The state of the s

The Important Features of the Chief Executives' Address to Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the 55th congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. The meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgment to a beneficent providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation, Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth continue unbroken.

A matter of genuine satisfaction is the

growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit or patriolism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most en-gross us are lifted far above either par-tisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of na-tional obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen, to what-ever party he belongs, or in whatever sec-tion of the country he may reside. The extra session of this congress, which

closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and, while its full effects have not been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required, and the people, satisfied with its operation and re-sults thus far, are in no mind to withhold

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Secessity of Putting Our Finances I pon a Sound Basis.

Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress; the question next preasing for consisteration is that of the currency. The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear when we recall the financial operation of the government since 1898. On the 30th day of June of since 1838. On the 36th day of June of that year, we had outstanding demand habilities in the sum of \$738,588,447 \$1. On the 181 day of July, 1379, these habilities had been reduced to \$443,889,455 \$8. Of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking. On July, 1852, the principal of the interest-bearing debt of the government was \$2,332,331,208. On the 18t day of July, 1888, this sum had been reduced to \$585,677,109, or an aggregate reduced to \$585,677,109, or an aggregate reduced to \$585,677,109, or an aggregate reduced to \$17,77,294,088. The interest-bearing debt of the United States on the 18t day of December 10 consists of \$465,681,016 of United States notes; \$167,73,290 of treasury notes lessed by authority of of treasury noise issued by matherity of the act of 1890; \$034,000,504 of siver e-rim-cates and \$61,280,761 of standard silver

the great resources of the government and with the time-honored example of the past before us, we should not hesi-tate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations less onerous to the government and reour financial laws f.om ambiguity

The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war until 1893 makes unreasonable and groundless any district either of our financial abil ity or soundness; while the situation from 1893 to 1897 must admental congress of the immediate necessity for so legislating as to make the return of the conditions then prevailing impossible.

There are many plans proposed as a

the true remedy we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the govern-ment's pledge is out to keep it so, and that piedge will not be broken. How-ever, the guaranty of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advance ing toward 'is fulfillment.

Evil of the Present System

The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money: that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, given under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not nly an expensive charge upon the goverament, but a dangerous menace to the national credit.

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government agains bond issues for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or the gold reserve for their re. We have \$900,000,000 of currency which the government, by solemn enacundertaken to keep at par with Nobody is obliged to gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The govold all its outstanding currency and colt igations, while its receipts are not reired to be paid in gold. every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can, with certainty, get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it. The government without any fixed gold revenue is pledged to maintain gold redemption, which it has steadily and faithfully done, and which, under the authority now given, it will continue to do. The law which requires the government having redeemed its notes, to pay them out again as current funds demai

a constant replenishment of the gold re-serve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of government. At such times the govern-ment has no other way to supply its deflelt and maintain redemption but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when \$262,315,400 of 4½ per cent bonds were issued and sold and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the govern-ment in excess of the revenues and sustain the gold reserve. While it is true tha the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was require

to maintain the gold reserve. Replenishing the Gold Reserve. With our revenues equal to our expenses there would be no deficit requiring the is-suance of bonds. But if the gold reserve below \$100,000,000, how will it be re plenished except by selling more bonds? Is there any other way practicable under existing law? The serious question then is, Shall we continue the policy that has been pursued in the past—that is, when the gold reserve reaches the point of danger, issue more bonds and supply the needed gold-or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the gold reserve? If no further legislation

ance that the government should be re-lieved from the business of providing for all the gold required for exchange or export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the al and necessary banking powers to p itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of se-curity. This ought to be stopped. If we are to have an era of prosperity

in the country with sufficient receipts for the expenses of the government, we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency; but the danger still exists, and will be ever present, menacing us as long as the existing system con-tinues. And, besides, it is in times of adequate revenues and business tranquility that the government should pre-pare for the worst. We cannot avoid, without serious consequences, the wise consideration and prompt solution of this Plan of Secretary Gage.

The secretary of the treasury has outpose of removing threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and saving us from future embarrassment on that ac-count. To this plan I invite your careful consideration. I concur with the sec-retary of the treasury in his recommenda-tion that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of the bonds which they deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulation notes, secured by the deposit of such bonds, be reduced to one-half of one per cent per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the set-blickment of national banks with

the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be sup-plied with currency to meet their de-mands. I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of \$10 and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress, then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

CUBA AND SPAIN.

Attitude of the Administration in the Present Rebellion, The most important problem with which this country is now called upon to deal, that pertaining to its foreign rela-tions, concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have confronted this government at various times in the past, The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward the larger enjoyment of liberty and self-control; of organized resistance to the mother country; or oppres-sion and warfare and of ineffectual settlement to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental pos-sessions of Spain in the Western continext has the condition of Cuba or the

policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused concern to the United States, concern to the United States.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold upon the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of Cuba to a continental power called forth, between 1823 and 1869, various emphatic declara-tions of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain unless in the direction of independence or acquisition by the United States through nurchase, nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upor the part of this government.

The revolution which began in 1888 Inter revolution which began in 1886 hasted for 10 years, despite the strenuous efforts of the successive peninsular governments to suppress it. Then, as now, the government of the United States testified its grave concern and offered its aid to put an end to bloodshed in Cuba. The overtures mode by General Grant ware overtures made by General Grant were refused, and the war dragged on, entall-ing great loss of life and treasure, and increased injury to American interests. besides throwing enhanced burdens of neutrality upon this government. In 1878, peace was brought about by the truce of Zanjon, obtained by negotiations be-tween the Spanish commander, Martinez de Campos, and the insurgent leaders.

Civilized Code of War Disregarded. The present insurrection broke out in February, 1865. It is not my purpose, at this time, to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue it carried destruction to every quarter of the Island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code of war has been disregarded, no less so by the Spaniards than by the Cubans. The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the Ameri-can people with the gravest apprehen-sion. There is no desire on the part of sion. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure* of self-control which is the inallenable right of man, protected in their right to reap the bene-fit of the exhaustless treasures of their

country.

The offer made by my predecessor, in April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of this government, failed, and media-tion on our part was not accepted. In brief, the answer read: There is no ef-fectual way to pacify Cuba, unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother country. Then only rebels to the mother country. Then only can Spain act in the promised direction of her own motion and after her own

Concentration Is Extermination. The cruel policy of concentration was nitiated February 16, 1896. The producinitiated February is, 1898. The productive districts controlled by the Spanish armies were depopulated and the agricultural inhabitants were herded in and about the garrison towns, their lands laid waste and their dwellings destroyed. This policy the late cabinet of Spain justified necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the

It has utterly failed as a war measure. It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination.

Against this abuse of the rights of war

Against this abuse of the rights of warI have felt constrained, on repeated occasions, to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government. There was much
of public condemnation of the treatment
of American citizens by alleged illegal arrests and long imprisonment awaiting
trial of pending protracted judicial pro-

continuance of this state of things, it was stated that at this juncture our government was constrained to seriously inquire if the time was not ripe when Spain, of her own volition, moved by her own interests and every sentiment of humanity, should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of extlement hours, and make proposals of extlement hours. should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and fust to her Cuban colony. It was urged that, as a nelshboring nation with large interests in Cuba, we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother country to establish its authority and restore peace and order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate an indefinite period for the accompilishment.

Thing as a naked recognition of belligeration of belligeration of belligeration of constants of the samples of the sample

slightest idea of humiliation to Spain ternational obligation of a neutral in the could attach. All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be warns all citizens and others within the pected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored. It so chanced that the consideration of this offer, addressed to the Spanish administration, which had declined the tenders of my predecessor and which for more than two years had pouted more treasure into Cuba in the fruitless effort to suppress the revoit, fell to others. Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival in Smaln the statesman who had shaped in Spain, the statesman who had shaped the policy of his country fell by the hand of an assassin, and although the cabinet of the late premier still held office and received from our envoy the proposals he bore, that cabinet gave place, within a few days thereafter, to a new administration under the leadership of Sagasta. Spain's Friendly Reply.

The reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direction of a better understanding. It appreciates the friendly proposals of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba and that our desires for peace are just. It de-clares that the present Spanish government is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end, Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms hereiofore advocated by the present tremple without balling for any conent premier, without halting for any con-sideration in the path which, in its judg-

ment, leads to peace.

The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights. being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba, while guarding Spanish sovereignty. This, it is claimed, will result in investing Cuba with a distinct personality, the island to be governed by an executive and by a local council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and navy and the judicial adminis-

To accomplish this, the present government proposes to modify existing legis-lation by decree, leaving the Spanish cortes, with the ald of Cuban senators lems and properly distribute the existing

Give Spain a Chance,

In the absence of a declaration of the measures that this government proposes to take in carrying out its proffer of good offices, it suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant olitical reforms, walle the United States for its part, shall enforce its neutral obli-gations, and cut off the assistance which it is asserted, the insurgents receive from this country. The supposition of definite prolongation of the war nied. It is asserted that the W Western ices are already well-nighed; that the planting of cane chacco therein has been resumed and that by force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacifi

The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted, and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion or any change of attitude on the part of

the United States.
Discussion of the question of international duties and responsibilities of the United States as Spain understands them, is presented with an apparent disposition to charge us with failure in this regard. This charge is without any basis in fact. could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant effort this government has made, at the cost of milns and by the employment of the administrative machinery at the national command, to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has accessfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vesse from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient answer. But on this aspect of the Spanish note it is not necessary to speak further now. Firm in the conviction of a wholly per-formed obligation, due response to this charge has been made in diplomatic issues. Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace, this government has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to lt-self the determination of its policy and course, according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own peo-ple, should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

Of the untried measures there remain Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war

by imposing a rational compromise be-tween the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party."

Not a Question of Annexation. speak not of foreible annexation, for code of morality, would be criminal ag-gression. Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has often been canvassed as a possible if not inevitable step, both in regard to the previous 10 years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unmindful that the two houses of congress, in the spring of 1896, expressed the opinion, by concurrent resolution, that a condition of public war existed requiring or justifying the recogni-tion of a state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which, however, was not brought to a vote in the house. In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentinent of the legislative branch, it behooves the executive soberly to consider the con-ditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification.

is had and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then congress should give the scoredary of the treasury authority to seel bonds at long or short periods, bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law, I carnestly recommend, as now and the recipits of the government, as now authorized by law, I carnestly recommend, as now and the recipits of the government, as now and the recipits of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for re-demption ingold and are redecemed ingoid, such notes shall be kept and only paid out, is fife, effective aid, has been given to district the holder of the United States note without paying gold in exchange for gold. This is an obvious district the light of the light progress was sought in a special measured to the United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made call the more apparent when the government as the region of the structions given to our new minimum and for gold. It is sounded to the carnest the region of the properties of the structions given to our new minimum and the government and the recognition of bedience in the second of the conduct of the war not continued to the conduct of the war are not less important factor toward the determination of the content of the government and the recognition of the content of the conduct of the war are not less important factors toward the determination of the conduct of the war are not as important the conduct of the war are not less important that the conduct of the war are not less important that the conduct

indefinite period for the accomplishment condition of beligerency as its motive. It announces a domestic law of neutrality in the declaring state. It assumes the inslightest idea of hamiliation to the declaring state. It assumes the inslightest idea of hamiliation to the declaring state. presence of a public state of war. It of Colorado: Hon. Adiai E. Stevenson, of warns all citizens and others within the lilinois, and Hon. Charles J. Payne, jurisdiction of the claimant that they vio- of Massachusetts, as special envoys to late those rigorous obligations at their own peril and cannot expect so be shield-ed from the consequence. The right of visit and search and selzure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war un-der admiralty law must under international law be admitted as a legitimate consequence of a proclamation of beiliger-ency. White according equal beligerent rights, defined by public law, to each parrights, defined by public law, to each party in our ports, disfavor would be impossible to both, which, while nominally equal, would weigh heavily in behalf of Spain herself. Possessing a navy and claiming the ports of Cuba, her maritime rights could be asserted not only for the military investment of the island, but up to the marrin of our own terribut up to the margin of our own terri-torial waters, and a condition of things would exist for which the Cubans could not hope to create a parallel; while aid from within our domain would be eyen more impossible than now, with the additional obligation of International neutrality

which we would perforce assume. Will Intervene When Necessary. Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense, ourselves, actuated only by up-right and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be chonorable and enduring. If it shall hereafter be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to the doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possibility of maintaining the stability of the metals and kinured questions may yet be solved by further negotiations.

Meanwhile, it gives me satisfaction to district the special envoys have not a superior of the doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possibility of maintaining the stability of the metals and kinured questions. intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world.

ANNEXATION OF HAWAII, Urges the Senate to Accomplish the

Union By a special message dated the 16th day of June last, I laid before the senate of the United States a treaty, signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, hav-ing for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian islands as an integral part of the United States and under its sov ereignty. The senate having removed the injunction of secrecy, although the treaty is still pending before that body, the subject may be properly referred to in this message, as the necessary action of congress is required to determine by legislation many details of the eventual union, should the fact of annexation be accomplished, as I believe it should be. While consistently disavowing from a very early period any nggressive policy absorption in regard to the Hawalian group, a long series of discussion through three-quarters of a century has proclaimed the vital interest of the United States in the independent life of the islands and their intimate commercial dependency upon this country. At the sam time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the entity of Hawaiian statchood cease by the passage of the islands under the domination or influence of another power than the United States, Under these circumstances the logic of events required that annexation, befor ness of time, come about as the natural result of strengthening the ties that bind as to those islands and be released by the free will of the Hawalian state.

That treaty was unanimously ratified without amendment by the senate and president of the republic of Hawaii on the 19th of September last, and only awaits the favorable action of the American senate to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domains of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be the political relation thereof to the United States, the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the in habitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar condition hereof, the regulation and needs of labor

If the treaty is confirmed, as every conavoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the nighest franchises of citizenship, and having due regard to the geographical conditions, the just provisions for self-rule in local matters with the largest political liberties as an integral part of our nation

will be accorded to the Hawalians.

No less is due to a people who after nearly five years of demonstrated capacity to fulfill the obligations of self-govern-ing statehood, come of their free will to merge their destinles in our body politic.

CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES. Representation of Our Government in the Greater Republic.

As to the representative of this government to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, I have concluded that Mr, William L. Merry, confirmed as minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, and there temporarily establish the headquarters of the United States to those three states. I took this action for what I regarded as the paramount interests of this country. It was developed, upon an investigation by the secretary of state, that the government of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to re-ceive Mr. Merry in his diplomatic capac-ity, was unable to do so on account of the compact concluded June 20, 1895, whereby that republic and those of Salvador and Honduras, forming what is known as the Greater Republic of Central America, had surrendered to the representative

mations authorized by the act approved March 2, 1885, in regard to the proper route, feasibility and cost of construction of the Nicaragua canale, the a view of making complete plans for the entire work of construction of such canal," is now employed in the undertaking. In the future I shall take occasion of transmit

gress approved March 3, 1837, for the pro-motion of an international agreement re-specting bimetalism. I appointed, on April 14, 1897, Hon. Edward O. Wolcott,

represent the United States. They have been diligent in their effort to secure the concurrence and co-operation of Euro-pean countries in the international settlement of the question, but up to this time have not been able to secure an agreement contemplated by their mission. The gratifying action of our great sister republic of France in joining this country in the attempt to bring about the agreement between the principal commercial nations of Europe, whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assurance, that we are not alone among the larger mations of the world in realizing the international character of the prob-lem and in the desire of reaching some wise and practical solution of it.

The British government has published a resume of the steps taken jointly by the French ambassador in London and the special envoys of the United States, with whom our ambassador in London actively co-operated in the presentation of this subject to her majesty's government. This will be laid before congress. Our special envoys have not made their final report, as further negotiations between the repas further negotiations between the rep-resentatives of this government and the governments of other countries are pend-ing and in contemplation. They believe that the doubts which have been raised

state that the special envoys have ul-ready demonstrated their ability and fit-ness to deal with the subject, and it is to be earnestly hoped that their labors may result in an international agreemen which will bring about recognition o both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of both metals upon a any class of citizens.

RECIPROCITY.

Negotiations Pending With European and American Governments. In order to execute as early as possible the provisions of the third and fourth secthe provisions of the third and fourth sec-tions of the revenue act approved July 24, 1897. I appointed the Hon, John A. Kasson, of Iowa, a special commissioner plenipotentiary to undertake the requi-site negotiations with foreign countries desiring to avail themselves of these pro-visions. The negotiations are now proceed-ing with several governments, both Euroean and American. It is believed that ferred by that act, some grievances, of our own and of other countries in mutual trade relations may be either re-moved or largely alleviated, and that the olume of our commercial exchanges may enlarged with advantage to both contracting parties.

THE MERCHANT MARINE. Government Should Foster This

Languishing Industry. Most desirable from every standpoint of national interest and patriotism is the effort to extend our foreign commerce. To this end our merchant marine should be improved and enlarged. We should do our full share of the carrying trade of the world. We do not do it now. We should not be laggard any longer. The inferiority of our merchant marine is justly humiliating to the national pride. The government, by every proper constitutional means, should aid in making our ships familiar visitors at every commercial port of the world, thus opening up new and valuable markets to the surplus products. of the farm and factory,

SEALING QUESTION.

Negotiations in Progress for Preservation of the Herds.

The efforts which have been made during the two previous administrations by my predecessors to secure better protec-tion to the fur seals in the North Pa-cific ocean and Behring sea were renewed at an early date by this administration. and have been pursued with earnestness. Upon my invitation, the governments of Russia and Japan sent delegates to Washington, and an international conference was held during the months of October and November last, wherein it was unanimously agreed that under the existing regulations this species of useful animals was threatened with extinction and that an international agreement of all interested powers was necessary for their adequate protection.

The government of Great Britain did not see proper to be represented at this conference. conference, but subsequently sent to Washington as delegates the expert com-missioners of Great Britain and Canada, who had during the past two years visited the Pribyloff islands, and who met in conference similar commissioners on the of the United States. The result of conference was an agreement on the important facts connected with the condi-tion of the seal fierd heretofore in dis-pute, which should place beyond contro-versy the duty of the governments con-cerned to adopt measures without delay for the preservation and restoration of the herds. Negotiations to this end are now progress, the result of which I hope be able to report to congress at an early day.

NEEDS OF ALASKA. Existing Conditions Demand Change in the Laws.

The territory of Alaska requires the prompt and early attention of congress. The conditions now existing demand a material change in the laws relating to the territory. The great influx of popula-

tion during the past summer and fall and tion during the past summer and fall and the prospect of a still larger immigra-tion in the spring will not permit us to longer neglect the extension of civil au-thority within the territory or postpone the establishment of a more thorough government. A general system of public surveys has not yet been extended to Alaska, and all entries thus far made in that district are upon special surveys. The act of congress extending to Alaska the mining laws of the United States contained the reservation that it should not be construed to put in force the general and laws of the country. By an act approved March 3, 1891, au-

By an act approved March 3, 1891, authority was given for entry of lands for townsite purposes, and also for the purchase of not exceeding 160 acres then or thereafter occupied for purposes of trade and manufacture. The purpose of congress, as thus far expressed, has been that only such rights should apply to the territory as should be specifically named. It will be seen how much remains to be done for that vast, remote, and yet promising por-

be seen how much remains to be done for that vast, remote, and yet promising portions of our country.

Special authority was given to the president by the act approved July 24, 187, to divide that territory inditive land districts, and to designate the boundaries thereof, and to appoint registers and receivers of said land offices, and the president was also authorized to appoint a surveyor-general for the entire-grantict. Pursuant to this authority, a suffeyor-general and receivers awe been appointed, with offices at Sikka. If in the ensuing year the conditions justify it, the additional land district authorized by law will be established with an office as some point in the Yukon valley. No appropriation, however, was made for this purpose, and that is now necessary to be done.

I concur with the secretary of war in his suggestions as to the necessity for a military force in the territory of Alaska for the protection of persons and property. Already a small force consisting of 5 men and two officers, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Randall, of the Eighth Infantry, has been sent to St. Michaels to establish a military post. As it is to the interest of the government to encourage the development of the country and its duty to follow up its citizens there with the benefits of legal machinery. I earnestly urge upon congress the establishment of a system of government of such flexibility as will enable it to adjust itself in the future to the needs attendant upon a greater population.

Relief for Starving Klondikers. The startling though possibly exag-gerated reports from the Yukon river country of the probable shortage of food for the large number of people who are wintering there without the means of leav-ing the country, are confirmed in such measure as to justify bringing the matter to the attention of congress. Access to that country this winter can be had only by the passes from Dyea and vicinity. which is a most difficult and perhaps im possible task. However, should these re-ports of the suffering of our fellow-citi-zens be further verified, every effort at any cost should be made to carry them

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The acceptance by this government of the invitation of the republic of France to participate in the universal exposition of 1900 at Paris was immediately followed by the appointment of a special commis-sioner to represent the United States in the proposed exposition with special ref-erence to the securing of space for an ad-equate exhibit on behalf of the United States.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

with the right of self-government and the deep silence which followed the the exclusion of all white persons from calling of the assemblage to order, within their borders, have undergone so omplete a change as to render the contin uance of the system thus inaugurated practically impossible. The total number of the five civilized tribes, as shown by the last census, is 45,484, and this number has not materially increased, while the white population is estimated at from 200,000 to 250,000, which, by permission of the Indian government, has settled in the territory. The present area of the Indian territory is 25,564,546 acres, much of which is very fertile land. The United States citizens residing in the territory, most of

whom have gone there by invitation or with the consent of the tribal authorities, have made permanent homes for them-

selves. Numerous towns have been built.

in which from 1000 to 5000 white people now reside. THE CIVIL SERVICE. Room for Further Improvement,

Which Will Be Made. The important branch of our govern-ment known as the civil service, the practical improvement of which has long been a subject of earnest discussion, has of late years received increased legislative and executive approval. During the past few months, the service has been placed on a still firmer basis of business methods and personal merit. While the right of our veteran soldiers to reinstatement in deserving cases has been asserted, dis-missals for merely political reasons have been carefully guarded against, the examinations for admittance to the service enlarged and at the same time rendered less technical and more practical, and a distinct advance has been made by giving a hearing before dismissal upon all cases where incompetency is charged or a de-mand is made for removal of officials in

any of the departments.

This order has been made to give the accused his right to be heard without in any way impairing the power of removal, is one of the safeguards of the civil seremploye keenly alive to the fact that se-curity of tenure depends not on favor, but on his own tested and care tally watched record of service. Much of course, still remains to be accompl before the system can be made reaso perfect for our needs. There are now in the classified service which to be exempted and others unclassified may properly be included. I shall not be a itate to exempt cases which I think been improperly included in the cia service or include those which, in the vice. The system has the approver people and it will be my endoavor their and extend it.

I am forced by the least of the

sage to omit many important refer to affairs of the government with congress will have to deal at the me session. They are fully discussed in departmental reports to all of the I invite your earnest attention.

The estimates of the expenses of the government by the several departments should have your careful scrutiny. While congress may find it an easy task to duce the expenses of the government, should not encourage their increase These expenses will, in my judgment admit of a decrease in many branches of the government without injury to the public service. It is a commanding duty to keep the appropriations within the re-celpts of the government and thus prevent a deficit. WILLIAM McKINLEY.

Executive Mansian, Dec. 6, 1897.

AGAIN IN SESSION.

first Regular Meeting of the Fifty-Fifth Congress.

At noon Monday the first regular sesion of the 55th congress was hunched ipon the unknown seas of legislation. Simultaneously at both ends of the captol. Speaker Reed in the house and Vice-President Hobart in the senate, iropped their gavels and called to orler the bodies over which they preside. The sun shone brightly from a cloudless sky, making a glorious bright December day, with a tine of frost in the air, and a breeze just strong enough to keep the stars and stripes snapping from the flagstaffs.

At the capitol crowds swarmed into the corridors at an early hour and shoked the marine steps as they ascended to the galleries from which they were to view the show. As is usual on such occasions, the reserved galleries were carefully guarded, admission being only by card, and the public had great difficulty wedging itself into the limited space set aside for it.

In the Upper House.

The senate chamber at the opening session was a veritable conservatory. The floral display was beautiful. Prerisely at 12 o'clock the gavel of Vice-President Hobart fell, and the senate was called to order. An invocation was delivered by Rev. Milburn, the blind chaplain. Seventy-seven senators responded on roll-call.

The venerable Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, was first recognized by the vicepresident. He offered a resolution, which was passed, in the usual form, that the secretary inform the house that the senate was in session and

ready to proceed to business. Allison of Iowa presented a resolution that a committee of two senators be appointed to join a like committee from the house to inform the president that congress was in session, and prepared to receive any communication he might desire to make. The resolution was passed, and the vice-president named Allison and Gorman as a senate

ommittee. By resolution of Callom of Illinois, the time of the daily meetings of the senate was fixed at noon. On motion of Hale of Maine, a recess was then taken until 1 o'clock.

At 1:30 the senate reassembled and the committee, headed by Gorman, reported. The president's message was presented by Mr. Pruden at 1:30 o'clock, and was laid before the senate

In the Lower House.

The house of representatives presented an animated appearance long before noon. The surrounding corridors were filled with jostling, moving crowds before 11 o'clock. The galleries which overlook the floor were black with people. Floral tributes for members were numerous, and in some instances imposing.

As the hands of the clock pointed to New Regulations for Five Civilised 13 Speaker Reed, attired in a black cutaway coat, and wearing a red tie For a number of years it has been apparent that the condition of the five civilized tribes in the Indian territory under treaty provisions with the United States. In the deep silence which followed the prayer was offered by the eminent divine, Rev. Chalres A. Boney, of England, who delivered an invocation

solemn and impressive. The speaker then directed the clerk to call the roll. The roll call showed the presence of 301 members. There were 55 vacancies from death or resignation during the recess, and the credentials of the members-elect were read by direction of the speaker, who then administered the oath of office to them. On motion of Dingley a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a committee of three to join the senate committee to wait upon the president and inform him that congress was ready to receive any communication he desired to make. The speaker named Dingley, Grosvenor and Bailey for this honor. On motion of Henderson of Iowa daily sessions to begin at noon each day were ordered. The house then took a short

When the house reassembled the committee appointed to wait upon the president reported, having perfected its mission. Mr. Pruden, who had followed the committee into the hall, immediately presented the message, white by direction of the speaker, was read the clerk's desk.

Appropriations Recommended,

Secretary Gage Monday transmitted to congress estimates of the appropriations required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, as furnished by several executive departments. The total amount called for in the estimates is \$462,647,885, which is about \$32,000,-000 in excess of the appropriations for 1898, including deficiencies and miscellaneous expenses, and about \$41,000,-000 more than was estimated for 1898. Under the head of public works the treasury department, among other items, asks for \$100,000 for the erection of a courthouse, penitentiary, etc., at Sitka, Alaska, and \$50,000 for continuation of the work on the public building at Portland, Or.

Hayti Ready to Pay.

A dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung of Berlin from Washington says Hayti is ready to pay Germany the in-demnity demanded for the alleged illegal arrest and imprisonment of Herr Emil Lueders, a German subject.

Fire broke ou asleep in the hostlery at the Charles Patterson, a dock laborer, lost his life, being overcome by smoke, and five others were injured. The pe-

Anti-Hebrew Riot Quelled. An anti-Hebrew rlot which starte in Budapesth has finally been quelled by the volice who made 100 arre

cuniary loss is small.

mar-peen fu-ref-the