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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[Continued from last week.]

### EXPEDITION TO THE AMAZON.

In attempting to regain our lost commerce and carrying trade, I have heretofore called attention to the States south of the United States as offering a field where much might be accomplished to further this object. I suggest that a small appropriation be made, accompanied with authority for the secretary of the Navy to fit out a naval vessel to ascend the Amazon River to the mouth of the Maderia; thence to explore the river and its tributaries into Bolivia; to report to Congress at its next session, or as soon as practicable, the accessibility of the country by water, its resources and population. Such an exploration would cost but little. It can do no harm, and may result in establishing a trade of value to both nations.

### TARIFF LAWS.

In further connection with the Treaty Department, I would recommend a revision and codification of tariff laws and the opening of more Mints for coining money, with authority to coin for such nations as may apply.

### THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The attention of Congress is invited to the recommendations in the report of the Secretary of War. The apparent great cost of supporting the Academy is fully explained in the report, and will receive your attention. While asking your general attention to all the recommendations, there are two to which I would particularly invite your consideration. First, the importance of preparing for war in time of peace, by providing for a proper armament of our sea coast defenses. Proper armaments are of vastly more importance than fortifications. The latter can be supplied very speedily for temporary purposes, when needed; the former cannot. The second is the necessity of reopening promotion in the staff corps of the army. Particularly is this necessity felt in the Medical, Pay and Ordnance Departments. At this time it is necessary to employ contract surgeons to supply the necessary medical attention required by the army. With the present force of the Pay Department it is now difficult to make the payments to troops provided for by law. Delays in payments are productive of desertions and demoralization, and the law prohibits the paying of troops by other than regular army paymasters. There are now sixteen vacancies in the Ordnance Department, thus leaving that branch of service without sufficient officers to conduct the business of the different arsenals on a large scale, if ever required.

### THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

During the past year our navy has been reduced by the sale of some vessels no longer fit for naval purposes and by the condemnation of others not yet disposed of. This, however, has been more than compensated for by the repair of six of the old wooden ships and by the building of eight new sloops of war, authorized by the last Congress. The building of these latter has occurred at a doubly fortunate time. They are about being completed when they will possibly be much needed and the work upon them has not only given employment to thousands of men, but has no doubt been the means of keeping open the establishments of other works at a time of great financial distress. Since the commencement of the last month, however, the distressing occurrences which have taken place in the waters of the Caribbean Sea, along our very seaboard, illustrate most forcibly the necessity always existing that a nation situated as ours should maintain in a state of efficiency a navy adequate to its responsibilities. It has at the same time demanded that all the effective force we really have shall be put in immediate readiness for war-like service. This has been and is being done promptly and effectively. I am assured that all the available ships and every authorized man of the American navy will be ready for whatever action is required for the safety of our citizens or the maintenance of our honor. This, of course, will render necessary the expenditure in a short time of some of the appropriations which were calculated to extend through the fiscal year; but Congress will, I doubt not, understand and appreciate the emergency, and

will provide adequately not only for the present situation, but for the future maintenance of our naval force. The Secretary of the Navy has, during the past year, been quietly putting some of our extensive fleet of monitors in a condition for service, and thus the exigency finds us in a much better condition for work than we could have been without his action.

### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A complete exhibit is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster General of the operations of the Post Office Department during the year. The ordinary postal revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, amounted to \$22,996,741.57, and expenditures of all kinds, \$29,084,965.37. The increase in revenues over 1872 was \$1,081,315.29, and the increase in expenditures \$216,573.96, independent of payments made from special appropriations for mail steamship lines. The amount drawn from the General Treasury to meet deficiencies was \$526,547. The constant and rapid extension of our postal service, particularly upon railways, and the improved facilities for the collection, transmission, distribution, and delivery of mails which are constantly being provided, account for the increased expenditures of this popular branch of the public service. The total number of post offices in operation on the 30th of June, 1873, was 44,244, an increase of 1,381 over the number reported the previous year. The number of Presidential offices was 1,363, an increase of 62 during the year. The total length of railroad mail routes at the close of the year was 64,455 miles, an increase of 5,546 over the year 1870. Fifty-nine railroad post office lines were in operation on the 30th of June, 1873, extending over 14,866 miles of railroad routes, and performing an aggregate service of 34,925 miles daily. The number of letters exchanged with foreign countries was 27,458,185, an increase of 3,066,985 over the previous year, and the postage thereon amounted to \$2,921,310.86. The total weight of correspondence exchanged in mails with European countries exceeded 912 tons, an increase of 92 tons over the previous year. The total cost of the United States ocean mail steamship service, including \$765,000 paid from special appropriations paid to subsidized lines of mail steamers, was \$1,049,771.35. Additional postal conventions have been concluded with Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Newfoundland, and Japan, reducing postage rates on correspond, exchange with those countries; and further efforts have been made to conclude a satisfactory postal convention with France, but without success. I invite the favorable consideration of Congress to the suggestions and recommendations of the Postmaster General for an extension of the free delivery system in all cities having a population of not less than ten thousand; for the prepayment of postage on newspapers and other printed matter of the second class; for uniform postage and a limit of weight on miscellaneous matter; for adjusting the compensation of all postmasters appointed by the President by the old method, or commissions on the actual receipts of their offices, instead of the present mode of fixing their salaries in advance upon special returns; and especially do I urge favorable action by Congress on the important recommendation of the Postmaster General for the establishment of United States postal savings depositories. Your attention is also again called to the consideration of the question of postal telegraphs and the arguments adduced in support thereof, in the hope that you may take such action in connection therewith as in your judgment will most contribute to the best interests of the country.

### AFFAIRS IN UTAH.

Require your early and special attention. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *Clinton vs. Engelbrecht*, decided that the U. S. Marshal of that Territory could not lawfully summon jurors. It was also held that the Territorial Marshal faithfully performed that duty, because he is elected by the Legislative Assembly and not appointed as provided for in the act organizing the Territory. All proceedings at law are practically abolished by these decisions, and there have been but few new jury trials in the District Court in that Territory since the last session of Congress. Property is left without protection by Courts, and crimes go unpunished. To prevent anarchy it is evidently necessary that Congress provide the Courts with some mode of obtaining juries, and I recommend legislation to that end; and also that the Probate Courts of the Territory, which now assume to issue writs of injunction and habeas corpus, and to try

criminal cases and questions as to land titles, be denied jurisdiction not possessed by Courts of that description.

### MODIFICATION OF THE BANKRUPT ACT.

I have become impressed with the belief that the act approved March 2, 1867, entitled "An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," is productive of more evil than good. At this time many considerations might be urged for its repeal, but if this is not considered advisable, I think it will not be seriously questioned that those portions of said act providing for what is alleged involuntary bankruptcy operate to increase the financial embarrassment of careful and prudent men, who very often become involved in debt in the transaction of their business, and though they may possess ample property, if it could be made available for that purpose, to meet all their liabilities, yet on account of the extraordinary scarcity of money they are unable to meet all their pecuniary obligations as they become due, in consequence of which they are liable to be prostrated in their business by proceedings in bankruptcy at the instance of unrelenting creditors. People are now so easily alarmed as to monetary matters that the mere filing of a petition in bankruptcy by an unreluctant creditor will necessarily embarrass and oftentimes accomplish the financial ruin of responsible business men. Those who otherwise might make lawful and just arrangements to relieve themselves from the difficulties produced by a stringency in money are prevented by their constant exposure to attack and disapproval by proceedings against them in bankruptcy; and besides the law is made use of in many cases by obdurate creditors to frighten debtors into compliance with their wishes, and into acts of injustice to other creditors and to themselves. I recommend that so much of said act as provides for involuntary bankruptcy on account of suspension of payment be repealed.

### CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Your careful attention is invited to the subject of claims against the Government and the facilities afforded by existing laws for their prosecution. Each of the departments of State, Treasury and War, have demands for many millions of dollars upon their files, and they are rapidly accumulating. To these may be added those now pending before Congress—the Court Claims and the Southern Claims Commission—making in the aggregate an immense sum. Most of these claims grew out of the rebellion and are intended to indemnify persons on both sides for their losses during the war, and a few of them are fabricated and supported by false testimony. Projects are on foot, it is believed, to induce Congress to provide for new classes of claims and to revive old ones through a repeal or modification of the statute of limitation by which they are now barred. I presume these schemes, if proposed, will be received with little favor by Congress, and I recommend that persons having claims against the United States cognizable by any tribunal or department thereof be required to present them at an early day, and that legislation be directed as far as practicable to the defeat of unfounded and unjust demands upon the Government. And I would suggest as a means of preventing fraud that witnesses be called to appear in person to testify before these tribunals having said claims before them for adjudication. Probably the largest saving to the National Treasury can be secured by timely legislation on these subjects and the economical measures that will be proposed.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

You will be advised of the operations of the Department of Justice by the report of the Attorney General, and I invite your attention to the amendments of existing laws suggested by him with a view of reducing expenses in that department.

### INTERIOR DEPARTMENT—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The policy inaugurated toward the Indians at the beginning of the last Administration has been steadily pushed, and I believe with beneficial results. It will be continued, with only such modifications as time and expediency may demonstrate as necessary. With the encroachment of civilization upon the Indian reservations and hunting grounds, disturbances have taken place between the Indians and whites during the past year, and probably will continue to do so until such race appreciates that the other has rights which must be respected. The policy has been to collect the Indians as rapidly as possible on reservations, and as far as practicable within what is known as Indian Territory, and to teach them the arts of civilization and self-support. Where found off their reservations and endangering the peace and safety of whites, they have been punished, and will continue to be for like offenses. The Indian Territory south of Kansas and west of Arkansas is sufficient in area and agricultural resources to support all the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains. In time, no doubt, all of them, except a few who may elect to make their homes among white people, will be

collected there. As a preparatory step for this consummation I am now satisfied that a Territorial form of government should be given, them, which will secure the treaty rights of the original settlers and protect their homesteads from alienation.

### THE PATENT OFFICE.

The operations of the Patent Office are growing to such magnitude, and the accumulation of material is becoming so great, that the necessity for more room is becoming more obvious day by day. I respectfully invite your attention to the reports of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Patents on this subject.

### THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

The business of the General Land office exhibits a material increase in all its branches during the last fiscal year. During that time there were disposed of of the public lands 3,030,608 acres, being an amount greater by 1,165,631 acres than was disposed of the preceding year. Of the amount disposed of, 1,625,265 acres were sold for cash; 244,940 acres located with military warrants; 379,461 acres were taken for homesteads; 633,446 acres were located with agricultural college scrip; 608,333 acres were certified to railroads; 765,756 acres were granted to wagon roads; 238,548 acres were approved to States as swamp lands; 138,681 acres were certified for agricultural colleges, common schools, universities and seminaries; 190,375 acres were approved to States for internal improvements and 1,422 acres were located with Indian scrip. The cash receipts during the same time were \$3,408,515 50 being \$190,413 50 in excess of their receipts for the previous year. During the year 3,408,132 acres of public land were surveyed, an increase over the amount surveyed the previous year of 1,037,193 acres, and added to the area previously surveyed, aggregates 616,554,895 which have been surveyed, leaving 1,218,443,505 acres of public land still unsurveyed. The increased and steadily increasing facilities for reaching our unoccupied public domain, and for the transportation of surplus products enlarges the available field for desirable homestead locations, thus stimulating settlement, and extending, year by year, in a gradually increasing ratio, occupation and cultivation. The expressed desire of representatives of a large colony of citizens of Russia to emigrate to this country, as is understood, with the consent of our Government, if certain concessions can be made to enable them to settle in a compact colony, is of great interest, as going to show the light in which our institutions are regarded by an industrious, intelligent and wealthy people, desirous of enjoying civil and religious liberty, and the acquisition of so large an immigration of citizens of a superior class would, without doubt, be of much substantial benefit to the country. I invite attention to the suggestions of the Secretary of the Interior in this behalf.

### PENSIONS.

There was paid during the last fiscal year for pensions, including the expenses of disbursement, \$28,185,689, being an amount less by \$954,050 98 than was expended for the same purpose the preceding year. It is believed that with the preceding year, although this statement of expenditures would indicate a material reduction in the amount, compared with the preceding year. It is believed that the changes in the pensions laws at the last session of Congress will absorb that amount during the current year. At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension rolls 99,841 invalid military pensioners and 132,000 widows, orphans and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers, making a total of that class of \$211,862, 18,297 survivors of the war of 1812 and 5,933 widows of soldiers of that war, pensioned under the act of Congress of February 11, 1871—making a total of that class of 23,319; 1,436 invalid navy pensioners, and 1,770 widows and orphans and dependent relatives of deceased officers, sailors and marines of the navy pensioners; making 3,206—a grand total of pensioners of all classes of 218,411, showing a net increase during the last fiscal year of 8,218. The names of 1,615 pensioners were added to the rolls, and 1,023 names were dropped. The system adopted for the detection of frauds against the Government in the matter of pensions has been productive of satisfactory results, but legislation is needed to provide, if possible, against the perpetration of such frauds in future.

### EDUCATION.

The evidently increasing interest in the cause of education is the most encouraging feature in the general progress of the country, and the Bureau of Education is earnest in its efforts to give a proper direction to the increased facilities which are being offered to aid in the education of the country.

### CENSUS.

The ninth census has been completed, and the report thereof published and distributed and the working force of the Bureau disbanded. The Secretary of the Interior gives his recommendation for a census to be taken in 1875, to which subject the attention of Congress is invited. The original suggestion in that behalf has met with the general approval of the country, and even if it be not deemed advisable at present to provide for a regular quinquennial census, a census taken in 1875, the re-

port of which could be completed and published before the Hundredth Anniversary of our Independence, would be especially interesting and valuable, as showing the progress of the country during the first century of our national existence. It is believed, however, that a regular census every five years would be of substantial benefit to the country, inasmuch as our growth hitherto has been so rapid that the results of a decennial census are necessarily unreliable as a basis of estimates for the latter years of the decennial period.

### THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Under the very efficient management of the Governor and Board of Public Works of this District the City of Washington is rapidly assuming the appearance of a Capitol of which the Nation may well be proud. From being a most unsightly place three years ago, disagreeable to pass through in Summer in consequence of the dust arising from unpaved streets and almost impassable in Winter from the mud, it is now one of the most slightly cities in the country, and can boast of being paved. The work has been done systematically, the grades, location of sewers, and of water and gas mains being determined upon before the work was commenced, thus securing permanency when completed. I question whether so much has ever been accomplished in any American city for the same expenditure. The Government having a large reservation in the city and the Nation at large having an interest in their Capitol I recommend a liberal policy toward the District of Columbia, and that the Government should bear its just share of the expense of these improvements. Every citizen visiting the Capitol feels a pride in its growing beauty, and that he, too, is part owner in the investments made here. I would suggest to Congress the propriety of promoting the establishment in this District of an institution of learning, or university of the highest class, by the donation of lands. There is no place better suited for such an institution than the National Capitol. There is no other place in which our citizens are directly interested.

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

In my successive messages to Congress I have called attention to the subject of civil service reform. Action has been taken so far as to authorize the appointment of a board to devise rules governing the methods of making appointments and promotions, but there never has been any motion on these rules. To have any rules effective they must have the acquiescence of Congress, as well as those of the Executive. I recommend, therefore, the subject to your attention and suggest that a special committee of Congress might confer with the civil board during the present session for the purpose of devising such rules as can be maintained and which will secure the services of honest and capable officials, and which will also protect them in a degree of confidence while in office. Proper rules will protect Congress, as well as the Executive, from much needless precaution and will prove of great value to the public at large.

### COLORADO AS A STATE.

I recommend for your favorable consideration the passage of an Act for the admission of Colorado as a State in the Union. It possesses all the elements of prosperity, and I believe a population to justify such admission.

### CANAL FOR IRRIGATION.

In this connection I would also recommend the encouragement of a canal for purposes of irrigation from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri River. As a rule I am opposed to donating public lands for internal improvements owned and controlled by private corporations, but in this instance I would make an exception between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains. There is an arid belt of public land, from three hundred to five hundred miles in width, perfectly valueless for the occupation in man for the want of sufficient rain to secure the growth of any products. An irrigating canal would make highly productive a belt as wide as the supply of water could be made to spread over and across this entire country, and would secure a portion of settlements connecting the present population of the mountain and mining regions with that of the other States. All the land reclaimed would be clear gain. If alternate sections were reclaimed by the Government, I would suggest that the reclaimed sections be thrown open to entry under the Homestead law and sold to actual settlers at very low prices.

### AMNESTY.

I renew my recommendation to Congress for a general amnesty. The number engaged in the rebellion, laboring under this disadvantage, is very small, but enough to keep up a constant irritation. No possible danger can ensue to the Government by restoring them to eligibility to hold office.

### CIVIL RIGHTS.

I suggest for your consideration the enactment of a law to better secure the civil rights which freedom should secure, but has not effectually secured, to the enfranchised slaves.

(Signed), U. S. GRANT.  
EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 1, 1873.