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STATE NEWS.

RAILROAD STATISTICS.

Only Three Michigan Roads Made Any Money Last Year.

Railroad Commissioner McPherson in his annual report states that the number of roads in this state is the same as last year, 53. These are operated by 23 companies. The Michigan & Ohio and the Wabash, sold at foreclosure, will soon be reorganized. The Detroit, Mackinac & Marquette will soon be completed from Ashland, Wis., to Sault Ste. Marie, bridging the rapids there into Canada, as the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic. The Mineral Range has acquired the Hancock & Calumet by lease. Eighteen new companies have been organized. The lines doing business in this state have 17,732 stockholders, 3,820 of whom are residents but own less than 3 per cent of the whole. The earnings of all the roads were $76,952,846, as against $81,807,000 in 1884 and $90,412,000 in 1883. Expenses were $54,133,685, as against $58,035,000 in 1884 and $61,190,000 in 1883. Interest payments were $15,282,128, a decrease of 2½ per cent from last year. The Chicago & Canada Southern, Ontonagon & Brule River and Paw Paw roads report earnings below operating expenses. Eleven roads carry debit balances amounting to $11,385,832. Only seven companies declared dividends. Three were Michigan companies, the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, the Flint & Pere Marquette and the West Michigan. The amount of freight, measured as the number of tons carried one mile, was 6,415,952,716. It was but 1,932,955,796 in 1874. The rate per ton per mile has declined from 1.37 cents to .82. The proportion of different classes of freight is about the same for manufactures, forest products and general merchandise, but grain has declined from 24 per cent to 15; flour, from 6.53 to 3.35; petroleum, from 3.62 to 1.25. Coal has increased from 5.18 to 15 and ores from 6.49 to 9.52.

Many Times Married.

Wm. Jones Sargent died in the insane asylum at Kalamazoo recently when he had been incarcerated for a peculiar mania. He was one of the most noted bigamists this country ever saw, but was not much heard about until his arrest at Jackson, in this state, where he had married a young woman for his twenty-sixth wife. Sargeant was a man of large presence and fine address and was educated. He had been engaged in various pursuits, but when arrested was a commercial traveler, which gave him a peculiar advantage to gratify his remarkable mania. For some time before his arrest there had been rumors of his bigamist practices and he had four times previously been in trouble about them, but had managed to escape. At the time of his last arrest his conduct led to the belief that he was insane and he was so found and sent to asylum. After his incarceration the full story about him came out. It was learned that he had wives and children by the score in this and other states, and that no less than eleven unsuspecting girls had married him in Canada. During the many years he lived so many lives he never by word or act or writing betrayed to one wife the fact that he had others, and although he spent several weeks at a time with one family, he was never suspected of infidelity. Of course the tax upon him to support so many people was more than he could stand, and this was what led to his first detection, his arrest being originally on the charge of desertion and failure to support. Sargeant, when he was with one wife, was oblivious to the existence of all the others. After his arrest, in speaking of one victim, he would assert that she was his wife, and when the name of another victim was mentioned he would immediately switch off onto her, completely forgetting the one just previously mentioned. On all other subjects he was sane. Before dying the unfortunate man recovered his mind sufficiently to understand why he was imprisoned and to realize the enormity of his crime.

The State Teachers' Association.

The Michigan state teachers' association will meet in Representative hall, Lansing, December 28 to 30. The sessions will open with the address of the president, Prof. D. Howells, at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening the 28th. Wednesday evening at the same hour Hon. Theo. Nelson, superintendent of public instruction, will deliver an address on "The Undergraduate Youth of Our Time." Sessions will be held both forenoon and afternoon on Wednesday and Thursday with a discussion of the following papers, two at each session, in the order named: Limitations and proper relations of subjects taught in undergraded schools, Supt. S. G. Burkhead, Saginaw; The want, the worth and the cultivation of a taste for good literature, Miss Mary E. Tilton, Lansing; Kindergarten work in primary schools, Miss Nina E. Vandewalker, Calumet; Some pedagogic principles and their application, Prof. W. H. Payne, Michigan University; Education and the labor problem, President L. R. Fiske, Albion College; How can the county institutes be made more profitable? Prof. Hamilton King, Olivet; A plea for the reading circle, Prin. L. C. Hull, Detroit high school; Reports of delegates from county associations on: The condition and needs of the public schools.

The association of county examiners will meet at the same time. All railroads will furnish round trip tickets at one fare on certificates issued by Prof. D. Howells of Lansing, or George Barnes of Howell.

The Weir Case.

Proceedings against Dr. Weir, the lecherous doctor of Au Sable, have at last taken a form which makes it looks as if that individual would have to stand trial on the charge of murder. The officers of Iosco county were slow to act in the matter and on the part of the ladies of Oscoda, who from the first have taken a deep interest in the case, there is considereble dissatisfaction is felt over what is considered unnecessary delay. Formal complaint was finally made by W. M. Featherly of the Lakeside *Monitor*, against Dr. Wier, charging him with the murder of Mabel Clark. Prosecuting Attorney Wm. H. Simpson of Iosco county, desired that this fact should not be made public for a few days, and consequently the statement was kept from the press. Gov. Alger, as soon as the formal complaint had been made, granted the necessary requisition papers and Prosecuting Attorney Simpson has gone to London, Ont., to secure the prisoner.

Farmers' Institutes.

The following farmers' institutes for 1887 have been arranged for:

Grayling, Crawford co., Jan. 31 and Feb. 1—Dr. Kedzie, Prof. Beal, Prof. McLouth, Pres. Willits, Sec'y Reynolds.

Fremont, Newyago co, Feb. 3 and 4—Prof. Beal, Prof. Johnson, Dr. Kedzie, President Willits, Secretary Reynolds.

Hanover, Jackson co, Feb. 7 and 8—Prof. McLouth, Prof. Grange, Prof. Bailey, President Willits, Secretary Reynolds.

Three Oaks, Berrien co, Feb. 10 and 11—Prof. Johnson, Prof. Cook, Prof. Grange, President Willits, Secretary Reynolds.

Bancroft, Shiawassee co, Feb. 14 and 15—Prof. Cook, Prof. Carpenter, Prof. McEwan, President Willits, Secretary Reynolds.

Charlotte, Eaton co, Feb. 16 and 17—Prof. Bailey, Prof. McEwan, Prof. Carpenter, President Willits, Secretary Reynolds.

Two Children Burned.

The home of Jesse Stockford, a farmer living two miles west of Birch Run, Saginaw county, was burned at an early hour the other morning. Flames covered every portion of the building before the family awoke. A boy of nine years was burned to a crisp. Another, aged seven, was rescued, but died shortly afterwards. Mrs. Stockford was burned about the face and head, but will recover. Mr. Stockford was also seriously burned and afterwards, while caring for his family, had both feet frozen.

MICHIGAN ITEMS.

Among the articles that will be required to furnish the soldiers' home are 1,200 cotton sheets, 600 pillows, 300 cotton couterpanes, 150 pairs of silver grey blankets, 300 pillows, 300 comfortables, 108 dozen crash towels and 25 dozen common towels; also the usual quantity of dishes for room outfit and house purposes, and 300 wood-seat boat stools.

The will of Francis Palms, the Detroit millionaire who died recently, bequeaths his entire fortune to his son and daughter. Only $2,000 are given to charitable purposes.

A 3,000-foot well is to be sunk in Grand Rapids in search of salt, oil or gas.

Fred A. Richter of Saginaw City has fallen heir to a large estate of his brother, recently deceased in Germany.

Ex-Gov. Begole and his son are now "doing" the land of the Montezumas.

Iosco county will borrow $5,000 and build a new jail.

A Toledo firm will erect a large stave and heading mill on the track of the T., A. A. & N. M., at Ithaca.

L'Anse bay is said to be the best natural harbor in Michigan, and when shipping at Marquette was being injured by the gale Nester's tug Carrington was making pleasure trips across the bay.

The salt inspection of this state for the year which ended Nov. 30 will aggregate 3,720,000 barrels, and the quantity on hand is about the same as last year. The market has been dull and unsatisfactory to manufacturers throughout the year. During the fall the movement has been greatly restricted, owing to the lack of transportation, it being impossible to obtain cars.

Attorney General Taggart responding to the inquiry of Insurance Commissioner Raymond, decides that the mutual life insurance of minors is improper and illegal, and instructs the commissioner to revoke the licenses of companies organized for that purpose, and refuse to issue any others of that nature. He says the companies would be unable to carry out contracts with members because it cannot compel the payment of assessments which might be made upon a large number of minor corporations.

J. M. Church, a prominent business man of St. Louis, Gratiot county, was found drowned in a cistern on his premises the other morning.

The Thompson house of Port Huron, which has been open for over 50 years, has been closed.

William Dorr of Port Huron has been acquitted of the charge of murder.

The trade in hemlock has picked up the past year, both in the Saginaw valley and a number of million feet have been sold at Manistee. This timber is likely to cut a larger figure in lumber calculations in Michigan in future than in the past. And there is a world of it available.

John Foster, claiming to hail from Jackson, is held at Atlanta, Ga., on a charge of theft. Foster was prominent in organizing assemblies of the Knights of Labor, and recently, while one of his lieutenants, a colored brother, was outdrumming up the wage-workers, Foster went through the premises, stealing a watch and other valuables.

Many Livingston county farmers have placed their names on the gate-posts for the benefit of passers-by.

A meteoric stone weighing 50 pounds dropped upon Frank Remington's farm near Charlotte a few days ago. A tree was split in twain by the heavenly visitant.

The official canvass shows that 380,885 votes were cast for governor at the late state election, as follows: Luce, 181,474, Yaple 174,042, Dickie 25,179, scattering 190. Luce's plurality 7,432.

A little girl 2-years old, a daughter of Thomas W. Averill of Harrison, treasurer of Clare county, died the other day of a disease which seemed to puzzle the physicians, and a post mortem was had and on the intentines was found a large tumor weighing about six pounds.

The Wilson lumber company of Harrison, have decided to stock their mills with a mixture of pine, hemlock and hardwood. They will put in a very large stock. They have already built a side track so that logs can be rolled from cars into the lake, on which their mill stands.

John McCollum of Port Huron has his left side crushed in by a falling tree in Huckle's camp near Greyling the other day. He cannot recover.

Erastus Bates, a prosperous farmer of Courtland who is charged with incest by his daughter. She is 24 years old, was married last August, and is about to become a mother, and alleges the paternity of her child to be her father. She says the old man has been criminally intimate with her for ten years past, and charges him with the same crime against two other daughters. She first told the circumstances to her husband.

James Edmunds of Howell, fell from the roof of his own house the other day and was killed. He had gone to the roof to fix the chimney.

H. H. Brown of East Saginaw, is the possessor of a £150 Virginia bill issued in 1781. It bears this inscription: "This bill of $500 shall be exchanged and redeemed in Spanish milled dollars or the value therof in gold or silver at the rate of one for forty, at the treasury of Virginia, on or before the 30th day of December, 1792, according to the act of the assembly passed on the first day of March, 1781." The bill is numbered 6268, and is in a fair state of preservation. It has been in the possession of Mr. Brown fifty-one years, having been presented to him on Christmas day, 1835.

F. E. Stevans, the defaulting cashier of the First national bank at Paw Paw, has been held for trial at the March term of the court in bonds of $5,000.

Stanton has a "free trade" league with a good membership.

Edmore has a business men's "improvement association," the object of which is to "boom" Edmore.

Robert Irons of Holly, attempted to drive across the F. & P. M. track in front of a passenger train the other day. The horse was killed instantly and Irons so badly injured that he died a few hours later. Irons at one time was one of Oakland county's prominent citizens, but of late years he has been a complete wreck. There can be no blame attached to the railway company, as the engineer blew the whistle and rung the bell at the proper distance from the crossing, and Irons was warned by parties not to attempt to cross ahead of the train. He paid no attention to them, but whipped up the horse and went ahead with the result stated above.

Wm. Anderson of Homer, is under arrest on a charge of seduction and incest, his victim being his own neice, aged 15 years, who gave birth to a child recently. The mother of the victim became deranged upon learning the facts. The examination was adjourned until December 15.

Alex. Brown, the Jackson embezzler, has been re-arrested.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT—The market is alternately strong and weak. Quotations range from 81 to 85¾ cts. for white, and red from 81 to 85c.

CORN—Market quiet at 35@39½ cents.

CLOVER SEED—In good demand at $4.20 to $4.90.

BARLEY—Quoted at $1 10@$1 15.

RYE—Market quiet at 53c.

FEED—Bran quoted at $10 75@11 and middlings at $11@14 25.

FLOUR—The market steady at the following: Patent process $4 50@4; patent Michigan $4 25@4 50; low grades, $2 50@2 85; patent Minnesota, $4 50@5; Minnesota bakers' $3 85@4 10; rye, $3 25@3 40.

GENERAL PRODUCE.

APPLES—Stock begins to show a reduction. Trade continues good and the market rules firmer at $2@2 50 per bbl.

BEANS—Business limited at $1 35@$1 38 per bu for city picked mediums in car lots. Unpicked, 75 cents and $1 05 per bu.

BEESWAX—The market is quiet as usual at 22@30c per lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Per cwt, Michigan $2@$2 25; eastern $2 50@2 75.

BUTTER—No change in the general condition. Offerings freely equal the requirements. Dairy quoted at 15@18c for good to choice; creamery 26@28c.

CABBAGES—Shippers quote at $2@2 25 per 100

CIDER—Clarified, 10@12c and common at 6@7c per gal.

CRANBERRIES—Per bbl, Cape Cods, $7 50 $8 25; per bu, do, $2 75@2 85; Jerseys, $1 75@2 per bu; Michigan, $1 50@2 per bu. The supply good and trade fair.

CHEESE—Full cream, Michigan 13@13½c; New York 13@14c; Ohio, 12½@13c.

DRIED APPLES—More active at 3@3½c per lb for common and 7½@8½c per lb for evaporated.

DRESSED HOGS—The demand good. Receipts are large, but the market is rather firmer at $4 30@4 50 per cwt. from packers and $4 75 from butchers.

EGGS—Steady and unchanged. Fresh quiet at 21@22c; 17@18c. for limed.

GAME—Per pair, partridges, 55c; Mallard, 65@70c per doz, quail, $2@2 50; squirrels, $1 per doz, rabbits 10@12c each.

ONIONS—The market lifeless at $2@2 25 per bbl.

POTATOES—Car lots offered at 38c per bu. From store quoted at 40@45c.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, $10 25@10 50; new do, $11 25@11 50; family, $12 25@12 50; ex. family, $13; clear family, $13@13 25; short clear, $12 50@$12 75; Lard in tierces 6¾@6¾c; kegs, 6¾@6¾c; 20 to 50 lb tubs, 6¾@7c; 3, 5 and 10-lb pails, 7@7¼c; smoked hams 10¼@10¾c; shoulders 6¾@6½c; breakfast bacon, 8½@8¾c; dried beef hams, $12@12 25; ex. mess beef, $7 25@7.50; plate beef, $7.75@8.

POULTRY—The market glutted with all kinds, especially turkeys. Trade dull. Dressed, per lb, chickens, 7@8c; turkeys and ducks, 9@9½c, fancy, 10c; geese, 8. Live, per lb, roosters, 3@4c; fowls and spring chicks, 5@6c; ducks 5@6c; turkeys, 7@8c, per pair; pigeons, 15@20c;

SWEET POTATOES—Per bbl, Jerseys $3 25@3 50; Baltimores, $2 75. The market active. Stock light.

TALLOW—Dull at 3½c per lb.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Market steady and rather stronger; Christmas beeves, $5.10@5.35; shipping steers, 950 to 1,500 lbs $3 30@4 95; stockers and feeders, $1 90@3 40; cows, bulls, and mixed, $1 50@3 20; bulk $2 10@2 40; Texas cattle, $2@3 50.

HOGS—Best grades are strong and 5c higher; rough and mixed, $3 70@4 10; packing and shipping, $4 00@4 30; light, $3 50@4; skips, $2 40@4 30.

SHEEP—Natives, $2 50@4 35; Western $2 50@3 50; Texans, $2 25@3 25; lambs, $3 75@4 90. The Drovers' Journal special London cablegram quotes prices weak at 11½c for best American steer. Offerings of American cattle light, but general supply excessive.

THE MESSAGE.

President Cleveland's Resume of National Affairs.

Civil Service Reform Heartily Endorsed and Good Words Spoken for the Laborer.--He Wants the Tariff Revised in the Interest of the Laborer and Farmer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Cleveland's message, read to congress this afternoon, begins with the usual survey of foreign relations, and one-third of the message is devoted to discussion and review of foreign relations. "Our government," he says, "has consistently maintained its relations of friendship toward all other powers, and of neighborly interest toward those whose possessions are contiguous to our own. Few questions have arisen during the past year with other governments, and none of those are beyond the reach of settlement in friendly council." The cruel treatment of inoffensive Chinese in the far west is alluded to, and in speaking of a remedy he says: "The paramount duty of maintaining public order and defending the interests of our own people may require the adoption of measures of restriction, but they should not tolerate the oppression of individuals of a special race."

THE FISHERIES DIFFICULTY.

Discussing the fisheries question, so long a subject of anxious difference between the United States and Great Britain, the president says the questions involved are of grave consequence, and from time to time, for nearly three-quarters of a century, have given rise to earnest international discussion, not unaccompanied by irritation. Temporary arrangements by treaties have served to allay friction, which, however, has revived as each treaty was terminated. While desirous that friendly relations should exist between the people of the United States and Canada, the action of Canadian officials during the past season toward our fishermen has been such, the president thinks, as to threaten their continuance; and although disappointed in his efforts to secure a satisfactory settlement of the question, negotiations are still pending with reasonable hope that before the close of the present session of congress, the announcement may be made that an acceptable conclusion has been reached.

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

Alluding to our relations with Hawaii, the president recommends an extension for seven years of the reciprocity treaty of 1875. He urgently renews his recommendation of legislation to carry into effect the Mexican reciprocity treaty of January, 1883, and proposes to initiate negotiations with Mexico for a new and enlarged treaty of commerce and legislation.

THE CUTTING CASE.

Referring to the Cutting case, Mr. Cleveland says the incident has disclosed a claim of jurisdiction by Mexico, novel in our history, whereby any offense committed anywhere by a foreigner, penal in the place of its commission, and of which a Mexican is the object, may, if the offender be found in Mexico, be there tried and punished in conformity with Mexican laws. This jurisdiction was sustained by the courts of Mexico and approved by the executive branch of that government, upon the authority of a Mexican statue. The appellate court, in releasing Mr. Cutting, decided that the abandonment of the complaint by the Mexican citizen aggrieved by the alleged crime (a libelous publication) removed the basis of all further prosecution, and also declared justice to have been satisfied by the enforcement of a small part of the original sentence.

The admission of such a pretention, the president argues, would be attended with serious results, invasive of the jurisdiction of this government, and highly dangerous to our citizens in foreign lands; therefore he has denied it, and protested aagainst its attempted exercise as unwarranted by the principles of law and international usages. A sovereign has jurisdiction of offenses which take effect within his territory, although concocted or commenced outside of it; but the right is denied of any foreign sovereign to punish a citizen of the United States for an offense consummated on our soil in violation of our laws, even though the offense be against a subject or citizen of such sovereign. The Mexican statute in question makes the claim broadly, and the principle, if conceded, would make a dual responsibility in the citizen, and lead to inextricable confusion, destructive of that certainty in the law which is an essential of liberty.

When citizens of the United States voluntarily go into a foreign country, they must abide by the laws there in force, and will not be protected by their own government from the consequences of an offense against those laws committed in such foreign country; but watchful care and interest of this government over its citizens are not to be relinquished because they have gone abroad, and if charged with crime committed in the foreign land, a fair and open trial, conducted with decent regard for justice and humanity, will be demanded for them. With less than that this government will not be content when the life or liberty of its citizens is at stake.

Whatever the degree to which extra-territorial criminal jurisdiction may have been formerly allowed by consent and reciprocal agreement among certain of the European states, no such doctrine or practice was ever known to the laws of this country, or of that from which our institutions have mainly been derived. In the case of Mexico, there are reasons especially strong for perfect harmony in the mutual exercise of jurisdiction. Nature has made us irrevocably neighbors, and wisdom and kind feeling should make us friends. The overflow of capital and enterprise from the United States is a potent factor in assisting the development of the resources of Mexico, and in building up the prosperity of both countries.

To assist this good work, all grounds of apprehension for the security of person and property should be removed; and the president trusts that in the interests of good neighborhood, the statue referred to will be so modified as to diminish the present possibilities of danger to the peace of two countries.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The president recommends placing the consular service on a better footing, and reiterates the necessity of some mode of inspection and report of the manner in which the consulates are conducted.

He trusts international copyright will receive the attention it deserves from congress.

He recommends that provision be made for the immediate discharge from custody of persons committed for extradition, where the president is of opinion that surrender should not be made, and renews his recommendations of last year that existing legislation concerning citizenship and naturalization be revised. "We have," he says, "treaties with many states providing for the renunciation of citizenship by naturalized aliens, but no statute is found to give effect to such engagements nor any which provides a needed central bureau for the registration of naturalized citizens.

REDUCING THE REVENUE.

Reaching domestic affairs, the first subject discussed is the tariff, and to this the president devotes a great deal of space, arguing that the necessity for a reduction of the tariff is more urgent than ever. "The income of the government," he says, "by its increased volume and the thorough economy in its collection, is now more than ever in excess of public necessities. The application of the surplus to the payment of such portion of the public debt as is now at our option subject to extinguishment, if continued at the rate which has lately prevailed, would retire that class of indebtedness within less than one year from this date. Thus a continuation of our present revenue system would soon result in the receipt of an annual income much greater than necessary to meet government expenses, with no indebtedness upon which it could be applied. We should then be confronted with a vast quantity of money, the circulating medium of the people, hoarded in the treasury when it should be in their hands, or we should be drawn into wasteful public extravagance with all the corrupting national demoralization which follows in its train.

"But it is not the simple existence of this surplus and its threatened attendant evils, which furnish the strongest argument against our present scale of federal taxation. Its worst phase is the exaction of such a surplus through a perversion of the relations between the people and their government and a dangerous departure from the rules which limit the right of federal taxation. Good government, and especially the government of which every American citizen boasts, has for its objects the protection of every person within its care in the greatest liberty consistent with the good order of society, and his perfect security in the enjoyment of his earnings, with the least possible diminution for public needs. When more of the people's substance is exacted through the form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of the government and the expenses of its economical administration, such exaction becomes ruthless extortion and a violation of the fundamental principles of a free government.

"The indirect manner in which these exactions are made has a tendency to conceal their true character and their extent, but we have arrived at a stage of superfluous revenue which has aroused the people to a realization of the fact that the amount raised professedly for the support of the government is paid by them as absolutely, if added to the things which supply their daily wants, as if it was paid at fixed periods into the hand of the tax-gatherer.

"Those who toil for daily wages are beginning to understand that capital, though sometimes vaunting its importance and clamoring for the protection and favor of the government, is dull and sluggish, till, touched by the magical hand of labor, it springs into activity, furnishing an occasion for federal taxation and gaining the value which enables it to bear its burden. And the laboring man is thoughtfully inquiring whether, in these circumstances, and considering the tribute he constantly pays into the public treasury as he supplies his daily wants, he receives his fair share of advantages.

THE SURPLUS IN THE TREASURY.

"There is also a suspicion abroad that the surplus of our revenues indicates abnormal and exceptional business profits, which, under the system which produces such surplus, increases without corresponding benefit to the people at large. The vast accumulations of a few among our citizens, whose fortunes rival the wealth of the most favored in anti-democratic nations, are not the natural growth of a steady, plain and industrious republic.

"Our farmers, too, and those engaged directly and indirectly in supplying the products of agriculture, see that day by day, and as often as the daily wants of their household recur, they are forced to pay excessive and needless taxation, while their products struggle in foreign markets with the competition of nations which, by allowing a freer exchange of productions than we permit, enable their people to sell for prices which distress the American farmer.

"As every patriotic citizen rejoices in the constantly increasing pride of our people in American citizenship and in the glory of our national achievements and progress, a sentiment prevails that the leading strings useful to a nation in its infancy may well, to a great extent, be discarded in the present stage of American ingenuity, courage and fearless self-reliance, and for the privilege of indulging this sentiment with the true American enthusiasm, our citizens are quite willing to forego an idle surplus in the public treasury. All the people know that the average rate of federal taxation upon imports is to-day in time of peace, but little less (while upon some articles of necessary consumption it is actually more), than was imposed by the grievous burden willingly borne, at a time when the government needed millions to maintain by war the safety and integrity of the union.

A REVISION OF THE TARIF.

"It has been the policy of the government to collect the principal part of its revenues by a tax upon imports; and no change in this policy is desirable.' But the present condition of affairs constrains our people to demand, that by a revision of our revenue laws, the receipts of the government shall be reduced to the necessary expense of its economical administration; and this demand should be recognized and obeyed by the people's representatives in the legislative branch of the government.

"In readjusting the burdens of federal taxation, a sound public policy requires that such of our citizens as have built up large and important industries under present conditions, should not be suddenly and to their injury deprived of advantages to which they have adapted their business; but if the public good requires it, they should be content with such consideration as shall deal fairly and cautiously with their interests while the just demand of the people for relief from needless taxation is honestly answered.

"A reasonable and timely submission to such a demand should certainly be possible without disastrous shock to any interest; and a cheerful concession sometimes averts abrupt and heedless action, often the outgrowth of impatience and delayed justice.

"Due regard should also be accorded in any proposed readjustment to the interests of American labor so far as they are involved. We congratulate ourselves that there is among us no laboring class fixed within unyielding bounds and doomed under all conditions to the inexorable fate of daily toil. We recognize in labor a chief factor in the wealth of the republic, and we treat those who have it in their keeping as citizens entitled to the most careful regard and thoughtful attention. This regard and attention should be awarded them, not only because labor is the capital of our workingmen, justly entitled to its share of government favor, but for the further and not less important reason that the laboring man, surrounded by his family in his humble home, is as a consumer, vitally interested in all that cheapens the cost of living and enables him to bring within his domestic circle additional comforts and advantages.

"This relation of the workingman to the revenue laws of the country and the manner in which it palpably influences the question of wages, should not be forgotten in the justifiable prominence given to the proper maintainance of the supply and the protection of well paid labor, and these considerations suggest such an arrangement of government revenues as shall reduce the expense of living while it does not curtail the opportunity for work, nor reduce the compensation of American labor, and injuriously effect its condition and the dignified place it holds in the estimation of our people.

"But our farmers and agriculturists—those who from the soil produce the things consumed by all—are perhaps more directly and plainly concerned than any other of our citizens in a just and careful system of federal taxation.

"Those actually engaged in and more remotely connected with this kind of work number nearly one half of our population. None labor harder or more continuously than they. No enactments limit their hours of toil, and no interposition of the government enhances to any great extent the value of their products. And yet for many of the necessaries and comforts of life, which the most scrupulous economy enables them to bring into their homes, and for their implements of husbandry, they are obliged to pay a price largely increased by an unnatural profit which, by the action of the government, is given to the more favored manufacturer.

THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS.

"I recommend that, keeping in view all these considerations, the increasing and unnecessary surplus of national income annually accumulating be released to the people by an amendment to our revenue laws which shall cheapen the price of the necessaries of life and give freer entrance to such imported materials as by American labor may be manufactured into marketable commodities. Nothing can be accomplished, however in the direction of this much-needed reform, unless the subject is approached in a patriotic spirit of devotion to the interests of the entire country and with a willingness to yield something for the public good.

While on the subject of tariff and revenue, the president especially directs the attention of congress to the recommendations of the secretary of the treasury touching the simplification and amendment of the laws relating to the collection of revenues.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Less space is devoted to the silver question this year than last, but his opposition to compulsory coinage is no less pronounced. The difference in the bullion price of the standard dollar of 94¼ cents—when first coined—and its bullion value of 78 cents on November 30 last, certainly does not indicate, the president says, that compulsory coinage by the government enhances the price of that commodity or secures uniformity in its value. He has seen no reason to change the views expressed a year ago on the subject of compulsory coinage, and again urges its suspension on all the grounds contained in his former recommendation, reinforced by the significant increase of our gold exportations during the last year, and for the further reasons, that the more this currency is distributed among the people, the greater becomes our duty to protect it from disaster; that we now have an abundance for all our needs; and that there seems but little propriety in building vaults to store such currency while the only pretense for its coinage is the necessity of its use by the people as a circulating medium.

DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS.

The attention of congress is called to the great number of suits in New York, growing out of conflicting views by importers and collectors as to the interpretation of our complex and indefinite revenue laws, and an amendment of the laws is recommended; but pending such amendment, the present condition of this litigation should be relieved by a law permitting the appointment of another federal judge in New York, where these cases have accumulated.

Of coast defenses and fortifications, the president says the defenseless condition of our sea coast and lake frontier is perfectly palpable, and the work laid out by the board on fortifications is delayed in default of congressional action. The absolute necessity of our preparation for effectual resistance against armored ships and modern steel guns, which may threaten our sea coast cities, is so apparent that he hopes effective steps will be taken in that direction at once.

THE CONDITION OF THE NAVY.

The condition of our navy as shown by the secretary of that department, should challenge the earnest attention of congress. The production in the United States of armor and gun steel is a question which it seems necessary to settle at an early day, if the armored war vessels are to be completed with those materials of home manufacture. In the event that the present invitation of the department for bids to furnish such of this material as is now authorized, shall fail to induce domestic manufacturers to undertake the large expenditures required to prepare for this new manufacture, and no other steps are taken by congress at its opening session, the secretary contemplates with dissatisfaction the necessity of obtaining abroad the armor and gun-steel for the authorized ships. It would seem desirable, the president adds, that the wants of the army and navy in this regard should be reasonably met, and that by uniting their contracts such inducements might be offered as would result in securing the domestication of these important interests.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Postal service affairs showed a marked and gratifying improvement during the past year; the increase in revenue is in a gaining ratio over the increase of cost, demonstrating the sufficiency of the present cheap rates of postage to ultimately sustain the service. The differences with certain ocean steamship companies were terminated by the acquiescence of all in the policy of the government, thus affording a service generally adequate to the needs of our intercourse. The question of establishing ocean postal service to Brazil and the Argentine Republic is commended to the consideration of congress, and the suggestion is offered that, as distinguished from a grant or subsidy for the mere benefit of any line, whatever outlay may be required to secure additional necessary and proper service should be regarded as within the limit of legitimate compensation for such service.

A GOVERNMENT PENITENTIARY.

The president indorses the recommendation of the attorney general for the erection of a penitentiary for the confinement of prisoners convicted in United States courts. He considers it a matter of very great importance, which should at once receive congressional action. More than one of these institutions might be occupied and by employing the prisoners in the manufacture of articles needed for use by the government, quite a large pecuniary benefit would be realized, in partial return for the outlay of construction.

He indorses the recommendation of the attorney general for a change in the federal judicial system, to obviate the delays necessarily attending the present condition of affairs in our courts.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Of Indian affairs, he says, the present system of agencies standing alone is inadequate for the accomplishment of an object which has become pressing in its importance—the more rapid transition from tribal organization to citizenship of such portions of the Indians as are capable of civilized life, and hence the necessity for a supplemental agency, a commission of six intelligent persons—three from the army—charged with the management of such matters of detail as cannot, with the present organization, be properly and successfully conducted. The time is ripe, the president tells congress, for the work of such an agency.

The president recommends the repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture acts, and that homestead laws be so amended as to better secure compliance with their requirements of residence, improvement and cultivation for five years from date of entry, without commutation or provision for speculative relinquishment.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

Referring to the satisfactory exhibit of the operations of the pension bureau during the last fiscal year, and to pension matters generally, the president says: "The usefulness and the justice of any system for the distribution of pensions depends upon the equality and uniformity of its operations, and as long as we adhere to the principle of granting pensions for service and disability as the result of the service, the allowance of pensions should be restricted to cases presenting these features.

"Every patriotic heart," he says, "responds to a tender consideration for those who, having served their country long and well, are reduced to destitution and dependence, not as an incident of their service but with advancing age or misfortune. We are all tempted by the contemplation of such a condition to supply relief and are often impatient of the limitations of public duty. Yielding to no one in the desire to indulge this feeling of consideration, I cannot rid myself of the conviction that if these ex-soldiers are to be relieved, they and their cause are entitled to the benefit of an enactment under which relief may be claimed as a right, and that such relief should be granted under the sanction of law, not in evasion of it; nor should such worthy objects of care, all equally entitled, be remitted to the unequal operation of sympathy, or the tender mercies of social and political influence with their unjust discrimination."

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

Of the Pacific railroad debt extension proposition he says that congress is considering the plan suggested by the secretary of the interior and indorsed by the board of government directors. The sole matters which should be taken into account are the situation of the government as a creditor, and the surest way to secure the payment of the principal and interest of its debt.

Of interstate commerce he says that by a recent decision of the supreme court of the United States it has been adjudged that the laws of the several states are inoperative to regulate rates of transportation upon railroads, if such regulation interferes with the rate of carriage from one state into another. This important field of control and regulation having been thus left entirely unoccupied, the expediency of federal action upon the subject is worthy of consideration.

Of the relations of labor to capital the president thinks that when these differences between employer and employed reach such a stage as to result in the interruption of commerce between the states, the application of arbitration by the general government might be regarded as entirely within its constitutional powers, and he thinks we might reasonably hope that such arbitrators, if carefully selected and entitled to the confidence of the parties affected, would be voluntarily called to the settlement of controversies of less extent, and not necessarily within the domain of federal regulation.

The president recommends as a plain duty, on the part of the government, the payment of a million and a quarter of dollars still due to the Freedmen's savings bank depositors.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Civil service reform is the last important topic discused in the message. The continued opperation of the civil service law, he asserts, has added the most convincing proofs of its necessity and usefulness. Every public officer who has a just idea of his duty to the people testifies to the value of this reform. Its staunchest friends are found among those who understand it best, and its warmest supporters are those who are restrained and protected by its requirements.

The meaning of such restraint and protection is not appreciated by those who want places under the government, regardless of merit and efficiency, nor by those who insist that the selection for such places should rest upon a proper credential showing active partisan work. They mean to public officers the only opportunity afforded them to attend to public business, and they mean to the good people of the country the better performance of the work of their government. It is exceedingly strange, the president thinks, that the scope and nature of this reform are so little understood, and that so many things not included within its plain provisions are called by its name. When cavil yields more fully to examination, the system will have large additions to the number of its friends.

Our civil service reform, the president says, may be imperfect in some of its details; it may be misunderstood and opposed; it may not always be faithfully applied; its designs may sometimes miscarry through mistake or wilful intent; it may sometimes tremble under the assaults of its enemies or languish under the misguided zeal of impracticable friends; but if the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of their government they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions.

In conclusion, he invokes for this reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of congress, urges an increase of the salaries of the commissioners, and expresses the hope that such reasonable appropriations may be made as will enable them to increase the usefulness of the cause they have in charge.

"Yes, Mr. Oldboy," she simpered, "I have seen 27 springs. Would you think it?" "Well yes, ma'am, I don't know but what I would," Mr. Oldboy said, "and I guess some of them springs must have been very backward."—Harper's Bazar.

"Is there much water in the cistern, Biddy?" inquired a gentleman of his Irish girl, as the same came from the cellar. "It is full to the bottom, sir, the there's none at all on the top," was but reply.—Boston Budget.

The New Orleans Picayune says, "the candidate is known by the election cigars he keeps." Wrong, entirely wrong. He is known by the election cigar he does not keep.—Boston Post.

Chicago widow: "Put it away carefully, Bridget. It has already served on two of these melancholy occasions, and we cannot tell what may happen."—Rambler.

Sailors haven't much liking for wrecks, but divers are down on them more than any one else.—St. Paul Herald.

It is announced that Emma Abbott has a new kiss. The old one began to taste too stale.—Burlington Free Press.

HOME NEWS.

Two thousand miners in Coalton, Ohio, are on a strike.

In the twelve southern states the past year 25 blast furnaces, 65 railroad companies, 131 wood-working establishments, 18 electric light companies, 73 founderies, mills and machine shops, 59 mining and smelting companies, and 36 flouring mills, have been established.

Three drunken Hungarians lay down upon the track near Wilkesbarre, Pa., to go to sleep. They were struck by a passenger train and instantly killed.

Capt. James B. Eads says the ship canal across the isthmus will be built by a private corporation, refusing all government aid with its consequent restrictions. An appeal will be made for financial aid to all the money centers of the world.

A great cave in took place at the Fairmount colliery, situated in Pittston, Pa., on the 4th inst. It covers an area of ten acres and virtually ruins the mine. In some places the earth's surface has gone down a distance of ten feet. A half dozen houses occupied by miners and their families were totally wrecked. Two miners were killed. Had not the sinking been preceded by an alarm the loss of life would have been very great.

William Cisson of Marion, Ind., aged 10 years, has been adjudged insane and sent to an asylum. The use of tobacco, commenced when he was only five years old, is the cause of his insanity.

Congressman William T. Price of Wisconsin is dead. He was born in Huntingdon county, Pa., June 17, 1824, and received a common school education. He served several terms in the Wisconsin legislature, both as assemblyman and senator. He was serving his second term in congress at the time of his death. In politics he was a republican.

The president has appointed Geo. A. Allen to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Wm. A. Stone, suspended for offensive partisanship.

The issue of standard silver dollars from the mints during the week ended December 4 was $281,011. The issue during the corresponding period of last year was $600,393. The shipments of fractional silver coin during November amounted to $747,491.

CONGRESSIONAL.

DECEMBER 6—The speaker called the house to order at noon, and Chaplain Milburn delivered the prayer. The roll was called, and 241 members responded. The senate was informed that the house was ready for business. Messrs. Reagen, Breckenridge of Kentucky, and Reed were designated a committee to notify the president that the house waited his pleasure. Messrs. S. S. Cox and Henry Bacon of New York, and Henry W. Rush of Maryland was sworn in as members.

Senator Sherman called the senate to order at noon and Rev. J. J. Butler delivered the prayer. Annual reports of departments were laid before the senate. Committees were appointed to notify the house that the senate was in session and was ready to hear the president's message. Messrs. Edmunds and Salsbury were designated to perform this duty. Senator Williams' credentials were presented and he was sworn in. Some bills and petitions were introduced when a recess was taken until the two houses met in joint session to listen to the reading of the message.

An Important Decision.

One of the most important decisions ever rendered in that territory has been delivered by the Hon. Jacob B. Blair, in Laramie, W. T., sitting as United States judge in the case of the United States vs. Jabez B. Simpson, indicted for perjury on two counts. Simpson had taken up a homestead entry in Wisconsin and afterwards commuted it to a cash entry. He afterwards moved to this territory and entered a homestead, and in proving up swore that he had never made a homestead entry prior to the one made in this territory, and the point involved in the case was whether or not the homestead entry in Wisconsin, which he afterwards commuted, exhausted his rights under the homestead law. Judge Blair decided that Simpson's entry in Wisconsin did not exhaust his rights under the homestead law, and by re-entering in this territory he did not commit perjury. This is the first time this question has been raised in the courts of this territory, and so far as known the first time the question was ever raised. The case attracted a good deal of attention. The decision meets with general satisfaction, and among the members of the bar it was held that it was replete with sound principles of law and in conformity with the spirit and intent of the laws of the United States.

Mrs. Garfield Annoyed.

Since last August Mrs. Garfield, wife of the late president, has been greatly annoyed at her country home in Mentor by the receipt of letters of advice, etc., from a person signing himself S. A. Bodde. Some time since a man went to the house, coolly walked into the hallway, and inquired for Mrs. Garfield or her daughter Mollie. A servant asked him his name and business, and he presented a card bearing the name of the letter-writer. The fellow was persuaded to leave the house, and on going he promised to write no more letters. As he went he turned and cursed all the inmates of the household. For some time no letters were received. But recently the fellow began writing again.

A few days ago he once more appeared at the Garfield farm house, and being refused permission to see Mrs. Garfield he swore as before. He was followed from the house and later placed under arrest at Painesville. Bodde is 38 years years of age and a native of Holland. He formerly lived at Ft. Wayne, Ind. After an inquest in lunacy the judge decided that Bodde was not of sufficiently unsound mind to warrant his incarceration in an asylum. He was therefore sent to the county poor house for safe keeping.

A Thieving Postal Clerk.

Albert H. Elwood of Silver Creek, Ind., for the past four years postal clerk on the Grand Rapids & Indiana road from Grand Rapids to Cincinnati, was arrested by postoffice inspectors on his arrival in Grand Rapids the other day, charged with embezzlement and appropriating cash found in registered letters, amounting in the aggregate to over $1,000. He had $77 pinned inside of his undershirt when arrested. He waived examination in the United States court and was placed under $5,000 bonds, and in default of bail was put in jail. Elwood has confessed his guilt, saying that the stealing commenced last May and that small sums have been taken by him each day since. He is 47 years old and has a wife and three children living at Silver Creek. His wife, he says, is in very poor health and the news of his crime will be a shock to her. He is much broken down and penitent for his misdeeds, attributing his yielding to temptation to financial difficulty.

Against Ben.

In the case of the National Soldiers' Home against Gen. Butler the jury found a verdict of $16,537 50 against Ben Butler. This is the amount, including interest, that Gen. Butler was alleged to be short in his accounts with the home while he was acting as treasurer of the institution prior to 1880. Gen. Tilton testified that Gen. Butler lent him $15,000 to start a shoe-shop in connection with the home, and that he gave Butler credit for that amount on the books of the home. The $15,000 was paid to Butler in 1879, but this payment had not been accounted for in any way, although the amount had been charged by Butler as a credit in his accounts with the home. Butler's defense was that he had paid the amount in full.

United Labor Party.

A circular has been issued by the United labor party defining the principles of the organization. Representatives have been appointed for the convention to be held at Cincinnati February 22, 1887, John E. Potter representing Michigan. The circular announces that all other political organizations must be renounced. An organization is to be effected with representatives from each congressional district from all labor organizations.

Postal Service not Self-Sustaining.

The third assistant postmaster general, in his annual report, says that for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, he estimates the deficiency of revenue to be supplied out of the general treasury as $4,729,553, which is only $824,014 more than the amount charged to the treasury in the year ended June 30, 1884, and $5,175,612 less than for the year ended June 30, 1885. He thinks the day not far distant when the postal service will be self-sustaining.

A terrible mining accident occurred at Durham, England, on the 2d inst. The miners had just commenced their day's work when an explosion of fire damp occurred. Thirty horribly mutilated bodies have been taken out of the shaft, and a number of others are more or less injured.

Important.

When you visit or leave New York City, save baggage expressage and $3 carriage hire, and stop at the GRAND UNION HOTEL, opposite Grand Central Depot.

615 rooms, fitted up at the cost of one million dollars, $1 and upwards per day. European plan. Elevator. Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse cars, stages and elevated railroad to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the city.

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Wood Trimmed Poles, 40c.
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CARPET DEPARTMENT!

The finest in the State, with 100 different patterns consisting of

Ingrain, Tapestry, Brussels, Wiltons, Body Brussels, Welton Velvets, Moquetts; also Hemps, Matting, Rugs, Mats, Oil Cloths, Stair Carpets, Stair Races, Hassocks, and Foot Stools.

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So our Customers say, and what everybody says, must be so.

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6 Dozen Clothes Pins, 10c, Potato Mashers 5 cents, Rolling Pins, 10 cents, Lap Boards, 40 cents, Mixing Boards, 40 cents, Towel Rollers, 15 cents.

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