

of Aug. 5, 1882, and March 30, 1883. Of the four vessels under contract one, the Chicago, of 4,500 tons, is more than half finished; the Atlanta, 3,000 tons, has been successfully launched, and her machinery is now fitting; the Boston, also of 3,000 tons, is ready for launching; and the Dolphin, a dispatch steamer of 1,500 tons, is ready for delivery. Certain adverse criticisms upon the designs of these cruisers are discussed by the secretary, who insists that the correctness of the conclusions reached by the advisory board and the department has been demonstrated by recent developments in shipbuilding abroad. The machinery of the double-turreted monitors, Puritan, Terror and Amphitrite, contracted for under the act of March 3, 1883, is in process of construction. No work has been done during the past year on their armor, for lack of the necessary appropriations. A fourth monitor, the Monadnock, still remains unfinished at the navy yard in California. It is recommended that early steps be taken to complete these vessels, and to provide also an armament for the monitor Miantonomah. The recommendations of the naval advisory board, approved by the department, comprise the construction of one steel cruiser of 4,500 tons, one cruiser of 3,000 tons, two heavy-armed gunboats, one light cruising gunboat, one dispatch vessel armed with Hotchkiss cannon, one armed ram and three torpedo boats. The general designs, all of which are calculated to meet the existing wants of the service, are now well advanced, and the construction of the vessels can be undertaken as soon as you shall grant the necessary authority.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.
The act of congress approved Aug. 7, 1882, authorized the removal to the United States of the bodies of Lieutenant Commander W. De Long and his companions of the Jeannette expedition. The removal has been successfully accomplished. The remains were taken from their grave in the Lena delta, in March, 1884, but were retained at Yakutsk until the following winter, the season being too far advanced to admit of their immediate transportation. They arrived at New York Feb. 20, 1884, where they were received with suitable honors. In pursuance of the joint resolution of congress approved Feb. 13, 1884, a naval expedition was fitted out for the relief of Lieut. A. W. Greely, United States army, and of the party who had been engaged under his command in scientific observations at Lady Franklin bay. The fleet consisted of the steam sealer Thetis, purchased in England; the Bear, purchased at St. John's, Newfoundland, and the Alert, which was generously provided by the British government. Preparations for the expedition were promptly made by the secretary of the navy, with the active co-operation of the secretary of war. Commander George W. Coffin was placed in command of the Alert, and Lieut. W. H. Emory in command of the Bear. The Thetis was intrusted to Commander Winfield S. Schley, to whom also was assigned the superintendence of the entire expedition. Immediately upon its arrival at Upernivik, the fleet began the dangerous navigation of Melville bay, and in spite of every obstacle, reached Littleton island on June 22, a fortnight earlier than any vessel had before attained that point. On the same day it crossed over to Cape Sabine, where Lieut. Greely and other survivors of his party were discovered. After taking on board the living and the bodies of the dead, the relief ships sailed for St. John's, where they arrived on July 17. They were appropriately received at Portsmouth, N. H., on Aug. 1, and at New York on Aug. 8. One of the bodies was landed at the former place. The others were put on shore at Governor's island, and with the exception of one, which was interred in the national cemetery, were forwarded thence to the destination indicated by friends. The organization and conduct of the relief expedition reflects great credit upon all who contributed to its success. In this, the last of the state messages that shall carry the honor to transmit to the congress of the United States, I cannot too strongly urge on its attention the duty of restoring our navy as rapidly as possible to the high state of efficiency which formerly characterized it. As the long peace that has lulled us into a sense of fancied security may at any time be disturbed, it is plain that the policy of strengthening this arm of the service is the most effectual means of economy, of just regard for our future tranquility and of true appreciation of the dignity and honor of this republic.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.
THE REDUCTION IN LETTER POSTAGE.
The report of the postmaster general acquaints you with the present condition and needs of the postal service. It discloses the gratifying fact that the loss of revenue from the reduction in the rate of letter postage, as recommended in my message of December, 1882 and effected by the act of March 3, 1883, has been much less than was generally anticipated. My recommendation of this reduction was based upon the belief that the actual falling off in receipts from letter postage for the year immediately succeeding the change of rate would be \$3,000,000. It has proved to be only \$2,275,000. This is a trustworthy indication that the revenue will soon be restored to its former volume by natural increases of sealed correspondence. I confidently repeat, therefore, the recommendation of my last annual message, that the single rate of postage upon drop letters be reduced to one cent wherever the payment of two cents is now required by law. The double rate is only exacted at offices where the carrier system is in operation, and it appears that at these offices the increase in tax upon local letters defrays the cost not only of its own collection and delivery, but of the collection and delivery of all other mail matter, and this is an irregularity that ought no longer to exist. I approve the recommendation of the postmaster general that the unit of weight in the rating of first-class matter should be one ounce instead of one-half ounce, as it now is. In view of the statistics furnished by the department, it may be well doubted whether the change would result in any loss of revenue. That it would greatly promote the convenience of the public is beyond dispute. The free delivery system has been lately applied to five cities, and the total number of offices in which it is now in operation is 159. Experience shows that its adoption under proper conditions is equally an accommodation to the public and an advantage to the postal service. It is more than self-sustaining, and, for the reasons urged by the postmaster general, may properly be extended. It is the opinion of that officer that it is proper to provide means whereby exceptional dispatch in dealing with letters in free-delivery offices may be secured by the payment of extraordinary postage. This scheme may be made effective by the employment of a special stamp, whose cost shall be commensurate with the expense of the entire extra service. In some of the large cities private express companies have undertaken to outstrip the government mail carriers by affording, for the prompt transmission of letters, better facilities than have hitherto been at the command of the postoffice. It has always been the policy of the government to discourage such enterprises, and in no better way can that policy be maintained than in supplying the public with the most efficient service that, with due regard to its own best interests, can be furnished for its recommendation.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
PROPOSED REFORMS.
The attorney general renews the recommendation contained in his report of last year, touching the fees of witnesses and jurors. He favors radical change in the fee bill, the adoption of a system by which attorneys and marshals of the United States should be compensated solely by salaries, and the erection by the government of a penitentiary for the confinement of offenders against its laws.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.
SECRETARY TELLE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
Of the varied governmental concerns in charge of the interior department, the report of its secretary presents an interesting summary. Among the topics deserving particular attention I refer you to his observations respecting our Indian affairs, the pre-emption and timber culture acts, the failure of railroad companies to take title to lands granted by the government and the operations of the pension office, the patent office, the census bureau and bureau of education. Allusion has been made already to the circumstance that both as between different Indian tribes and between the Indians and the whites, the past year has been one of unbroken peace. In this circumstance the president is glad to find justification for the policy of the government in dealing with the Indian question, and confirmation of views which were fully expressed in his first communication to the Forty-seventh congress. The secretary urges a new enactment of a statute for the punishment of crimes committed on Indian reservations, and recommends the passage of the bill now pending in the house of representatives, for the purchase of a district of 18,000 square miles from the Sioux reservation. Both these measures are worthy of approval. I concur with him also in advising the repeal of the pre-emption law, the enactment of statutes resolving the present legal complications touching lapsed grants to railroads, and the funding of the debt of the several Pacific railroads under such guarantee as shall insure its ultimate payment.

UTAH.
STRINGENT MEASURES SUGGESTED.
The report of the Utah commission will be read with interest. It discloses the results of recent legislation looking to the prevention and punishment of polygamy in that territory. It still believes that if that abominable practice cannot be suppressed by law, it can only be dealt with by the most radical legislation consistent with the restraints of the constitution. I again recommend, therefore, that congress assume absolute political control of the Territory of Utah, and provide for the appointment of a commission, with such governmental powers as in its judgment may justly and wisely be put into their hands.

FOREIGN TRADE.
HOW TO EXTEND IT.
In the course of this communication reference has more than once been made to the policy of this government as regards the extension of our foreign trade. It seems proper to declare the general principles that should, in my opinion, underlie our national efforts in this direction. The main conditions of the problem may be thus stated: We are a people rich in mechanical pursuits and fertile in invention; we cover a vast extent of territory, rich in agricultural products and in nearly all the raw materials necessary for successful manufacture. We have a system of productive establishments more than sufficient to supply our demands. The wages of labor are nowhere so great. The scale of living of our artisan classes is such as tends to secure their personal comfort and the development of those higher moral and intellectual qualities that go to the making of good citizens. Our system of tax and tariff legislation is yielding a revenue which is in excess of the present needs of the government, and there are elements from which it is sought to devise a scheme by which, without unfavorably changing the condition of workingmen, our merchant marine shall be raised from its enfeebled condition and new markets provided for the sale, beyond our borders, of the manifold fruits of our industrial enterprise. The problem is complex and can be solved by no single measure of innovation or reform. The countries of the American continent and the adjacent islands are for the United States the natural market of supply and demand. It is from them that we should obtain what we do not produce, or do not produce in sufficiency, and it is to them that surplus productions of our fields, our mills, and our workshops should flow, under conditions that will equalize or favor them in comparison with foreign competitors. Four paths of policy seem to point to this end. First, a series of reciprocal commercial treaties with the countries of America which shall foster between the United States and them an unhampered movement of trade. The conditions of these treaties should be the free admission of such merchandise as this country does not produce, and the admission free or under a favored scheme of our own products, the benefits of such exchange to apply on those goods carried under the flag of the parties to the contract; the removal on both sides from vessels so privileged of all tonnage dues and national imports, so that their vessels may ply unhindered between our ports and those of the other contracting parties, though without infringing on the reserved home coasting trade. The removal or reduction of burdens on the exported products of those countries coming within the benefits of the treaties, and the avoidance of the technicalities, restrictions, and specialties by which our intercourse with those countries is at present hampered. Secondly, the establishment of the consular service of the United States on a salaried footing, permitting the relinquishment of consular fees for not only as respects vessels under the national flag, but also as respects vessels of the treaty nations carrying goods entitled to the benefits of the treaties. Thirdly, the enactment of measures to favor the construction and maintenance of a steam-carrying marine under the flag of the United States. Fourthly, the establishment of an uniform currency basis for the countries of America, so that the coined products of our mines may circulate on equal terms throughout the whole system of commonwealths. This would require a monetary union of America, whereby the output of the bullion-producing countries and the circulation of those which yield neither gold nor silver, could be adjusted in conformity with the population, wealth and commercial needs of each. As many of the countries furnish no bullion to the common stock, the surplus production of our mines and mints might thus be utilized and a step taken toward the general remonetization of silver. To the accomplishment of these ends, so far as they can be attained by separate treaties, the negotiations already concluded and now in progress have been directed, and the favor with which this enlarged policy has thus far been received warrants the belief that its operations will, ere long, embrace all or nearly all the countries of this hemisphere. It is by no means desirable, however, that the policy under consideration should be limited to these countries alone. The healthful enlargement of our trade with Europe, Asia and Africa should be sought by reducing tariff burdens on such of their wares as neither we nor the other American states are fitted to produce,

and thus enabling ourselves to obtain in return a better market for our supplies of food, of raw material and of the manufactures in which we excel. It seems to me that many of the embarrassing elements in the great national conflict between protection and free trade may thus be turned to good account; that the revenue may be reduced so as no longer to overtax the people; the protective duties may be retained without becoming burdensome; that our shipping interests may be judiciously encouraged, and the currency fixed on a firm basis and above all such a unit of interests established among the states of the American system as will be of great and ever increasing advantage to them all. All treaties in the line of this policy which have been negotiated, or are in process of being negotiated, contain a provision deemed to be requisite under the clause of the constitution limiting to the house of representatives the authority to originate bills for raising revenue.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.
WORK OF THE LAW AND COMMISSION.
On the 29th of February last I transmitted to congress the first annual report of the civil service commission, together with communications from the heads of the several revenue departments of the government, respecting the working of the law under which the commission has been acting. The good results therein foreshadowed have been more than realized. The system has fully answered the expectations of its friends in securing competent and faithful public servants, and in protecting the appointing officers of the government from the pressure of personal importunity and from the labor of examining the claims and pretensions of rival candidates for public employment. The law has had the unqualified support of the president and of the heads of the several departments, and the members of the commission have performed their duties with zeal and fidelity. They will shortly be submitted, and will be accompanied by such recommendations for enlarging the scope of the existing statute as shall commend themselves to the executive and the commissioners charged with the administration.

MISCELLANEOUS.
BANKRUPTCY—THE CHOLERA.
In view of the general persistent demand throughout the commercial community for a national bankrupt law, I hope that the differences which have hitherto prevented its enactment may not outlast the present session. The pestilence which for the past two years has been raging in the countries of the Pacific, its appearance in European ports with which we are in constant communication. The then secretary of the treasury, in pursuance of a proclamation of the president, issued certain regulations restricting, and for a time prohibiting the importation of rags and the admission of baggage of immigrants and of travelers arriving from infected quarters. Lest this course may have been without strict warrant of law, I approve the recommendation of the present secretary, that congress take action in the premises, and I also recommend the immediate adoption of such measures as will be likely to ward off the dreaded epidemic, and to mitigate its severity in case it shall unhappily extend to our shores.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
The annual report of the commissioners of the District of Columbia reviews the operations of the several departments of its municipal government, and I ask your careful consideration of its suggestions in respect to legislation, especially commending such as relate to a revision of the civil and criminal code, the performance of labor by persons sentenced to imprisonment in the jail, the construction and occupation of wharves along the river front and the erection of a suitable building for district offices. I recommend that in recognition of the eminent services of Ulysses S. Grant, the general of the armies of the United States and twice president of the nation, congress confer upon him a suitable pension. The measures that seem to me necessary and expedient I have now in obedience to the constitution, recommended for your adoption. As respects others of no less importance I shall content myself with renewing the recommendations already made to the congress without restating the grounds upon which such recommendations were based. The preservation of forests on the public domain; the granting of government aid for popular education; the construction of the federal constitution so as to make effective the disapproval by the president of particular items in appropriation bills; the enactment of statutes in regard to the filling of vacancies in the presidential office, and the determining of vexed questions respecting presidential inability, are measures which may justly receive your serious consideration. As the time draws near when I am to retire from the public service, I cannot refrain from expressing the members of the national legislature, with whom I have been brought into personal and official intercourse, my sincere appreciation of their unflinching courtesy, and of their harmonious co-operation with the executive in so many measures calculated to promote the best interests of the nation; and I acknowledge a deep sense of obligation for the support which they have accorded me in the administration of the executive department of the government.
(Signed) CHESTER A. ARTHUR.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1, 1884.

A VERITABLE MASCOT.
The special correspondent of the Buffalo Courier has discovered a mascot which he describes as follows: During the trial of the great buffalo, one of the candidates for the honor of the presidency, against Cicero A. Hamlin and others, which under a change of venue came before the courts of Genesee county in December, 1880, President-elect Cleveland spent ten days in Batavia as one of the attorneys for the plaintiff. Mr. Cleveland stopped at a local hotel, and during his stay was given a seat at one of the dining-room tables which he retained at every meal. One of the dining-room girls took particular pains to see that he was served promptly and well, and whenever Mr. Cleveland's name has been brought before the public as a candidate she has been enthusiastic in his support. In October, 1882, when the adjourned judicial district convention was held here, the Hon. L. L. Lewis of Buffalo, one of the candidates for the nomination, made the hotel his headquarters during the deadlock that ensued, and occupied the same seat at the same table that Gov. Cleveland had retained, and was waited upon by the same girl. The result of the convention was Judge Lewis' nomination and subsequent election. During the recent Republican congressional convention here, Land-locked Columbus of the St. James, was telling Judge Sawyer of Orleans, whose name was presented for nomination, of the good fortune of the gentlemen who had occupied the seat referred to in his dining room, and though Judge Sawyer's chances of receiving the honor did not seem to be great, he was given the chair at the table that had seated the other gentlemen. The days of the convention wore away without any perceptible improvement in Sawyer's chances, until the 57th ballot, when the long and acrimonious contest was brought to a close by the selection of Judge Sawyer, and he has been elected by a round majority. This dining room girl, considering the good luck that has attended her, is not to be envied. She has occupied the seat at her table, lays claim to being a mascot. Good fortune has surely attended the three gentlemen whose names are mentioned.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.
SENATE.—The opening session of the senate was preceded by a lively half-hour of hand-shaking and gossip between senators and their friends. Precisely at noon the president of the senate called the body to order and prayer was offered. On motion of Mr. Logan the secretary was instructed to inform the house that the senate was ready to proceed to business. Messrs. Sherman and Garland were appointed a committee to inform the president that the senate was ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make. The secretary read the credentials of William P. Sheffield, appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Anthony. The President's message was received and when the reading was concluded, Mr. Aldrich, in a few feeling remarks, made a formal announcement of the death of Senator Anthony, and the senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Promptly at noon the speaker's gavel called the house to order. After prayer the speaker directed the clerk to call the roll. The roll call disclosed the presence of 222 members, the clerk was directed to inform the senate that the house was ready to proceed to business. The speaker appointed Messrs. Randall and Cox (N. Y.) a committee to wait upon the president, in conjunction with a similar committee from the senate, and inform him that congress was ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make. The message was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and with accompanying documents, ordered printed.

SENATE.—Mr. Sheffield was sworn in as senator from Rhode Island. A resolution was offered for an investigation of all leases of land in the Indian Territory, and debated at considerable length. **HOUSE.**—Mr. Follett of Ohio as a question of privilege, presented the following preamble and resolution: That inasmuch as the United States marshal for the southern district of Ohio, of high crimes and misdemeanors, I charge him with usurpation of power and violation of law, in that he appointed a large number of general and special deputy marshals to serve at several voting precincts in Cincinnati, at the election for members of congress, on the 14th of October, 1884, and armed the said deputy marshals with pistols to suppress orderly citizens, said to have been furnished by the war department. Resolved, That the committee on expenditures of the department of justice be required and directed, as soon as the same can reasonably be done, to investigate such charges and report to the house.

An exciting debate followed, participated in by Messrs. Follett and Coville, of Ohio; Cox of New York; Rogers of Texas; Barksdale of Missouri, and others on the Democratic side, while Messrs. Kiefer and Jud Taylor, of Ohio; Hiseock of New York, and Reid of Maine presented the Republican view of the case. None of the latter opposed the resolutions or the investigation contemplated by it. The resolution was adopted.

SENATE.—The resolution for an investigation of land leases in the Indian Territory was amended so as to include leases in Indian reservations and adopted. Mr. McPherson introduced a bill to amend the act concerning bills passed authorizing the construction of a railway bridge across the St. Croix between Stillwater and Taylor's Falls, and authorizing the secretary of war to adjust and settle the account for arms, etc., between Montana and the United States.

Senator Mills of New York introduced a bill, authorizing the president to place, by Maj. Gen. William W. Averell on the retired list of the army with the rank and pay of "confidential cruisers" in the act re-establishing the court of commissions of Alabama claims shall be construed and held to include for all purposes of said act any and all vessels, officers and crew of vessels of organized expedition, used by the late so-called confederate government, or any of its officers, by which vessels or cargoes of loyal citizens of the United States were captured or destroyed on the high seas; and that act be construed to include any waters within the admiralty jurisdiction of the United States.

The senate passed the house bill for the relief of Francis B. Van Haesen. It authorizes a relinquishment by the governor of Minnesota to 160 acres of land near Alexandria, and confines Van Haesen's bounty warrant title to it. **HOUSE.**—A bill passed authorizing the construction of a bridge across the St. Croix river between Stillwater and Taylor's Falls.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, the senate amended the bill for the relief of the officers of the land of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad company were not concurred in. On motion of Mr. Randall, the house went into committee of the whole (Mr. Cox of New York in the chair) on the bill making temporary provision for the naval service. No amendments were offered to the bill, and no discussion was had, merely making a brief statement that the total appropriation for the support of the navy for the current fiscal year was \$15,635,106, a reduction of \$258,208 from the appropriation of the previous year. The committee rose, the bill passed.

SENATE.—The following bills were introduced and referred: By Mr. Mitchell, granting a pension to Gen. Grant; by Mr. Gibson, for the erection of a public building at New Orleans to cost one million dollars. Mr. Cameron (Pa.) submitted the following, which he desired to lie over and be printed: Whereas, the shipping trade in American vessels is depressed and export trade in American produce is languishing for want of a market that might be reached if the shipping trade was in the hands of citizens of the United States; therefore be it enacted, That the committee on finance be and is hereby directed to inquire whether it be expedient to expend the surplus revenue of the United States or any portion thereof, for the purpose of reviving the shipping and export trade by allowing a rebate from tariff duties on foreign goods imported in ships built and owned in the United States, and by also allowing a premium on American-grown products and articles of American manufacture exported in American vessels, and report by bill or otherwise.

Messrs. Ingalls and Cameron will call up the resolution at an early day. Mr. Hill offered a resolution declaring against the suspension of the coinage of silver dollars or the issue of silver certificates. Adjourned till Monday. **HOUSE.**—Following is the text of Representative Morrison's bill, introduced: "Be it enacted, that the secretary of the treasury be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply the surplus revenues, at any time in the treasury in excess of \$100,000,000, not otherwise appropriated to the redemption of United States bonds; and when any of said bonds are redeemable at the pleasure of the government, it shall not be lawful to apply any portion of said surplus to the purchase of bonds at premium." The interstate commerce bill was discussed, and the House adjourned on Monday.

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