicated by antiquated and unscientific tests. Upon due protest by the American minister and it appearing that the act was a virtual discrimination against our product, the shipments in question were admitted. In these, as in all instances, wherever occurring, when American products may be subjected in a foreign country upon special pretexts to discrimination compared with the like products of another country, this government will use its earnest efforts to secure fair and equal treatment for its citizens and their goods. Railing this, it will not hesitate to apply whatever corrective may be provided by the statutes.

The international commission of arbitration appointed under the Anglo-Venezuelan treaty of 1897 rendered an award on October 3, last, whereby the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana is determined, thus ending a controversy which has existed for the greater part of the century. The award, as to which the arbitrators were unanimous, while not meeting the extreme contention of either party, gives to Great Britain a large share of the interior territory in dispute and to Venezuela the entire mouth of the Orinoco, including Barima point and the Caribbean littoral for some distance to the eastward. The decision appears to be equally satisfactory to both parties.

Venezuela has once more undergone a revolution. The insurgents under General Castro after a sanguinary engagement, in which they suffered much loss, rallied in the mountainous interior and advanced toward the capital. The bulk of the army having sided with the movement, President Andrade quitted Caracas, where General Castro set up a provisional government, with which our minister and the representatives of other powers entered into diplomatic relation on the 20th of November, 1899.

TREATIES OF RECIPROCITY.

The fourth section of the tariff act approved July 24, 1897, appears to provide only for commercial treaties which should be entered into by the president, also ratified by the senate

within two years from its passage. Owing to delays inevitable in negotiations of this nature, none of the treaties initiated under that section could be concluded in time for ratification by the senate prior to its adjournment on the 4th of March last. Some of the pending negotiations, however, were near conclusion at that time and the resulting conventions have since been signed by the plenipotentiaries. Others within both the third and fourth sections of the act are still under consideration. Acting under the constitutional power of the executive in respect to treaties, I have deemed it my duty, while observing the limitations of concessions provided by the fourth section, to bring to a conclusion all pending negotiations and submit them to the senate for its advice and consent.

Conventions of reciprocity have been signed during the congressional recess with Great Britain for the respective colonies of British Guiana, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica and Turks and Caicos islands and with the republic of Nicaragua.

Important reciprocal conventions have also been concluded with France and with the Argentine Republic.

In my last annual message progress was noted in the work of the diplomatic and consular officers in collecting information as to the industries and commerce of other countries, and in the care and promptitude with which their reports are printed and distributed has continued during the last year with increasingly valuable results in suggesting new sources of demand for American products and in pointing out new obstacles to the free expansion of our foreign trade. It will doubtless be gratifying to congress to learn that the various agencies of the department of state are co-operating in these endeavors with a zeal and effectiveness which are not only receiving the cordial recognition of our business interests, but are being emulated by other governments. In any re-arrangement of the great and complicated work of obtaining official data of an economic character which congress may undertake it is most important, in my judgment, that the necessary information be furnished by the efforts of the department of state should be carefully considered with a view to a judicious development and increased utility to our export trade.

ALL AMERICAN REPUBLICS IN.

The interest taken by the various states forming the International Union of American Republics in the work of organic bureau is evidenced by the fact that for the first time since its creation in 1890 all the republics, except Chile and Central America are now represented in it.

The unanimous recommendation of the International American conference, providing for the International Union of American Republics, stated that it should continue in force during a term of ten years from the date of its organization, and no country becoming a member of the union should cease to be a member until the end of said period of ten years, and, unless twelve months before the expiration of said period a majority of the members of the union had given to the secretary of state of the United States official notice of their wish to terminate the union at the end of its first period, that the union should continue to be maintained for another period of ten years and thereafter, under the same conditions, for successive periods of ten years each. The period for notification expired on July 14, 1899, without any of the members having given the necessary notice of withdrawal. Its maintenance is, therefore, assured for the next ten years.

In view of this fact, and the numerous questions of mutual interest and common benefit to all of the republics of America, some of which were considered by the first International American conference, but not finally settled, and others which have since then grown to importance, it seems to me that the efforts of the republics constituting the union should be invited to hold at an early date a conference in the capital of one of the countries other than the United States, which has already enjoyed this honor. The purely international character of the work being done by the union, and the appreciation of its value are further emphasized by the active cooperation which the various governments of the chief Latin-American republics and their diplomatic representatives in this capital are now exhibiting and the zealous efforts which are making to extend the field of its usefulness, to promote through it commercial intercourse, and strengthen the bonds of amity and confidence between its various members and the nations of this continent.

TWO GREAT EXPOSITIONS.

The act to encourage the holding of the Panamerican exposition on the Niagara frontier within the county of Erie or Niagara, in the state of New York, in the year 1901, was approved on March 3, 1899.

The exposition, which will be held in the city of Buffalo, in the near vicinity of the great Niagara cataract and within a day's journey of which reside 40,000,000 of our people, will be confined entirely to the western hemisphere. Satisfactory assurances have already been given by the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, Mexico and Central and South American republics and most of the states of the United States that their countries and states will make an unique, interesting and instructive exhibit peculiarly illustrative of their material progress during the century which is about to close.

The law provides an appropriation of \$500,000 for the purpose of making an exhibit at the exposition by the government of the United States from its executive department, and from the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, the United States Department of Fish and Fisheries, the Department of Labor and the Bureau of the American Republics. To secure a complete and harmonious arrangement of this government exhibit a board of management has already been created and charged with the selection, purchase, preparation, transportation, arrangement and safekeeping of the articles and materials to be exhibited. This board has been organized and has already entered upon the performance of its duties as provided for by the law.

I have every reason to hope and be-