

(continued from first page)

In the report of the postmaster-general some very gratifying results are exhibited and many betterments of the service suggested. The revenues of the department show an increase of \$50,000,000, while the estimate of the year 1873 show a surplus of receipts over the expenditures. The president's message reviews the postmaster-general's recommendations on an ocean mail service and says: "I do not think there is any reason for discouragement or for any turning back from the policy of this legislation. Indeed, a good beginning has been made and as the subject is further considered and understood by the capitalists and shipping people, we may date from the passage of this law the revival of American shipping interests and the recovery of a fair share of the carrying trade of the world. I commend to your favorable consideration the tariff as discussed at great length by the president. 'I believe,' said the president, 'that a full act will develop the fact that the tariff act of the fifty-first congress is very favorable in its average effect upon the prices of articles flowing into common use. During the twelve months from October 1st, 1890 to September 30, 1891, the total value of our foreign commerce, exports and imports combined, was \$1,747,806,406, which was the largest of any year in the history of the United States. The largest in any previous year was in 1890, when our commerce amounted to \$1,647,139,093.

It is interesting, and to some, it will be surprising to know that during the year ending September 30, 1891, the imports of merchandise amounted to \$824,715,270, which was an increase of more than \$11,000,000 over the value of the imports of the corresponding months of the previous year when the imports of merchandise were large in anticipation of the tariff legislation then pending. The average annual value of the imports of merchandise for the ten years from 1881 to 1890 was \$692,186,522, and during the year ending September 30, 1891, this annual average was exceeded by \$132,528,469. The value of free imports during the twelve months ending September 30, 1891, was \$118,091,387 more than the value of free imports during the corresponding months of the preceding year, and there was during the same year a decrease of \$16,864,518 in the value of imports of durable merchandise. The percentage of merchandise admitted free of duty during the year to which I have reference, the first under the tariff, was 14.18, while during the preceding twelve months under the old tariff its percentage was 34.27, an increase of 13.9 per cent.

If we take the six months, ending September 30, last, which covers the time during which sugars have been admitted free of duty the per cent. of value of merchandise imported free of duty is found to be 55.37, which is a larger percentage of free imports than during any prior fiscal year in the history of the government. If we turn to imports of merchandise, the statistics are full of gratification. The whole of such exports of merchandise for the twelve months ending September 30, 1891, was \$923,291,181, while for the corresponding previous twelve months it was \$860,177,115. There is certainly nothing in the condition of our people of any class to suggest, that the existing tariff and revenue legislation bears oppressively upon the people or retards the commercial development of the nation. It may be argued that our condition would be better if our tariff legislation were upon a free trade basis, but it cannot be denied that all the conditions of prosperity and of general contentment are present in a larger degree than ever before in our history, and that, too, just when it was prophesied they would be in the worst state. Agitation for radical changes in tariff and financial legislation cannot help, but may seriously impede business to the prosperity of which some degree of stability in legislation is essential. I think there are conclusive evidences that the new tariff has created several great industries which will within a few years give employment to several hundred thousand American working-men and women.

The report of the secretary of the treasury shows that the total receipts of the government from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, were \$458,344,233.93, while the expenditures for the same period were \$421,304,470.46, leaving a surplus of \$37,239,762.67. The receipts of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, actual and estimated, are \$433,700,000 and the expenditures, \$400,000,000. Under the law of July 14, 1890, the secretary of the treasury has purchased since August 13, during the first year 48,393,113 ounces of silver bullion at an average of \$1.045 per ounce. The highest price paid during the year was \$1.2025 and the lowest was \$0.9636. In exchange for this silver bullion there have been issued \$5,057,496 of the treasury notes authorized by the act. The lowest price of silver reached during the fiscal year was \$0.9396, on April 22, 1891, but on November 1, the market price was only 0.69, which would give to the silver dollar a bullion value of 74.3 cents. Before the introduction of the prospective silver legislation was felt in the market, silver was worth in New York about 0.975 per ounce. The ablest advocates of free coinage in the last congress were most confident in their prediction that the purchase by the government required by the law would at once bring the price of silver to \$1.2929 per ounce which would make the bullion value of a dollar 100 cents, and hold it there. The prophecies of the anti silver men of disasters to result from the coinage of \$2,000,000 per month were not wider of the mark. I hope the depression in the price of silver is temporary and that a further trial of this legislation will more favorably affect it. But the increased volume of currency thus supplied for the use of the people was needed, and beneficial results upon trade and prices have followed this legislation. I think it must be very clear to everyone, nor should it be forgotten, that for every dollar of these rates issued a full dollar's worth of silver bullion is at the same time deposited in the treasury as a security for its redemption. Upon this subject, as upon the tariff, my recommendation is that the existing laws be given a full trial and that our business be spared the distressing influence which threats of a radical changes always imparts. The recommendation of the secretary of the navy that there should be no hesitation in promptly completing a navy of the best modern type, large enough to enable this country to display its flag in all seas for the protection of its citizens, and of its extending commerce.

The provisions of adequate school facilities of Indian children and the locating of adult Indians upon farms, involve the situation of the "Indian question." There is a great advantage in bringing the Indian children into mixed schools. This process will be gradual, and in the meantime the present educational provisions, and arrangements, the result of the best experience of those who have been charged with this work, should be continued. This will enable those religious bodies that have undertaken the work of Indian education, with so much zeal, and with results so restraining and beneficent, to place their institutions in new and useful relations to the Indian and his white neighbor. General Miles is entitled to the credit of having protected the settlers and of bringing the hostile Sioux into subjection last December with the least possible loss of life.

The administration of the pension bureau has been characterized during the year by great diligence. The total number of pensioners upon the roll on the 30th day of June 1891, was 676,160. There were allowed during the fiscal year ending at that time 290,525 cases. Of this number 102,487 were allowed under the laws of June 57, 1890. The issuing of certificates has been proceeding at the rate of about 30,000 per month, about 75 per cent of these being cash, under the new law. The commissioner expresses the opinion that he will be able to carefully adjudicate and allow 35,000 claims during the present fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year of 1890-91 was \$127,685,793.89 and the amount expended was \$119,530,640.20, leaving an unexpended surplus of \$155,144.64.

The report of the commissioners of railroads shows that the total debt of the subsidized railroads of the United States was on December 31, 1890, \$112,512,013.08. A large part of the debt is now fast approaching maturity, with no adequate provision for its payment. Some policy for dealing with this debt with a view to its ultimate collection should at once be adopted. As it is very difficult, well-nigh impossible, for so large a body as congress to conduct necessary negotiations, I therefore recommend that a commission be made for the appointment of a commission to agree upon and report a plan for dealing with this debt.

The work of the census bureau is in advance and the great bulk of the enormous labor involved completed. It will be more strictly a statistical exhibit and less encumbered with essays than its immediate predecessors. The methods pursued have been fair, careful and intelligent, and have secured the approval of the statisticians who have followed them with a scientific and non-partisan interest.

If irrigation matters are much longer neglected private corporations will have unrestricted control of one of the elements of life and the patentees of the arid lands will be tenants at will of the water companies. The United States should part with its ownership of the water sources and the sites for reservoirs within the states and territories or to individuals or corporations, only upon conditions that will insure to the settlers their proper water supply upon equal and reasonable terms.

The legislation of congress for the repression of polygamy after many years of resistance on the part of the Mormons, has at least brought them to the conclusion that resistance is unprofitable and unavailing. The power of congress over this subject should not be surrendered until we have satisfactory evidence that the people of the state to be created would exercise the exclusive power of the state over this subject in the same way.

I recommend that a provision be made for the organization of a simple town government in Alaska, with power to regulate such matters as are usually in the statutes under municipal control. The local organizations will give better protection in such matters than the present skeleton territorial organization. Proper restrictions as to the power to levy taxes and to create debts should be imposed.

If the establishment of the department of agriculture is regarded by any one as a mere concession to the unlightened demand of a narrow class of people, that impression has been most effectively removed by the great results already attained.

The grain crop of this year was the largest in our history. Fifty per cent. greater than that of last year and yet the market that has opened and the larger demand resulting from short crops in Europe have sustained prices to such an extent that the enormous surplus of meats and bread stuffs will be marketed at good prices. The value of the grain crop of the United States is estimated by the secretary to be this year \$500,000,000 more than last year and of meats \$150,000,000 more and all products of the farm \$700,000,000 more. It is not unappropriate, I think, however, to suggest here that our satisfaction in the completion of this marvelous addition to the nation's wealth is clouded by any suspicion of the late currency by which it is measured and in which the farmer is paid for the product of his fields.

The heads of the several executive departments have been directed to the establishment at once of an efficiency record as a basis of comparative rating of clerks within a classified service with a view to promoting methods thereon. I have twice before called attention to congress to the necessity of legislation for protection of the lives of railroad employes, but nothing has yet been done. During the year ending June 30, 1890, 369 brakemen were killed and 7841 maimed, while engaged in coupling cars. The total number of railroad employes killed during the year was 2451, and the number injured 22,590. This is a cruel and largely a needless sacrifice. A law requiring of every railroad engaged in interstate commerce the equipment each year of a given number of its freight cars with automatic couplers and air brakes to be used would very soon and very greatly reduce the present fearful death rate among railroad employes.

The method of appointment by states and electors of the president and vice-president has recently attracted renewed interest by reason of a departure of the state of Michigan from the methods which had become uniform in all the states. After a full test of other methods, and without any purpose of party advantage, as we must believe, but solely upon consideration that uniformity was desirable and that a general election on territorial divisions, not subject to change was more consistent with the popular character of our institutions

and best preserved the equality of the voters and effectually removed the choice of president from the panel influences of "gerrymandering," the practice of all states was brought into harmony with this concurrence should now be broken, as I think an unfortunate and even a threatening episode. The gerrymanders for congressional purposes are in most cases buttressed by a gerrymander of the legislative district thereby making it impossible for a majority of the legislative voters of the state to correct the apportionment and equalize the congressional districts, and a minority rule is established that only a political convulsion can overthrow. I have recently been advised that in one county of a certain state three districts for the election of member of the legislature are constituted as follows, one has 45,000 population one 15,000 and one 10,000. While in another county detached non-centurion sections have been united to make a legislative district. These methods have already found effective application to the choice of senators and representatives in congress. It is not my purpose here to discuss the question whether a choice by the legislature or by the voters of equal single districts is a choice by the state, but only to recommend such regulation of this matter by constitutional amendment as will secure uniformity and prevent that disgraceful partisan jugglery to which such a liberty, if it exists, offers a temptation. If I were called up to declare whom in our chief national danger lies, I should say without hesitation in the overthrow of a majority, (control by the suppression or perversion of the popular suffrage alluded to by gerrymandering or are effected by the method of selecting electors of the president, by congressional districts, but the primary intent and effect of this form of political robbery have relation to the selection of members of the house of representatives. The power of congress ample to deal with this threatening and intolerable abuse. I must yet entertain the hope that it is possible to secure a calm patriotic consideration of such constitutional or statutory changes as may be necessary to secure the choice of the officers of the government to be made by fair apportionment and free elections. I believe it would be possible to constitute a commission non partisan in its membership and composed of patriots wise and impartial men to whom a consideration of the question of the evils connected with our election system and methods might be committed with a good prospect of securing a unanimity in some plan for relieving or mitigating these evils into the subject of elections as relating to the choice of officers of the national government with a view of securing to every elector a free and unmolested exercise of suffrage and near an approach to an equality of value in each ballot cast as it is attainable.

A POOR SPECIMEN OF A JUDGE.

He Was Cross Eyed and Red Headed and the Yankee Was Astonished. No man in the state had a keener appreciation of humor than the late Judge T. Lisle Dickie, who served many years as a circuit judge before being elevated to the supreme bench of the state. Although he had a rich fund of anecdotal lore concerning the prominent members of the Illinois bar, he never related a good story of any of his fellow lawyers with keener relish than the following incident of which he was the hero. It is necessary to a full appreciation of the story that the reader should be reminded that Judge Dickie was cross eyed to an intricate and marvelous degree, and also gifted with brilliantly red hair.

The story is as follows: "I had been out shooting prairie chickens down below Ottawa, and was returning home on the public road along in the afternoon. It was hot and I had already tramped far enough to get thoroughly tired out, and, as it was several miles to town, I was anxious to catch a ride. The first team that came along was a lightning rod outfit. "Friend, can you take a passenger?" said I.

"He looked at me suspiciously. Perhaps I looked even more cross eyed than usual without my 'store clothes' on—at any rate he seemed, at first, of a mind to drive on without me. But he finally stopped his wagon and condescendingly remarked: "Yes; you can pile on back there, top of the rods and ladders." "I gratefully accepted that privilege and we rode on in silence until we reached a wayside watering trough. The man dismounted, unhooked a pail from beneath the wagon, and proceeded to water his horses. Meantime the proprietor of the premises came out to fill his own pail. He knew me well and said: "How'd do, judge. What luck have you had shooting?" "As the word 'judge' fell from his lips I noticed a look of astonishment on the face of the Yankee lightning rod man. The fellow was bolstering up the pail of water with his knee to a height from which his horse could drink without unchecking, and his astonishment was so great that he let his knee slip out from under the pail and splashed the front of his clothes.

"Didn't that feller back there at the waterin trough call you judge?" inquired the Yankee, as soon as we had started on. "Yes, I replied. "What be you judge of, a horse race?" he exclaimed, turning back to take a second contemptuous inventory of my personal charms. "No; judge of a court," I replied. "What kind of a court?" "A circuit court," was my answer. "Waal—down east, where I come from, it took a considerable of a feller to be circuit judge! How big's your circuit?"

"It reaches from the Wisconsin line as far south as Peoria," I again replied. "Lifting the hickory stick of his drover's whip he sent its long rawhide lash twirling in a succession of coils above his head, which culminated in a crack like the explosion of a pistol. "My goodness! I'll settle in this country myself if they make such a man as you judge!" exclaimed the disgusted Yankee. It was his final dictum. He did not offer to exchange another word with me. We parted in silence at the outskirts of the town.—Chicago Mail.

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