## HERALD.

PLATTSMOUTH, - NEBRASKA.

## SUPPLEMENT.

## The President's Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

since the convening of Congress one year age the nation has undergone a prostration in business and the industries such as has not been the nation has undergone a prostration in business and the industries such as has not been witnessed with us for many years. Speculation as to the causes for this prostration might be indulged in without profit, because as many theories would be advanced as there would be independent writers who should express their own views upon the subject. Without indulging in theories as to the cause of this prostration, therefore, I will call your attention only to the fact and to some questions as to which it would seem there should be no disagreement. During this prostration two essential elements of prosperity have been most abundant—labor and capital. Both have been largely unemployed. Where security has been undoubted capital has been attainable at very moderate rates. Where labor has been wanted it has been found in abundance, at cheap rates compared with what of the necessaries and comforts of life could be purchased with the wages demanded. Two great elements of prosperity, therefore, have not been denied us; a third might be added. Our soil and climate are unequaled within the limits of any contiguous territory under one nationality for its varieties of products to feed and clothe a people and in the amount of surplus to spare to feed less favored people. Therefore, with these facts in view, it seems to me that wise statesmanship at this session of Congress would dictate—Ignoring the past—distributing in proper channels these great elements of prosperity to any people. Debt abroad is the only element that can, with always a sound currency, enter into our affairs to cause any continued depression in the industries and prosperity of our people.

A great conflict for national existence made

A great conflict for national existence made necessary for temporary purposes the raising of large sums of money from whatever source attainable. It was made necessary in the wisdom of Congress, and I do not soubt their wisdom in the premises, regarding the necessity of the times, to devise a system of national currency, which it is proved to be impossible to keep on a par with the recognized currency of the civilized world. This begot a spirit of speculation, involving an extravagance and luxary not required for the happiness or prosperity of a people, and involving, both directly and indirectly, foreign indebtedness. The currency, being of a fluctuating value and unsafe to hold for legitimate transactions requiring money, became a subject of speculation in itself. These two causes, however, have involved us in a foreign indebtedness contracted in good faith by the borrower and the lender, which should be paid in coin and according to the bond agreed upon when borrower and the lender, which should be paid in coin and according to the bond agreed apon when the debt was contracted—gold or its equivalent. The good faith of the Government cannot be violated toward its creditors at the national disgrace. Our commerce should be encouraged; American shipbuilding and carrying capacity increased; for eign markets sought for products of the soil and manufactories, to the end that we may be able to pay these debts. Where a market can be created for the sale of our products, either of the soil, the mine or the manufactory, a new means is discovered of utilizing our idle capital and labor to the advantage of the whole people; but in my judgment, the first step toward accomplishing this object is to secure a currency good wherever civilization reigns—one which, if it becomes superabundant with one people, will find a market with some other—a currency which has as its basis the labor necessary to produce it, which will give it value. Gold and silver are now the recognized medium of exchange the civilized recognized medium of exchange the civilized world over, and to this we should return with the

recognized medium of exchange the civilized world over, and to this we should return with the least practicable delay.

In view of the pledges of the American Congress when our present legal-tender system was adopted and the debt contracted, there should be no delay, certainly no unnecessary delay, in fixing by legistation a method by which we will return to specie. To the accomplishment of this end I invite your special attention. I believe firmly that there can be no progress and permanent revival of business and the industries until a policy is adopted, with legislation to carry it out, looking to a return to a specie basis. It is easy to conceive that the debtor and speculative classes may think it of value to make a so-called money abundant until they can throw a portion of their burdens upon others; but even these, I believe, would be disappointed by the result if a course should be pursued which will keep in doubt the value of the legal-tender medium of exchange. A revival of the productive industries is needed by all classes, and by none more than the holders of property, of whatever sort, with debts to liquidate from the realization upon its sales. But, admitting that the two classes of citizens referred to are to be benefited by expansion, would it be honest to give it? Would not the general loss be too great to classes of citizens referred to are to be benefited by expansion, would it be honest to give it?
Would not the general loss be too great to
justify such relief? Would it not be just
as honest and prudent to authorize each
debtor to issue his own legal-tenders to
the extent of his liabilities as to do this?
Would it not be safer, for fear of over-issues
by unscrupnious creditors, to say that all
debts and obligations are obliterated in the
United States, and now we commence anew, each debts and obligations are obliterated in the United States, and now we commence anew, each possessing all he has at the time free from incumbrance? These propositions are too absurd to be entertained for a moment by thinking people. Every delay in the preparation for final resumption partakes of this dishonestr, and is only less in degree as the hope is held out that a convenient season will at last arrive for the good work of redeeming our pledges to commence. It will never come, in my opinion, except by the positive action of Congress or by national disasters which will destroy for a time at least the credit of individuals and the State at large. I believe it is in the power of Congress at this session to devise such legislation as will renew confidence, revive all the industries, start us on a career of prosperity to last for many years, and to save the credit of the nation and of the people. Steps toward the return to a specie basis are the great requisites to this devontly to-be-sought-for end. There are other points I may touch upon hereafter.

A nation dealing in a currency below that of A nation dealing in a currency below that of specie in value abors under two great disadvantages; First, having no use for the world's acknowledged medium of exchange, gold and silver, these are driven out of the country because there is no demand for their use; second, the medium of exchange in use being of a fluctuating value, for, after all, it is only worth just what it will purchase of gold and silver, metals having an intrinsic value just in proportion to the honest labor it takes to produce them, a large margin must be allowed for profit by the manufacturer and producer. It is months from the date of production to the date of realization. Interest upon capital must be charged and from the date of production to the date of realiza-tion. Interest upon capital must be charged and risk of fluctuation in the value of that which is to be received in payment added; hence high prices act as a protection to the foreign pro-ducer, who receives nothing in exchange for the product of his skill and labor except a currency

ducer, who receives nothing in exchange for the product of his skill and labor except a currency good at a stable value the world over.

It seems to me that nothing is clearer than that the greater part of the burden of existing prostration for the want of a sound financial system falls upon the workingman, who must after all produce the wealth, and the salaried man who superintends and conducts business. The burden falls upon them two ways: by the deprivation of employment and by the decreased purchasing power of their salaries. It is the duty of Congress to devise the method of correcting the evils which are acknowledged to exist, and not mine; but I will venture to suggest two or three things which seem to me as absolutely necessary to a return to specie payments—the first great requisite in a return to prosperity. The legal-tender clause to the law authorizing the issue of currency by the National Government should be repealed, to take effect as to all contracts entered into after a day fixed in the repealing act, not to apply, however, to payments of salaries by the Government or for other expenses now provided by law to be paid in currency. In the interval pending between the repeal and final resumption, provision should be made by which the Secretary of the Treasury can obtain gold as it may become necessary from time to time, from the date when specie resumption commences.

of this question to Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Executive. Congress should make the regulations under which banks may exist, but should not make banking a monopoly by limiting the amount of redeemable paper currency that shall be authorized. Such importance do I attach to this subject, and so earnestly do I commend it to your attention, that I give it prominence by introducing it at the beginning of this message.

POREIGN RELATIONS. During the past year nothing has occurred to disturb the genial, friendly and cordial relations of the United States with other powers. The correspondence submitted herewith between this Government and its diplomatic representatives in other countries shows a satisfactory condition of all questions between the United States and the most of those countries, and with few exceptions, to which reference is hereafter made, the absence of any points of difference to be adjusted.

The notice directed by the resolution of Con-The notice directed by the resolution of Congress of June 17, 1874, to be given to terminate the convention of July 17, 1838, between the United States and Belgium has been given, and the treaty will accordingly terminate on the 1st day of July, 1875. This convention secured to certain Belgium vessels entering the ports of the United States exceptional privileges which are not accorded to our own vessels. The other features of the convention have proved satisfactory and have tended to the cultivation of beneficial commercial intercourse and friendly relations between the two countries. I hope that the negotiations which have been invited will result in the celebration of another treaty which may tend to the interests of both countries.

Our relations with China continue to be friend-

bration of another treaty which may tend to the interests of both countries.

Our relations with China continue to be friendly. During the past year the fear of hostilities between China and Japan, growing out of the landing of an armed force upon the island of Formosa by the latter, has occasioned uncasiness. It is earnestly hoped, however, that the difficulties arising from this cause will be adjusted, and that the advance of civilization in these Empires may not be retarded by a state of war. In consequence of the part taken by certain clitzens of the United States in this expedition our representatives in those countries have been instructed to impress upon the Governments of China and Japan the firm intention of this country to maintain a strict neutrality in the event of hostilities, and carefully prevent any infraction of law on the part of our citizens. In connection with this subject I call the attention of Congress to a generally conceded fact that the great proportion of Chinese immigrants who come to our shores do not come voluntarily to make their homes with us and their labor productive of general prosperity, but they come under contract with head men, who own them almost absolutely. In a worse form does this apply to the Chinese women. Hardly a perceptible percentage of them perform any honorable labor. They are brought for shameful purposes, to the disgrate of the commanities where they have settled, and to the great demoralization of the youths of those localities. If this evil practice can be legislated against it will be my pleasure as well as duty to enforce any regulation to secure so desirable an end.

It is hoped that negotinitions between the Government of Japan and the treaty powers, looking to the further opening of the impire and to the removal of various restrictions upon trade and travel, may soon produce the result desired, which cannot fail to inner to the benefit of all the parties. Having on previous occasions submitted to the consideration of Congress the propriety of the ricea Our relations with China continue to be friend

a specified time as interpreters at the legation and the consulates in Japan. A limited number of Japanese youths might at the same time be educated in our own vernscular, and mutual ben-cult would result to both Governments. The imbee of having our own citizens competent nd familiar with the language of Japan to set a interpreters and in other capacities connected

as interpreters and in other capacities connected with the legation and consulates in that country cannot readily be over-cetimated.

The amount awarded to the Government of Great Britain by the commission organized under the provisions of the Treaty of Washington, in settlement of the claims of British subjects arising from acts committed between April 18, 1861, and April 9, 1865, became payable under terms of the treaty within the past year, and was paid upon the 21st day of September, 1874.

ALIEN CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

ALIEN CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

In this connection I renew my recommendation, made at the opening of the last session of Congress, that a special court be created to hear and report all claims of aliens against the United States arising from acts committed against their persons or property during the insurrection. It appears equitable (at opportunity should be offered to citizens of other States to present their claims, as well as those British subjects whose claims were not admissible under the late commission, to the early decision of some competent tribunal. To this end I recommend the necessary legislation to organize a court to dispose of those claims of aliens of the nature referred to in an equitable and satisfactory manner, and to relieve Congress and the departments from the consideration of these questions. ALIEN CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

THE COLONY OF NEWPOUNDLAND THE COLONY OF NEWPOUNDLAND.

The legislation necessary to extend to the colony of Newfoundland certain articles of the Trenty of Washington of the Sth of May, 1871, having been had, a protocol to that effect was signed in behalf of the United States and of Great British on the 28th day of May last, and was duly proclaimed on the following day. A copy of the proclamation is submitted herewith.

A copy of the report of the Commission appointed under the act of March 19, 1872, for surveying and marking the boundary between the United States and the British Possessions, from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, is herewith transmitted. I am happy to announce that the field work of the Commission has been completed, and the entire line, from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, has been run and marked upon the surface of the earth. It is believed that the amount remaining anexpended of the appropriation made at the last session of Congress will be sufficient to complete the office work. I recommend that the authority of Congress be given to use the unexpended balance of the appropriation in the completion of the work of the Commission in making the report and printing the necessary map. THE NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY.

THE SLABAMA CLAIMS.

The court known as the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, created by an act of Congress the last session, has organized and commenced the work, and it is to be hoped that the claims admissible under the provisions of the act may be speedily ascertained and paid. UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND REAL ESTATE IN

UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND REAL ESTATE IN TURKET.

It has been deemed advisable to exercise the discretion conferred upon the Executive at the last session by accepting the conditions required by the Government of Turkey for the privilegs of allowing citizens of the United States to hold real estate in the former country by assenting to a certain change in the jurisdiction of the country in the latter. A copy of the proclamation upon these subjects is herewith communicated.

these subjects is herewith communicated.

MENICO AND SOUTH AMERICA.

There has been no material change in our relations with the independent States of this hemisphere which were formerly under the dominion of Spain. Marauding on the frontiers between Mexico and Texas still frequently takes place, despite the vigilance of the civil and military authorities in that quarter. The difficulty of checking such trespasses along the course of a river of such length as the Rio Grande, and so often fordable, is obvious. It is hoped that the efforts of this Government will be seconded by those of Mexico to the effectual suppression of acts of wrong.

which seem to me as absolutely necessary to a return to specie payments—the first great requisite in a return to prosperity. The legal-tender clause to the law authorizing the issue of currency by the National Government should be repealed to take effect as to all contracts entered into after a day fixed in the repealing act, not to apply, however, to payments of salaries by the Government or for other expenses now provided by law to be paid in currency. In the interval pending between the repeal and find resumption, provision should be made by which the Secretary of the Treasury can obtain gold as it may become necessary from time to time, from the date when specie resumption commences, the lattinable and that if reached by this Congress that the lattin that if reached by this Congress through the present and future generations will ever gratefully remember it as their deliverer from a thralldom of evil and disgrace. With resumption free banking may be authorized with safety giving full protection to bill-holders, which they have not under the existing laws. Indeed, I would regard free banking as essential. It would regard free banking as essential. It would wind up their business when it was found there was a superabundance of currency. The experience and independent of the proposite is to the currency. The superione and independent of the proposition of the parties thereto it was found there was a superabundance of the proposition and in turn banks would wind up their business when it was found they was a superabundance of the proposition and in turn banks of the proposition of the commission of the parties thereto it is affected and to a further extension of the commission for a limited time, which it is confident in viewfor the proposition of the parties thereto of the proposition of the commission of the parties thereto of the proposition of the proposition of the proposition of

it was found there was a superabundance of currency. The experience and judgment of the people can hast decide just how much currency is required for the thussellop of the business of the coentry. It is maste to leave the sufficient

It is with regret I announce that no further payment has been received from the Government of Venezuela on account of awards in favor of citizens of the United States. Hopes have been entertained that if the Republic could ascape both foreign and civil war for a few years its great natural resources would enable it to honor its obligations. Though it is now understood to be at peace with other countries, a serious insurrection is reported to be in progress in an important region of that Republic. This may be taken advantage of as another reason to delay the payment of the dues of our citizens.

the payment of the dues of our citizens.

CUBA AND SPAIN.

The deplorable strife in Cuba continues without any marked change in the relative advantages of the contending forces. The insurrection continues, but Spain has gained no superiority. Six years of strife give the insurrection a significance which cannot be ignored. Its duration and the tenacity of its adherents together with the absence of manifested power of suppression on the part of Spain, cannot be controverted, and may make some positive steps on the part of other powers a matter of self-necessity.

positive steps on the part of other powers a matter of self-necessity.

I had confidently hoped at this time to be able to announce an arrangement of some of the important questions between this Government and that of Spain, but the negotiations have been pretracted. The unhappy intestine dissensions of Spain command our profound sympathy, and must be accepted as, perhapé, a cause for some delay. An early settlement, in part at least, of the questions between the Governments is hoped for. In the meantime, awaiting the results of immediately-pending negotiations, I defer a further and fplier communication on the subject of the relations of this country and Spain.

EXPARRIATION AND NATURALIZATION.

I have again to call the attention of Congress to the unsatisfactory condition of the existing laws with reference to expatriation and the election of nationality. Formerly, amid conflicting opinions and decisions, it was difficult to exactly determine how far the doctrine of perpetual allegiance was applicable to the United States. Congress, by the act of the 27th of July, 1888, asserted the abstract right of expatriation as a fundamental principle of this Government. Notwithstanding such assertion and the necessity of the frequent application of the principle no legislation has been had defining what acts or formalities shall work expatriation, or when a citizen shall be deemed to have removed or to have lost his citizenship. The importance of such a definition is obvious. The representatives of the United States in foreign countries are continually called upon to lead their aid and the protection of the United States to persons concerning the good faith or the reality of whose citizenship there is at least great question. In some cases the provisions of the treaties furnish some guide; in others it seems left to the persons claiming the benefit of citizenship while living in a foreign country, contributing in no manner to the performance of the duties of a citizen of the United States, and without the intention at any time to return and undertake those duties, to use the claim of citizenship of the United States simply as a shield from the EXPATRIATION AND NATURALIZATION. those duties, to use the claim of citizenship of the United States simply as a shield from the performance of the obligations of a citizen

The status of children born of American par

The status of children born of American parents residing in a foreign country, of American women who have married allens, or American chitzens residing abroad, where such question is not regulated by treaty, are all sources of frequent difficulty and discussion. Legislation on these and similar questions, and particularly defining when and under what circumstances expatriation can be accomplished, or is to be presumed, is especially needed.

In this connection I carnestly call the attention of Congress to the difficulties arising from fraudulent maturalization. The United States wisely, freely and liberally offers its citizenship to all who may come in good faith to reside within its limits, on their complying with certain prescribed reasonable and simple formalities and conditions. Among the highest duties of the Government is that to afford a firm, efficient and effectual protection to all its citizens, whether native born or naturalafford a firm, efficient and effectual protection to all its citizens, whether native born or naturalized. Care should be taken that a right, carrying with it such support from the Government, should not be fraudulently obtained, and should be bestowed only upon full proof of a compliance with the haw, as frequent instances of lilegal and fraudulent naturalization and of unauthorized use of certificates thus investorized use of certificates. naturalization has appeared upon the face of the naturalization has appeared upon the face of the certificate itself; in others examination discloses that the holder had not complied with the law, and in others certificates have been obtained where the persons holding them not only were not entitled to be naturalized, but had not even been within the United States at the time of been within the United States at the time of the pretended naturalization. Instances of these classes of fraud are discovered at our legations, where the cortificates of naturaliza-tion are presented either for the purpose of obtaining passports or demanding the protection of the legation. When the fraud is obvious on the face of such certificates they are taken up by the face of such certificates they are taken up by the representatives of the Government and forwarded to the Department of State. But even the record of the court in which the frandulent naturalization occurred remains, and duplicate certificates are readily obtainable. Upon the presentation of these for the issue of passports or demanding protection of the Government the fraud sometimes escapes notice, and such certificates are not infrequently used in transactions of business, to the deception and injury of innocent parties. Without placing any additional obstacle in the way of the obtainment of citizenship by the worthy and well-intentioned foreigner who comes in good faith to cast his let with ours, I carnestly recommend further legislation to punish fraudulent naturalization and to secure the ready cancellation of the record of every naturalization made in fraud.

TREATIES OF EXTRADITION.

TREATIES OF EXTRADITION.

Since my last annual message the exchange has been made of the ratification of treaties of extradition with Belgium. Equador, Peru and Salvador; also of a treaty of commerce and navigation with Peru, and one of commerce and consular privileges with Salvador; all of which have been duly proclaimed, as has also a declaration with Russia with reference to trade-marks.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURT.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

with Russia with reference to trade-marks.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which by law is made directly to Congress and forms no part of this message, will show the receipts and expenditures of the Government for the last fiscal year, the amount received from each source of revenue, and the amount paid out for each of the departments of the Government. It will be observed from this report that the amount of receipts over expenditures has been but \$2.344.88.30 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 18.4, and that for the current fiscal year the estimated receipts over expenditures will not much exceed \$9.00.00. In view of the ingenational debt existing, and the obligation to add 1 per cent per annum to the sinking fund, a sum amounting now to over \$31.00.000 per annum. I submit whether the revenues should not be increased or the expenditures diminished. To reach this amount of surplus and not to provide for the sinking fund is a partial failure to comply with the contracts and obligations of the tiovernment. At the last session of Congress a very considerable reduction was made in the rates of taxation and the number of articles submitted to taxation—the question may well be asked whether or not in some instances unwisely.

In connection with this subject, too, I venture the opinion that the means of collecting the revenue, especially from imports, have been embarassed by such legislation as to make it questionable whether or not large amounts are not lost by a failure to collect, to the direct loss of the Treasury and to the prejudice of the interests of honest importers and taxpayers.

The Secretary of the Treasury in his report

payers.
The Secretary of the Treasury in his repor-The Secretary of the Treasury in his report favors legit lation looking to specie payments, thus supporting the views previously expressed in this message. He also recommends economy in appropriation; calls attention to the loss of revenue from repealing the tax on tea or coffee, without benefit to the consumer; recommends an increase of ten cents a gallon on whisky, and, further, that no modification be made in the Banking and Currency bill passed at the last session of Congress, unless a modification should become necessary by reason of the adoption of measures for returning to specie payments. In these recommendations I cordially join.

THE TABLET.

these recommendations I cordially join.

THE TARIFF.

I would suggest to Congress the propriety or readjusting the tariff so as to increase the number of articles upon which duties are levied. Those articles upon which duties are levied. Those articles of manufactures and are not produced at home, it seems to me, should be entered free. Those articles of manufacture which we produce a constituent-part of, but do not produce the whole, that part which we do not produce should enter free also. I will instance fine wool, dyes, etc. These articles must be imported to form a part of the manufacture of the higher grades of woolen goods. Chemicals used as dyes, compounded in medicines and used in various ways in manufactures come under this class. The introduction, free of duties, of such wools as we do not produce should stimulate the manufacture of goods requiring these. There are many articles entering info home manufactures which we do not produce ourselves, the tariff upon which increases the cost of producing the manufactured article. All corrections in this regard are in the direction of bringing labor and capital into harmony with each other and of supplying one of the elements of prosperity so much needed.

The report of the Samenary of the contents of the period of the supplying one of the elements of prosperity so much needed.

more cheerfully and efficiently, and under circumstances of greater privation and hardship. Legislation is desirable to render more efficient this brapch of the public service. All the recommendations of the Secretary of War I regard as judicious, and I especially commend to your attention the following: The consolidation of Government arsenals; the restoration of mileage to officers traveling under orders; the exemption of money received from the sale of subsistence stores from being covered into the Drichase of subsistence stores without waiting for the beginning of the fiscal year for which the appropriations for the collection of topedo material; for increased appropriations for the manufacture of arms; for relieving the various States from indultedness for arms charged to them during the rebellion; for dropping officers from the rolls of the army without trial for the offense of drawing pay more than once for the same period; for the discouragement of the plan to pay soldiers by checks, and for the establishment of a professorship of the establishment of a professorship of the establishment of a professorship in the report attached. I also recommend that the status of the staff corps of the same being the various are obvious, and are set forth sufficiently in the report attached. I also recommend that the status of the staff corps of the same being the various are obvious, and are set forth sufficiently in the report attached. I also recommend that the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the staff corps of the same being the various and the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the status of the staff corps of the same being the various and the staff corps of t

such legislation is specially felt now in the Psy Department.

The efficiency of the navy has been largely increased during the last year, under the impulse of the foreign complications which threatened us at the commencement of the last session of Congress. Most of our efficient wooden ships were put in condition for immediate service, and the repairs of our iron-clad fleet were pushed with the utmost vigor. The result is that most of these are in effective condition, and need only to be manned and set in commission to go at once into service. Some of the new sloops authorized by Congress are already id commission, and most of the remainder of the new sloops authorized by Congress are already id commission, and most of the remainder
are launched and walt only the completion of
their machinery to enable them to take their
places as part of our effective force.
Two iron torpedo-ships have been completed curing the last year; and four
of our large turreted iron-clads are
now undergoing repairs. When they are finished,
everything that is needful of our navy, pow suthorized, will be in condition for service, and
with the advance in the science of torpedo warfare the American navy, comparatively small as

with the advance in the science of torpedo warfare the American navy, comparatively small as
it is, will be found at any time powerful for the
purposes of a peaceful nation.

Much has also been accomplished during the
year in aid of science and to increase the sum
of general knowledge and further the interests
of commerce and civilization. Extensive and
much-needed soundings have been made for hydrographic purposes and to fix the proper routes
of ocean telegraphs. Further surveys of the great
isthmus have been undertaken and completed,
and two vessels of the navy are now employed, in
conjunction with those of England. France, Germany and Russia, in observations connected with
the transit of Venus, useful and interesting to the
scientific world.

The estimates for this branch of the public
service do not differ materially from those of last
year, the general support of the service
being somewhat less and those for improvements
at various stations rather larger than the corresponding estimate made a year ago. The regular
maintenance and a steady increase in the efficiency of this most important arm, in proportion
to the growth of our magitime intercourse and interests is recommended to the attention of Con-

to the growth of our maritime intercourse and in terests, is recommended to the attention of Con

terests, is recommended to the attention of Congress.

The use of the navy during peace might be further utilized by a direct authorization of the employment of naval vessels in surveys of the supposed navigable waters of other nationalities on this continent, especially the tributaries of the two great rivers of South America, the Oronoco and the Amazon. Nothing prevents, under existing laws, such explorations, except that expenditures must be made in such expeditions beyond those usually provided for by the appropriations. The field designated is unquestionably one of interest, and one capable of a large development of commercial interests, advantageous to the people reached and to those who may establish relations with them.

EDUCATION AND THE POSTOFFICE.

The education of the people entitled to exercise the right of franchise I regard essential to general prosperity everywhere, and especially so in republics, where neither education nor previous condition enters into account in giving suffrage. Next to the public school, the Postoffice is the great agent of education over our vast territory. The rapidity with which new sections are being settled increases the cost of carrying the mails in a more rapid ratio than the increase of receipts. The report of the Postmaster-General, herewith at tached, shows that there was an increase of creases the cost of carrying the mails in a more rapid ratio than the increase of receipts. The report of the Postmaster-General, herewith attached, shows that there was an increase of revenue in this department in 1873 over the previous year of \$1.67.411, and an increase of the cost of carrying the mails and paying employes of \$3.041.467.91. The report of the Postmaster-General gives interesting statistics of his department, and, comparing them with the corresponding statistics of a fear ago, shows a growth in every branch of the department.

A postal convention has been concluded with New South Wales, an exchange of postal-cards established with Switzerland, and the negotiations pending for several years past with France have terminated in a convention with that country, which went into effect last Angust.

An International Postal Congress was convened in Berne, Switzerland, in September last at which the United States was represented by an officer of the Postoffice Department of much experience and of qualification for the position. A convention for the establishment of an international postal union was agreed upon by the delegates of the countries represented, subject to the approval of the proper authorities of those countries.

I respectfully direct your attention to the report of the Postmaster-General and to his suggestions in regard to an equitable adjustment of the question of compensation to railroads for carrying the mails.

Your attention will be drawn to the unstille

Your attention will be drawn to the unstitled condition of affairs in some of the Southern States. On the 14th of September last the Governor of Louislana called upon me, as provided by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to aid in suppressing domestic violence in that State. This call was made in view of a proclamation issued on that day by D. B. Penn, stating that he was elected Lieutenant-Governor in 872 and calling upon the milltia of the State to arm, assemble and drive from power the usurpers, as he designated the officers of the State Government. On the next day I issued my proclamaing upon the milltia of the State to arm, assemble and drive from power the usurpers, as he designated the officers of the State Government. On the next day I issued my proclamation, commanded the insurgents to disperse within five days from the date thereof, and subsequently learned that on that day they had taken forcible possession of the State House. Troops were sent by me to support the existing and recognized State Government, but before the expiration of the five days the insurrectionary movement was practically abandoned, and the officers of the State Government, with some minor exceptions, resumed their powers and duries. Considering that the present State administration of Louisiana had been the only government in that State for nearly two years that it had been tacitly acknowledged and acqui esced in as such by Congress, and more than once expressly recognized by me, I regarded it as my clear duty, when legally called upon for thay purpose, to prevent its overthrow by an armed mob under pretense of fraud and irregularity in the election of 1872. I have heretofore called the attention of Congress to this subject, stating that on account of the frauds and forgeries committed at said election, and because it appeared that the returns thereof were never legally canvassed, it was impossible to tell thereby who were chosen, but from the best sources of information at my command I have always believed the present State officers received a majority of the legal votes actually cast at that election. I repeat what I said in my special message of Feb. 13, 1873, that in the event of no action by Congress I must continue to recognize the government heretofore recognized by me.

I regret to say that with the preparations for the late election a decided indication appeared in some localities in the Southern States of a determination, by acts of violence and intimidation, to deprive citizens of the freedom of the ballot because of their political opinions; bands of men masked and armed made their appearance; White L

amendment and act do not provide for such

the convention was approved and delegates were chosen thereto, who assembled on the 14th of last July and formed a new constitution, the schedule of which provided for the election of an

were chosen thereto, who assembled on the 14th of last July and formed a new constitution, the schedule of which provided for the election of an entire new set of State officers in a manner contrary to the existing election laws of the State. On the 18th of October, 1874, this Constitution, as therein provided, was submitted to the people for their approval or rejection, and according to the election returns was approved by a large majority of those qualified to vote thereon, and at the same election persons were chosen to fill all the State, county and township offices. The Governor elected in 18th for the term of four years turned over his effice to the Governor chosen under the new Constitution, whereupon the Lieutenant-Governor, also elected in 1872 for a term of four years, chaiming to act as Governor, alleging that said proceedings by which the new Constitution was made and a new set of officers elected were unconstitutional and illegal and void, called upon me, as provided in Section 4, Article 4, of the Constitution, to protect the State against domestic violence. As Congress is now investigating the political affairs of Arkansas I have declined to interfere. The whole subject of Executive interference with the affairs of a State is repagnant to public opinion, to the feeling of those who from their official capacity must be used in such interposition, and to him or those who must direct. Unless most clearly on the side of law such interference becomes a crime; with the law to support it, it is condemned without a hearing. I desire, therefore, that all necessity for Executive direction in local affairs may become unnecessary and obsolete.

I finite the attention, not of Congress, but of the people of the United States, to the causes and effects of these unhappy questions. Is there not a disposition on the one side to magnify wrongs and outrages, and on the other side to be little and justify them? If public opinion could be directed to a correct survey of what exists, and to rebulking wrong and aiding t

have that peace which would leave the States free indeed to regulate their own domestic affairs.

I believe that on the part of the citizens of the Southern States, the better part of them, there is a disposition to be law-abiding and to do no violence either to individuals or the laws existing; but do they do right in ignoring the existence of violence and bloodshed—in resistance to constituted authority? I sympathize with their prestrate condition, and would do all in my power to relieve them, acknowledging that in some intrate condition, and would do all in my power to relieve them, acknowledging that in some instances they have had most trying governments to live under, and very oppressive one in the way of taxation for nominal improvements, not giving benefits equal to the hardships imposed; but can they proclaim themselves entirely blamable for this condition? They cannot. Violence has been rampant in some localities, and has further been justified or denied by those who could have prevented it. The theory is raised that there is to be no further interference on the part of the General Govern-ment to protect citizens within a State where the State authorities fall to give protection.

ment to protect citizens within a State where the State authorities fall to give protection. This is a great mistake. While I remain the Executive all the laws of Congress and the provisions of the Constitution, including the amendments added thereto, will be enforced with rigor, with but a regret that they should have added one jot or tittle to the Executive duties and powers. Let there be fairness in the discussion of South eru questions, the advocates of both or all political parties giving honest and truthful reports of occurrences, condemning the wrong and upholding the right, and soon all will be well. Under existing circumstances the negro votes the Republican ticket because he knows his friends are of that party. Many a good citizen votes the opposite, not because he agrees with the great principles of state which separate the parties, but because, generally, he is opposed to negre rule. This is a most delusive cry. Treat the negro as a citizen and a voter, as he is and must remain, and soon parties will be divided, not on the color line, but on principle. Then we shall have no complaint of sectional interferences. The report of the Attorney-General contains valuable recommendations relating to the administration of justice in the courts of the United

ministration of justice in the courts of the United States, to which I invite your attention.

I respectfully suggest to Congress the propriety of increasing the number of the judicial districts in the United States to eleven, the present number being nine, and the creation of two additional Judgeships. The territory to be traversed by the Circuit Judges is so great and the business of the courts so steadily increasing that it is growing more and more impossible for them to seep up with the business requiring their attention. Whether this would involve the necessity of adding two more Justices of the Supreme Court to the present number I submit to the judgment of Congress.

THE INTERIOR.

The attention of Congress is invited to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and to the legislation asked for by him. The domestic interests of the people are more intimately connected with this department than with either of the other departments of the Government. Its duties have been added to from time to time until they have become so onerous that, without the most perfectly system and order, it will be impossible for any Secretary of the Interior to keep trace of all official transactions having his sanction and done in his name, and for which he is held personally responsible.

responsible.

The policy adopted for the management of Indian affairs known as the "peace policy" has been adhered to with the most beneficial results. It is confidently hoped that a few years more will save our frontier from Indian depredations. It is confidently hoped that a few years more will save our frontier from Indian depredations it commend the recommendation of the Secretary for the extension of the Homestead laws to the Indians, and for some sort of territorial government for the Indian Territory. A great majority of the Indians occupying this Territory are believed to be incapable of maintaining their rights against the more civilized and enlightened men. Any territorial form of government given them, therefore, should protect them in their homes and property for a period of at least twenty years, and before its final adoption should be ratified by a majority of those affected.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, herewith attached, gives much interesting statistical information, which I abstain from giving an abstract of, but refer you to the report itself.

PENSIONS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

The act of Congress providing the oath which pensioners must subscribe before drawing their pensions cuts off from this bounty a few survivors of the war of 1812 residing in the Southern States. I recommend the restoration of this bounty to all such. The number of persons whose names would be restored to the list of pensioners is not large. They are all old persons whose names would be restored to the list of pensioners is not large. They are all old persons whose names would be restored to the list of pensioners is not large. They are all old persons whose names would be restored to the list of pensioners is not large. They are all old persons whose names would be restored to the rebellion, and the services for which they were awarded pensions were in defense of the whole country.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture,

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, herewith attached, contains suggestions of much interest to the general public and refers to the approaching Centennial and the part his department is ready to take in it. I feel that the nation at large is interested in having this Exposition a success, and commend to Congress such action as will secure a greater general interest in it. Already many foreign nations have signified their intention to be represented at it. It may be expected that every civilized mation will be represented. THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

civil service reform." I will regard-such action is a disapproval of the system, and will abandon it. Except so far as to require examinations for certain appointment to extermine their finess, competitive examinations will be abandoned.

abandon it. Except so far as to require examinations for certain appointees to externate their fitness, competitive examinations will be abandoned.

The gentlemen who have given their services without compensation as members of the Board to devise rules and regulations for the government of the country's civil service have show a mach zeal and carnestness in their work, and to them, as well as to myself, it will be a source of mortification if it is to be thrown away. But I repeat that it is impossible to carry this system to a successful issue without general approval and assistance, and positive law to support it.

I have stated that the elements of prosperity to the nation's capital—labor, skilled and unskilled, and preducts of the soil—skill remails with us. To direct the employment of these is a problem deserving the most serious attention of Congress. If employment can be given to all labor offering itself, prosperly necessarily follows. I have expressed the opiniou, and repeat it here, that the first requisite to the accomplishment of this end is the substitution of a sound carrency in piace of one of a fluctuating value. This secured, there are many interests that might be fostered, to the grefit profit of both labor and capital. How to induce capital to employ labor is the question.

The subject of cheap transportation has occupied the attention of Congress. New light on this question will, without doubt, be given by the committee appointed by the fast Congress to investigate and report upon this subject.

The occar cantaxing trade.

A revival of ship-building, and particrisably of iron steamship building, is of vest imporfance to our national prosperity. The United States is now paying over \$1,00,000 per annum for freights and passage on foreign ships, to be carried abrond other people, beyond a fair percentage of what should go to foreign sessels, estimating on the tonings and travel of each respectively. It is to be regretied that this disparity in the carrying the malls to twenty for the samp polic better can be done to direct the country into a course of general prosperity, no one will be more ready than I to second the plan.

Porwarded herewith will be found the report Forwarded berewith will be found the report of the Commissioners appointed under an act of Congress, approved June 20, 1874, to wind up the affairs of the District Government. It will be seen from the report that the total debt of the District of Columbia, less securities on hand and available, is: The bonded debt issued prior to July 1, 1874, \$3.888,940 43; 5.65 bonds, by act of Congress June 20, 1874, \$2.088,16-.73; certificates of the Board of Andit, \$4.770,558.45; total, \$15.742,667.61; less special improvement assessments chargeable to private property in excess of any demand against such assessment, \$1.814,054.37; less Chesapeake & Ohio Canal bonds, \$75,000, and Washington & Alexandrin Railroad bonds, \$4.000; In the hands of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, \$1.748.054.37; leaving the actual debt, less said assets, \$13,994,613,24. In addition to this there are claims preferred against the Government of the District amounting in the aggregate, reported by the Board of Audit, to \$3.147.45.38, of which the greater part will probably be rejected. This sum can with no more propriety be included in the debt of the District Government than can the thousands of claims against the Government be included in the debt of the District Government than can the thousands of claims against the Government be in-

probably be rejected. This sum can with no more propriety be included in the debt of the District Goverament than can the thousands of claims against the General Government be included as a portion of the national debt; but the aggregate sum thus stated includes something more than the funded debt chargeable exclusively to the District of Columbia.

The act of Congress of June 29, 1874, contemplates an apportionment between the United States Government and the District of Columbia in respect to the payment of the principal and interest of the 3.65 bonds; therefore, in computing with precision the bonded debt of the District, the aggregate sums above stated, as respects the 3.65 bonds now issued, the onistanding certificates of the Board of Audit, and the unadjusted claims pending before that Board, should be reduced to the extent of the amount to be apportioned to the United States tovernment in the manner indicated in the act of Congress of Jane 29, 1874. I especially invite your attention to the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund relative to the ambiguity of the act of June 29, 1874, the interest on the District bonds, and the consolidation of the Indebtedness of the District.

I feel much indebted to the gentlemen who consented to leave their private affairs and come from a distance to attend to the business of this District, and for the able and satisfactory manner in which it has been conducted. I am sure their sorvices will be equally appreciated by the entire country.

It will be seen from the accompanying full re-

sorvices will be equally appreciated by the entire country.

It will be seen from the accompanying full report of the Board of Health that the sanitary condition of the District is very satisfactory. In my opinion the District of Columbia should be regarded as the grounds of the National Cepind, in which the entire people are interested. I do not allude to this to arge generous appropriations to the District, but to draw the attention of Congress, in framing a law for the government of the District, to the magnificent scale on which the city was planned by the founders of the Government; the manner in which, for ornamental purposes, the streets and avenues were laid out, and what was the proportion of the property actually possessed by the tieneral Government. I think the proportion of the expenses of the Government and improvements to be borne by the General Government and the cities of Washington and Georgetown and the country should be carefully and equitably defined.

In accordance with Sec. 3 of the act approved June 23, 1874. I appointed a board to make a survey of the mouth of the Mississippi River, with a view to determine the best method of obtaining and maintaining a depth of water sufficient for the purposes of commerce, etc., and in accordance with an act entitled "An act to provide for the appointment of a Commission of Engineers to investigate and report a plun for the excavation of the alluvial basin of the Mississippi River subject to inundation," I appointed a Commission of Engineers. Neither board has yet completed its labors. When their reports are received they will be forwarded to Congress without delay.

(Signed)

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 7, 1874. THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

-On the last day of the Hartford meeting of the American Association, President Barnard, of Columbia College, delivered an address on the " Metric System." He predicted that the metric system will become the sole system of weights and measures in use throughout civilized nations before the year 1900. In France, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, the German Empire, in fact, all Europe, except Scan-dinavian countries and England, and in all America, except the United States, the metric system has been adopted. Even in the Indian empire of Great Britain the metric system has been adopted, and that system has been legalized, though not yet adopted, in Great Britain and here. At the Vienna Metrological Congress every delegate, though representing nearly every country on the civilized globe, voted for the metric system.

-The New York Journal of Commerce has the following: We desire to call the attention of underwriters to a new material used for martingale rings, knife handles, combs, etc., which we are in-formed bears the name of "Celluloid." class. The introduction, free of duties, of such by works as we do not produce should stimulate the manufacture of goods requiring these. There are many articles entering into home manufacture of goods requiring these they were removelessly executed by those of manufactured articles. All corrections and the tariff upon which increases the cost of producing the manufactured article. All corrections and the first of May 31, 160, with the amendments of supplying one of the clements of prevent this and the like state of things labor and capital into harmony with each other and of supplying one of the clements of prevent the manufactured article. All corrections in this regard are in the direction of bringing labor and capital into harmony with each other and of supplying one of the clements of prevent this being to guarantee the in the free enjoyment of the service, but it is was passed to enforce its provisions, the object of this being to guarantee the interior of the clements of prevent this being to guarantee the direction of the service, but it is was passed to enforce its provisions, the object of the support of the service, but it is and of supplying one of the clements of prevent this being to guarantee the name of "Celluloid." The report of the service and to the Continent of the clements of the support of the sovernment have been adhered to a support with the opposition with which they meet. The effect of it is the tariff upon which increases the cost of provided to the clevation of the service, but it is as inflammable as the cost of provided to the clevation of the service but it is and the like state of things, and to provide the support only to find a fault when the reless are apparently departed to support which this reform receives its from those who give it their support only to find a produce a conflagration so uttended to service the offence of the support which this report which this report requestly the support which their support only to find a produce a conflagration so uttended to service an It is to all appearances as hard as iron, and when cold possesses great strength and tenacity; but it is as inflammable as tinder, and it burns more readily than