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READING MATTER ON EVERY PAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: In submitting my eighth and last annual message to Congress, it seems proper that I should refer to the events and official acts of the past eight years. It was my fortune or misfortune to be called to the office of chief executive without any previous political training. From the age of 17 I have never even witnessed the excitement attending a Presidential campaign but twice antecedent to my own candidacy, and at but one of these was I eligible as a voter. Under such circumstances it is but reasonable to suppose that

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE GOVT.

THE INDIAN POLICY.

A policy has been adapted towards the Indian tribes, inhabiting a large portion of the territory of the United States, which has been humane, and has substantially ended Indian hostilities in the whole land, except in a portion of Nebraska and Dakota, Wyoming and Montana territory, the Black Hills region and approaches thereto. Hostilities there have grown out of

BOUNDARY LINE

between the United States and British Provinces, from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, commenced in 1876, has been completed. The final agreements of the Commissioners with the maps have been duly signed, and the Commission is complete. The fixing of the boundary upon the Pacific Coast by the protocol of March 10, 1874, pursuant to the award of the Emperor of Germany, by Art. XXXIV, of the Treaty of Washington, with the termination of the work of this commission, adjusts and fixes the entire boundary between the United States and the British possessions, except as to the portion of territory ceded by Russia to the United States under the treaty of 1867. The work entrusted to the Commission has been well and satisfactorily performed. The final agreement of the Commissioners was signed upon the 26th of May, 1876, with the original list of astronomical stations observed. The original official list marking the international boundary lines, and maps, records and general reports relating to the Commission, have been deposited in the Department of State. The official report of the Commissioner on the part of the United States, with the report of the Chief Astronomer of the United States, will be submitted to Congress within a short time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

In this connection I am pleased to be able to express the acknowledgments due to Sir Edward Thornton, the umpire of the commission, who has given to the consideration of the large number of claims submitted to him, much time, unvaried patience, and that fairness and intelligence which are well known to belong to the accomplished representatives of Great Britain, and which are likewise recognized by the representative in this country of the Republic of Mexico.

ARMY AND NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of War shows that the army has been actively employed during the year in substituting ships with durable material, and completely repairing and refitting our monitor fleet, the navy has been gradually brought up to that though it does not maintain its relative position among the progressive navies of the world, it is now in a condition more powerful and effective than it ever has been in time of peace. The complete repairs of our five heavy iron-clads are only delayed on account of the inadequacy of the appropriations made last year for the working bureau of the Department, which were actually less in amount than those made before the war, notwithstanding the greatly enhanced price of labor and material, and the increase in the cost of the naval service, growing out of the universal use and great expense of steam machinery. The money necessary for these repairs should be provided without further unnecessary delay and expense. When this is done, all the strength that there is in the navy will be developed, and useful to its full capacity, and all will be powerful for the purpose of defense and also for offensive action should necessity for that arise within a reasonable distance from our shores, and the fact that our navy is not more modern and powerful than it is has been made a cause of complaint against the Secretary of the Navy by persons who, at the same time, criticize and complain of his endeavors to bring the navy that we have to its best and most efficient condition.

OUR POSTAL SYSTEM.

The report of the Postmaster-General shows the excess of expenditures, including expenditures on account of previous years, over receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, to be \$4,151,988.96. The estimated expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, are \$3,672,342.243. The estimated revenue for same period is \$30,645,165, leaving an estimated excess of expenditure to be appropriated as a deficiency of \$6,075,257.43. The Postmaster-General, like his predecessor, is convinced that a change in the basis of adjusting the salaries of Postmasters of the fourth class is necessary for the good of the service, as well as for the interests of the Government, and urgently recommends that the compensation of

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

The International Exhibition held at Philadelphia this year in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence has proven a great success, and will no doubt be of enduring advantage to the country. It has shown the great progress in the arts, sciences, and mechanical skill made in a single century, and demonstrated that we are but little behind the older nations in any one branch, while in some we scarcely have a rival. It has served, too, not only to bring the people and products of skill and labor from all parts of the world together, but in bringing together people from all sections of our own country, which must prove a great benefit in the information imparted and pride of country engendered.

AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture accompanying this message, will be found one of great interest, marking as it does, the great progress of the last century in the variety of products of the soil, increased knowledge and skill in labor of producing, saving and manipulating the same to prepare them for the use of man; in the improvement of machinery to aid the agriculturist in his labor, and in a knowledge of scientific subjects necessary to a thorough system in economy in agricultural production, namely, chemistry, botany, entomology, etc. A study of this report by those interested in agriculture and desiring their support from it, will find it of value in pointing out those articles which are raised in greater quantity than the needs of the world require, and must sell, therefore, for less than the cost of production, and those which command a profit over the cost of production, because there is not an overproduction. I call special attention to the need of the Department for a new gallery for the reception of the exhibits returned from the Centennial Exhibition, including the exhibits donated by very many foreign nations, and to the recommendations of the Commissioner of Agriculture generally. The reports of District Commissioners and the Board of Health are just received,—to late to read them and to make recommendations thereon, and are here-with submitted.