MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

The President Sends His Annual Address.

REVIEW OF AFFAIRS.

HAWAII TO RECEIVE ATTENTION LATER.

Our Relations with Foreign Powers—Finances of the Government—Work of the Several Departments—Advises Delay in Dealing with the Currency Subject—Passage of the Wilson Tariff Measure Is Recommended—Course of the Pension Bureau Approved, Etc.

President Cleveland's message to the Fifty-third Congress in regular session was delivered to that body without delay on its assemblage at Washington. The organization of both branches having been effected at the late special session, there was nothing to interfere with the regular order of business. The message is of unusual length, exceeding in this respect Mr. Cleveland's famous address of 1885. A considerable part of the document is devoted to the Wilson tariff bill, silver purchase repeal, and the subject of pensions. Hawaiian matters are but briefly touched upon, the President indicating that he will submit a special message on this complication later. The message reads as follows:

To the Congress of the United States: The constitutional duty which requires the President from time to time to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient is fittingly entered upon by commending to the Congress a careful examination of the detailed statements and well supported recommendations contained in the reports of the heads of departments, who are chiefly charged with the executive work of the Government. In an effort to abridge this communication as much as is convenient with the duty I shall perform, a brief reference to the contents of these departmental reports by the mention of such executive business and incidents as are not embraced therein, and by such recommendations as appear to be at this particular time appropriate.

While our foreign relations have not at all times during the past year been entirely free from perplexity, no cause for serious embarrassment has yet arisen to disturb the spirit of fairness and love of justice, which, joined with considerations of prudence, should govern American foreign policy. My predecessor having accepted the office of arbitrator of the long-standing boundary dispute between Venezuela and the President by the Argentine Republic and Brazil, it has been my agreeable duty to receive the official communications made by those states to lay before me evidences and arguments in behalf of their respective governments.

Relations with Brazil.

The outbreak of domestic hostilities in the Republic of Brazil found the United States alert to watch the interests of our citizens in that country, with which we have an important commerce. Several vessels of our new navy are now, and for some time have been, stationed in the Bay of Janeiro. The struggle being between the established Government, which controls the machinery of administration, and those with which we maintain friendly relations, and certain officers of the navy employing the vessels of their command in an attack upon the national capital and chief seaport, I have failed to see that the insurgents can reasonably claim recognition as belligerents. Thus far the position of our Government has been that of an attentive but impartial observer of the unfortunate conflict. Emphasizing our fixed policy of impartial neutrality in such a condition of affairs by special directions to the naval officers to disavow, in a manner not to be misunderstood, the unauthorized action of the late naval commander in those waters in which the revolted Brazilian Admiral, being indisposed to countenance an act calculated to give gratuitous sanction to the local insurrection.

Chilian Complications.

The convention between our Government and Chili, having for its object the settlement and adjustment of the demands of the two countries against each other, has been made effective by the organization of the Claims Commission provided for. The two governments failing to agree upon the third member of the commission, the good offices of the President of the Swiss republic were invoked, which provided the happy selection of the Swiss representative in this country to complete the organization was gratifying alike to the United States and Chili. The vexatious question of so-called legation asylum for offenders against the state and its laws was presented anew in Chili by the unauthorized action of the late United States Minister in receiving into his residence two persons who had been active in an attempt at revolution and against whom criminal charges were pending, growing out of the former abortive disturbance. The prompt demand having been made by the Chilian Government for the surrender of this conduct in the instance mentioned, the minister was instructed no longer to harbor the offenders.

Registration of Chinese.

The legislation of last year, known as the Geary law, requiring the registration of all Chinese residing within the limits of the United States, and the deportation of all not complying with the provisions of the act within the time prescribed, met with much opposition from Chinamen in this country, acting upon the advice of eminent counsel that the law was unconstitutional. Suits were made by Chinese laborers, pending judicial inquiry as to its validity, in good faith declined to apply for the certificate required by the act, and in the test case upon proceedings by habeas corpus was brought before the Supreme Court, and on May 15, 1893, decided to be valid, the tribunal sustaining the law. It is believed that, under the recent amendment to the act extending the time for registration, all Chinese laborers thereto entitled who desire to reside in this country will now avail themselves of the privilege thus afforded of establishing by lawful procedure their right to remain, and that thereby the necessity of enforcing deportation to a great degree be avoided.

It has received upon the United States Minister at Peking, as dean of the diplomatic body, and in the absence of a representative of Sweden and Norway, to press upon the Chinese government reparation for the recent murder of Swedish missionaries at Sung-Pu. The question is of vital interest to all countries whose citizens engage in missionary work in the interior.

Costa Rica's Friendliness.

Costa Rica has lately testified its friendliness by surrendering to the United States, in the absence of a convention of extradition, but upon duly submitted evidence of criminality, a noted fugitive from justice. It is trusted that the negotiation of a treaty with that country to meet recurring cases of this kind will soon be accomplished. In my opinion treaties for reciprocal extradition should be concluded with all those countries with which the United States does not already conventional arrangements of that character. I have deemed it fitting to express to the governments of Costa Rica and Colombia the kindly desire of the United States to see their pending boundary dispute finally closed by arbitration in conformity with the spirit of the treaty concluded between them some years ago. Our relations with the French Republic continue to be intimate and cordial. I sincerely hope that the exchanges of views to that country, as amended by the Senate, will soon be operative. While occasional questions affecting our naturalized citizens returning to the land of their birth, have arisen in our intercourse with Germany, our relations with that country continue satisfactory.

Relations with Great Britain.

The questions affecting our relations with Great Britain have been treated in a spirit of friendliness. Negotiations are in progress between the two Governments with a view to such concurrent action as will make the award and regulations agreed upon by the late Paris tribunal of arbitration practically effective; and it is not doubted that Great Britain will co-operate freely with this country for the accomplishment of that purpose. The dispute growing out of the discriminating tolls imposed in the Welland Canal upon cargoes of cereals bound to and from the lake ports of the United States was adjusted by the substitution of a more equitable schedule of charges, and my predecessor thereupon suspended his proclamation imposing countervailing tolls upon British transit through our canals.

A request for additions to the list of extraditable offenses covered by the existing treaty between the two countries is under consideration.

During the past year an American citizen, employed in a subordinate commercial position in Belize, was subjected to unjust imprisonment on an unfounded charge of smuggling, was finally liberated on judicial examination, and upon representation to the Haytian Government, a suitable indemnity was paid to the sufferer.

Upon receipt of authentic information of the firing upon an American mail steamer touching at the port of Ensenada, because of certain refusal to deliver up a passenger from Nicaragua to Guatemala, upon demand of the military authorities of Honduras, instructions to that country under instructions protested against the wanton act and demanded satisfaction. The government of Honduras responded by a sense of justice, and in a spirit of the utmost friendship, promptly disavowed the illegal conduct of its officers and expressed sincere regret for the occurrence.

Interest in Liberia.

A notable part of the southeasterly coast of Liberia between the Cavally and San Pedro rivers, with the adjoining hinterland, has been generally recognized as belonging to that republic by cession and purchase, has been claimed to be under the protectorate of France in virtue of an agreement entered into by the native tribes over whom Liberia's control was not long since well maintained. More recently negotiations between the Liberian representative and the French authorities growing out of the shiftings at Paris of a treaty whereby as an adjustment certain Liberian territory is ceded to France, this country is not to be molested. The treaty ratified by the Liberian Legislature and executive.

Our relations with Mexico continue to be of that close and friendly nature which should always characterize the intercourse of two neighboring republics. The work of the commission recently organized under the conventions of 1884 and 1889, it is expected, will speedily settle the long-pending claims of citizens at Paris of a treaty whereby as an adjustment certain Liberian territory is ceded to France. This commission is now in the field, and the actual currents of the Rio Grande River east of El Paso.

Nicaragua and the Canal.

Nicaragua has recently passed through two revolutions, the party at first successful having in turn been displaced by another. Our newly appointed minister, on his arrival at good offices, aided in a peaceful adjustment of the controversy involved in the first conflict. The large pecuniary interests established in that country in connection with the Nicaragua Canal were not molested. The canal company has unfortunately fallen into financially serious embarrassed, but a generous treatment has been extended to it by the Government of Nicaragua in order that the United States are especially interested in the successful achievement of the vast undertaking this company has in hand, which, if successfully accomplished under distinctively American auspices, and its enjoyment assured not only to the vessels of the United States, but to the commerce of the President by the Argentine Republic and Brazil, it has been my agreeable duty to receive the official communications made by those states to lay before me evidences and arguments in behalf of their respective governments.

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