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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The members of the first forty Congresses have assembled at the beginning of their second session under circumstances calculated to excite gratitude in the hearts of the representatives of the people. The earth has yielded her fruits in more than ordinary abundance, and labor in all departments of industry has been generally prosperous and remunerative. The health of the country as a whole has been excellent, and peace and tranquility have prevailed throughout our borders. Our relations with foreign powers are friendly, and the disposition manifested by them to cultivate commercial intercourse with us promises results highly beneficial to their subjects and to our citizens. Our finances are in a condition which has elicited the admiration of intelligent observers abroad, and at home has created a feeling of confidence in the stability of our institutions and the integrity and capacity of the people to govern themselves which has been fully justified by the test of actual experience. Combinations of money, labor, or other interests which attempt to control the avenues of production, transportation, or trade for the purpose of unduly enhancing the price of the necessaries of life, or of any species of property, have been unable to withstand the influence of competition, and have been compelled to seek their profits in the regular channels of trade. Public opinion has set its face against the formation of such combinations, and the power of the law has been invoked to prevent them. Our progress as a nation in the development of the arts of peace has been marked by the usual activity. Our population has increased, and the number of our States has been augmented by the admission of Colorado. Our boundaries have been extended by the addition of Alaska, and our domain has been made secure by the settlement of the Ute troubles in Colorado and the Indian troubles in the Territory of New Mexico. The Territories of Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico are rapidly filling up with an intelligent and enterprising population, and the Territory of Utah is making commendable progress in the development of her agricultural and mineral resources. The report of the Secretary of the Interior presents in detail the condition of the various branches of the public service under the supervision of the Department, and the operations of the Land Office, the Pension Office, the Indian Bureau, and the Patent Office are fully exhibited. The enterprising spirit which has characterized the management of the Post-Office Department during the past few years has been kept up to the full measure of the means placed at its disposal by law. The receipts of the Department from all sources during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, were $33,009,241.27, and the expenditures were $34,387,377. The deficiency of $1,378,135.73 was $1,378,135.73 less than during the preceding year, and $1,878,135.73 less than during the year ending June 30, 1877. The number of letters carried during the year was 1,054,000,000, an increase of 54,000,000 over the preceding year. The number of registered letters was 7,000,000, an increase of 1,000,000 over the preceding year. The number of money-order offices in operation on the 30th of June was 4,325, and the amount of business done was $18,000,000. The expenses chargeable against the revenue for the year ending June 30, 1880, are estimated at $33,000,000, and the receipts at $36,000,000, leaving a balance of $3,000,000. The Postmaster-General recommends the establishment of a line of mail steamers between the United States and Brazil, the granting of increased facilities for the transmission of mail matter between the United States and Mexico, the reduction of the rate of postage on printed matter to one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, the prepayment of postage on all mailable matter, the establishment of a limited number of postal-telegraph stations, and the adoption of measures looking to the establishment of postal savings depositories. These recommendations are commended to the favorable consideration of Congress. The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail the operations of the various bureaus of the Navy Department during the past year. The naval force in commission is shown to be in a state of high efficiency, and the discipline and instruction of officers and men have been conducted with great advantage to the service. The apprentice system has been productive of excellent results, and the Secretary renews his recommendation that adequate provision be made for the education of the additional number of apprentices required for the complement of vessels authorized by law. The Secretary also recommends the establishment of a permanent corps of civil engineers for the Navy, the completion of the dry-dock at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, the construction of a dry-dock at the Norfolk Navy-Yard, the establishment of a naval station at Port Royal, South Carolina, and the repair of the dry-dock at Pensacola. The Secretary of War reports the operations of the Army and the expenditures of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879. The total expenditures of the year were $43,996,535.49, leaving unexpended balances to the amount of $2,503,464.51. The estimates for the service of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are $40,030,740.09. The estimates changes in the present military establishment of the country, and a reduction of $2,965,794.91 from the estimates of 1880. The Secretary of War renews the recommendations heretofore made for the repeal of the law requiring the appointment of cadets at large, and for more liberal appropriations for the military academy. He also recommends legislation for the relief of certain officers of the Army who were engaged in the Indian service of the United States, but who are ineligible to receive the benefits of the act for the relief of officers of the Army and Navy engaged in the late war. The Secretary of the Interior reports that the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Indian trust-fund on the 30th of June, 1879, was $5,451,857.71. The Secretary recommends that provision be made for the payment of the claims of the Choctaw Indians against the United States, and that the Court of Claims be authorized to adjudicate the claims of the Cherokee Indians against the United States. He also recommends that provision be made for the settlement of the claims of the Pottawatomie Indians, and that the Court of Claims be authorized to adjudicate the claims of the Miami Indians against the United States. The Secretary renews the recommendation heretofore made for the establishment of a national park in the Yellowstone region, and for the protection of the game in that region. He also recommends the establishment of a national park in the Yosemite Valley, in California, and the protection of the forests on the head-waters of the Rio Grande. The Secretary renews the recommendation heretofore made for the passage of a law providing for the sale of the Fort Wayne Reservation, in Michigan, and the investment of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians formerly occupying that reservation. He also recommends the passage of a law providing for the sale of the Fort Abercrombie Reservation, in Dakota, and the investment of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians formerly occupying that reservation. The Secretary recommends the passage of a law providing for the sale of the Fort Berthold