## 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, justifyng 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

the incompleteness of which has too long of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most en-gross us are lifted far above either partisanship, 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 section 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.

## Necessity of Putting Our Finances

Upon a Sound Basis. Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress, the question next pressing for consideration 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 1866. On the 30th day of June of that year, we had outstanding demand liabilities in the sum of \$728,868,447 41. On the 1st day of July, 1879, these liabilities had been reduced to \$443,889,495 88. Of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking. On July 1, 1866, principal of the interest-bearing debt the government was \$2,332,331,208. On the 1st day of July, 1893, this sum had been reduced to \$555,037 100, or an aggregate reduction of \$1,747,294,108. The interest-bearing debt of the United States on the 1st day of Decemb r, 1897, was \$817,-The government money now outstanding (December 1) consists of \$346;-681,016 of United States notes; \$107,733,250 of treasury notes issued by authority of the act of 1890; \$384,963,504 of s.lver certificates and \$51,280,761 of standard silver

tate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations

plished from the close of the war until 1897 makes unreasonable and groundless 1893 to 1897 must admonish 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 remedy for the evil. Before we can find 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 pledge will not be broken. Howthe guaranty of our purpose to keep ing toward 'ts fulfillment.

## 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 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 only an expensive charge upon the gov-ernment, but a dangerous menace to the

national credit. It is manifest that we must devise plan to protect the government against must either curtail the opportunity for ep culation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their rewhich the government, by solemn enact ment, has undertaken to keep at par with gold but the government. The banks are ernment is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid n every kind of money but gold, and the 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 thority now given, it will continue to do. The law which requires the government, after having redeemed its notes, to pay them out again as current funds demand: a constant replenishment of the gold re-serve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are government. At such times the governit has no other way to supply its defthe administration of my predecessor when \$262,315,400 of 4½ per cent bond were issued and sold and the proceed

used to pay the expenses of the govern-

the gold reserve. While it is true that

the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient reve-

nues, a considerable portion was required

Replenishing the Gold Reserve. With our revenues equal to our expenses falls below \$100,000,000, how will it be re-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 gold-or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the had and the policy of selling bonds is sell bonds at long or short periods, bearing zed by law. I earnestly recommend, as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the such notes shall be kept and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty, If the holder of the United States not a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest-bearing debt

again except on demand and for gold. If a reasonable time for the mother

all the gold required for exchange or export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help 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 with-out reason, the signal of danger or of security. 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 tranquillity that the government should pre-pare for the worst. We cannot avoid, growing feeling of fraternal regard and; without serious consequences, the wise unlification of all sections of our country, consideration and prompt solution of this

Plan of Secretary Gage. The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great letail for the purpose 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 care-ful consideration. I concur with the secretary 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 circula-tion, and that the tax on circulating 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 establishment of national banks with imum capital of \$25,000. This will tural regions of the country to be supplied 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 nend 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, pertaining to its foreign that tions, concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with government at various times in the past, The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; 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 opportion and warfare and of ineffectual s lement to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental pos-sessions of Spain in the Western continent has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused 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 ntal power called forth, between 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 purchase, nor has there been any

the part of this government. The revolution which began in 1868 lasted for 10 years, despite the strenuous efforts of the successive peninsular gov-eruments 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 made by General Grant were refused, and the war dragged on, entailincreased 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 between the Spanish commander, Martinez Campos, and the insurgent leaders.

The present insurrection broke out in February, 1855. It is not my purpose, at this time, to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize 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 The existing conditions Cubans. The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. 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 inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the bene-

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

Concentration Is Extermination. The cruel policy of concentration was nitiated February 16, 1896. The productive districts controlled by the armies were depopulated and the agri-cultural 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 as a 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 ex-

Against this abuse of the rights of war I have felt constrained, on repeated oc-casions, 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-cedures. I felt it my first duty to make instant demand for the release or speedy trial of all American citizens under ar-rest. Before the change of the Spanish cabinet, in October, 22 prisoners, citizens United States, had been given

For the relief of our own citizens suffering because of the conflict, the aid of congress was sought in a special message, and under the appropriation of April 1. 1897, effective aid has been given American citizens in Cuba, and many of them, at their own request, have been returned to the United States.

The instructions given to our new minister to Spain, before his departure for his post, directed him to impress upon United States to lend its aid toward ending the war in Cuba, by reaching a peace-ful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. These instructions recited the character and duration of the contest, the wide-spread losses it entails, the burdens and restraint it imposes upon us, with con-stant disturbance of national interests and the injury resulting from an indefinite continuance of this state of things. It was stated that at this juncture our gov-ernment was constrained to seriously inquire if the time was not ripe when Spain, of her own volition, moved by fler own inof her own volition, moved by fler own interests and every sentiment of humanity, should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and just to her Cuban to own period cannot expect to be shielded from the consequence. The right of visit and search an

to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a noninterest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out Cuba, we could be required to wait only they are put out in any other way they may return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt.

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 interest-bearing debt.

In my view, it is of the utmost importance that the government should be re-lieved from the business of providing for eration of this offer, addressed to the Spanish administration, which had declined the tenders of my predecessor and which for more than two years had poured more treasure into Cuba in the fruitless effort to suppress the revolt, fell to others. Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival 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 cided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the present 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 aid of Cuban senators and deputies, to solve the economic prob-lems and properly distribute the existing debt.

## 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 political reforms, while 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 an in definite prolongation of the war is de nied. It is asserted that the Western provinces are already well-nigh re-claimed; that the planting of cane and tobacco therein has been resumed, and that by force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacification is hoped for.

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

Discussion of the question of interna-tional 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. government has made, at the cost of millions and by the employment of the ad-ministrative machinery at the national command, to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel 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 performed obligation, due response to this charge has been made in diplomatic is-sues. Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace, this government has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to it-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 people, should the prolongation of the strife

Of the untried measures there remain "Recognition of the insurgents as beiligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba: neutral intervention to end the war tween the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party.

Not a Question of Annexation. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal ag 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 houses of congress, in the spring of 1896, isted requiring or justifying the recogniof a state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate these significant expressions of the senti-ment 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. It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses, beyond dispute, the attributes of statehood which of the essential qualifications of sover eignty by the insurgents, and the conduct of the war by them according to the recognized code of war, are no less important factors toward the determination of the problem of belligerency than are the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal policy of the recognizing nation. The utterances of President Grant in his memorable message of 1875 are signally relevant to the present situation in Cuba, and it may be wholesome now to recall them. At that time a serious conflict had for seven years wasted the neighboring Island. During all those years an utter disregard of the laws of civilized warfare and of the just demands of humanity, which called forth expres-sions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom, continued unabated. Desolation and ruin pervaded that productive region, enormously affecting the commerce of all commercial nations, but that of the United States more than any reason of proximity and large

Not a Time for Recognition. Turning to the practical aspects of a recognition of belligerency and reviewing its inconveniences and possible danger, further pertinent considerations appear In the code of nations, there is ency unaccompanied by the assumption of national neutrality. Such recognition without neutrality will not confer upon either party to a domestic conflict a status not therefore actually possessed, or af-fect the relation of either party to other states. The act of recognition usually of neutrality which recites the de facto condition of belligerency as its motive. It announces a domestic law of neutrality in the declaring state. It assumes the in urisdiction of the claimant that they violate those rigorous obligations at their own peril and cannot expect to be shield-

ency. While according equal belligerent rights, defined by public law, to each parsible 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 margin of our own territorial 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 even 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 upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be honorable and enduring. If it shall hereafter be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our pert and only because the 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 HAWAIL 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, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian islands as an integral part of the United States and under its sovereignty. The senate having removed 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 aggressive policy of absorption in regard to the Hawaiian 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 same time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the entity of Hawaiian statehood 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, before offered but declined, should, in the ripeness 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 the favorable action of the American senate to effect the complete absorption of the listens of the protection of persons and property. Already a small force consisting of 25 men and two officers, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Randall, of the United States, the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the inhabitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of

sideration of dignity and honor requires, the window of congress will see to it that, avoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship, and hav-ing due regard to the geographical con-ditions, the just provisions for self-rule in local matters with the largest political No less is due to a people who after nearly five years of demonstrated capac to fulfill the obligations of self-gove

# CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES.

ing statehood, come of their free will to

Representation of Our Government

in the Greater Republic.

rge their destinles in our body politic.

As to the representative of this govern nent 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 beadquarters 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 of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to receive Mr. Merry in his diplomatic capacity, was unable to do so on account of the npact 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 diet thereof their right to receive and send diplomatic agents. The dist was not willcredited to that body. I could not acredit him to that body because the appro-

letters of recall. Mr. Godfrey Hunter has likewise been accredited to the governments of Gautemala and Honduras, the same as his predecessor. Guatemala is not a member of the Greater Republic of Central America, but Honduras is. Should this latter gov-ernment decline to receive him, he has been instructed to report this fact to his government and await its further instruc-

priation law of congress did not permit

A subject of large importance to our country and increasing appreciation on the part of the people is the completion of the great highway of trade between the Atmerce is universally admitted. The commission appointed under date of July 24 last "to continue the surveys and examnations authorized by the act approved March 2, 1885, in regard to the proper route, feasibility and cost of construc tion of the Nicaragua canal, with 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 to transmit to congress the report of this commission, making at the same time such furthe

## THE BIMETALLIC COMMISSION. Fallure of the Mission of the Special

Silver Envoys. gress approved March 3, 1897, for the promotion of an international agreement respecting bimetalism, I appointed, on April 14, 1897, Hon. Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado; Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, and Hon. Charles J. Payne, of Massachusetts, as special envoys to represent the United States. They have been diligent in their effort to secure the concurrence and co-operation of European countries in the international set-tlement 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 fixed and relative value between gold and ance that we are not alone among th larger nations 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.

resentatives of this government and th governments of other countries are pend-ing and in contemplation. They believe that the doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possi-bility of maintaining the stability of the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further negotiation

Meanwhile, it gives me satisfaction to state that the special envoys have already demonstrated their ability and fitness to deal with the subject, and it is to be earnestly hoped that their labors may result in an international agreement which will bring about recognition of both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of both metals upon a basis which shall work no injuries to any class of citizens.

## NEEDS OF ALASKA.

#### Existing Conditions Demand Change in the Laws.

The territory of Alaska requires the compt 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 fail and the prospect of a still larger immigration 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 land laws of the country. By an act approved March 3, 1891, au-

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-

tion of our country.

Special authority was given to the president by the act approved July 24, 1897, to divide that territory into two land districts, and to designate the boundaries thereof, and to appoint registers and re-ceivers of said land offices, and the president was also authorized to appoint a surveyor-general for the entire district Pursuant to this authority, a surveyor ing year the conditions justify it, the addial land district authorized by law will be established with an office at some point in the Yukon valley. No appropria-tion, however, was made for this pur-pose, and that is now necessary to be done:

## The Military Post.

I concur with the secretary of war in try and its duty to follow up its citizens there with the benefits of legal machinspecial laws to fit the peculiar condition thereof, the regulation and needs of labor therein, the treaty has wisely relegated to of such flexibility as will enable it to adjust itself in the future to the needs at-

Relief for Starving Klondikers. The startling though possibly exaggerated 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 leaving the country, are confirmed in such measure as to justify bringing the matter. neasure as to justify bringing the matter to the attention of congress. Access to by the passes from Dyea and vicinity, which is a most difficult and perhaps imzens be further verified, every effort at

# INDIAN AFFAIRS.

# New Regulations for Five Civilized

Tribes Are Imperative. For a number of years it has been parent that the condition of the five civilized tribes in the Indian territory under treaty provisions with the United States, with the right of self-government and the exclusion of all white persons from within their borders, have undergone so complete a change as to render the continuance 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 whom have gone there by invitation of have made permanent homes for themselves. Numerous towns have been built. Mr. Baker, the present minister at Manin 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 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 meth-ods and personal merit. While the right of our veteran soldiers to reinstatement in deserving cases has been asserted, dis-m'ssals for merely political reasons have been carefully guarded against, the examinations for admittance to the service 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 deany of the departments.

This order has been made to give the acwhich should always be exercised in cases of inefficiency or incompetency, and which 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 carefully watched record of service. Much, of course, still remains to be accomplished before the system can be made reasonably perfect for our needs. There are places now in the classified service which may properly be included. I shall not hesitate to exempt cases which I think have been improperly included in the classified service or include those which, in my judgent, will best promote the public ser-ce. The system has the approval of the people and it will be my endeavor to up-

I am forced by the length of this message to omit many important references to affairs of the government with which congress will have to deal at the present session. They are fully discussed in the departmental reports, to all of which I vite your earnest attention.

The estimates of the expenses of the 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 reduce the expenses of the government, it should not encourage their increase. These expenses will, in my judgment, admit of a decrease in many branches of the convergment without injury to the pubthe government without injury to the public service. It is a commanding duty to keep the appropriations within the receipts of the government and thus preyent a deficit.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY. the receipts from customs to increase steadily, and in the spring months he anticipated quite large importations. Executive Mansion, Dec. 6, 1997,

## Epitome of the Telegraphic sion of the 55th congress was launched News of the World.

TERSE TICKS FROM THE WIRES

in Interesting Collection of Items From the New and the Old World In a Condensed and Comprehensive Form

The Italian cabinet has resigned. General Pellieux's action is regarded as a political move, to make possible for the Marquis di Rudini to secure a unanimous ministry. The ministers of finance, justice and public works, in the retiring cabinet, will not appear in its successor.

E. L. Hewes, the Wichita mountain boomer, who has been at Wichita for three weeks trying to organize a party, has left for Olkahoma City without single follower. At different times he claimed to have from 500 to 1,000 boomers ready to follow his lead into the country.

Toru Hoshi, envoy extradordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Japan to the United States, was a passsenger from the Orient on the City of Peking, which I as just arrived in San Francisco. He will leave for Washington at once carrying with him instructions in reference to the Hawaiian treaty of annexation which will be considered by the United States senate.

When the German reinforcements, consisting of four companies of marines, numbering 23 officers and 1,200 men, and a company of naval artillery, arrive at Kiao Chau bay, for which point, as already cabled, they will soon set out, they will bring the German force there up to 4,566 men, the largest body Germany has ever sent beyond Eropean waters. It is understood that the reserves had to be drawn upon.

Surgeon-General Wyman, of the marine hospital service, has submitted his annual report to Secretary Gage. It shows that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, the total number of patients treated at hospitals and the dispensaries connected with the service was 54,477. Although the total number of patients treated was 673 in excess of those treated during the previous fiscal year, the expenditures were \$538,536, which is \$21,000 less than

the previous year. The annual report of James H. Eckles, controller of the currency, for the year ended October 31, 1897, opens with a brief resume of the history of the legislation which constitutes the present National-bank act, and invites the at- fore 11 o'clock. The galleries which greatest drawback to the boat railway, tention of congress to amendments to the law recommended in former reports, ple. Floral tributes for members were engineers, was that it would cost \$80,without specifically repealing them. numerous, and in some instances im- 000 a year to maintain it, and that no The controller renews his recommendation of last year, urging that national bank examiners be paid an annual salary instead of fees, as now.

Further information from Washington respecting the proposed canal and locks for the channel at the dalles is to the deep silence which followed the the effect that it is proposed to push the work with a deal of rapidity. contract system and modern methods of excavation and building have made it clear that years need not be spent upon a work of this character. If the contract for improving the Columbia by a small channel at the dalles is adopted it will no doubt be stipulated that the work must be done with rapidity.

A terrible railroad accident has occurred in Warsaw. While a passenger train was stationary at the terminus, administered the eath of office to them. a heavy freight train ran into it, owing On motion of Dingley a resolution was to the error of a pointsman. Eleven adopted for the appointment of a compersons were killed and 22 others were mittee of three to join the senate com-

seriously injured. The receipts of the customs so far this fiscal year undoubtedly will fall considerably short of estimates made by the managers of the new tariff bill during its pendency in congress. At that time it was estimated that the customs would yield about \$180,000,-000 during the first year. The indications are now said to be that the re ceipts from this source will not aggre gate more than \$165,000,000.

A plate of armor, representing a lot lowed the committee into the hall, imof 500 tons for the turrets of the battle- mediately presented the message, which, ships Kearsarge and Kentucky, was by direction of the speaker, was read at tested at the Indian Head proving the clerk's desk. grounds Tuesday. For testing pur poses, two eight-inch shells, one a Carpenter projectile and the other a Wheeler sterling, were fired at the to congress estimates of the appropriaplate, one at a high and the other at a tions required for the fiscal year ending low velocity. Neither penetrated norcracked the plate, but both partially

welded themselves into it. Word comes of a wreck on the Santa Fee near Williams, Ariz., in which three men lost their lives and much valuable property was destroyed. After the first section of freight train No. 33 had pulled out of Williams the air that controls the brakes gave out enlarged and at the same time rendered and the train dashed down the steep grade with rapidly increasing velocity. The hand brakes were unavailing to check the speed, and when a point about 10 miles west was reached the train left the track. Two engines were coupled to the train, which was a ver heavy one. Engineers Newton and Watsons and Fireman Berry were pinned under their respective engines and lost their lives, it is said, by being burned to death.

Emperor William opened the session of the German reichstag in person for the first time since 1894. The cere mony took place in White hall, in the royal castle. His majesty read the speech from the throne.

The steamer San Blas has arrived in San Francisco from Panama and way and five others were injured. The peports. She brings the news that the cuniary loss is small. Salvador coffee crop for this season will be one-third larger than ever be fore, and will do much toward making up the loss occasioned by the revolu

The London papers assert that China

has practically agreed to cede England a strip of territory near Hong Kong, and all the surrounding islands in order to enable England to fortify them securely and to increase the garrison. Secretary Gage is quoted as saying that in the annual estimate he would send to congress he would name about \$20 000 000 and not shove \$25,000 000, as the amount of the treasury de ficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898. The secretary said he expecter

## AGAIN IN SESSION

# First Regular Meeting of the Fifty-Fifth

At noon Monday the first regular sesupon the unknown seas of legislation. Simultaneously at both ends of the cap-itol, Speaker Reed in the house and Vice-President Hobart in the senate, dropped their gavels and called to order 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 choked 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. Precisely 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 vice-

president. 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 resolu-

tion that a committee of two senators be appointed to join a like committee from the house to inform the president other works in the United States, both that congress was in session, and pre pared to receive any communication he also said that engineers are somewhat might desire to make. The resolution accommodating, and are not very anxiwas passed, and the vice-president ous to go contrary to the wishes of connamed Allison and Gorman as a senate gressmen who push particular schemes. committee.

By resolution of Cullom of Illinois, the time of the daily meetings of the wanted, have been subject to severe senate was fixed at noon. On motion criticism, and this they do not fancy 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, re- ceived the indorsement of many emiported. The president's message was presented by Mr. Pruden at 1:30 thing of a laughing-stock, and way clock, and was laid before the senate down deep the leading engineers of the and read.

## In the Lower House.

The house of representatives presented an animated appearance long before and would raise their eyebrows with a noon. The surrounding corridors were filled with jostling, moving crowds be- serious opinion upon the project. The

As the hands of the clock pointed to ally be spent for repairs and break-12 Speaker Reed, attired in a black cutaway coat, and wearing a red tie, ascended the rostrum. The crack of the gavel subdued the din on the floor and conversation in the galleries. In calling of the assemblage to order, 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 801 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 mittee to wait upon the president and receive any communication he desired to make. The speaker named Dingley, a 100-mile dash at the rate of 68.2 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 fol-

## Secretary Gage Monday transmitted 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 indemnity demanded for the alleged ille- burned to a crisp. Her husband and gal arrest and imprisonment of Herr daughter, in trying to extinguish the Emil Lueders, a German subject.

Milwaukee, Wis. Sixty people were at the chamber of commerce that the Fire broke out in the Lake house in asleep in the hostlery at the time. Charles Patterson, a dock laborer, lost his life, being overcome by smoke,

An anti-Hebrew riot which started in Budapesth has finally been quelled by the police who made 100 arrests.

Disubled in Collision. The steamship Corean, New York, for Glasgow, has put in to Halifax, N. the corner is correct. S., having been in collision with an unknown steamer.

One rainy afternoon a Sullivan Harbor, Me., woman sought entertainment pardon for Alfred Packer, the "man-in pulling to pieces a pincushion that eater." The application of Mike Ryan,

# THE LOCKS AT THE DALLES

# Push the Work.

The Government Proposes to

CANAL WILL BE SPEEDILY DUG

Eastern Washington and Idaho Are In-

terested in the Project-The Boat-Railway Experiment.

Washington, Dec. 7 .- Further in ormation respecting the proposed canal and locks for the channel at the dalles is to the effect that it is proposed to push the work with a deal of rapidity. The contract system and modernmethods of excavation and building have made it clear that years need not be spent upon a work of this character. If the contract for improving the Columbia by a small channel at the dalles is adopted it will no doubt be stipulated that the work must be done with rapidity. Heretofore Oregon has assumed control over the proposed improvement at this place. Eastern Washington and Idaho, it is now said, will take a hand in the matter, and will not consider the Columbia river wholly an Oregon stream. Upper Columbia river interests begin to press upon the Washington and Idaho congressmen, and make them feel the need of doing something to secure the water outlet to the Pacific ocean without in-

terruption. A theory which has been supplemented on to some extent here in Washington is the fact that certain engineers who approved the boat railway scheme wanted an experiment of this kind tried for the purpose of influencing of a public and a private nature. It is Engineers who have gone contrary to what senators and representatives have

any more than other people.

It must be acknowledged also that while the boat railway scheme has renent engineers, it has also been somearmy never believed that congress would authorize it, or that a boat raifway would be built. It is one of the subjects that they always smiled about look of amusement when asked for a one could tell how much would eventu downs. The canal project has always been most favorably considered, and it looks as if that was to be the improvement for that portion of the Columbia

The secretary of the interior has approved patents to the Oregon & California Railroad Company, of lands amounting to 3,851 acres in the Rose-

#### burg land district. NEW RAILROAD RECORD

#### Union Pacific Makes the Fastest Time in the West. Omaha, Neb., Dec. 7 .- Celebrating

its new birthday, the new Union Pacific has taken two more falls out of Father Time and has set a pace for fast running that will likely stand in the West for some time. Three recordbreaking spurts in one week is its record. The first was done last Tuesday. inform him that congress was ready to At that time, a 520-mile run was made at the rate of 621/2 miles an hour, with miles an hour.

Yesterday, the fast mail was again late in Wyoming, and was danced across the Nebraska plains at a rate that makes Tuesday's run look slow. It covered 42 miles, from Sidney to Julesburg, in 38 minutes; 81 miles from Julesburg to North Platte, in 71 minutes: 60 miles. North Platte to Lexington, in 60 minutes: 35 miles, Lexington to Kearney, in 33 minutes, and a final dash of 42 miles, from Kearney to Grand Island, in 36 minutes, or 70 miles an hour. The 261 miles from Sidney to Grand Island was made in 238 minutes, an average of 65.6 miles an hour. From Grand Island to Omaha

the speed was ordinary, the lost time having been made up. Today the Union Pacific brought a theatrical company on a special train from Julesburg to Council Bluffs, 294 miles, in 286 minutes. From this must be deducted five minutes for changing engines at Grand Island; four minutes by a Missouri Pacific train on the crossing at Petrel, and necessary slowing up through Omaha, and a slow run over the Missouri river bridge. The actual running time of the train was 275 minutes, an average

of 63.6 miles an hour. Nickerson, Kan., Dec. 7 .- While temporarily insane, Mrs. M. E. Ross today saturated her clothing with kerosene and set herself afire. She was flames, were perhaps fatelly burned.

Minneapolis, Dec. 7 .- It is reported Peavey Elevator Companies have made a combine with the Pillsbury companies and secured control of not only the wheat in Minneapolis, but all the wheat in elevators throughout the Northwest. If this story in true Peavey and Pillsbury can sit back and let the price of wheat go where it will. They would be independent of any price speculators might make. No figures as to the extent of the corner are given, but a grain man who is known to be on the inside says the story of No Pardon for the "Manenter."

Derver, Dec. 7 .- The state board of pardons has refused to recommend a

was a wedding present 25 years ago.
She found therein 507 needles of assort ed sizes.

At the election in the Chickasaw nation, the ratification of the Dawes-Choctaw treaty was overwhelmingly up the shafthouse of the Armstrong mine at Cripple Creek in 1894.