fit of an enactment, under which relief may be claimed as a right, and that such relief should be granted under the sanction of law, not in evasion of it; nor should such worthy objects of care, all equally entitled, be requitted to the unequal operation of sympathy, or the tender mercies of social and political influence with their unjust discriminations. The discharged soldiers and sailors of the country are our fellow-citizens, and interested with us in the passage and faithful execution of wholesome law. They cannot be swerved from their duty of citizenship by artful appeals to their spirit of brotherhood, born of common peril and suffering; nor will they exact as a test of devotion to their welfare a willingness to neglect public duty in their behalf.

PATENT OFFICE.

A Self-Supporting Institution, With Increasing Business.

On the 4th of March, 1885, the current business of the Patent Office was, on an average, five and one-half months behind. At the close of the last fiscal year such current work was but three months in arrears, and it is asserted and believed that in the next, few months the delay in obtaining and examining an application for a patent will be but nominal. The number of applications for patents during the last fiscal year, including re-issues, designs, trade-marks and labels, equals 49,678, which is considerably in excess of the number received during the preceding year. The receipts of the patent office during the year aggregate $1,250,167.80, enabling the office to turn into the Treasury, over and above all expenditures, about $163,701.73. The number of patents granted during the last fiscal year, including reissues of trade marks, designs and labels, was 25,619—a number also quite largely in excess of that of any preceding year. The report of the Commissioner shows the office to be in a prosperous condition and constantly increasing in its business. No increase of force is asked for. The amount estimated for the year ending June 30, 1887, was $853,960. The amount estimated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, is $778,770.

SUBSIDIZED ROADS.

The Government a Creditor the Sole Matter to be Considered.

The Secretary of the Interior suggests a change in the plan for the payment of the indebtedness of the Pacific subsidized roads to the Government. His suggestion has the unanimous endorsement of the persons selected by the Government to act as directors of these roads and protect the interests of the United States in the board of direction. In considering the plan proposed the sole matters which should be taken into account, in my opinion, are the situation of the Government as a creditor and the surest way to secure the payment of the principal and interest of its debt. By a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States it has been adjudged that the laws of the several States are inoperative to regulate rates of transportation upon railroads if such regulation interferes with the rate of carriage from one State into another. This important field of control and regulation having been thus left entirely unoccupied, the expediency of Federal action upon the subject is worthy of consideration.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

In Advocacy of Harmony And Deprecation of Disturbance.

The relations of labor and capital and of laboring men to their employers are of the utmost concern to every patriotic citizen. When these are strained and distorted, unjustifiable claims are apt to be insisted upon by both interests, and in the controversy which results the welfare of all and the prosperity of the country are jeopardized. Any intervention of the general Government, within the limits of its constitutional authority, to avert such a condition, should be willingly accorded. In a special message transmitted to the Congress, at its last session, I suggested the enlargement of our present labor bureau and adding to its present functions the power of arbitration in cases where differences arise between employes and employers. When these differences reach to such a stage as to result in the interruption of commerce between States, the application of this remedy by the general Government might be regarded as entirely within its constitutional powers, and I think we might reasonably hope that such arbitration, if carefully selected, and if entitled to the confidence of the parties to be affected, would be voluntarily called to the settlement of the controversy of less extent, and not necessarily within the domain of the Federal regulation. I am of the opinion that this suggestion is worthy the attention of the Congress. But after all has been done by the passage of laws either Federal or State, to relieve a situation full of solicitude, much more remains to be accomplished by the reinstatement and cultivation of a true American sentiment, which recognizes the equality of American citizenship. This, in the light of our traditions and in loyalty to the spirit of our institutions, would teach that a hearty co-operation on the part of all interests is the surest path to national greatness, and the happiness of all our people, that capital should, in recognition of the brotherhood of our citizenship and in a spirit of American fairness, generously accord to labor its just compensation and consideration and that contented labor is capital's best protection and faithful ally. It would teach, too, the diverse situation of our people as inseparable from our civilization, that every citizen should in his sphere be a contributor to the general good; that capital does not necessarily tend to the oppression of labor; and that violent disturbances and disorders alienate from the promters true American sympathy and kindly feeling.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTUI

Usefulness of the Service—Suggestions Touching Pleuro-Pneumonia.

The Department of Agriculture, representing the oldest and largest of our national industries, is subserving well the purposes of its organization. By the introduction of new subjects of farming enterprise, and by opening new sources of agricultural wealth, and the dissemination of early information concerning production and prices, it has contributed largely to the country's prosperity. Through this agency, advanced thought and investigation touching the subjects it has in charge, should among other things, be practically applied to the home production at a low cost of articles offered, which are now imported from abroad. Such an innovation will necessarily, of course, in the beginning be within the domain of intelligent experiments, and the subject in every stage should receive all possible encouragement from the Government. The interests of millions engaged in agriculture are involved in improvement of results of their labor and a zealous regard for their welfare should be a willing tribute for those whose productive returns are a main source of our progress and power. The existence of pleuro-pneumonia has led to burdensome and, in some cases, disastrous effects in an important branch of industry, and affect the quantity and quality of our food supply. This is a matter of such importance and of such far-reaching consequences, that I hope it will engage the serious attention of the Congress, to the end that such a remedy may be applied as to the limits of a constitutional delegation of powe rto the general Government will permit. I commend to the consideration of the Congress the report of the commissioner and his suggestions concerning the interests entrusted to his care.

CIVIL SERVICE.

A Plea For Consideration by Congress and For Popular Favor.

The continued operation of the law relating to our Civil service has added to the most convincing proofs of its necessity and usefulness. It is a fact worthy of note that every public officer who has a just idea of his duty to the people, testifies to the value of this reform. Its staunchest friends are found among those who understand it best, and its warmest supporters are those who are restrained and protected by its requirements. The meaning of such restraint and protection is not appreciated by those who want places under the Government, regardless of merit and efficiency, nor by those who insist that the selection for such places should rest upon a proper credential, showing active partisan work. It is exceedingly strange that the scope and nature of this reform are so little understood, and that so many things not included within its plan are called by its name. When Civ. Service yields more fully to examination, the system will have large additions to the number of its friends. Our civil service reform may be imperfect in some of its details; it may be misunderstood and opposed; it may not always be faithfully applied. Its designs may sometimes miscarry through mistake or languish under the misguided zeal of impracticable friends. If the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of their Government, they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions. I invoke for this reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of the Congress. I renew my recommendation made last year that the commissioners be made equal to other officers of the Government having like duties and responsibilities, and I hope that such reasonable appropriation may be made as will enable them to increase the usefulness of the cause they have charge of.

FREEDMAN'S BANK.

The Payment of Its Liabilities Advised in Equity and Fairness.

I desire to call the attention of the Congress to a plain duty which the Government owes to the depositors in the Freedman Savings and Trust company. This company was chartered by the Congress for the benefit of the most illiterate and humble of our people, and with the intention of encouraging in them industry and thrift. Most of its branches were presided over by officers holding the commissions, and clothed in the uniform of the United States. These and other circumstances reasonably, I think, led these simple people to suppose that the invitation to deposit their hard-earned savings in this institution implied an understanding on the part of their Government that their money should be safely kept for them. When this company failed it was liable in the sum of $2,939,925.22, to 61,131 depositors. Dividends amounting in the aggregate to 62 per cent have been declared, and the sum called for and paid of such dividends seems to be $1,648,181.72. This sum deducted from the entire amount of deposits leaves $4,291,744.50 still unpaid. Past experience has shown that quite a large part of this sum will not be called for. There are assets still on hand amounting to the estimated sum of $16,000. I think the remaining 38 per cent of such of these deposits as have claimants should be paid by the Government upon principles of equity and fairness. The report of the commission soon to be laid before Congress will give more satisfactory details on this subject.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

Negotiations Still Pending—Reasonable Hope of Speedy Conclusion.

A convention between the United States and certain other powers for the protection of sub-marine cables was signed at Paris on March 4, 1884, and has been duly ratified and proclaimed by this government. By agreement between the high contracting parties this convention is to go into effect the 1st of January next, but the legislation required for its execution in the United States has not yet been adopted. I earnestly recommend its enactment. Cases have continued to occur in Germany giving rise to much correspondence in relation to the privilege of sojourn of our naturalized citizens of German origin revisiting the land of their birth, yet I am happy to state that our relations with that country have lost none of their accustomed cordiality. The claims for interest upon the amount of tonnage dues, illegally exacted from certain German steamship lines, were favorably reported in both Houses of Congress at their last session, and I trust will receive final and favorable action at an early day. The recommendation considered in my last annual message in relation to a mode of settlement of the fishery rights in the waters of British North America, so long a subject of anxious difference between the United States and Great Britain, was met by an adverse vote of the Senate April 15th last, and thereupon negotiations were instituted to obtain an agreement with Her Britannic Majesty's government for the promulgation of such joint interpretation and definition of the article of the convention of 1818, relating to the territorial waters and inshore fisheries of the British provinces, as should secure the Canadian rights from encroachment by United States fishermen, and, at the same time, insure the enjoyment by the latter of the privileges guaranteed to them by such convention. The questions involved are of long standing, of grave consequence, and from time to time for nearly three-quarters of a century have given rise to earnest international discourses, not unaccompanied by irritation. Temperary arrangements by treaties have served to allay friction, which, however, has revived as each treaty was terminated. The last arrangement, under the treaty of 1871 was abrogated, after due notice, by the United States June 30, 1885, but I was enabled to obtain for our fishermen for the remainder of that season, enjoyment of the privileges accorded by the terminating treaty. The joint commission by whom the treaty had been negotiated, although invested with plenary power to make permanent establishment were content with temporary arrangements, after the termination of which the question was relegated to the stipulations of the treaty of 1818, as to the first article of which no construction satisfactory to both countries has ever been agreed upon. The progress of civilization and the growth of population in the British Provinces, to which the fisheries in question are contiguous, and the expansion of commercial intercourse between them and the United States, present to-day a condition of affairs scarcely realizable at the date of the negotiations of 1818. New and vast interests have been brought into existence. Modes of intercouse between the respective countries have been invented and multiplied, the methods of conducting the fisheries have been wholly changed; and all this is necessarily entitled to candid and careful consideration in the adjustment of the terms and conditions of intercourse and commerce between the United States and their neighbors along a frontier of over 3,500 miles. This propinquity of community, language and occupation, and similarity of political and social institutions, indicate the practicability and obvious wisdom of maintaining mutually beneficial and friendly relations. Whilst I am unfeignedly desirous that such relations should exist between us and the inhabitants of Canada, yet the action of their officials during the past season toward our fishermen has been such as to seriously threaten their continuance. Although disappointed in my efforts to secure a satisfactory settlement of the fishery question, negotiations are still pending, with reasonable hope that before the close of the present session of Congress advancement may be made and that an acceptable conclusion has been reached. At an early day there may be laid before Congress the correspondence of the Department of State in relation to this important subject, so that the history of the past fishing season may be fully disclosed, and the action and the attitude of the administration clearly comprehended. More extended reference is not deemed necessary in this communication. The recommendation, submitted last year, that provision be made for a preliminary reconnoisance of the conventional boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia is renewed.

HAWAII AND JAPAN.

The Desirability of Intimacy With Them—Liberia's Relations.

I express my unhesitating conviction that the intimacy of our relations with Hawaii should be emphasized. As a result of the reciprocity treaty of 1875 these islands, on the highway of Oriental and Australian traffic, are virtually an outpost of American commerce and a stepping stone to the growing trade of the Pacific. The Polynesian island groups have been so absorbed by other and more powerful governments that the Hawaiian islands are left almost alone in the enjoyment of their autonomy which it is important for us should be preserved. Our treaty is now terminable on one year's notice, but propositions to abrogate it would be in my judgment most ill-advised. The paramount influence we have there acquired, once relinquished, could only with difficulty be regained, and a valuable coign of vantage for ourselves might be converted into a stronghold for our commercial competitors. I firstly recommend that the existing treaty stipulations be extended for a further term of seven years. A recently signed treaty to this end is now before the senate. The importance of telegraphic communication between these islands and the United States should not be overlooked.

The question of a general revision of the treaties of Japan is again under discussion at Tokio. As the first to open relations with that empire and as the nation in most direct commercial relation with Japan, the United States have lost no opportunity to testify their consistent friendship by supporting the just claims of Japan to autonomy and independence among nations. A treaty of extradition between the United States and Japan, the first concluded by that empire, has been lately proclaimed.

The weakness of Liberia and the difficulty of maintaing effective sovereignty over its outlying districts have exposed that Republic to encroachments. It cannot be forgotten that this distant community is an off-shoot of our own system, owing its origin to the associated benevolence of American citizens, whose praiseworthy efforts to create a nucleus of civilization in the Dark Continent have commanded respect and sympathy elsewhere, especially in this country.

Although a formal protectorate over Liberia is contrary to our traditional policy, the moral right and duty of the United States to assist in all proper maintenance of its integrity is obvious, and has been consistently announced during nearly half a century. I recommend that in the reorganization of our navy, a small vessel, no longer found adequate to our needs, be presented to Liberia, to be employed by it in the protection of its coastwise revenues.

MEXICAN MATTERS.

Renewal of Former Suggestions—The Case of Editor Cutting.

The encouraging development of beneficial and intimate relations between the United States and Mexico, which has been so marked within the past few years, is at once the occasion of congratulation and of friendly solicitude. I urgently renew my former representation of the need of speedy legislation by Congress to carry into effect the reciprocity commercial convention of Jan. 20, 1883. Our commercial treaty of 1831 with Mexico was terminated, according to its provisions, in 1881, upon notification given by Mexico in pursuance of her announced policy of recasting all her commercial treaties. Mexico has since concluded with several foreign governments new treaties of commerce and navigation defining alien rights of trade, property and residence, treatment of shipping, consular privileges, and the like.

Our yet unexecuted reciprocity convention of 1883 covers none of these points, the settlement of which is so necessary to good relationship. I propose to initiate with Mexico negotiations for a new and enlarged treaty of commerce and navigation. In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, I communicated to that body on Aug. 2 last, and also to the House of Representatives, the correspondence in the case of A. K. Cutting, an American citizen then imprisoned in Mexico, charged with the commission of a penal offense in Texas, of which a Mexican citizen was the object. After demand had been made for his release, the charge against him was amended so as to include a violation of Mexican law within Mexican territory. This joinder of alleged offenses, one within and the other exterior to Mexico, induced me to order a special investigation of the case, pending which Mr. Cutting was released. The incident has, however, disclosed a claim of jurisdiction by Mexico novel in our history, whereby any offense, committed anywhere by a foreigner, penal in the place of its commission, and of which Mexico is the object, may, if the offender be found in Mexico, be there tried, and punished in conformity with Mexican laws. Jurisdiction was sustained by courts of Mexico in the Cutting case and approved by the executive branch of that government, upon the authority of a Mexican statute. The appellate court in releasing Mr. Cutting decided that the abandonment of the complaint by the Mexican citizens aggrieved by the alleged crime (a libelous publication) removed the basis of further prosecution and also declared justice to have been satisfied by the enforcement of a small part of the original sentence. The admission of such a pretension would be attended with serious results, invasive of the jurisdiction of this Government and highly dangerous to our citizens in foreign lands. Therefore, I have denied it and protested against its attempted exercise as unwarranted by the principles of law and international usages. A sovereign has jurisdiction of offenses which take effect within his territory although concerted or commenced outside of it, but the right is denied of any foreign sovereign to punish a citizen of the United States for an offense consummated on our soil in violation of our laws, even though the offense be against a subject or citizen of such sovereign. The Mexican statute in question makes the claim broadly, and the principle, if conceded, would create a dual responsibility in the citizen and lead to a confusion destructive of that certainty in the law which is an essential of liberty. When citizens of the United States voluntarily go into a foreign country, they must abide by the laws there in force and will not be protected by their own Government from the consequences of an offense against those laws committed in such foreign country; but the watchful care and interest of this Government over its citizens are not relinquished because they have gone abroad, and if charged with crime committed in the foreign lands, a fair and open trial, conducted with decent regard for justice and humanity, will be demanded for them. With less than that this Government will not be content when the life or liberty of its citizens is at stake, whatever the degree to which extra territorial criminal jurisdiction may have been formerly allowed by consent and reciprocal agreement among certain of the European states. No such doctrine or practice was ever known to the laws of this country or of that from which our institutions have mainly been derived. In the case of Mexico there are reasons especially strong or harmony in the mutual exercise of jurisdiction. Nature has made us irrevocably neighbors, and wisdom and kind feeling should make us friends. The overflow of capital and enterprise from the United States is a potent factor in assisting the development of the resources of Mexico and in building up the prosperity of both countries. To assist th good work all grounds of apprehension for the security of person and property should be removed, and I trust that in the interests f good neighborhood the statute referred to will be so modified as to eliminate the present possibilities of danger to the peace of the two countries.

OTHER RELATIONS.

The Netherlands, Persia, Peru, Russia and Samoa.

The government of the Netherlands has exhibited concern in relation to certain features of our tariff laws, which are supposed by them to be aimed at a class of tobacco produced in the East Indies. Comment would seem unnecessary upon the unwisdom of legislation appearing to have a special national discrimination for its object, which, although unintentional, may give rise to injurious relations.

The establishment, less than four years ago, of a legation at Teheran is bearing fruit in the interest exhibited by the Shah's government in the industrial activity of the United States and the opportunities of beneficial interchanges.

Stable government is now happily restored in Peru by the election of a Constitutional President, and a period of rehabilitation is entered upon, but recovery is necessarily slow from the exhaustion caused by the late war and civil disturbances. A convention to adjust, by arbitration, claims of our citizens has been promised and is under consideration

The naval officer who bore to Siberia the testimonials bestowed by Congress in recognition of the aid given to the Jeannette survivors has accomplished his mission. His interesting report will be submitted. It is pleasant to know that this mark of appreciation has been welcomed by the Russian government and people as befits the traditional friendship of the two countries.

Civil perturbations in the Samoan Isles has, during the past few years, been a source of considerable embarrassment to the three governments—Germany, Great Britain and the United States—whose relations and extra territorial rights in that important group are guaranteed by treaties. The weakness of the native administration, and the conflict of opposing interests in the islands, have led King Maliteoa to seek alliance or protection in some one quarter, regardless of the distinct engagements whereby no one of the three treaty powers may acquire any paramount or exclusive interest. In May last Maliteoa offered to place Samoa under the protection of the United States, and the late consul, without authority, assumed to grant it. The proceeding was promptly disavowed, and the overzealous official recalled. Special agents of the three governments have been deputed to examine the situation in the islands, with a change in the representation of all three powers and a harmonious understanding between them. The peace, prosperity, autonomy, administration and neutrality of Samoa can hardly fail to be secured.

THE FLAG IN SPAIN.

History of the Recent Proclamation Concerning Spanish Duties.

It appearing that the government of Spain did not extend to the flag of the United States in the utilles the whole measure of reciprocity requisite under our statute for the continuance of the suspension of discriminations against the Spanish flag in our ports, I was constrained in October last to rescind my predecessor's proclamation of Feb. 14, 1884, permitting such suspension. An arrangement was, however, speedily reached, and, upon notification from the government of Spain that all differential treatment of our vessels and their cargoes from the United States or from any foreign country had been completely and absolutely relinquished, I availed myself of the discretion conferred by law, and issued, on the 27th of October, my proclamation declaring reciprocal suspension in the United States. It is most gratifying to bear testimony to the earnest spirit in which the government of the Queen Regent has met our efforts to avert the initiation of commercial discriminations which are ever disastrous to the material interests and the political good will of the countries they affect. The profitable development of the large commercial exchanges between the United States and the Spanish Antilles is naturally an object of solicitude. Lying close at our doors and finding here their main markets of supply and demand, the welfare of Cuba and Porto Rico and their productions and trade are scarcely less important to us than to Spain. Their commercial and financial moves are so naturally a part of our system that no obstacle to fuller, freer intercourse should be permitted to exist. T standing instructions of our representatives at Madrid and Havana have for years been to leave no effort unessayed to further these ends, and at no time has the equal good desire of Spain been more hopefully manifested than now. The government of Spain, thus removing the consular tonnage fees in cargoes shipped to the Antilles and by reducing passport fees, has shown its recognition of the needs of less trammeled intercourse. An effort has been made during the past year to remove the hindrances to the proclamation of the treaty of naturalization with the Sublime Porte, signed in 1874, which has remained inoperative owing to a disagreement of interpretation of the clauses relative to the effects of the return to and sojourn of a naturalized citizen in the land of his origin. I trust soon to be able to announce a favorable settlement of the differences as to the interpretation.

It has been highly satisfactory to note the improved treatment of American missionaries in Turkey, as has been attested by their acknowledgements to our late Minister to that government of his successful exertions in their behalf.

The exchange of ratification of the convention of Dec. 5, 1885, with Venezuela, for the reopening of the awards of the Caracas commission under the claims-convention of 1866 has not yet been effected, owing to the delay of the executive of that Republic in ratifying the measure. I trust that this postponement will be brief; but should it much longer continue, the delay may well be regarded as a rescission of the compact and a failure on the part of Venzuela to complete an arrangement so persistently sought by her during many years and assented to by this Government in a spirit of international fairness, although to the detriment of holders of bona fide awards of the impugned commission. I renew the recommendation of my last annual message, that existing legislation concerning citizenship and naturalization be revised.

EXTRADITION TREATIES.

To Prevent the Miscarrying of Justice—The Copyright Laws.

We have treaties with many states providing for reunciation of citizenship by naturalized aliens, but no statute is found to give effect to such engagements, nor any which provides a needed central bureau for the registration of naturalized citizens. Experience suggests that our statutes regulating extradition may be amended by a provision for the transit across our territory, now a convenient thoroughfare of travel from one country to another, of fugitives surrended by a foreign government to a third state. Such provisions are not unusual in the legislation of other countries and tend to prevent the miscarrying of justice. It is also desirable in order to remove present uncertainties, that authority should be conferred on the Secretary of State to issue a certificate in case of an arrest, for the purpose of extradition, to the officer before whom the proceedings are pending, showing that a requisition for the surrender of the person charged has bean duly made. Such a certificate, if required to be received before the prisoner's examination would prevent a long and expensive judicial inquiry into a charge which the foreign government might not desire to press. I also recommend that express provision be made for the immediate discharge from custody of persons committed for extradition where the President is of opinion that surrender should not be made. The drift of sentiment in civilized communities toward all recognition of the rights of property in the creations of the human intellect has brought about the adoption, by many important nations, of an international copyright convention, which was signed at Berne on the 18th day of September, 1885. Inasmuch as the constitution gives to Congress the power "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their exclusive writings and discoveries," this Government did not feel warranted in becoming a signatory pending the action of Congress upon measures of international copyright now before it, but the right of adhesion to the Berne convention hereafter has been reserved. I trust the subject will receive at your hands the attention it deserves, and that the just claims of authors, so urgently pressed, will be duly heeded. Representations continue to be made to me of the injurious effect upon American artists studying abroad, and having free access to the art collections of foreign countries, of maintaining a discriminating duty against the introduction of the works of their brother artists of other countries, and I am induced to repeat my recommendation for the abolition of that tax.

CONSULAR SERVICE.

Advising Better Remuneration for American Representatives Abroad.

Pursuant to a provision of the diplomatic and consular appropriation act, approved July 1, 1886, the estimates submitted by the Secretary of State for the maintenance of the consular service have been recast on the basis of salaries for all officers to whom such allowance is deemed advisable. Advantage has been taken of this to redistribute the salaries of the officers now appropriated for in accordance with the work performed, the importance of the representative duties of the incumbent, and the cost of living at each post. The last consideration has been too often lost sight of in the allowances heretofore made. The compensation which may suffice for the decent maintenane of a worthy and capable officer in a position of onerous and representative trust at a post readily accessible, and where the necessaries of life are abundant and cheap, may prove an inadequate pittance in distant lands where the better part of a year's pay is consumed in reaching the post of duty and where the comforts of ordinary civilized existence can only be obtained with difficulty and at exorbitant cost. I trust that in considering the submitted schedule no mistaken theory of economy will perpetuate a system which, in the past, has virtually closed to deserving talent many offices where capacity and attainments of a high order are indispensable and in not a few cases has brought discredit on our national character and entailed embarrassment and even suffering on those deputed to uphold our dignity and interests abroad. In connection with that subject I earnestly reiterate the practical necessity of supplying some mode of trustworthy inspection and report of the manner in which the consulates are conducted. In the absence of such reliable information efficiency can scarcely be rewarded or its opposite corrected.

Increasing competition in trade has directed attention to the value of the consular reports printed by the Department of State, and the efforts of the Government to extend the practical usefulness of these reports have created a wider demand for them at home and a spirit of emulation abroad. Constituting a record of the changes occuring in trade and of the progress of the arts and invention in foreign countries, they are much sought for by all interested in the subjects which they embrace.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Needed, Police Regulations, Conveniences and New Bridges.

The control of the Government of the District of Columbia having been placed in the hand of purely executive officers, while the Congress still retains all legislative authority pertaining to its government, it becomes my duty to make known the most pressing needs of the District and recommend their consideration. The laws of the District appear to be in an uncertain condition and their codification or revison is much needed. During the past year one of the bridges leading from the District to the State of Virginia became unfit for use, and travel upon it was forbidden. This leads me to suggest that the improvement of all the bridges crossing the Potomac and its branches from the city of Washington is worthy of the attention of Congress. The Commissioners of the District represent that the laws regulating the sale of liquor and granting licenses therefor should be at once amended, and that legislation is needed to consolidate, define and enlarge the scope and powers of charitable and penal institutions within the District. I suggest that the Commissioners be clothed with the power to make, within fixed limitations, police regulations. I believe this power granted and carefully guarded would tend to subserve the good order of the municipality. It seems that trouble still exists, growing out of the occupation of the streets and avenues by certain railroads having their termini in the city. It is very important that such laws should be enacted upon this subject as will secure to the railroads all the facilities they require for the transaction of their business, and at the same time protect citizens from injury to their persons or property. The commissioners again complain that the accommodations afforded them for the necessary offices for district business, and for the safe keeping of valuable books and papers, are entirely inefficient. I recommend that this condition of affairs be remedied by the Congress and that suitable quarters be furnished for the needs of the District Government. In conclusion, I earnestly invoke such wise action on the part of the people's legislators as will subserve the public good and demonstrate during the remaining days of the Congress, as at present organized, its ability and inclination to so meet the people's needs that it shall be gratefully remembered by an expectant constituency.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Business.

A Georgia newspaper illustrates the average southern negro's poor business ability by telling of one who asked the price of coats in a store. The storekeeper offered him various garments cheap for cash, but the darkey would not buy, and finally the merchant picked out a coat that cost him $1.65 and offered it to the negro for $10, agreeing to take $2 in cash and trust him for the balance. The customer jumped at the offer, and without even trying on the coat, paid the $2 and went away happy in his ability to owe $8. The storekeeper will not worry if he does not get the money.

OVER THE STATE.

MURDER AT CALLAWAY.

Broken Bow special to the Lincoln Journal: Gilson A. James, a hotel and restaurant keeper at Callaway, Custer county, killed Charles Hayes about 2 o'clock this morning. Night before last Hayes went to James' hotel and took Mrs. James out for a walk, being absent about two hours. About midnight last night Hayes went to James' bed room and ordered James to get up, which he did, Hayes then getting into bed with Mrs. James.

James went out and asked several men to go with him to his room, telling them of his trouble. They refused. He then procured a revolver and went home. Hayes, who was drunk, ordered James to get in bed with them and cover up. James got into bed with Mrs. James between them. Hayes then again ordered James to cover up, and on his refusal, Hayes reached out for his revolver laying on the table, when James shot him through the head, killing him instantly. James was brought here and jailed. The coroner has gone to hold an inquest.

THE STATE LIBRARY.

Guy A. Brown, state librarian, has prepared his report for the past two years and turned it over to the governor. This report shows that there were at the time of the last report 23,308 volumes in the library; that there has been added to this number by exchange and purchase 3,601 volumes and 6,000 copies of the Nebraska court reports, making a total of 22,909 volumes. There have been disbursed, however, through sales, 5,346 copies of the reports, which leaves a net number of volumes in the state library at the time of this report of 27,379. The receipts in cash since the time of the last report amount to $3,076.54, and the expenditures during the same length of time have been $3,019.68. When the central part of the capitol building is completed the second and third stories of the building will be used for the state library and the supreme court rooms, and the additional room will be ready none too soon to accommodate the librarian. It will be necessary to provide during the next session of the legislature for the furniture and fixtures, shelvings and the like in the new quarters, and the librarian recommends that $10,000 be appropriated for the library, and $5,000 for the court room.

MISCELLANEOUS STATE MATTERS.

A LEADING general store at Grand Island averages $750 per day cash sales.

THE feeling is growing at Lincoln that a spirit of indifference is losing the city many institutions of enterprise.

GRAND ISLAND has 8,000 population and claims this growth of numbers should be protected by a good sewerage system.

ALTHOUGH late in the season a great deal of real estate is changing hands in Grand Island. James Michelson was recently offered $20,000 for a corner lot.

KEARNEY special: A clever forgery was perpetrated here yesterday about 1 o'clock p. m. A man presented a check at the Kearney National bank for $400, drawn by Josh Woods, of the Streeter & Woods Cattle company. The check was paid by the cashier, who discovered shortly afterwards that the signature was forged. Detectives are after the forger but he is still at large.

THE Nebraska state institution for the care and instruction of feeble-minded children, located one and one-half miles east of Beatrice, received its finishing touches on the 4th and was examined by the state board of public lands and buildings. There are 1,000,000 brick in the building. The institution will accommodate about 75 or 80 children. There are 47 rooms exclusive of bath rooms and closets.

AN effort is being made to have a post-office established on the Running Water.

ROCK ISLAND people have their grade completed to within one mile of Nelson. There it will rest until spring.

THE appointment of S. H. H. Clark to the vice-presidency of the Missouri Pacific it is thought will give a boom to Nebraska railroad building.

ANOTHER $50,000 purchase of Lincoln suburban property was made by Mr. A. E. Touzalin last week. The Sherman farm was taken at $40,000 and two adjoining tracts at $10,000.

THE sum of $370 has been allowed by the government to C. C. Crowell, of Blair, as the apportioned share of damages done his father's estate by rebel privateers, and recovered by the celebrated Geneva award.

AN ex-preacher named Wills, a resident of Lincoln, was arrested and fined $1 some time ago for filling a ditch on the highway. He appealed to the district court, but it affirmed the decision of the lower court. The cost had accumulated to $60 and the sheriff being unable to collect it, on Wednesday locked Mr. Wills up in the county jail to board it out.

ONE of the quarter sections on which the town site of Chadron is located is in litigation. Stanton, the contesting claimant, made out contest papers when the land was located, but the papers lay neglected in the land office and other parties purchasing a relinquishment, filed on the land, and from them came into the hands of the railroad company. The local officers refusing to hear Stanton's contest, an appeal was taken to the department, which resulted in a reversal of this order, and a hearing of the contest is now being held.

THE safe of Hunker Bros., lumber merchants, West Point, was blown open by burglars. Ten dollars in cash, $150 in county warrants, and some $6,000 in notes was taken. No clue.

NEBRASKA CITY special: Last evening the board of county commissioners made a final settlement with the bondsmen of ex-Treasurer Simpson, in accepting the tender of $40,000, the amount of the bond. In addition to this the bondsmen pay the costs thus far accrued in the affair, and $500 towards the payment of the expert, who is investigating the books. The county is still left to hold the sack to the amount of $40,000, or more. It is talked that Simpson is likely to be prosecuted on another charge when his short sentence expires.

THE work of trenching for the street mains for Nebraska City's waterworks system began on the 10th, and will be pushed during the mild weather. It is intended to complete the works by July 1, 1887.

PROF. C. E. BESSEY will deliver a lecture on grasses and foliage plants before the Nebraska Dairymen's association which meets at Sutton next week.

AT Sterling the five-year-old daughter of J. T. Howard accidentally slipped from a box on which she was standing, and, in trying to save herself, pulled a keg of syrup, which was sitting on the box, over with her, and it fell with chines across her forearm, breaking both bones.

YORK county voted the aid to help construct the K. C. and Omaha railroad, by an overwhelming majority.

THE Omaha postoffice last month sold over $10,000 worth of stamps.

WORK on the postoffice at Nebraska City has been deferred until spring.

ON Monday forenoon, says the West Point Republican, while Charley Mack, the foreman at the paper mill, was engaged in polishing one of the rollers with a piece of sand-paper, his hands were suddenly drawn between the revolving cylinders. He succeeded in pulling the left one out, but the right one was drawn in up to the elbow. The cylinders, one of iron and one of wood, work about one and a half inches apart. Of course the flesh on the arm is mashed and bruised in a shocking manner, but no bones are broken. He has a rugged constitution and the shock has had no perceptible effect on his nervous system and he is getting along nicely.

HON. J. D. NELIGH, of Cuming county, recently returned from a trip along the extension of the F., E. & M. V. Ry., and from his observations is hopeful of the future of northwest Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. There is, he says, extensive tracts of arearable land out towards the present terminus of the road; and in the vicinity of Douglas there are tracts of valley lands upon which, it is claimed, cereals can be successfully grown without irrigation.

NEBRASKA CITY special: Another large shortage in the ex-treasurer's accounts has just come to light. Expert White, while going through the books, discovered frauds amounting to about $9,000, with his task just begun. The larger part of this amount consists either of stolen warrants, or duplicate warrants with forged signatures. About $2,500 of the $9,000 was secured in an entirely different way. The fraud was consummated during the last January settlement, at which time it appears the figures in the treasurer's register were raised, a warrant for $51 in the clerk's book showing as $151 in that of the treasurer, and one for $160 appears as $960, and so on.

THE pork packing house of J. F. Sheeley, Omaha, was destroyed by fire last week. Loss about $60,000. Forty thousand dollars worth of meat was destroyed.

THE F., E. & M. V. railroad company has about 700 miles of track in Nebraska.

A FREMONT correspondent writes: A few days ago a slander suit of gigantic proportions was commenced in the district court by Lottie A. Smith against her husband Edwin T. Smith. This is the climax of a long seige of domestic infelicity, which has been paraded before the public for many months. Twice during the present year has Mrs. Smith appealed to the district court for a severing of the connubial ties, but both times her petition was refused and still they remain bound by the matrimonial bonds which yoked them so unhappily together, though they live apart. Mrs. Smith sues her liege lord for $5,000 each for stating at two different times while he was upon the stand as a witness in the divorce proceedings that she was guilty of adultery, and $20,000 upon the general proposition that he has ruined her fair name and fame, making a total of $30,000 which he is asked for as a solace to her wounded honor.

THE board of public lands and buildings have accepted the new state building for the feeble minded at Beatrice and paid the contractor the balance due him.

THE salt well at Lincoln has reached a depth of 1,208½ feet. The indications are still good for coal, but as the work is very slow on account of the nature of the rock now being punctured, it will be several long days before the question is decided.

THE grain syndicate organized at Aurora some time ago is now in operation.

TWENTY-FIVE bents of the Rulo pile bridge were carried out by the floating ice.

THE St. J. & G. I. company will build its extension from Fairfield instead of Hastings.

COAL has been found at Osceola, but a correspondent says it is above ground and some people get it between sundown and sunrise.

THE state superintendent on the 18th mailed circulars containing the reduction in rates given by the railroads in the state for the convention of county superintendents and prominent educators, which convention meets in Lincoln, commencing the 21st. The different roads make the usual one and one-third fare for the round trip.

FIRE destroyed the European hotel at Omaha last week, entailing a loss of about $12,000. None of the forty guests were injured, although many were compelled to jump for their lives from second story windows. They were very much undressed and most of them lost their clothes and baggage.

THE team of W. W. Hayes, Gage county, stolen some time ago, was found at Phelps, Mo., in possession of the thief. The whole outfit was retaken, and the thief stands a good chance of going over the road.

THE Methodists of Grand Island are having a successful religious revival.

REDUCED rates will be made on railroads to the county convention of school superintendents, to be held in Lincoln commencing on the 21st.

THE Union Pacific, it is stated, will in its own good time put up a union depot in Omaha that will be a credit alike to the road and that city.

FAIRFIELD celebrated the advent of the first train on the Kansas City and Omaha railroad on the 1st.

THE district court has cleaned out the Otoe county jail, with the exception of Mrs. Shellenberger, and it is likely she will be taken to Lincoln, a change of venue to Lancaster county having been granted in her case.

LINCOLN has thus far pledged over $16,000 for locating the Nebraska Wesleyan university in that city. This amount is expected to be swelled to $40,000.

SEWARD'S canning factory is now an assured fact, and the promoters of the enterprise are advertising for lands on which to grow the fruits.

A RELIGIOUS revival is in progress at Cheney, and a number thus far have professional faith and mended their daily walks of life.