the waters of the Carribean Sea, along our very seaboard, while they 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 the effective force we really have shall be put in immediate readiness for warlike 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 cities or the maintenance of our honor. This of course, will render expenditure, in a short time, of some of the appropiations 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 monitors in a condition for service, and thus the exigency finds us in a much better condition for work than we should possibly have been without his action.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A complete exhibiton is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster-General of the operations of the Postoffice Department during the year. The ordinary postal revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1873, amounted to $22,996,741 57, and the expenditures of all kinds to $29,084,905 67. The increase in revenues over 1872 was $1,081,315 20, and the increase in expenditures, $246,573 06, independent of payments made from special appropriations made for mail steamship lines. The amount drawn from the General Treasury to meet deficiencies was $526,547. The constant and rapid extention 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 increase of expenditures of this popular branch of the public service. The total number of postoffices 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 162 during the year. The total length of railroad mail routes at the close of the year was 63,455 miles, an increase of 5,546 miles over the year 1870. Fifty-nine railroad postoffice 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 27,459 185, an increase of 3,096,685 over the previous year; and the postage thereon amounted to $2,021,310 86. The total weight of correspondence exchanged in the 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 $735,000 paid from special appropriations to subsidized lines of mail steamers, was $1,047,771 35. Additional postal conventions have been concluded with Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Canada, New Foundland and Japan, reducing postage rates on correspondence and 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 pre-payment 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.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Affairs in Utah require your early and special attention. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Clinton vs. Englebrecht, decided that the United States Marshall of that Territory could lawfully summon jurors. It was also held that the Territorial Marshal faithfully performed the 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 there it is evidently necessary that Congress should provide the Courts with some mode obtaining juries, ans 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 ordinarily by courts of that description.

MODIFICATION OF THE BANKRUPT ACT.

I have become impressed with the belief that the act approved March 21, 1867, entitled "an act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," is productive of more evil than good; that 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 questional that those portions of said act providing for what is alleged involuntary bankruptcy operates 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 may be 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 unfriendly 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 disappointment 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 the 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 of Claims and the Southern Claims Commission, making in the aggregate an immense sum. Most of these 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 the timely legislation on these subjects. Of the economic measures that will be proposed, 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 inaugarated towards 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 experience 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 last year, and probably will continue to do so until each 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 Indians east of the Rocky Mountains. In time, no doubt, all of them except a few who may elect to make their home among the 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 report 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, 3,639,608 acres—being an amount greater by 1,465,631 acres than was disposed of the preceding year. Of the amount disposed of, 1,626,266 acres were sold for cash; 214,940 acres were located with military land-warrants; 379,361 acres were taken for homesteads; 653,446 acres were located with agricultural college scrip; 608,353 acres were certified by railroads; 765,756 acres were granted to roads; 238,548 acres were approved to State as swamp lands; 138,681 acres were certified for agricultural collegas, common schools, universities and seminaries; 190,775 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, $3,498,515 50—being $190,415-50 in excess of receipts for the previous year. During the year, 3,488-132 acres of public land were surveyed—an increase over the amont surveyed the previous year of 1,037,-193 acres, and, added to the area, previously surveyed, aggregates 616-554,895 acres which have been surveyed, leaving 1,218,443,505 acres of public lands 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 expresed desire of the representatives of a large colony of citizens of Russia to emigrate to this country, as is understood with the consent of their Government, if certain concessions can be made to enable them to settle in a compact colony, is of great interest 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 disbursment, $29,-185,289 62, being an amount less by $984,050 98 than was expended for the same purpose the preceding year. Although this statement of expenditures would indicate a material reduction in amount compared with the preceding year, it is believed that the changes in the pension laws at the last session of Congress will absorb that amount the current year. At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension rolls 99-804, invalid military pensioners, and 132,088 widows, orphans and dependent relations of deceased soldiers, making a total of that class, of 211,-892—18,266 survivors of the war of 1812, and 2,053 widows of soldiers of that war, pensioned under the act of Congress of February 14th, 1871, making a total of that class of 23,-319; 1,430 invalid navy pensioners, and 1,770 widows and orphans and dependent relations of deceased officers, sailors and marines of the navy, pensioners, making 3,290. Grand total of pensioners of all classes, 238,411—showing a net increase during the last fiscal year of 8,218. The names of 1,645 pensioners were added to the rolls, and 10,223 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 the future.

EDUCATION.

The evidently increasing interest in the cause of education is the most encouraging feature in the 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 in 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 suggestions 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 report of which could be completed and published before the hundreth 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 Work of this District, the city of Washington is rapidly assuming the appearance of a Capital 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 impassible in winter from the mud, it is now one of the most sightly 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 Capital, 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 Capital 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 a institution of learning or university of the highest class, by the donation of lands. There is no other place better suited for such an institution than the National Capital. 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 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 admittance 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 the public lands for internal improvements, owned and controlled by private corporations, but in this instance I would make an exception. Between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains there is an arid belt of public land of from three hundred to five hundred miles in width, perfectly valueless for the occupation of man for the want of sufficient rain to secure the growth of any products. An irrigating canal would make 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 cordon of settlements connecting the present population of the mountain and mining regions with that of the older 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 previous recommendation to Congress for general amnesty. The number engaged in the rebellion, laboring under disadvantages, 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 freedmen should secure, but has not effectually secured to the enfranchised slaves.

(Signed,) U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 1, 1873.

Congressional News.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—In the Senate to-day, Sherman introduced a bill to provide for the redemption of the loan of 1858, being the same bill that was introduced in the House by Davis.

Platt offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire whether Congress has authority to create corporations for constructing railroads and canals penetrating two or more States; and whether it has power to regulate the rate of railroad transit on existing roads chartered by the States, which, by consolidation, have continuous lines running through two or more States.

Morrill, of Maine, is speaking on his resolution instructing the Committee on Finance to consider the expediency of reporting a bill to provide for the resumption of specie payment by January 1st, 1875. Morrill's argument for the resumption of specie payment favored the plan proposed by prominent financiers of New York, providing that the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue four-year certificates bearing 3 65-100 interest, redeemable at par in U. S. notes, or gold, at the option of the holder, and requiring banks to keep a moiety of their reserves of these certificates, and for the Government to give notice on January 1st, 1875, that it will pay its notes in cash in New York, and authorizing the Government to negotiate a loan of $200,000,000 coin at 6 per cent. per annum. The certificates as for as redeemed may be paid out, the Secretary of the Treasury to satisfy all claims against the Government.

Notice was given of a bill to repeal so much of the postal act as prohibits any newspapers from passing through the mails free of postage.

The same dispatch says a Committee of the House have agreed to a bill repealing the salary law. The bill provides for the reduction of Congressional pay from $7,500 to $5,000, beginning with the present Congress, and it dates back to March 4, last, which will require the refunding of about $1,980 by each member from the amount received. Since that date no mileage, stationery or other perquisites are allowed. The provisions of the bill extend to all who are benefitted by the act repealed, except when prohibited by the Constitution, and includes the Cabinet and Bureau officers. The only exceptions to its operations are the President and Judges of the Supreme Court, and in their cases a reduction of $5,000 is provided for in the President's salary after Grant's term expires, and also for a reduction in the salaries of every new Justice of the Supreme Court. The Committee were not unanimous upon the bill, but agreed to support it. Many Western and Southern members say they won't support it.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The Republican Senate caucus agreed this morning to revise the standing Committees, and report by committee; and the Democratic Caucus agreed on assignments left them in the committees. Bayard takes the place of Casserly on Engrossed Bills, and Kelly takes Bayard's place on the Committee on Public Lands. Thurman remains at the head of the Committee on Private Claims; Sumner goes on the Committee on Privileges and Elections; Boutwell, it is understood, will become a member on the Finance Committee; West goes on the Committee on Transportation;—Stockton and McCreery, (Dems.), are added to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—In the Senate to-day Sherman's bill for the redemption of the loan of 1868, was taken up and passed.

In the Senate Ferry advocated at length his plan for a remedy for the present financial evils, and in conclusion asked that it be referred to the Committee on Finance, when appointed.

The motion of Anthony disposing of the election of standing committees, was agreed to, as was also a motion to add a new committee, to be known as the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, and to add two members each to the Committee on Foreign Relations, Claims, Education, and Labor.

The nomination of Williams for Chief Justice has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Democratic Senators generally express regret at Casserly's resignation.

In the House a large number of bills introduced, including a bill by Leach to restore the franking privilege; one by Hunter authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to put into circulation the balance of the $44,000,000 reserve by purchasing bonds; one by Wilson, declaring the true intent and meaning of the Pacific railroad act. It prohibits approval by the President, or any department, of maps presented by the Central branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, for extension to that company from its present western terminus to the hundredth meridian. A bill was introduced by Kendall to require uniform charges on railroads, and to prevent unjust discrimination by roads. Kellogg, in convention, offered a resolution directing the Special Committee on Education and Salaries to investigate the actual amount paid to members of the last Congress by way of salaries, mileage, stationery and other allowances. Referred to the Special Committee.

THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, DEC. 12, 1873.

Removal of U. S. District Attorney A. C. Gibbs.

The telegraph informs us that ex-Gov. A. C. Gibbs has been removed from the position of U. S. Attorney, and that R. Mallory, Speaker of the last House of Representatives, has been appointed and confirmed. The removal of Mr. Gibbs is received with loud expressions of disapproval from Republicans and all lovers of justice, as it is well known that the cause of it is in the fact that he has been honestly endeavoring to bring to punishment the repeaters who had been hired by the Custom House ring of Portland for voting illegally. That this was the main, and probably the only reason, we have not the least doubt, as the following dispatch would clearly show that Mr. Gibbs had met with opposition in the discharge of his official duties by the Attorney-General, who seems to throw his position between the violators of the laws and justice. Heretofore it has been customary for the U. S. Marshal to summon a jury for the U. S. Court as he pleased. The first Grand Jury that was called after our late election was, so it is charged, "picked" so that the ring corruptionists would get clear. Be it as it may, the Prosecuting Attorney was satisfied that the former Grand Jury did not do its duty, and hence procured an order from the Court for a new one, and that it shall be selected from a list prepared, and in the presence of other United States officers. And to show that the U. S. Attorney was correct in his suspicions, we find that the last Grand Jury, composed of good and honourable men, have found a number of indictments against the repeaters and bribers. The action of the Court and the Attorney were presented to the Attorney-General, (and let us state here that the Attorney-General could not have been ignorant in regard to the fact that bribery had been practiced, as it has been constantly charged in public print ever since our last election,) and he immediately telegraphed to him as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., }
Nov. 27, 1873. }

To A. C. Gibbs, Esq., U. S. Attorney, Portland, Oregon:—I am advised that you have obtained an order for a new grand jury at this term of the Court to be summoned in so unusual manner. You are instructed to move to rescind such order greatly increasing the expenses of the term. I am satisfied the regular grand juries can do the business of the court. Take no action before such jury until you reported to me the necessity for this extraordinary proceeding and expense.

GEO. H. WILLIAMS,
Attorney-General.

This dispatch, were it not for the fact that Geo. H. Williams must have known the condition of affairs, might not be taken in the light of a threat that if he persists in bringing the ring leaders to justice, his head would go off. But his official head has dropped, and let it ever be said it did so when he was doing his duty. But to further inform Geo. H. Williams of the facts in the case, Mr. Gibbs sent the following telegram, to which he received no answer:

PORTLAND, Oregon, }
Dec. 1, 1873. }

Hon. Geo. H. Williams, Attorney General, Washington, D. C.:—Your telegram was received late Saturday night. In reply I have to say that it was proven before the last Grand Jury that a state of bribery and repeating was inaugurated in this District at the late Congressional election which was alarming. A bare majority prevented indictments, where the guilt was clearly proven. In one case the Grand Jury voted an indictment, and after one night rescinded the vote by one majority. Upon investigation I found that Deputy Marshals were instructed from Portland to summon certain men designated. Supposing that the wheels of justice ought not to be blocked by mistake or corruption, I moved for a new Grand Jury. The Court amended rule number eleven by ordering that hereafter the Clerk, Marshal and U. S. Commissioners, select one hundred and fifty names from the assessment rolls of this and adjoining counties, from which a jury may be selected by lot. A jury so selected is to meet to-morrow.

For thus doing my duty I understand representations have been made to you to prevent their meeting and for my removal, as a last resort of corruptionists, to prevent prosecutions and cover up rascality. More by letter.

A. C. GIBBS,
U. S. Att'y.

This telegram is dated on the 1st of this month. The confirmation of Mr. Mallory took place last Monday, the 8th. Mr. Williams, by courtesies of his position, has virtually this appointment in his own hands, and he must have dictated it, and that after the above dispatch was received by him. There can be no other conclusion in the premises but that the Attorney General of the United States has become a party to the disgraceful outrage perpetrated by the Custom House Ring, and removed Mr. Gibbs to prevent a just and proper punishment being meted out to the men who had outraged the laws of our State and nation. Mr. Gibbs has been removed for what—for the discharge of his duty in attempting to bring to justice men who had violated the laws of the land. What can the people expect of Mr. Mallory if he accepts the position? Must he not become the willing tool of the appointing power and do as he is told, and thus allow the repetition of the outrages perpetrated last October? The people will think so at least. But what must be said of the man holding the position of Geo. H. Williams? It has been but recently announced that he was appointed to the position of Chief Justice of the United States. Is it not a disgrace to our people that the name of such a man should ever be mentioned in connection with that high and honorable position. The removal of Mr. Gibbs is the work of Geo. H. Williams, and none other. His confirmation as Chief Justice by the Senate is still before the Judiciary Committee, and is it not probable, that in order to secure the vote of J. H. Mitchell in the Senate for his confirmation, that he consented to sacrifice a faithful officer to gratify Mitchell? This we believe to be the main reason for this outrage on our State and in fact upon the nation. Things have come to a pretty pass when the man who aspires to the position of Chief Justice will become a party, under any circumstances, to shield crime. Our only hope now is that this old treacherous political prostitute may receive a check in the Senate, and that body will refuse to confirm his nomination. We said last week that Geo. H. Williams' promotion to the high position of Chief Justice was no credit to our State unless he made it so hereafter. This act will forever hang over him as a lasting disgrace and brand him as an aider in crime for the purpose of gaining the coveted position, and should he be confirmed, will disgrace not only the State, but the highest tribunal of justice in the land. May there still be enough virtue in the Senate to keep him off the Bench which he would disgrace and dishonor.

Not So.

The *Mercury*, in reply to the Radical exchange that the Governor is the author of the Equalization bill says that "he had nothing to do with framing the bill or advising its details. The following is the official record of the introduction and passage of the bill, (House Journal, p. 199.) Mr. Mallory introduced H. B. No. 80 to provide for a State Board of Equalization; and Mr. Gingles moved to suspend the rules and read first time now by title which was done. On the passage of the bill the following is the record: (p. 476.) The question being "shall the bill pass?" those voting aye were Messrs. Andrews, *Biles, Barin, Bushey*, Blakely, *Collier, Crawford, Cornela*, Crooks Clow, *Cougle, Caples, Dard, Eagle, Gingles, Hirsch*, Hodgkin, *Johnson, Langell, Matlock, Marlin, Powers, Patton, Riley, Riddle*, Shelton, *Stitt, Simpson, Thornbury*, Wright, *West, Walker*, Wahlron, *Washburn*, Willoughby, White and *Mr. Speaker*—37. Of the above list, the Republicans are in italics, being 27, and the Democrats 10. In the Senate the bill passed with two dissenting votes—one Republican and one Democrat. So that if the bill was political it was Republican, but it was not political. The Governor recommended equalization based on a new assessment law to cure existing defects, but such was not passed."

The States Taxes.

We are informed that there will be no appeal taken from the decision of Judge Mosher, and that the Secretary of State will charge the various counties with the tax in accordance with the original assessment. In accordance with this fact, our county officers have been busy during the past week changing the assessment back to its original figures, and the Sheriff will hereafter collect on the basis of the equalization made by the County Board. Those who have paid on the basis of the State Board, we are informed, will have the proportion of their payment refunded. In consequence of this change, the Sheriff has not met his appointments for the past week, but will probably be prepared to meet the tax payers in a few days.

WEATHER IN EASTERN OREGON.—The following telegrams in regard to the weather in Eastern Oregon, contain the latest news from that section:

Umatilla—Weather is wintry; thermometer is 5 deg. above zero; river is full of ice, but not blocked.

Walla Walla—About 6 inches of snow on the ground; weather foggy; thermometer 8 deg. above zero.

Wallula—Weather cloudy; 6 inches of snow now; thermometer 8 deg.; river running full of ice.

Dalles—Clear and cold; thermometer 2 deg. above zero.

Cascades—Clear and cold; thermometer 15 deg.; there is but little ice running now; river is blocked at the Upper Cascades; about 24 inches of snow on the ground.

The President's message has crowded out considerable matter we had intended for this issue. A review of the message and our "Thomas Long" correspondent will receive attention next week.

The appropriations demanded by Congress are over fourteen millions more for 1874 than they were for the present year. That looks like retrenchment.

A bill has been introduced into Congress to chop down the pay of Congressmen, but to leave the President's the same—$50,000 per year.

Telegraphic News.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—A special dispatch says that Samuel Bowles of the Springfield Republican, has been sued for libel by Willis Phelps, a well known railroad builder, of whom the Republican spoke as the Boss Tweed of Springfield. Damages laid at $200,000. The Republican office has been attached, and was last night placed in the hands of keepers.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 3.—George W. Peckham, a retired lawyer, aged 80 years, and a brother of Judge Rufus Peckham, who was lost on the "Villa de Havre," committed suicide last night by jumping from the bridge into the river. The sad intelligence of his brother's death is supposed to have caused temporary insanity.

GALVESTON, Dec. 3.—A Corpus Christie courier brings news that on Monday night the Indians and Mexicans attacked Gray & Grover's rancho, about seventy miles from here, toward the Rio Grande, killing seven persons and carrying off Gray's son. When the courier left the fighting was still going on.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 3.—The officers of the steamer Yazoo, from Havana direct, report that two Americans were brutally murdered on Friday last under circumstances not stated. The officers say that it is unsafe for Americans to appear on the streets. The captain reports that the Virginius has been armed and equipped as a war vessel, and sent to cruise for the steamer Atlas, alleged to be a fillibuster, which is supposed to be hovering around the island and seeking an opportunity to land.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Admiral Polo and Secretary Fish, since they signed the protocol on Saturday, have been in perfect accord concerning arrangements for the restoration of the Virginius and her survivors. The port to which the Virginius may be brought to depend upon her sea-going condition. Official information does not excite any apprehension that this part of the protocol will be seriously embarrassed. Everything thus far has been done with calmness on the part of the representatives of the two Governments.

Alexander H. Stevens, representative from Georgia, was received by the President in one of the reception rooms on the main floor of the White House to-day, he being too feeble to ascend the stairway.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—The Evening Journal's Washington Special says there is considerable opposition to the confirmation of Williams as Chief Justice.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5.—Wool is active and there is a higher and improved demand. California fine and medium is quoted at 27@35; California coarse, 25@30.

GALVESTON, December 5.—Forty-four counties show a net Democratic majority of 15,000. The Democrats claim the State by 40,000.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 6.—The Cranston Savings Bank is declared insolvent, and a receiver appointed.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5.—The monitors Ajax and Terror will be ready to sail next week. The frigate Canandagua is being also rapidly fitted for sea.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Several members called on the Secretary of the Navy to-day, the audience continuing from half-past ten to four o'clock. The conversation was chiefly on the subject of supplying the deficiency in expenditures and placing the navy in a condition for all possible contingencies. Bills will be introduced for this purpose next week and also looking to the independence of Cuba, several gentlemen having papers already prepared on the latter subject. The members generally are in accord with the Secretary of the Navy. No official information has been received to in Cuba confirming the reported resignation of the Captain-General Jovellar.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 6.—All the heavy ordnance that has been stored in the arsenals since the war is being shipped to Pensacola. Among the large guns are many hundred pound Parrots and Monitors.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—It is believed here to-night that all the remaining crew of the Virginius [illegible] the Juniata, the first [illegible] to reach Santiago de Cuba. An officer of that ship has arrived at Key West and is now on his way to this city. The Secretary of the Navy has dispatches from him but declines to make known their purport. The statement that they convey information of the delivery of the prisoners is credited by those who are daily informed of the situation.

George L. Smith was admitted by a party vote to a seat from Louisiana under certificate from Governor Kellogg, Cox opposing the motion and insisting that the certificate was gotten up in Washington, as the election was held on the 4th of November, and it was impossible to get returns from large districts even with railroads and telegraph.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The nomination of Williams for Chief Justice hangs fire in the Judiciary Committee, in consequence of a difference of opinion among members. A vote on the nomination is postponed until the next meeting.

The President has nominated W. P. Gilliam for Postmaster at Seattle, Washington Territory.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Rufus Mallory as District Attorney for Oregon; Geo. R. Maxwell, Marshal for the Territory of Utah; H. R. Linderman as Director, John M. Eckfeldt, as Melter and Refiner, and J. L. Babcock as Coiner for the San Francisco Mint; Joseph Johnson, of Oregon as Consul at Amoy.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—A Tribune's Washington special says no official notification of Sickles' resignation has yet been received at the State department, but it is expected daily. The difficulty between Fish and Sickles grew out of the officious zeal of the latter, who has chosen, it seems, in recent complications, to represent the President rather than the Secretary of State. Before he had received any instructions, and anticipating any action that the Government might be disposed to take, Minister Sickles, immediately on receiving news of the executions at Santiago de Cuba, filed a protest with the Madrid government. He had also since that time, and up to the time when Fish first began to conduct negotiations with the Spanish Government without Sickles' aid, insisted on presenting to Castelar more imperious demands than the State Department permitted.

Private advices say that the lives of Americans in Havana are in great danger.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Chaplain McAllister is ordered to Mare Island, California. The President has nominated A. J. Smith as Surveyor General of Montana; Wm. Stafford as Receiver of Public Moneys, Elko, Nevada; Ward C. Marcellins as U. S. Marshal for California, and Walter Van Dyke as U. S. Attorney for California.

The Senate confirmed Nathan Kimball as Surveyor General of Utah; W. McMicken as Surveyor General of Washington Territory, and W. J. Wright as Postmaster at Vallejo.

When, on the 29th of November, the protocol was signed by Secretary Fish and Admiral Polo, the agreement was conclusive and required no endorsement of the Governments of the United States and Spain, as the basis had been previously settled by them. The stipulation of the time, manner, and place for the surrender of the Virginius and the surviving passengers and crew, etc., is reserved in the protocol, which was signed on Monday. It is understood the men will be delivered to a United States vessel at Santiago de Cuba. The vessel will be delivered at some port other than Havana on Tuesday next.

BOSTON, Dec 9.—Samuel O. Cobb, Democrat, but nominated by all parties, except the Prohibitionists, was to-day elected Mayor by a majority of over 18,000. Cushing, the Prohibitionist candidate, had but 568 votes. Four ladies were elected on the School Board.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 9.—The Democrats elect their Mayor by 500 plurality. Heretofore they carried but one ward.

Martin F. Conway has been indicted for assault with intent to kill ex-Senator Pomeroy.

The property of the Oregon Iron Works at Portland sold last Wednesday for an aggregate of $40,850.

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