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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annual Recommendation Made to Congress.

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

Concise Resume of the Methods of the Administration—Plenty of Statiscal Matter.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Harrison's annual message to congress was sent to the two houses today. It is addressed to the senate and the house of representatives and reads as follows:

In submitting my annual message to congress I have great satisfaction in being able to say that the general conditions affecting the commercial and industrial interests of the United States are in the highest degree favorable. A comparison of the existing conditions with those of the most favored period in the history of the country will itself show that such a degree of prosperity and so general a diffusion of comforts of life were never before enjoyed by our people. The total wealth of the country in 1860 was $16,159,616,068. In 1890 it amounted to $62,610,000,000—an increase of 287 per cent. The total mileage of the railways in the United States in 1860 was 30,626. In 1890 it was 187,741, an increase of 448 per cent, and it is estimated that there will be about 4,000 miles of track added by the close of the year 1892. The official returns of the 11th census and those of the 10th for the 75 leading cities furnished the basis for the following comparison:

Capital invested in manufacturing, 1890	$1,232,879,670
Capital invested in manufacturing, 1860	2,900,735,984
Number of employes, 1892	1,251,333
Number of employes, 1860	7,271,134
Wages earned, 1890	$ 501,965,778
Wages earned, 1860	1,225,170,454
Value of product, 1890	2,711,329,999
Value of product, 1860	4,969,296,857

I am informed by the superintendent of the census that the omission of certain industries in 1880, which were included in 1890, accounts in part for the remarkable increase thus shown. But after making full allowances for the differences of method, and deducting the returns for all industries, not included in the census of 1880, there remain in the reports from these seventy-five cities the following increases:

Capital employed	$1,521,745,604
Value of product	2,024,176,206
Wages earned	677,[illegible]
Number of wage earners	[illegible]

The wage-earnings not only show an increased aggregate, but an increase per capita from $386 in 1880, to 454 in 1890, or 41.71 per cent. The new industrial plants established since October 6, 1890, up to October 22, 1892, as partially reported in the American Economist, number 345, and the extension of existing plants 108. The new capital invested amounts to $40,449,050, and the number of additional employes to 37,285.

The Textile World for July, 1892, states that during the first six months of the present calendar year 135 new factories were built, of which 40 are cotton mills, 48 knitting mills, 26 woolen mills, 15 silk mills, 40 plush mills, and 2 linen mills. Of the 40 cotton mills, 21 have been built in the Southern states. A. B. Shepherdson, of the New York cotton exchange, estimates the number of working spindles in the United States September 1, 1882, at 185,000,000, an increase of 660,000 over the year 1891. The consumption of cotton by the American mills in 1891 was 2,396,000 bales. From 1869 to 1892, inclusive, there has been an increase in the consumption of cotton in Europe of 92 per cent, while during the same period the increase of consumption in the United States has been about 15 per cent.

The report of Ira Ayer, special agent of the treasury department, shows that September 30, 1892, there were 32 companies manufacturing tin and tin-plate in the United States, and 14 companies building new works for such manufacture. The estimate of the investments in buildings at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1892, if existing conditions were to be counted, was $5,000,000, and the estimated rate of production 230,000,000 pounds per annum. The actual production for the quarter ending September 30, 1892, was 10,952,725 pounds.

The report of the labor commissioner of New York shows that during the year 1891, in about 6000 manufacturing establishments in that state, embraced within the special inquiry made by him and representing 67 different industries, there was a net increase over the year 1890, of $31,315,130 68 in the value of the product, and of $6,397,925 59 in the amount of wages paid.

The report of the commissioner of labor for the state of Massachusetts shows that 375 industries in that state paid $129,416,238 in wages during the year 1891, against $126,03[illegible],303 in 1890, an increase of $3,335,945, and that there was an increase of $[illegible]3,940 in the amount of capital, and of 7396 in the number of persons employed in the same period.

During the last six months of the year 1891, and the first months of 1892, the total production of pig iron was 9,710,819 tons, as against 9,209,703 tons in the year 1890, which was the largest annual production ever obtained. For the same months of 1891-1892 the production of Bessemer ingots was 3,878,581 tons, an increase of 189,710 gross tons over the previously unprecedented yearly production of 3,688,871 gross tons in 1890. The production of Bessemer steel rails for the first six months of 1892 was 732,436 gross tons, as against 502,080 gross tons during the last six months of the year of 1891.

The total value of our foreign trade (exports and manufactures) during the last fiscal year was $1,857,680,610, an increase of $126,253,604 over the previous fiscal year. The average annual value of our imports and exports of merchandise for the 10 fiscal years prior to 1891 was $1,457,322,619. It will be observed that our foreign trade for 1892 exceeded this annual average value by $400,358,391, an increase of 27.47 per cent. The significance and value of this increase are shown by the fact that the excess in the trade of 1892 over 1891 was wholly in the value of exports for there was a decrease in the value of imports of $17,513,254. The value of our exports during the fiscal year 1892 reached the highest figure in the history of the government, amounting to $1,030,278,148, exceeding by $14,797,338 the exports of 1891 and exceeding the value of the imports by $202,875,686. A comparison of the value of our exports for 1892 with the annual average for the 10 years prior to 1891 shows an excess of $365,142,671, or of 34.35 per cent. The value of our imports of merchandise for 1892, which was $829,402,462, also exceeded the annual average value of the 10 years prior to 1891 by $125,215,949. During the fiscal year 1892 the value of imports, free of duty, amounted to $457,999,658, the largest aggregate in the history of commerce. The value of imports of merchandise entered free of duty in 1892 was 55.35 per cent of the total value of imports, as compared with 43.35 per cent in 1891 and 33.66 per cent in 1890.

In our coastwise trade a most encouraging development is in progress, there having been in the last four years an increase of 16 per cent in internal commerce. The statistics show that no such period of prosperity has ever before existed. The freight carried in the coastwise trade of the great lakes in 1890 aggregated 28,295,959 tons. On the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers and tributaries in the same year, the traffic aggregated 29,404,406 tons, and the total vessel tonnage passing through the Detroit river during that year was 21,684,000 tons. The vessel tonnage entered and cleared in the foreign trade of London during 1890 amounted to 13,480,767 tons, and of Liverpool 10,941,800 tons, making the total for these two great shipping ports 24,422,567 tons, only slightly in excess of the vessel tonnage passing through the Detroit river, and it should be said that the season for the Detroit river was but 228 days, while, of course, for London and Liverpool the season was for the entire year. The vessel tonnage passing through the Sault Ste. Marie canal, for the fiscal year 1892, amounted to 9,828,864 tons, and the freight tonnage of the Detroit river is estimated for that year at 25,000,000 tons, against 23,2 9,619 tons in 1891.

The aggregate traffic on our railroads for the year 1891 amounted to 734,398,-6 9 tons of freight, compared with 691,344,437 tons in 1890, an increase of 43,-54,172 tons.

Another indication of the general prosperity of the country is found in the fact that the number of depositors in the savings banks increased from 693,870 in 1880 to 4,328,393 in 189[illegible], an increase of 53 per cent, and the amount of deposits from $194,277,375 in 1865 to $1,524,844,5.3 in 1890, an increase of 692 per cent. In 1891 the amount of deposits in the savings banks was $1,625,-[illegible]49. It is estimated that 90 per cent of these deposits represent the savings of wage earners. The bank clearances have for the nine months, ended September 30, 1891, amounted to $41,[illegible]49,3[illegible]8 8. For the same months in 1892 they amounted to $45,-189,6 1,947, an increase for the nine months of $4,140,211,139.

There never has been a time in our history when work was so abundant, nor when wages were so high, whether measured by the currency in which they are paid, or by their power to supply the necessaries and comforts of life. It is true that the market prices of cotton and wheat have been low. It is one of the unfavorable incidents of agriculture that the farmer cannot produce upon orders. He must sow and reap in ignorance of the aggregate production of the year, and is peculiarly subject to the disposition which follows a overproduction. But, while the fact I have stated is true as to the crops I have mentioned, the general average of prices has been such as to give agriculture a fair participation in general prosperity.

The value of our total farm products has increased from $1,363,646,893 in 186[illegible] to $4,[illegible],000,000 in 1891, as estimated by statisticians, an increase of [illegible] per cent. The number of hogs January 1, 1891, was 50,525,1[illegible]6, and their value was $210,1[illegible]92[illegible]; January 1, 1892, the number was 52,[illegible]98,409, and their value $241,[illegible]31,415. January 1, 1891, the number of cattle was 36,875,648, and the value $544,127,9 8; January 1, 1892, the number was 37,651,220, and their value $57 ,749,153.

Tariff Talk.

If any are discontented with their state here, if any believe that the wages or prices, the return for honest toil, are inadequate, they should not fail to remember that there is no other country in the world where the conditions that seem to them hard, would not be accepted as highly prosperous. The English agriculturist would be glad to exchange the returns of his labor for those of the American farmer, and the Manchester workmen their wages for those of their fellows at Fall River. I believe that the protective system which now for [illegible]0 thing like 3[illegible] years has prevailed in our legislation has been a mighty instrument for the development of our national wealth and a most powerful agency in protecting the homes of our workingmen from the invasion of want. I have felt a most solicitous interest to preserve to our working people rates of wages that would not only give daily bread, but supply a comfortable margin for those home attractions and family comforts and enjoyments without which life is neither hopeful nor sweet. They are American citizens, a part of the great people for whom our institution and government were ordained and instituted, and it cannot be a perversion of that constitution to legislate so as to preserve in their homes the comfort, independence, loyalty and sense of interest in the government which are essential to good citizenship, in peace, which will bring them, as in 1861, to the defense of the flag when it is assailed.

It is not my purpose to renew here the argument in favor of a protective tariff. The result of the recent election must be accepted as having introduced a new policy. We must assume that the present tariff, constructed upon the lines of protection, is to be repealed, and that there is to be substituted for it a tariff law constructed solely to revenue; that no duty is to be higher because the increase will keep open an American mill or keep up the wages of an American workingman, but in every case such a rate of duty is to be imposed as will bring the treasury of the United States the largest revenue. The contention has not been between schedules but between principles, and it would be offensive to suggest that the prevailing party will not carry into legislation the principles advocated by it, and the pledges given the people. The tariff bills passed by the house of representatives at the last session were, as I supposed, even in the opinion of their promoters, inadequate and justified only by the fact that the senate and house of representatives were not in accord, and that a general revision could not therefore be undertaken. I recommend that the whole subject of tariff revision be left to the incoming congress. It is a matter of regret that this work must be delayed for at least three months, for the threat of great tariff changes introduces so much uncertainty that an amount, not easily estimated, of business inaction and of a diminished production will necessarily result. It is possible also that this uncertainty may result in decreased revenues from customs duties, for our merchants will make cautious orders for foreign goods, in view of the prospect of tariff reductions and the uncertainty as to when it will take effect.

Those who have advocated a protective tariff can well afford to have their disastrous forecasts of a change of policy disappointed. If a system of customs rules can be framed that will set the idle wheels and looms of Europe in motion, and crowd our warehouses with foreign made goods, and at the same time keep our own mills busy; that will give us an increased participation in the "markets of the world," or a greater value than the home market that we surrender; that will give increased work to foreign workmen upon products to be consumed by our people without diminishing the amount of work to be done here; that will enable the American manufacturer to pay to his workmen from 50 to 100 per cent more in wages than is paid the foreign rival, and yet to compete in our market and in foreign markets with the foreign producer; that will further reduce the cost of articles of ware and food, without reducing the wages of those who produce them; that can be celebrated after its effects have been realized, as its expectation has been in Europe as well as in American cities, the authors and promoters of it will be entitled to the highest praise.

We have had in our history several experiences of the contrasted effects of a revenue and of a protective tariff, but this generation has not felt them and the experience of one generation is not highly instructive to the next. The friends of the protective system, with undiminished confidence in the principles they have advocated, will wait the results of the new experiment. The settled and too often disturbed relations existing between the employe and the employer in our great manufacturing establishments have not been favorable to a calm consideration by the wage-earners of the effect upon wages of the protective system. The fact that his wages were the highest paid in like calling in any part of the world, and that a maintenance of this rate of wages in the absence of protective duties upon the product of his labor was impossible, were obscured by the passion evoked by these contests. He may now be able to review the question in the light of his personal experience, under the operation of a tariff for revenue only.

If that experience shall demonstrate that the present rates of wages are thereby maintained or increased, either absolutely or in their purchasing power; that the aggregate volume of work to be done in this country is increased, or even maintained; that there are more, or as many, days' work in a year, at as good or better wages, received by the American workman, as has been the case under the protective system, every one will rejoice. A general process of wage-reduction cannot be contemplated by any patriotic citizen without the gravest apprehension. It may be, indeed I believe, is, possible for the American manufacturer to compete successfully with his foreign rival in many branches of production without the defense of protective duties, if the pay rolls are equalized; but the conflict that stands between the producer and that result, and the distress of our working men when it is attained, are not pleasant to contemplate. The society of the unemployed, now holding its frequent and threatening parades in the streets of foreign cities, should not be allowed to acquire an American domicile.

A Resume of the Administration.

The reports of the heads of the several executive departments, which are herewith submitted, have very naturally included a resume of the whole work of the administration and the transactions of the last fiscal year. The attention not only of congress, but of the country, is again invited to the methods of the administration which have been pursued, and to the results which have been attained. Public revenues, amounting to $1,414,079,292, have been collected and disbursed without loss from misappropriation, without a single defalcation of such importance as to attract the public attention, and at a diminished per cent of cost for collection. The public business has been transacted not only with fidelity, but with progression, and with a view to giving to the people, in the fullest possible degree, the benefits of the service established and maintained for their protection and comfort.

State Department.

Our relations with other nations are now undisturbed by any serious controversy. The complicated and threatening differences with Germany and England relating to Samoan affairs, with England in relation to the seal fisheries in the Behring sea, and with Chili growing out of the Baltimore affair, have been adjusted. There have been negotiated and concluded under section 3 of the tariff law, commercial agreements relating to reciprocity trade with the following countries: Brazil, Domingo Republic, Spain for Cuba and Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Salvador, the German empire, Great Britain for certain West Indian colonies and British Guiana, Nicaragua, Honduras and Austria-Hungary. Of these, those with Guatemala, Salvador, the German empire, Great Britain, Nicaragua, Honduras and Austria-Hungary have been concluded since my last message. Under these treaty arrangements a free, and favored admission has been secured in every case for an important list of American products. Especial care has been taken to secure markets for farm products in order to relieve that great underlying industry of the depression which the lack of an adequate foreign market for our surplus often brings. An opening has also been made for manufactured products that will undoubtedly, if this policy is maintained, greatly augment our export trade. The full benefits of these arrangements cannot be realized instantly. New lines of trade are to be opened, and the commercial traveler must survey the field, the manufacturer must adapt his goods to the new markets, and facilities for exchange must be established. This work has been well begun; our merchants and manufacturers have entered the new fields with courage and enterprise. In the case of food products, and especially with Cuba, the trade did not need to wait, and the immediate results have been most gratifying. If this policy and the trade arrangements can be continued in force and aided by the establishment of American steamship lines, I do not doubt we shall, within a short period, secure fully one-third of the total trade of the countries of Central and South America, which now amounts to about $[illegible]0,000,000. In 1865 we had only about 8 per cent of this trade. The following statistics show the increase in our trade with the countries with which we have reciprocity trade agreements from the date when such agreements went into effect up to September 30, 1892, the increase being in some almost wholly, and in others in an important degree, the result of the agreement.

The domestic exports to Germany and Austria-Hungary have increased in value from $47,673,796 to $57,[illegible],-64, an increase of $1[illegible],319,3 8, or 021.03 per cent. With American countries the value of our exports has increased from $44,16[illegible],285 to $54,613,638, an increase of $10,453,353, or 23.67 per cent. The total increase in value of exports to all the countries with which we have reciprocity agreements has been $2[illegible],772,671. This increase is chiefly in wheat, flour, meat and dairy products, and manufactures of iron and steel and lumber. There has been a large increase in the value of imports from all these countries since the commercial agreements went into effect, amounting to $74,294,525, but it has been entirely in imports from the American countries, consisting mostly of sugar, coffee, India rubber and crude drugs. The alarmed attention of our European competitors for the South American market has been attracted to the new American policy and to our acquisition and their loss of the South American trade.

The Seal Fisheries.

A treaty providing for the arbitration of the dispute between Great Britain and the United States as to the killing of seals in the Behring sea was concluded on the 29th of Feorvary last. This treaty was accompanied by an agreement prohibiting pelagic sealing pending the arbitration, and a vigorous effort was made during this season to drive out all poaching steamers from the Behring sea. Six naval vessels, three revenue cutters and one vessel from the fish commission, all under the command of Commander Evans, of the navy, were sent into the sea, all of which were systematically patrolled. Some seizures were made, and it is believed the catch in the Behring sea by poachers amounted to less than 5[illegible] seals. It is true, however, that in the Northern Pacific [illegible] the seals were on their way to their passes between the Aleutian islands, a very large number, probably 3[illegible], were taken. The existing statutes of the United States do not restrain our citizens from killing seals in the Pacific ocean, and perhaps should not until the prohibition can be extended to the citizens of other nations. I recommend that power be given the president by proclamation to prohibit the landing of seals in the North Pacific by American vessels. As to the result of the findings of the tribunal of arbitration or otherwise, the restraints can be supplied to the vessels of all countries. The case of the United States for the tribunal of arbitration has been prepared with great care and industry by the hon. John W. Foster, and the counsel who represents this government express confidence that a result substantially establishing our claims and preserving this great industry to the benefit of all nations will be attained.

The Nicaragua Canal.

I repeat with great earnestness the recommendation, of which I have made mention in previous messages, to the inadequate support given the American company engaged in the construction of the Nicaragua ship canal. It is impossible to overstate the value from every standpoint of this great enterprise, and I hope that there may be a recognition of this by congress to give to it an impetus that will insure an early completion of the canal and secure to the United States its proper relations to it when completed.

The Monetary Conference.

Congress has been already advised that the invitations of this government for the assembling of an international monetary conference, to consider the question of an enlarged issue of silver, were accepted by the nations to which they were issued. The conference assembled at Brussels November 22, and has entered upon the consideration of this great question. I have not doubted and have taken occasion to express that belief, as well in the invitations issued for the conference as in my public messages, that the free coinage of silver, upon agreed international ratio, would probably promote the interests of our people in equality to those of other nations. It is too early to predict what results may be accomplished by the conference. If any temporary check or delay intervenes, I believe that very soon commercial conditions will compel the now reluctant governments to unite with us in this movement to secure the enlargement of the volume of money needed for the transaction of the business of the world.

The Treasury Department.

The report of the secretary of the treasury will attract especial interest, in view of the many misleading statements that have been made as to the state of the public revenue. Three preliminary facts should not only be stated, but emphasized, before looking into details. They are:

First—That the public debt has been reduced since March 4, 1889, $259,074,-240, and the annual interest charges $11,-644,469.

Second—That there has been paid out for pensions during this administration, up to November 1, 1892, $432,564,178, an excess of $114,466,307 over the sum expended during the period from March 1, 1885, to March 1, 1889.

Third—That under the existing tariff, up to December 1 about $93,000,000 of revenue, which would have been collected upon imported sugars if the duty had been maintained, has gone into the pockets of the people, and not into the public treasury as before.

If there are any who still think that the surplus should have been kept out of circulation by hoarding it in the treasury, or depositing it in the banks without interest, while the government continued to pay the very banks interest upon the bonds deposited as security for the deposits, or who thinks the extended pension legislation was a public robbery, or that the duties upon sugar should have been maintained, I am content to leave the argument where it now rests while we wait to see whether these criticisms will take the form of legislation.

The revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1892, from all sources, were:

Revenues	$[illegible],868,240
Expenditures	[illegible],522,808
Balance	$ [illegible],984,432

There were paid during the year upon the public debt $[illegible],467,98[illegible]. The surplus in the treasury and the bank redemption fund, passed by the act of July 14, 1890, to the general fund, furnished, in a large part, the cash available, and was used for the payments made upon the public debt. Compared with the year 1891, our receipts from customs dues fell off $42,069,241, while our receipts from internal revenue increased $8,284,825, leaving the loss of revenue from these principal sources $33,7[illegible]4,418. The net loss of revenue from all sources was $32,675,975. The revenues and expenditures, estimated and actual, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, are placed by the secretary as follows:

Revenues	$[illegible],[illegible],000
Expenditures	[illegible],[illegible],000
Surplus	$ [illegible],000,000

The cash balance in the treasury at the end of the fiscal year, it is estimated, will be $20,992,377. So far as these figures are based on estimate of receipts and expenditures for the remaining months of the current fiscal year, there are not the usual elements of uncertainty, but some added elements of new revenue legislation, or even the expectation of it, seriously reduce the public revenue during the period of uncertainty, and during the press of business adjustment to the new condition when they become known.

But the secretary has very wisely refrained from guessing as to the effect of possible changes in our revenue laws, since the scope of these changes, and the time of their taking effect, cannot in any degree be foreseen or foretold by him; his estimate must be based upon existing laws and upon a continuance of existing business conditions, except so far as these conditions may be affected by causes other than new legislation. The estimated receipts of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, are:

Receipts	$[illegible],121,365
Appropriations	457,[illegible],[illegible]
Surplus of receipts	[illegible],965,[illegible]

This does not include any payment of the sinking fund. The recommendation of the secretary that the sinking fund law be repealed I concur in.

The redemption of bonds since the passage of the law to June 30, 1892, has already exceeded the requirements by the sum of $[illegible],510,681. The retirement of bonds in the future before maturity would be a matter of convenience, not of compulsion. We should not collect revenue for that purpose, but only use the casual surplus. To the balance of $32,[illegible],030 of receipts over expenditures for the year 1894 should be added the estimated surplus at the beginning of the year, $21,022,377; and from this aggregate there must be deducted, as stated by the secretary, about $44,000,-000 of estimated unexpired appropriations.

The public confidence in the purposes and ability of the government to maintain the parity of all our money issues, whether coin or paper, must remain unshaken. The demand for gold in Europe, the consequent ills which fall upon us, are in a considerable degree the result of the efforts of some of the European governments to increase their gold reserves, and these efforts should be met by appropriations upon our part. The conditions that have created this drain on the treasury gold are in an important degree political, and not commercial. In view of the fact that a general revision of our revenue laws in the near future seems to be probable, it would be better that any changes should be a part of that revision rather than of a temporary nature.

During the last fiscal year the secretary purchased, under the act of July 14, 1890, 54,335,748 ounces of silver, and issued in payment therefor 451,104,608 in notes. The total purchases since the passage of the act have been 129,479,981 ounces, and the aggregate of notes issued $155 783,589. The average price paid for silver during the year was 94 cents per ounce, the highest being $1 02¼, July 1, 1891, and the lowest 83 cents, March 21, 1892. In view of the fact that the monetary conference is now sitting, and that no conclusion has as yet been reached, I withhold any recommendation as to the legislation upon this subject.

The Interior Department.

The work of the interior department, always very burdensome, has been larger than ever before during the administration of Secretary Noble. The disability pension law, the taking of the 11th census, the opening of vast areas of Indian lands to settlement, the organization of Oklahoma and the negotiations for the cession of Indian lands, furnish some of the particulars of the increased work, and the results achieved testify to the ability, fidelity and industry of the head of the department and his efficient assistants. Several important agreements for the cession negotiated by the Iowa commission appointed under act of March 2, 1889, are awaiting the act of congress. Perhaps the most important of these is that for the cession of the Cherokee strip. This has been a source of great vexation to the executive representatives, from the great friction incured between the settlers in their desire to occupy it and the Indians who assert title. The agreement which has been made by the commission is, perhaps, the most satisfactory that could have been reached. It will be noticed that it is conditioned upon its ratification by congress before March 4, 1893. The secretary of the interior, who has given the subject careful thought, recommends the ratification of the agreement and was inclined to follow this recommendation. It is certain that some action by which this controversy shall be brought to an end and the lands opened to settlement is urgent.

The form of government provided by congress on May 17, 1884, for Alaska was in its frame and purpose temporary. The increase of population and development of some important mining and commercial interests make it imperative that the law should be revised and better provision made for the arrest and punishment of criminals.

The War Department.

The report of the secretary of war brings again to the attention of congress some important suggestions as to the reorganization of the infantry and artillery arms of the service, which his predecessors have before urged be passed. Our army is small, but its organization should all the more be put upon the most approved modern basis. The conditions upon what we have called the "frontier" have heretofore required the maintenance of many small posts, but now the policy of concentration is obviously the right one. The new posts should have the proper strategic relations to the only "frontiers" we now have, those of the West and North, and a part of our Southern boundary. I do not think that any questions of advantage in localities or states should determine the location of the new posts. The organization and enlargement of the bureau of military information, which the secretary has undertaken, is a work the usefulness of which will become every day more apparent. The work of building heavy guns and the construction of coast defenses has been well begun, and should be carried on without check.

Postoffice Department.

The report of the postmaster-general shows a most gratifying increase and a most efficient and progressive management of the great business of that department. The remarkable increase in revenues, in the number of postoffices and in the miles of mail interchange, furnishes another evidence of the high state of the prosperity which our people are enjoying. New offices mean new hamlets and towns; new routes mean the extension of our border settlements, and increased revenues mean active commerce. The postmaster-general reviews the whole period of his administration of the office, and brings some of his statistics down to the month of November last. The postal revenues have increased during the last year nearly $5,-000,000. The deficit for the year ending June 30, 1892, is $848,341 less than the deficiency of the preceding year. The deficiency of the present fiscal year, it is estimated, will be reduced to $1,782,-423, which will not only be extinguished during the next fiscal year, but a surplus of nearly $1,000,000 should be shown.

The Navy Department.

The report of the secretary of the navy exhibits great progress in the construction of our new navy. When the present secretary entered upon his duties, only three modern steel vessels were in commission. The vessels since put in commission, and to be put in commission during the winter, will make a total of 19 during his administration of the department. During the current year 10 war vessels and three navy tugs have been launched. Two other large ships and a torpedo boat are under contract, and the work upon them will be rapidly advanced. The four monitors are awaiting only the arrival of their armor, which has been unexpectedly delayed, or they would have been before this commission. Contracts have been let during this administration, under the appropriations, for an increase of the navy, including new vessels and their appurtenances, to the amount of $37,000,000, and there have been expended during the same period for labor at the navy-yards upon similar work $8,000,000, without the smallest scandal or charge of fraud or partiality. The enthusiasm and interest of our naval officers, both of the staff and line, have been greatly kindled. They have responded magnificently to the confidence of congress, and have demonstrated to the world an unexcelled capacity to construct in ordnance and in everything involved in the building, equipment and sailing of great warships.

The Pension Bureau.

I have felt that I would not be justified in noting, without some new expression of the legislative will, the report of the commissioner of pensions, to which extended notices given by the secretary of the interior in his report will attract attention. Judged by the aggregate amount of work done, the last year has been the greatest in the history of the office. I believe that the organization of the office is efficient, and that the work has been done with fidelity. The passage of what is now known as the debility bill has, as was foreseen, very largely increased the annual disbursements to the disabled veterans of the civil war. The estimate of his fiscal year was $144,956,000, and that amount was appropriated. A deficiency amounting to $10,0 8,621 must be provided for at this session. The estimates for pensions of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, is $1-5,003,000. The commissioner of pensions believes that if the present legislation and methods are maintained, and further additions to the pensions are not made, the maximum expenditure for pensions will be reached June 30, 1894, and will be at the highest point—$138,000,000 per annum. I adhere to the views expressed in previous messages, that the care of the disabled soldiers of the war of the Rebellion is a matter of national concern and duty.

Perhaps no emotion cools sooner than that of gratitude, but I cannot believe that this process has yet reached a point with our people that would sustain the policy of remitting the care of these disabled veterans to the inadequate agencies provided by local laws. The parade on September 20 last upon the streets of this capital of 300,000 of the surviving Union veterans of the war of the Rebellion was a most touching and thrilling episode, and the rich and gracious welcome extended to them by the District of Columbia and the agriculture that greeted their progress from tens of thousands of people from all the states did much to revive the recollection of the grand review when these men and many thousand others, now in their graves, were welcomed with grateful joy as the victors in a struggle in which the national unity, honor and wealth were at issue.

Union Pacific Railroad.

In my last annual message I called attention to the fact that some executive action was necessary in order to protect the interests of the government in its relations with the Union Pacific railway. The commissioner of railroads has submitted a very full report, giving exact information as to the debt, the liens upon the company's property and its resources. We must deal with the question as we find it and take that course which will, under existing conditions, best secure the interests of the United States. I recommended in my last annual message that a commission be appointed to deal with this question, and I renew that recommendation, and I suggest that the commission be given full power.

Agricultural Department.

The report of the secretary of agriculture contains not only a most interesting statement of the progressive and valuable work done under the administration of Secretary Rusk, but many suggestions for the enlarged usefulness of this important department. In the successful effort to break down the restrictions to the free introduction of our meat products in the countries of Europe, the secretary has been untiring from the first, stimulating and aiding all other government officials at home and abroad whose official duties enabled them to participate in the work. The total trade in meat products with Europe in May, 1892, amounted to 82,000,-000 pounds, against 46,930,000 in the same month of 1891. In June, 1892, the exports aggregated 85,000,000 pounds, against 46,000,000 pounds in the same month of the previous year; in July there was increase of 41 per cent, and in August of 55 per cent over the corresponding months of 1891. Over 40,000,-000 pounds of inspected pork have been exported since the law was put into operation, and a comparison of the four months of May, June, July and August, 1892, with the same months of 1891 shows an increase in the number of pounds of our exports of pork products of 62 per cent, and an increase of all of 66⅔ per cent.

The exports of dressed beef increased from 137,90[illegible],000 pounds in 1889, to 220,5 0,[illegible]00 pounds in 1892, or about 60 per cent. During the past year there have been exported [illegible]6[illegible]7 head of cattle, against 2 5,736 exported in 1889. This increased exportation has been largely promoted by the inspection authorized by law, and the faithful efforts of the secretary and his official coordinates to make that inspection thorough and to carefully exclude from all cargoes diseased or suspected cattle. The requirement of the English regulations that live cattle arriving from the United States must be slaughtered at the docks, had its origin in the claim that pleuro-pneumonia existed among American cattle, and the existence of the disease could not certainly be determined by a post-mortem inspection.

The Columbian Exposition.

The report of the World's Columbian Exposition has not been submitted. That of the board of management of the government exhibit has been received, and is herewith transmitted. The work of construction and of preparation for the opening of the Exposition in May next has progressed most satisfactorily and upon a scale of liberality and magnificence that will worthily sustain the honor of the United States.

The District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia is left by a decision of the supreme court of the district without a law regulating the liquor traffic. An old statute of the legislature of this district relating to the licensing of various vocations has hitherto been treated by the commissioners as giving them power to grant or refuse the licenses to sell intoxicating liquors, and as subjecting those who sold without license to penalties. In May last the supreme court of the district held against this view of the power of the commissioners. It is of urgent importance, therefore, that congress should supply, either by direct enactment, or by conferring discretionary powers upon the commissioners, proper limitations and restraints upon the liquor traffic in the district. The district has suffered in its reputation by many crimes of violence, a large per cent of them resulting from drunkenness and the liquor traffic. The capital of the nation should be freed from this reproach by the enactment of stringent restrictions and limitations upon the traffic.

ETYMOLOGY MADE INTERESTING.

The Origin and Curious Evolution of Some English Surnames.

A magazine article by Sir Herbert Maxwell presents in a very readable form the derivation of a number of common names. It will be news, for example, to many of our readers that Snooks was once known as Sevenoaks. Some persons are not aware that Goodbeth is to be accounted an uncouth form of Isabel, which was formed from Isabeau on a false supposition that Isabeau was masculine. Eliza, it is stated, is not a shortened form of Elizabeth, but is the equivalent of Alice. Marion, we know, is in line with Marie, Mary and Maria.

Patronymics have been much multiplied through pet names. The Saxons formed pet names by adding to the original name—often abbreviated—kin and cock, and the Normans introduced et and ot, en and on. From William we have the pet names Will, Wilcock, Wilkin, Willett, Willey, Willemot, Willen, Bill and Guill (Latin). From these we get, in order, Williams, Macwilliam, Williamson, Wills, Wilson, Cox, Wilkins, Wilkison, Wilkinson, Willet, Willetson, Wilmot, Willing, Bilson, Gill, Gilson, Gilkins, Gilkison, Gillon and Gillott. Robert—through Robin, Dobb, Hob, Rob and Hobkin—gives us Roberts, Robertson, Robins, Robinson, Robison, Probyn, Dobbs, Dobson, Hobbs, Hobson, Robbs, Robson, Hopkins and Hopkinson.

Philip gives us Phipps, Philpot and Philpotts. Richard has been distorted by affection into the pet names Rich, Richie, Dick, Dicson, Hitchin and Hitchcock. From these in turn we have Richards, Richardson, Rickards, Prichard, Rixon, Ritchie, Richison, Dick, Dixie, Dixon, Dickens, Dickenson, Hitchins, Hitchison, Hitchcock and Hitchcox. David has given us Davidson, Dodson, Dodds, Davy, Davison, Daw, Dawson, Dawkins and O'Dowd. We have from Henry the derivations Hal, Hallet, Harry, Harriet and Hawkins.

From John we get Jack and Jenkins; from Simeon, Simkins. Thackeray's ancestor was a thatcher. Malthus got his name from malthouse and the common family name of Bacchus would be more correctly spelled Backhouse. Macpherson means parson's son. Vickers was the vicar's son. Wallace means a Welshman, and Bruce is a Norman name. Sinclair, Montgomery, Hay and Vance are, like Bruce, names derived from lands in Normandy. Many English surnames end in ford, ham (home), leston (farm) and by (dwelling), from the old practice of naming persons after their native place. Aylesford, Grimston, Habersham and Ormsby are examples.

Winslow is from words that mean Wine's hill. From Lea we get Lee, Leigh and Legh. The Welsh Ap, son, with Robert, has become Probert. Ap Rhys has become Price, Ap Owen has become Bowen, and Ap Hugh has become Pugh. A prosperous Dublin small dealer named Halfpenny has had his appellation shortened, it is narrated, to Halpen, and then enlarged to an imposing McAlpin. It is interesting in this connection to know that Finn and Finlay are Celtic surnames equivalent to our White. Roy, Macduff and Dow are for Black. Glass is for Gray. Roy, Cockran and Cochrane all mean red. Our Mr. Brown is in Celtic Mr. Donnan or Mr. Donnan. Moore and Moran answer to our Bigg. On the other hand, Beggs is good Celtic for Little or Small. Olphant (elephant) is a name derived from a shop sign. The reader will perceive that many of our Christian names and surnames have had curious histories.—Baltimore Sun.

The Gladioli.

The splendid gladioli which now ornament all American gardens, from the finest to the humblest, when summer is at its height, are, as every one knows, natives of the Cape of Good Hope, greatly improved and infinitely diversified by cultivation. But perhaps it is not as generally known that the old fashioned hardy species, bearing a few small rose-red or, rarely, white blossoms, which our grandmothers loved long before its showier cousins became the fashion, is of European origin, and is indeed a familiar field flower throughout central and southern Europe.

In those parts of southern France where the festival called the Fete Dieu is still publicly observed, its varieties are more generally employed than any other flowers to decorate the canopies borne in the processions and the little shelters where they halt.—Garden and Forest.

The Baby Was New.

At the time when the coral honeysuckle was scarlet and bright around the porch Dora made the acquaintance of her new little sister. "What shall we call her?" asked mamma. "Daisy, because she is sweet," said Rob quickly. "No," said Dora slowly; "we'd better call her honeysuckle, 'cause she's so red!" The baby was called Daisy until a name was decided upon. Shortly after a lady called. "Our baby's name is Gertrude," said Rob. "Indeed! Didn't you use to call her Daisy?" "Use to!" exclaimed Dora. "There isn't any 'use to' about our baby. She's too new."—Youth's Companion.

Making It Important.

A lecturer in Cork once began an address by remarking very solemnly: "Parents, you may have children, or if not your daughter may have," and concluded with, "There is no man, woman, or child in this audience who has arrived at the age of fifty years but that has felt these mighty truths thundering through their minds for centuries."—Indianapolis News.

"Judas Colored Hair."

The adjective "Judas colored hair" and many similar allusions are often met with in writings of the older authors. In "As You Like It" Rosalind says of Orlando, "His very hair is of that dissembling color," to which Celia replies, "Something browner than Judas'."—St. Louis Republic.

Church and State in Costa Rica.

The official paper of Costa Rica publishes a decree of the government discontinuing the appropriation that has been paid for many years by the government for the support of the church. The reason assigned is the urgent necessity of reducing the expenses of the government, but the official papers announce that the object is to separate entirely the church and state.

During the illness of the late Emperor Frederick it became so much the fashion to consult Dr. Morell Mackenzie that his professional income rose to an average of $1,200 a day.