

control of existing telegraph lines, or to construct others with a view of entering into general competition with private enterprise. The objections which may be justly raised against either of these projects and, indeed, against any system which would require an enormous increase in the civil service, do not, however, apply to some of the plans which have lately provoked public comment and discussion. It has been claimed, for example, that congress might wisely authorize the postmaster general to contract with some private person or corporation for the transmission of messages at specified rates and under government supervision. Various such schemes, of the same general nature but widely differing in their special characteristics, have been suggested in the public prints, and the arguments by which they have been supported and opposed have doubtless attracted your attention. It is likely that the whole subject will be considered by you at the present session. In the nature of things it involves so many questions of detail that your deliberations would probably be aided slightly, if at all, by any particular suggestions which I might now submit. I avow my belief, however, that the government should be authorized by law to exercise court supervision over interstate telegraph communication, and I express the hope that for attaining that end some measure be devised which will receive your approbation.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**  
**REGULATION OF FEES.**

The attorney general criticizes in his report the provisions of the existing law fixing the fees of jurors and witnesses in the federal courts. The provisions are chiefly contained in the act of February 26, 1853, though some of them were introduced into the act from statutes which had been passed many years previous. It is manifest that such compensation, as might, when these laws were enacted, have been just and reasonable, would in many instances be justly remanded at the present day as inadequate. I concur with the attorney general in the belief that the statutes should be revised by which these fees are regulated. So, too, should be the laws to regulate the compensation of district attorneys and marshals. They should be paid wholly by salary, instead of in part by fees, as is now the case. The change would prove to be a measure of economy, and would discourage the institution of needless and oppressive legal proceedings, which it is to be feared have in some instances been conducted for the mere sake of personal gain.

**INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.**  
**EVILS TO BE REMEDIED.**

Much interest and varied information is contained in the report of the secretary of the interior. I particularly call your attention to his presentation of certain phases of the Indian question, to his recommendations for the repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture acts and for more stringent legislation to prevent frauds under the pension laws. The statutes which prescribe the definition and punishments of crimes pertaining to pensions, could doubtless be made more effective by certain amendments and additions, which are pointed out in the secretary's report. I have previously referred to the alarming state of illiteracy in certain portions of the country, and again submit for the consideration of congress whether some federal aid should not be extended to public primary education wherever adequate provision therefor has not already been made.

**UTAH.**

The Utah commission has submitted to the secretary of the interior its second annual report. As a result of its labors supervising the recent election in that Territory, pursuant to the act of March 22, 1882, it appears that the persons by that act disqualified, to the number of about 12,000, were excluded from the polls. This fact, however, affords little cause for congratulation, and I fear that it is far from indicating any real and substantial progress toward the extirpation of polygamy. All of the members of the legislature are Mormons. There is grave reason to believe that they are in sympathy with the practices that this government is seeking to suppress, and that its effort in that regard will be more likely to encounter opposition than receive their encouragement and support. Even if this view should appear to be erroneous, the law under which the commissioners have been acting, should be made more effective by the incorporation of some such measures as they recommend and as were included in bill No. 2,238 on the calendar of the senate at its last session. I am convinced that polygamy is so strongly entrenched in the Territory of Utah that it is professed to attack with the state weapons which constitutional legislation provide. In favor, therefore, the repeal of the act upon which the government depends, the assumption by the national legislature of entire political control of the Territory and the establishment of a commission with such powers and duties as shall be delegated to it by law.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** is accomplishing much in the direction of the agricultural development of the country, and the report of the commissioner giving the results of his investigations and experiments, will be found interesting and valuable. At his instance a convention of those interested in the cattle industry of the country was lately held at Chicago. The prevalent pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases of animals was one of the chief topics of discussion. A committee of the convention will invite your co-operation in investigating the causes of these diseases, and providing methods for their prevention and cure. I trust that congress will not fail at its present session to put Alaska under the protection of laws. Its people have repeatedly remonstrated against neglect to afford them the maintenance and protection expressly guaranteed by the terms of the treaty, whereby that territory was ceded to the United States. For sixteen years they have pleaded in vain for that which they should have received without asking. They have no law for the collection of the debt, the support of schools, the conveyance of property, the administration of laws, or the enforcement of contracts—none indeed for the punishment of criminals except such as are afforded by certain customs, commerce and navigation acts. The resources of Alaska, especially in furs, mines and lumber, are considerable in extent and capable of large development, while its geographical situation is one of political and commercial importance. The promptings of interest, therefore, as well as considerations of honor and good faith, demand the immediate establishment of civil government in that Territory.

**RAILWAYS.**

Complaints have lately been numerous and urgent that certain corporations controlling in whole or part the facilities for the interstate carriage of merchandise by the great railways of the country have resorted in their dealings with the public to divers measures unjust and oppressive in their character. In some instances the State governments have attacked and suppressed these evils, but in others they have been unable to afford adequate relief because of the jurisdictional limitations which are imposed upon them by the federal constitution. The question whether the national government may lawfully interfere in the premises, and what, if any, supervision of control it ought to exercise, is one which merits your careful consideration. While we cannot fail to recognize the importance of the vast railway systems of the country, and their great and beneficial influence upon the development of our material wealth. We should, on the other hand, remember that no individual corporation ought to be invested with absolute power over the interest of any other citizen or class of citizens. The right of those railway corporations to any profitable re-

turn upon their investment and to reasonable freedom in their regulations must be recognized, but it seems only just that, so far as its constitutional authority will permit, congress should protect people at large in their interstate traffic against an act of injustice which State governments are powerless to prevent.

**FOREST PRESERVE.**

In my last annual message I called attention to the necessity of protecting by suitable legislation the forests situated upon the public domain. In many portions of the West the pursuit of general agriculture is only made practicable by resort to irrigation. While successful irrigation would be impossible without the aid afforded by forests in contributing to the regularity and constancy of the supply of water. During the past year severe suffering and great loss of property have been occasioned by profligate floods, followed by periods of unusually low water in many of the great rivers of the country; these irregularities were, in great measure, caused by the removal from about the sources of the streams in question of the timber by which the water supply had been nourished and protected. The preservation of such portions of the forests on the national domain as essentially contribute to the equable flow of important water courses is of the highest consequence. Important tributaries of the Missouri, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan, rise in the mountains of Montana, now the northern boundary of the United States, between the Blackfoot and Bismarck Indian reservations. This region is suitable for settlement, but upon the rivers which flow from it, depends in the future the agricultural development of a vast tract of country. The attention of congress is called to the necessity of withdrawing from the public sale this part of the public domain, and establishing there a forest preserve.

The industrial exhibitions which have been held in the United States during the present year attracted the attention of many foreign countries, where the announcement of those enterprises had been made public through the foreign representatives of this government. The Southern exhibits at Louisville were largely attended by the exhibitors of foreign countries, notwithstanding the absence of any professional character in those enterprises. The centennial exposition to be held next year at New Orleans, in commemoration of the century of the first shipment of cotton from a port of the United States, bids fair to meet with like gratifying success. Under the act of congress of the 10th of February, 1883, declaring that exposition to be national and international in its character, and that the foreign governments with which the United States maintains relations, have been invited to participate. The promoters of this important undertaking have already received assurances of the lively interest it has excited abroad.

The report of the commissioner of the District of Columbia is herewith transmitted. I ask for your careful attention, especially for those portions which relate to assessments for taxes and water supply.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE.**  
**WORKINGS OF THE LAW.**

The commissioners appointed under the act of Jan. 16, 1883, entitled "An act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States," entered promptly upon the discharge of their duties. A series of rules framed in accordance with the spirit of the statute was approved and promulgated by the president. In some particulars where they seemed defective those rules were subsequently amended. It will be perceived that they discountenanced any political or religious tests for admission to the offices of the public service to which the statute relates. The statute related in its original form to the classified clerkships in the several executive departments at Washington, numbering about 5,600, and to similar positions in the customs districts and postoffices where as many as fifty persons are employed. A classification of these positions, analogous to that existing in the Washington offices, was duly made before the law went into effect. Eleven customs districts and twenty-two postoffices were brought under the immediate operation of the statute. The annual report of the civil service commission, which will soon be submitted to congress, will doubtless afford the measure of a more definite judgment than I am now prepared to express as to the merits of the new system. I am persuaded that its effects have thus far proved beneficial. Its practicable methods appear to be adequate for the ends proposed, and there has been no serious difficulty in carrying them into effect. Since the 16th of July last no person, so far as I am aware, has been appointed to the public service in the classified portions thereof at any of the departments or at any of the postoffices and customs districts above named, except those certified by the commission to be competent in the basis of the examination held in conformity to rules.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.**

At the time when the present executive entered upon his office, his death, removal, resignation or inability to discharge his duties would have left the government without a constitutional head. It is possible, of course, that a similar contingency may again arise, unless the wisdom of congress shall provide against its recurrence. The senate, at its last session, after full consideration, passed an act relating to this subject which will now, I trust, commend itself to the approval of the constitution, upon which must depend any law regulating the presidential succession, presents also for solution other questions of paramount importance. These questions relate to the proper interpretation of the phrase "inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office." Our law providing that when the president shall suffer from such inability, the presidential office shall devolve upon the vice president who must himself, under the circumstances, give place to such officer as congress may by law appoint to act as president. I need not here set forth numerous and interesting inquiries which are suggested by these words of the constitution, and which were fully stated in my first communication to congress, and have since been the subject of frequent deliberations in that body. It is greatly to be hoped that these momentous questions will find speedy solution, lest an emergency should arise when longer delay will be impossible, and any determination, albeit the wisest, may furnish cause for anxiety and alarm. For the reasons fully stated in my last annual message, I repeat my recommendation that congress propose an amendment to that provision of the constitution which prescribed that the formalities for the enactment of laws, whereby in respect to bills for the appropriation of public moneys, the executive may be enabled, while giving his approval to particular items, to interpose his veto as to such others as do not commend themselves to his judgment.

**THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**

of the constitution confers the rights of citizenship upon all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof. It was the special purpose of this amendment to insure members of the colored race the full interment of civil and political rights. Certain statutory provisions, intended to secure the enforcement of those rights, have been recently declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. Any legislation whereby congress may lawfully supplement the guarantees which the constitution affords for the equal enjoyment by all the citizens of the United States of every right, privilege and immunity of citizenship, will receive my unhesitating approval.

(Signed) CHESTER A. ARTHUR.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 3, 1883.

Miss Alice Gardiner has been selected out of twenty candidates as professor of history in Belford College, London.

# Truth is Mighty and Must Prevail

Is a good old maxim, but no more reliable than the oft repeated verdict of visitors that

## COOPERSTOWN, DAKOTA,

is the Queen City of a magnificent county and the most beautifully located of the many new and prosperous places of North Dakota. It is the

Permanent County Seat of Griggs County, and, though only a few months old, already has a representation in nearly every branch of business and each man enjoying a profitable trade. Plenty of room for more business houses, mechanics or professional men. Cooperstown is not only the

TERMINUS OF THE S. C. & T. M. R. R., but is also Headquarters thereof. In short, the place is, by virtue of its situation

The Central City of the Central County of North Dakota.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER! THE COMMERCIAL CENTER!

THE FINANCIAL CENTER! THE RAILROAD CENTER!

and the outfitting point of settlers for fifty miles to the North and West. The energetic spirit of Cooperstown's citizens, who in most cases have not yet reached the meridian of life, the singleness of purpose and unity of action in pushing her interests, have resulted in giving her an envious reputation for business thrift even this early in her history.

## GRIGGS COUNTY

is the acknowledged Eden for settlers and home-seekers. Its soil is unsurpassed; its drainage the very best; its climate salubrious, and its railway advantages par-excellent. Public land in the county is becoming scarcer every day, yet there are still thousands of opportunities for the landless to get homes.

## GREAT STRIDES

toward Metropolitan comforts have been made in Cooperstown and the wandering head of the weary traveler can here find rest and entertainment at an

BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANTLY APPOINTED HOTEL,

erected at a cost of \$21,000. The man who becomes a citizen of Griggs county's thrifty capital can have, without price or waiting, the advantages of

GOOD SCHOOLS AND SPLENDID SOCIETY.

The rapidly growing embryonic city of Cooperstown is surrounded on all sides by the very richest lands in North Dakota. Cooperstown, situated as it is in the very heart of a new and fertile region, must boom to keep pace with the

## UNPARALLELED RAPID DEVELOPMENT

of the surrounding country. When you stop and consider the facts you will realize the advantages this new town enjoys. It being the terminus of a railroad, the entire country makes it a

## UNIVERSAL TRADING POINT,

a fact demonstrated by the merchants already established and enjoying big trades. Cooperstown is not an experiment but is built on the solid rock of commercial industry. Sound investments can be made in Cooperstown city property or Griggs county farm lands by applying to the

COOPER TOWNSITE CO., Cooperstown, D. T.,

Or J. M. BURRELL, Sanborn, D. T.

Plans sent on Request. Uniform Prices to All.