

WHAT THE MCKINLEY ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE.

Summary of the Achievements in the Departments at Washington.

PLEDGES KEPT AND PROMISES FULFILLED.

Unprecedented Results Accomplished in Every Department of the Government Since March 4th, 1897.

The three great pledges made in the Republican platform on which McKinley was elected four years ago, were:

1. To place the money system on a firm basis.
2. To reform the Damaging Wilson tariff so as to protect American capital and labor.
3. To reassert the Monroe doctrine in its full extent.
4. To maintain a firm and dignified foreign policy with American control of the Hawaiian Islands.

ALL THESE PLEDGES HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY FULFILLED.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Dingley Tariff for Protection.

First in point of success is the Dingley tariff; second, the reform in the currency; third, the war loan of 1898; and fourth, the settlement of the Pacific Railroad indebtedness.

The tariff change was the one which pressed most urgently.

The House of Representatives promptly responded to the President's message. On the same day in which it was called in the House, the late Mr. Dingley of Maine, chairman of the committee on ways and means, introduced the new tariff bill. Such unusual expedition had been made possible only by the untiring work of the members of the committee on ways and means for several months previous.

The bill was passed in the House of Representatives March 31, 1897, less than a month after the inauguration of President McKinley and two weeks after Congress had been convened in extra session. It passed the Senate July 7, 1897, with amendments. Two days later its consideration was begun by a conference committee of the two houses, and it finally passed the House July 19, and the Senate July 24. It became a law on the latter day when the President signed the bill. Thus, within five months (no other tariff law was ever passed in so short a time) after the inauguration of the President, a new tariff law was placed on the statute books.

Everyone knows the beneficent results of the Dingley tariff in restoring prosperity. It helped farms and factories, aided labor in the mines, gave better wages to textile workers, revived the tinplate industry, and in every line of business gave employment to tens of thousands.

The Gold Standard Law.

Equally striking was the success of the currency law placed on the statute book, March 14, 1900.

The currency law does more than remove all doubt concerning the standard of value. It directs that all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at a parity of value with this standard, and it is made the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain such parity. A reserve fund of \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion is set apart in the treasury for the redemption of United States notes and treasury notes of 1890, instead of \$100,000,000, formerly recognized as the gold reserve.

Better banking facilities for the country districts are provided by this act, the minimum capital being reduced to \$25,000 in places of not over 3,000 population. Under this section 244 new banks have been organized, with a capital of \$10,000,000.

Refunding the National Debt.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the new currency law is that which relates to the refunding of the national debt. The 5 per cent of 1904, the 4 per cent of 1907, and the 3 per cent of 1908, the principal of which aggregates \$839,146,400, were authorized to be refunded into 2 per cent bonds, payable at the pleasure of the United States after thirty years from the date of their issue, and payable, principal and interest, in gold coin of the present standard value. The new 2 per cent bonds to be issued in exchange for the old threes, fours and fives shall not be issued at less than par. The Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to conduct the refunding operations so that the old threes, fours and fives should be received in exchange for the 2 per cent bonds on a basis of 2½ per cent. By May 1, 1900, almost one-third of the outstanding threes, fours and fives had been converted into 2 per cent of the new issue, thus practically securing the success of the refunding plan. No other nation of the earth can boast of such an achievement as is the exchange of these old high-rate interest bonds for bonds issued upon so low a basis as 2 per cent.

Six Million in Interest Saved.

Under the refunding provision the treasury effected a net saving of interest amounting to \$6,664,454 on bonds replaced, between March 14 and May 1, 1900. If all the bonds opened to refunding should be exchanged the saving in interest will reach over \$20,000,000.

Spanish-American War Loan.

The credit of the Government under this administration is shown in the success of the popular loan for the Spanish-American war. For a period of thirty-one days subscriptions were received, at the end of which time it was found that the total of subscriptions aggregated only a little under \$1,400,000,000, or almost seven times the amount of bonds offered to the public. This was a remarkable demon-

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

The work of the Department of State in the last four years has been most eventful, covering the war with Spain, the Samoan, Hawaiian and Alaskan incidents, the South African war and the "open door" in China. The brief and brilliant period of war with Spain was followed by preliminaries of peace, signed on Aug. 12, providing for the relinquishment of sovereignty over Cuba, the cession of Porto Rico and other islands belonging to Spain in the West Indies, together with an island in the Ladronees, to be selected by the United States, and later the acquisition of the Philippines.

The annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, the cession of Guam, and the acquisition of the Philippines, extend the sovereignty of this government across the Pacific ocean, and provide a series of naval stations and entrepôts of commerce which promise to facilitate incalculably the oriental trade, and secure the pathway to an opening market of increasing importance.

The exorbitant claims of the Canadian government with reference to the Alaskan boundary have, nevertheless, been firmly met by the President, who has thus far preserved our important territorial rights by the modus vivendi of Oct. 20, 1899, and defeated the attempt to destroy the continuity of our Alaskan coast line, and to divide the control of the Northern Pacific.

By a timely series of diplomatic notes Secretary Hay obtained assurances from the governments of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia, by which they pledged themselves not to interfere with the perfect freedom of trade in those portions of China where their influence may prevail.

THE UNOBSTRUCTED ENJOYMENT OF THE PRIVILEGES OF TRADE IS THUS SECURED TO AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS BY THE FREE CONSENT OF THE POWERS.

In his message to Congress, Dec. 5, 1899, President McKinley was able to say:

"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 indisposition of Great Britain to accept the good offices of the United States shows how futile were the proposals of philanthropic persons in urging, unaware of the nature of international relations, the mandatory intervention of the United States, which would have destroyed its usefulness as a mediator, and, if insisted upon by this government, would have placed it in a belligerent attitude toward Great Britain in violation of its principle and policy of neutrality.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Good Work Done for Farmers by McKinley.

The diseases of farm animals have received special study in the Department of Agriculture in the last four years. Nearly 2,000,000 doses of blackleg vaccine have been distributed among the farmers and cattle owners in the infected districts, with the result that the mortality among the young cattle in the infected districts has been reduced from ten to fifteen per cent annually to one-half of one per cent. In the case of sheep, the gasoline process for exterminating parasites has met with great success. In hog cholera and swine plague seventy to eighty per cent of treated animals have been saved.

Butter, Eggs and Pork.

Encouraging results have been reached in the shipment of butter and eggs to England and also remote points in Asia. The inspection of pork advanced from 22,900,880 in 1896 to 108,928,195 in 1899, or nearly 500 per cent.

Aiming to create a home supply of poultry, the department has seen the imports fall from a value of \$225,229.31 in 1896 to \$13,470 in 1899.

In seed testing and in seed and plant introduction a large number of improved products have been added to American cultivation, notably a resistant alfalfa from Turkistan, a drought-resisting grass from southern Russia, and several cereals adapted to the arid regions.

Porto Rico and the Philippines.

As soon as Porto Rico began to be of special interest an exhaustive report was prepared on the commerce of that island, setting forth in the fullest possible manner the character of the trade carried on with the several foreign countries, and especially with the United States.

Later a report of 160 pages was published regarding the trade of the Philippines, embracing practically all the available statistics on the subject that could be collated from the official import and export returns of the various countries enjoying commercial intercourse with the islands.

Owing to the scarcity of reliable data relative to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, the preparation of the reports on these former Spanish possessions required a vast amount of research.

Grasses and Forage Plants.

Experiments with grasses and forage plants have been vigorously prosecuted during the past three years. These experiments are necessary in order that ranchers and farmers may be informed of the kinds suitable for their respective districts. After these preliminary facts are determined the promising varieties can be recommended and adopted without further and useless expenditure of time and money.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Rural Free Delivery a Benefit to Farmers.

Rural free mail delivery is the most striking extension of postal facilities brought about in the last four years. On June 1, 1900, there were 1,200 rural delivery routes in actual operation, and 2,000 applications for an extension of the system then in process of establishment.

The appropriations for the rural free delivery service have been increased from \$50,000 in the fiscal year 1897-8 to \$150,000 in 1898-9, then to \$450,000 in 1899-1900, and lastly to \$1,750,000 for the present fiscal year 1900-1901.

Three years' experience has shown that in well-selected rural districts the mails can be distributed to the domiciles of the addresses or in boxes placed within reasonable distance of the farmer's home at some crossroad or other convenient spot at a cost per piece not exceeding the free delivery in many cities.

Done by the Republicans.

It was a Republican administration that conceived and executed the idea of brightening the homes of the farmer, educating his children, increasing the value of his land, compelling the improvement of the roads, and bringing him news of the markets and of the weather, so as to secure him a better price for his crops by delivering his daily mail to him on his farm.

EVERY DEMOCRATIC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SINCE THE IDEA WAS FIRST BROACHED OF CARRYING THE MAILS INTO THE RURAL DISTRICTS HAS DECLARED AGAINST IT. THE FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS, WITH A DEMOCRAT FROM NORTH CAROLINA AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON POSTOFFICES AND POSTROADS, PROCLAIMED THE PLAN IMPOSSIBLE AND TURNED IT DOWN. POSTMASTER GENERAL BISSELL, POSTMASTER GENERAL WILSON AND FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL JONES, IN THE CLEVELAND ADMINISTRATION, ALL TOOK UP THE CRY OF EXTRA-VAGANCE AND IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXECUTION.

Consequently little or nothing was done to give the farmers access to the mails until Cleveland went out of office.

When First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath took up the rural free delivery service under the direction of the President and the Postmaster General, in March, 1897, it was languishing to the point of extinguishment, and in a few months more would have been starved to death.

They at once grasped its possibilities and advocated its immediate development, and a Republican Congress generously seconded their efforts. Under their revivifying touch it has grown until there is now not a State in the Union that has not felt the civilizing and educational influence of the rural free mail delivery, and not one that does not desire a further expansion.

THE FOOLISH CALF—A LESSON TO LABOR.



While being driven home one evening by a boy, a foolish calf left its mother and ran after a bellowing steer. The boy tried in vain to bring it back to its mother's side. When, finally exhausted, he shook his fist at the calf and cried: "You little fool, you! You little fool, you! You — fool! You'll be sorry when supper time comes!"

MORAL—Remember the hard times of 1896. Don't be a Bryan calf and get steered away from the full dinner pail, or you'll be sorry when supper time comes.

WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

The war in Cuba and in the Philippines threw upon the department a vast amount of work in organizing, equipping, arming, disciplining and advancing the volunteers to a state of efficiency for active field service and later transporting the various organizations to the camps or rendezvous.

There were mustered in, organized, mobilized and distributed at home and abroad, and finally mustered out of the service and sent to their homes, 223,235 volunteers. There were enlisted by the general recruiting service 35,000 United States volunteers, organized into twenty-five regiments, twenty-two of which were transported to the Philippine Islands, the remaining three having been organized there from the discharged volunteers and regulars.

There were enlisted and re-enlisted for the regular army, between May 1, 1898, and Jan. 31, 1900, 99,024 men, the present status being approximately 64,090 regular army and 35,000 United States volunteers.

Commissions were issued since the beginning of the war to 632 officers of the regular army, 66 of which were for the various staff departments and 3,874 United States volunteer officers.

The department received, carefully considered, acted upon and sent 400,806 telegrams, and approximately 2,000,000 written communications.

Immediately upon the passage of the bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense, a board was organized for the purchase of auxiliary ships, and, after careful examination, 102 ships of various types were secured at a total cost of \$17,956,850. Of these vessels, but two, the New Orleans and the Albany, were strictly vessels of war.

Between March 16 and June 30, all these vessels were purchased and as rapidly as overhauled were placed in commission and put into active service.

In addition to the ships which were added to the navy by purchase, fifteen revenue cutters and four lighthouse tenders were transferred from the Treasury Department to the navy, and four of the great steamers of the International Navigation Company and one of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company were chartered. There were in all 128 ships added to the regular naval establishment, and it became at once necessary to provide officers and men to man them. For this purpose 225 officers on the retired list were ordered to active duty, 896 officers were appointed for temporary service, and the enlisted force was increased from 12,500 to over 24,000 men.