

upon your immediate consideration the state of the Union as shown in the present condition of our treasury, and our general fiscal situation, upon which every element of our safety and prosperity depends. The reports of the heads of departments, which will be submitted contain full and explicit information touching the transactions of the business entrusted to them, and such recommendations relating to legislation in the public interest as they deem advisable. I ask for these reports and recommendations the deliberate examination and action of the legislative branch of the government.

There are other subjects not embraced in the departmental reports demanding legislative consideration, and which I should be glad to submit: Some of them, however, have been earnestly presented in previous messages, and as to them I beg leave to repeat prior recommendations.

As the law makes no provision for any report from the department of state, a brief history of the transactions of that important department, together with other matters which it may hereafter be deemed essential to commend to the attention of congress, may furnish the occasion for a future communication.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Washington, D. C. Dec. 6, 1887.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report of the Secretary. A Number of Recommendations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The annual report of the secretary of war shows that expenditures of the department during the fiscal year amount to \$41,386,165. The estimates for the next fiscal year aggregate \$63,338,710, against an appropriation for the current year of \$31,655,302. The increase is caused by the incorporation of estimates of \$23,389,151 for public works, including river and harbor improvements, the expenditures of this account for the current year amounting to only \$1,308,409.

The secretary says: "The estimates for military establishment are based on the actual requirements of the service. During the recent years the appropriation for transportation of the army has been inadequate to meet the cost thereof, and the failure to appropriate funds for that service has caused much embarrassment."

The secretary refers to Gen. Schofield's recommendation that at least one eight-inch muzzle-loading gun, with appliances for breech practice, and one or more new breech-loading guns and mortars, be furnished each military post, with a view to improvement in artillery instruction.

THE INDIANS.

Touching Geronimo and his fellow-captives, now confined at the Fort Pickens and Mount Vernon barracks, the report says that at this time it is a difficult matter to find for them a permanent home for many reasons. It is impossible to return them to Arizona. Under the existing laws they cannot be taken to Indian Territory, and on the northern reservations the climate is too cold for them.

The report refers briefly to the difficulty in August last in Colorado between the state authorities and Colorado's bands of Utes, and says an effort should be made for restoration of this property to the Indians.

This report approves a recommendation in Gen. Sheridan's report touching the extension of all possible aid by the general government to the national guard of the different states, and suggesting a system of national encampments for state militia, at the expense of the national government.

PAY DEPARTMENT DISPUTES.

In reference to the pay department of the army, the report says: There is frequently clashing of authority between the war and the treasury departments in regard to payments directed by the former. To the great embarrassment of the disbursing officer, accounts are disallowed. The disallowance of payments made by and under such authority works great hardship to the disbursing officer, as on one hand he is confronted with a charge of disobedience, and on the other assuming a liability for which either he or his securities will be held pecuniarily responsible. In order to prevent this I recommend that the powers of the respective departments be clearly defined by legislative act.

Copious quotations are made from the report of the chief of ordnance relative to the success of the domestic manufacturers in producing high grade steel, and the advisability of increased appropriations for the supply of ordnance for experiments with dynamite torpedo guns and those now in progress with shells charged with high explosives, fired by means of gun-powder.

In concluding his report the secretary says: The result of the examination for promotion under the civil service regulations, which were applied to the war department in May, was satisfactory. The total number of clerks examined was 1044, of which 963, or 90 per cent., passed.

"I renew the recommendation contained in my previous reports, and in those of my predecessor, for the appointment of an assistant secretary of war and an assistant attorney general to advise and assist in legal and technical questions which daily occur."

THE PACIFIC COAST'S WANTS.

Attention is called to the fact that the Pacific coast is destitute of fortifications,

guns and armaments of every description, while San Francisco is without a single gun that can be fired with safety with the present charges of powder and modern projectiles.

Favorable endorsement is also given to the lieutenant-general's recommendation that the present strength of the army be increased by 5000 men, and particular attention is called to importance of increase of the artillery service, and also certain changes in the present organization of artillery regiments.

The secretary suggests that the number of court martial trials can be much reduced if provision be made for punishment of minor offenses without summoning court martial, as indicated in the annual report of '86.

The secretary renews his recommendation in regard to the enactment of laws for punishment of civilian witnesses who refuse to testify, for authority to secure the assistance of civilians and police officers in arresting and holding deserters, and for revision of the articles of war which have remained unaltered here, while in England and elsewhere the military codes have been modified in accordance with the requirements of modern times.

The secretary recommends legislation regulating and making uniform punishment that may be inflicted by court martials, defining the application of the statute of limitations in the case of deserters, and fixing the liability of minors to military jurisdiction after enlistment.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Many Reforms Recommended—A National Penitentiary.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The annual report of Attorney-General Garland gives a full account of the business of the department during the fiscal year. The number of ordinary suits now pending in the court of claims is 1110, involving the sum of \$13,250,000. The number of cases filed under the Bowman act is 1810 involving about \$50,000,000. Petitions filed in the French spoliation cases number 5560, representing 2486 vessels and about \$30,000,000.

During the fiscal year 1777 civil suits were terminated; 922 judgments were for defendants, 703 were dismissed, 26 were appealed to the circuit court, and 24 to the supreme court. During the year there were 13,907 criminal prosecutions, mostly for violations of the customs and internal revenue laws.

The attorney-general calls attention to the suggestions and recommendations made in his last annual report in regard to matters calling for remedial legislation, and again urges the necessity of immediate action thereon. These subjects are as follows: Fees of marshals in territories; pay of deputy marshals in territories; pay of deputy marshals, revision of the fee bill, substitution of the fiscal for the calendar year, protection to civil officers and witnesses, fees of witnesses and jurors, and criminal procedure, perjury and juries in the District of Columbia. In regard to the confinement and treatment of United States prisoners the attorney-general says he is more than ever convinced of the absolute need of a government penitentiary and reformatory. He also calls attention to the necessity for additional legislation for restoring and preserving court records, and makes an urgent appeal in behalf of certain changes in the judicial system of the country.

The attorney-general urges an appropriation for the erection, on ground adjacent to the department of justice, of a suitable building for the accommodation of the supreme court and other courts and commissioners of the United States. He also asks that congress provide for furnishing portraits of the judges of the supreme court to adorn the chambers of that court. Attention is also invited to the necessity of extending the jurisdiction of the federal courts to crimes committed upon American vessels navigating the great lakes. Congress is urged to take some action for settlement of outstanding claims of witnesses and jurors for services during and prior to the year 1885.

NO PASSES FOR U. S. MARSHALS.

The attorney-general says increased expenses in the service of process has been the experience of the department since the passage of the interstate commerce bill. Prior to the passage of that bill marshals were furnished with free transportation over the various lines of railways, while in the service of process. Since that date, however, no free transportation is furnished, and the railways charge a mileage greater than the fees allowed the marshal for his travel in such service.

The attorney-general in closing his report devotes a chapter to consideration of the French spoliation act. He says: "The difficulty of the questions involved suggests the necessity of a vigilant and honest judicial investigation. I therefore recommend the passage of an act amending the act of January 30, 1885, which shall confer authority upon the court of claims to render judgment in cases provided for by the act, instead of reporting their conclusions to congress, as now required to do, and to grant either party, government or claimant, the right of appeal to the supreme court of the United States. From the decision of the court of claims on a suit filed under the act of 1885 it is not probable that either government or claimant will find it necessary to resort to appeals in more than a few cases, but as the law stands now no appeal can be taken by either party."

SEMPLER'S MESSAGE.

The Governor of Washington to the Territorial Legislature.

FINANCES OF THE TERRITORY.

Review of the General Conditions of the Territory and Necessities of Its Government. Recommendations.

OLYMPIA, Dec. 6.—Following is the message of Gov. Eugene Semple to the territorial legislature:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to greet you, the representatives of the people, to welcome you to the Capital City and to wish you good fortune in your deliberations.

Delegated by the people to assemble here and consider the affairs of the commonwealth, you have in your hands the power to advance or retard the happiness and prosperity of your constituents, and I feel assured that feeling a due sense of the great responsibility you will give conscientious thought and laborious attention to the trust.

CONDITION OF THE TERRITORY.

During the past summer and autumn I have visited nearly every part of the jurisdiction and have endeavored to ascertain what were the wishes of the people. I found at every point evidences of thrift and prosperity. I saw not only boundless and various natural resources, but a population of bright and active men and women, who are well calculated to develop those resources and make Washington one of the richest and greatest states of the American Union. I also saw that side by side with material progress the people were paying due regard to moral and intellectual advancement, as evidenced by churches, academies and common schools, not only in the cities, but in the villages and beside the country roads. Harmony and good feeling seemed to prevail and the people everywhere take pride in the commonwealth and place its welfare above their private interests. With such factors the events of the future will so far exceed the events of the past, period for period, as will be beyond our comprehension. Our various climates and the endless list of our natural resources will enable us to ultimately make the boast that there will be no blank in the census returns.

I have endeavored to make a detailed exhibit of the resources of the territory in my annual report to the interior department, but owing to the lax methods of taking our census and the defective laws governing assessment returns the exhibit was not what I hoped it would be. I suggest that it would be well to amend the laws so as to provide for a better service in taking the census. In addition to the enumeration of the inhabitants, returns should be made of the number of live stock, the cereal products, the hay crop, and other items usually included in a census. I hope to be able to lay printed copies of the report to the interior department before you before the session has far progressed.

FINANCES.

I submit herewith the report of the territorial auditor and territorial treasurer, which together exhibit the financial condition of the territory at the present time. It will be seen by the report of the auditor that the territory is in debt for the first time in ten years, and that the indebtedness is greater than at any previous time in its history. At the close of the biennial period there was a cash surplus in the treasury of over \$80,000, and at the close of that period under consideration there is a deficiency of \$75,000. The estimates for the next biennial period for all items including liquidation of the present indebtedness is \$345,000. The estimates made by other officers, however, for the particular institutions under their charge, exceed the estimate made by the auditor for the same purposes by an aggregate of \$70,000, which added to the total estimate of the auditor makes a grand total of \$415,000. These estimates should all be closely scrutinized, but should not be scaled to a point affecting their usefulness. This enlightened people will expect you to exercise such prudence only as a man of judgment would use in his own affairs, which is to practice that degree of true economy in expenditures, which while strictly avoiding extravagance, will keep every branch of the public service up to the highest degree of efficiency. The debt is insignificant compared with our present wealth and population, and it would be better to let it stand than to stint the public institutions in the interest of its immediate payment.

It must be borne in mind, in considering the present indebtedness, that we have two very fine public buildings—the hospital for the insane and the Walla Walla penitentiary, both of which were urgently needed, in place of the cash. It must also be borne in mind in considering the means of replenishing the treasury that the cost of these public buildings is greater than the surplus of two years ago and the present indebtedness combined.

In order to adjust our income to meet the ends required, it will be necessary to make changes in the revenue laws, and I earnestly commend your honorable body carefully to consider the valuable suggestions of the auditor in that regard.

PENITENTIARY.

The reports of the penitentiary building commissioners and the superintendent of that institution will exhibit the matters of which they treat. Detailed statements are furnished in regard to the cost of the new buildings at Walla Walla, and estimates for further improvements are submitted.

Laws creating offices for the institution and rules for its government will have to be formulated at this session, as at present they only exist by virtue of an executive order under color of law.

The prison has been supported from the

date of its occupancy by private enterprise, and while I do not think the precedent a good one to follow, it appears in this instance to have resulted in a saving to the treasury. The number of convicts in the State prison at the date of the removal to Walla Walla was 91, and the number in confinement at the end of the fiscal year was 103. The cost per diem per capita for maintaining these, according to the report of the Superintendent, is much less than the price allowed the contractors at the old prison. I send you herewith the reports of the officers alluded to.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

I hand you the report of the Trustees of the Hospital for the insane, at Stella om, in which is included the reports of the building commissioners, the superintendent, the accountant and steward, and the supervising architect. These different reports, bound under one cover, will give you very full information on the subject of which they treat. It will be seen that the result of the expenditure of the appropriation of two years ago is a public building of imposing appearance and supplied with modern conveniences for the comfort, health and safety of the unfortunate of the class of the insane and idiotic. I call your attention to the recommendations made in the reports referred to, which are full and particular.

TERRITORIAL UNIVERSITY.

The report of the board of regents of the Territorial University, which is herewith submitted will be found to contain full information in regard to the condition and needs of that institution. The blank in paragraph 2, page 30, of the pamphlet, should be filled by the insertion of '189', as shown by the letter of transmittal of the treasurer's report in the appendix.

I call your attention to the remarks of the regents on university lands. Every step that appears necessary to protect any of the lands granted for educational purpose should be taken, for these lands are the most valuable heritage of the people.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

The report of the superintendent of common schools shows that there were 47,431 children of school age during the past year, that four and one-half months of school were taught on an average in each district. The amount of money expended was \$295,365. There are 136 teachers now in the territory. This report, which will be laid on your desks, is replete with information in regard to past and present history of our schools and is worthy of careful perusal. The common schools of the country should always receive the most careful consideration and the most liberal treatment, for there is where our youth is furnished with the keys that enable them to unlock the doors of all knowledge. Education applied to intelligence is what makes good citizens, and our institutions will be safe in the hands of a people who can read and think.

SCHOOL FOR DEFECTIVE YOUTH.

I call attention to the report of the board of trustees of the Washington school for defective youth, which accompanies this message. It describes in a very interesting manner the workings of the institution under disadvantageous circumstances. The inmates of this school and those who are entitled to become inmates deserve great consideration, because in an uneducated state they are in ignorance and brutishness, while having the capacity to receive instruction and become self-supporting and happy. The territory should deal liberally with the unfortunate.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The report of the adjutant-general shows the condition of the militia and National Guard. The latter organization should be placed on a secure footing by the enactment of a law under which it will be possible to maintain a strict discipline. A body of armed men without discipline is one of the most dangerous things that can be devised. Military establishments are mere machines by which the energies of numbers of men are brought into action in obedience to the will of one, and unless they can be completely so controlled they should not exist. All officers and men of the National Guard should be amenable to a court-martial. An important matter mentioned in this report is the obtaining credit at the war department at Washington for the considerable sum due this territory from the State of Oregon for arms and munitions loaned during the Indian war of 1878. Settlement of this claim has been long delayed, and it would probably be of good effect to memorialize Congress on the subject at this time.

The report of the inspector of coal mines, which is presented herewith, contains very full information in regard to the extent and condition of our coal mines and the magnitude of the industry. On page 15 of the report will be found some suggestions in regard to the present laws on the subject of which are worthy of attention. It is especially important that the inspector should be independent of the mine owners, as his principal duty is to enforce compliance on their part with the rules devised for the safety of miners. The importance of making strict rules and rigidly enforcing them can be understood by every one who has descended into the mines and seen how entirely the miners inside are at the mercy of those who are on guard above. An insufficient appliance or a careless man at the top may at any moment cause the destruction of all those below.

I am inclined to think that overlooking the mines of a whole commonwealth and caring for the lives of thousands of men is too much responsibility to fix upon one officer. The laws might be amended so as to make it the duty of the grand jury of each county to visit the mines in a body or if that should be thought too expensive, a committee of their number to inspect the mines and report their condition to the full jury for certification to the court, as in the case of the inspection of jails and other public institutions. The grand jury is a popular body, it is always fresh from the people and on account of the method of its selection, and its various and changing constituents, it is the most difficult body to control that is known to the laws. I believe that good will result from investigating these functions.

OTHER REPORTS.

Accompanying this message you will find reports of:
The board of health.
The board of pilot commissioners.
The territorial librarian.
The commissioners to locate school for defective youth.
The commissioners to locate insane asylum in Eastern Washington.
The artisan well commissioners.
The board of education.
The commissioner of the American exhibition in London.
The health officer at Port Townsend.

All these pamphlets contain information upon the administration of the Territorial government and suggestions embodying the experience of the officers writing them, which will doubtless be of service to your honorable body.

RESTRICTION ON LEGISLATION.

There is an act of Congress, approved July 30, 1887, by which the powers of territorial legislatures are very much narrowed. It must be borne in mind, however, that legislation on the subjects enumerated is not prohibited. It is merely provided that the statutes must be general in their application. I print this act herewith for the convenience of reference by members of the legislature.

MINING AND IRRIGATION.

Owing to recent extensive discoveries of mines of precious and other metals in this territory, a necessity exists for the completion and adoption of a code of mining laws. Laws should also be passed regulating the use of water for mining and irrigating purposes. Owing to the rapid settlement of the country, conflicts have already arisen in regard to these matters, and as rights become vested, the question assumes a more difficult shape every year. If laws are passed at this time regulating the whole matter, much expensive litigation will be avoided.

CODIFICATION OF THE LAWS.

The laws of this Territory, owing to careless legislation and decisions of the courts, are in such a state of confusion that it is very difficult even for experienced members of the bar to arrive at any definite conclusion in regard to them, much less can a citizen exactly determine the rules that govern his conduct, or the laws that guarantee his rights and privileges. Consultation of our laws by our citizens is rendered still more difficult by the absence of anything that can properly be called an index to the volumes. To remedy these faults there seems to be a general desire for the codification of our statutes. I suggest that instead of a codification of our present laws, a commission be created and instructed to prepare for submission to the next legislature a civil, a criminal and a probate code, being guided in their labors by adherence to the spirit of our laws as heretofore instituted. It should also compile all general laws under a separate head and provide competent index for the whole system.

GROSS EARNINGS ACT.

It is undoubtedly the will of the people that the act of the legislature approved November 28, '85, known as the gross earnings tax law, should be repealed. While this should be done at this session, your constituents will undoubtedly expect that you devise some better scheme of taxation of railway properties in its place. The conclusion has been reached by the people of this territory that railway corporations have not been bearing their due share of the burdens of taxation. The people are not wrong in this matter, and they confidently expect their just complaints in that regard will be heard by your honorable body, and a remedy provided. Questions of revenue are always difficult to deal with, and require much research and thought, but I believe that your honorable body will be able to formulate a bill in the premises, which, while entirely just to them, will effectually enforce upon railway corporations their duty of supporting the government in their due proportion. The people simply want fair play in this matter.

FREIGHTS AND FARES.

On my recent trip to the eastern part of the territory I heard many complaints of exorbitant charges on the part of railway companies for carrying the crops to the seaboard. The people believe these complaints to be just and are looking to the legislature for some kind of relief. If the transportation companies would come forward in good faith and co-operate with the sheriff in an effort to prevent a measure that would be just to all concerned, there would not be much difficulty in solving the problem. Unfortunately, however, they appear to have pursued an obstructive policy and to have denied the right of the legislatures of the people to interfere in the premises. Under these circumstances the work of devising proper regulations becomes one of great difficulty. All that can be done is to devise a statute that appears to answer the purpose and subsequently amend it, as defects are noticed in practice, until it becomes as perfect as may be. The right of the legislature to regulate freight and fares should not be doubted, however, and they should never forego their determination to exercise it.

FISHERY LAWS.

During the past season an effort was made to enforce the laws of the territory, which provide for a close season for salmon in the Columbia river. Learning that the laws were being generally neglected, I made two visits to the river counties and personally co-operated with the sheriff there to enforce a cessation of illegal fishing. This was finally accomplished, more, perhaps, by common consent than from fear of the laws, which were considered to be difficult of enforcement. A bill to amend the laws, which were amended, and the railroad company is deprived of the carriage of the products of the soil, which would in a few years amount to as much as the value of the land. I think it probable that these lands are made to bear their proportion of taxes the disposition to hold them will not be so strong. I suggest that it would be proper for your honorable body to use its influence by memorial to congress on the side of some speedy adjustment of the question of titles. The country is interested in having the clouds removed in some way at once.

Sixth—The report from this office to the interior department sets out the just claims of this territory for admission into the Union without delay and without other restrictions than those contained in the constitution of the United States. I respectfully suggest that it would be well for your honorable body to second this claim by a memorial.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the legislature, I beg to assure you of my hearty co-operation in the work now opened before us, and trust your honorable body will be considerate enough to fix a reasonable limit before the final adjournment after which no new business may be introduced, so that this office will be enabled to give due attention to all matters laid before it.

We should all keep constantly in our minds the motto "The good of the people is the supreme law." Very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
EUGENE SEMPLE, Governor.

Amongst the great variety of opinions in regard to the matter I came to the conclusion that alternate periods of open and close seasons of say seven or ten days would afford the fish a chance to ascend to the spawning grounds. Such a law could be made to apply to all streams alike, and would protect a portion of each run of fish. The penalty for violating the law should have a low minimum, as it is difficult to obtain convictions where the district attorney of the court is limited in the direction of lenity. The maximum, however, should be high, so that offenders could be adequately punished where the offense is repeated.

CATTLE QUARANTINE.

This office is often in receipt of proclamations from other states and territories at Washington, announcing infected districts for cattle and prohibiting the importation of cattle therefrom. Such proclamations and so virulent have certain diseases like pleuro pneumonia become, that the regulation of the movement of stock has become a necessity to prevent the extermination of the herds of the country. This territory is entirely unprotected in that regard and I suggest to your honorable body the propriety of formulating laws modeled after those of other states, where the subject has received due attention, by which the herd and flocks of Washington may be protected from contact with animals from infected districts.

ARBOR DAY.

In most of the states and territories of the west and in several east states, a day of comparative rest, called "Arbor Day," has been instituted by law. On this day, which is announced by executive proclamation, is the Thanksgiving Day, the people are expected, in addition to plant trees, shrubs and vines. Lessons are taught the children in the public schools as to the effect of forest denudation upon atmospheric phenomena. Pictures are drawn of countries where at this time the earth is nothing but a scrub, but where ruins exist at denote that at no very distant period the country was rich, fertile and prosperous. Each year the bill by the school master and the fact is brought home to the attention of the people on Arbor Day, that whoever plants a tree or shrub, or consigns a seed to the earth, is doing a man's work, and a favor to his own country. Each year, in addition to the mere utilitarian idea, there occurs a cultivation of the gentler sentiments, which we as a people have been accused of neglecting, if not ignoring in our eager pursuit of wealth. I believe the people would be glad to have you institute this festival in Washington territory.

MEMORIALS.

Congressional action for the benefit of this territory is desired on a variety of subjects.

First—On the subject of adjustment of the long deferred claims of certain of our citizens for services and losses of property in the different Indian wars in which they have been engaged. On this subject I have received a communication from the Governor of Nevada suggesting that an united effort be made at the coming session of Congress by the different Pacific States to secure justice for their citizens in this regard. I think the suggestion is a good one. I have seen information on this subject which will be of use in preparing a memorial, and which I will submit to your committee at the proper time.

Second—An act of Congress, approved March 2, 1887, provided for the establishment of agricultural experiment stations in the different States and Territories. By this bill an allowance of \$15,000 was allotted to each State and Territory. The results provided for would have been of the greatest benefit to the agricultural interests of the country. The bill was, however, unfortunately defective in that, as decided by the supreme court, the appropriation, it failed to make an appropriation to carry out its provisions. In order to lessen the chances of this bill being overlooked at the current session of Congress, I suggest that a memorial be sent to Washington requesting its re-consideration. I can furnish your committee a copy of the law if desired.

Third—There is very little doubt that the Chinese restriction act is being evaded by numbers of those objectionable people crossing our northern boundary by land, or arriving at different Puget Sound ports on small sailing vessels. I mentioned these facts in my report to the Secretary of the interior, and recommended the amendment of the restriction act in the interest of greater efficiency. A memorial from your honorable body would receive greater attention than the report of a single officer. I believe that the interests of this commonwealth would be subserved by such memorial.

Fourth—The ultimate permanent emancipation of the people from high freight rates will occur when the public domain of navigable rivers fortunately possessed by the territory are opened to free navigation. Congress has inaugurated the process, but the work is slowly done on account of inactivity of the public and the excessive conservatism of the United States engineers. I believe that a memorial on this subject would, by showing the deep interest felt in this subject by our people, be of much service in inducing the federal government to be more liberal in the application of funds to this desirable end. I can furnish your committee with much valuable information on this topic if they request it.

Fifth—The settlement of a large portion of this territory is retarded by the doubts that exist in regard to land titles by reason of the various constructions placed upon the laws granting lands to railway corporations. A bill in view from the summit of Steptoe's butte, in Whitman county, will, I am told, lose the limits of the Northern Pacific railroad grant, by the line of improvement. The blighting effect of placing large areas of the public domain under the control of one man or of one set of men is illustrated in a striking manner by this object lesson. Not only are the lands that are in dispute affected by the blight, but those that are not in dispute are being held at high prices for speculative purposes, to the detriment both of the people and the stockholders of the railroad company. The poorer people, for whom the public domain was originally intended, are unable to acquire the lands, and the railroad company is deprived of the carriage of the products of the soil, which would in a few years amount to as much as the value of the land. I think it probable that these lands are made to bear their proportion of taxes the disposition to hold them will not be so strong. I suggest that it would be proper for your honorable body to use its influence by memorial to congress on the side of some speedy adjustment of the question of titles. The country is interested in having the clouds removed in some way at once.

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