

Deeking Colonist

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

"Retaliation" is the burden of the President's message to Congress, retaliation because the Senate failed to ratify the Fisheries treaty. The position taken by him can hardly be said to be a logical one. While acknowledging that the proposed treaty was a fair and honorable one, yet, as he himself admitted, to the exigency of the present situation, the United States from various incidents, and looking to the promotion of friendly neighborhood and intimacy without sacrifice in the slightest degree national pride and honor, he has decided in view of the approaching Presidential election, to virtually say to the Senate, "Well, you have rejected a treaty which Congress and myself considered to be an honorable one, and you must take the consequences. I will now ask Congress to pass a retaliatory measure, which you can only justify yourselves by declining to sanction. Unquestionably from this point of view Mr. Cleveland has made a bold stroke, one which may result disastrously for the Republican party. The revenge policy of the President, however, as disclosed in his message, favors retaliation in the form of a tariff on the highest civilization, and we do not believe that Mr. Cleveland is honest with himself in embracing the proposition that the infliction of the greatest harm upon those who have injured us with the least possible damage. To ourselves in any part of a policy of national retaliation. The President's citation of the various causes which have led up to his recommending immediate legislative action, conferring upon the executive the power to suspend by proclamation the operation of all laws and regulations permitting the transit of goods, wares and merchandise in bond across or over the territory of the United States or of Canada, can hardly be said to be accurate. Our legislation has been quite as liberal and friendly—and characterized by the most generous and neighborly spirit towards the United States as has been any great wrong was inflicted, while it is conceded by all men with any knowledge whatever of the matter that the sealers never should have been seized, and that ample recompense should have been done towards the fishermen of the United States government, nor would anything be done unless upon compulsion from the British government. Fortunately its arm is strong enough to demand reparation for injuries inflicted upon our fishermen. We are inclined to the opinion that the policy outlined by the President is, like the retaliatory measure which received executive assent on the 23rd of March, 1887, to become in effect a dead letter. That provided in case American fishing vessels being or visiting in waters of or at any of the ports of the British dominions of America, should be or lately had been deprived of rights or of which they were entitled by treaty or law, or if they were denied certain other privileges therein specified, or vexed and harassed in any manner, or if the President might deny to vessels, and their masters and crews of the British dominions of North America any entrance to waters, ports or harbors of the United States, and also deny entry into any port or place of dominions, or the right of coming from said dominions to the United States, Cleveland did nothing in that case, and beyond a little cheap buncombe nothing will come of this. To carry it out to the bitter end would mean a greater loss to the United States than to Canada. The sword cuts both ways, and judging by the feeling of the American press the Canadian blade would go to the larger piece. The New York Herald says that Mr. Cleveland simply tells the country that the United States will not be intimidated. "No transit for us, no transit for them. That is the result to be adopted that will force a crisis at once. The Senate has made retaliation necessary." While the Star, whose editor, Mr. Dana, supports Cleveland, considers the message it "is too hot to be effectively vital." The Star says that "should England meet us in a proper spirit and withdraw the notice of 1886, abolishing discriminating tolls, and refrain from injury to our fishermen, the retaliatory measure need not be put into effect." It is presumed that what the Americans want is for us to give up all our fishing privileges to them, to give them a free pass over our magnificent canal system, and to receive in return the good opinion and "high regard" of the great American nation. That the intelligence of Cleveland's latest political move did not strike terror into the hearts of the people of Eastern Canada may be gleaned from the contents of a telegram received here yesterday stating that in regard to the proposed line to our own coast ports, building up Canadian cities, as we should rather than American ones. It is very evident that the C.P.R., at least, will welcome with pleasure the remarkable message, both for its master and manner, of the present Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

THE UNITED STATES MINERAL RESOURCES.

British Columbia is essentially a mineral country. We look confidently forward to an early day to see a boom in the interior as will lift the western provinces to even a greater eminence than has been attained by some of the States of the American continent. To the many who are concerned in mining ventures here, the annual report on the Mineral Resources of the United States for the year 1887 will prove more than interesting. Through the courtesy of the Chief of the Division of Mining Statistics and Technology of the United States Department of the Interior we have been furnished with advance sheets, from which we gather the following facts: Domestic iron ore consumed, valued at \$1,300,000—an increase over 1886 of 1,300,000 in quantity and \$6,000,000 in value. Imported iron ore consumed, 1,104,301 long tons—iron ore consumed in 1887, about 12,494,301 long tons, 1,454,808 tons more than in 1886. Pig iron made, 6,437,148 long tons; value as furnished, \$1,265,300—an increase over 1886 of 733,819 in quantity and \$36,830,040 in value. Steel of all kinds produced, 3,339,071 long tons—an increase of 770,569 tons over 1886; value at works, \$103,811,000. The total spot value of all iron and steel in the first half of 1887 was \$127,300,000, a decrease of \$17,108,000—an increase of \$29,003,000, as compared with 1886. Limestone, used as flux in the manufacture of pig iron in 1887, about 5,377,000 long tons; value at quarry, about \$3,229,200. The total value of gold produced in 1887 was \$3,100,000, a decrease of \$1,100,000 over 1886. Silver increased from \$1,000,000 in 1886, to \$33,441,300 (coin value) in 1887. The total production of copper was 184,670,224 pounds, of which 3,760,000 pounds were made from imported pyrites. The total value was \$2,022,440, a decrease of \$1,400,000 over 1886. The estimated total consumption of copper in the United States increased by about 14 per cent. The production of lead was 160,700 short tons, valued at \$14,463,000, at 800 per short ton. The production of white lead, and the several oxides from pig lead increased a total of about 75,000 short tons. The returns of the producers of zinc show an increase from 42,461 short tons in 1886 to 50,340 in 1887. The total production of all kinds of commercial coal in 1887 was 123,965,256 short tons (increase over 1886, 12,283,048 tons), valued at \$1,413,241,000. The total value of anthracite produced in 1887 was \$1,413,241,000. This may be divided into Pennsylvania anthracite, 39,606,255 short tons (increase 2,809,700 short tons), or 35,273,442 long tons (increase 2,508,732 long tons), valued at \$79,365,244 (increase, \$7,807,113); all other coals, including bituminous and lignite, 84,359,001 short tons (increase, 9,473,293 tons), valued at \$618,875,756 (increase, \$18,453,857). The total value of anthracite consumption was Pennsylvania anthracite, 37,978,747 long tons (increase over 1886, 2,725,670 long tons), or 42,098,197 short tons (increase, 3,026,717 short tons); all other coals, 46,380,804 short tons (increase, 4,449,403 tons), making the total output of all coals from mines in the United States, exclusive of slack coal thrown on the dumps, 129,925,507 short tons (increase, 17,182,164 tons), valued as follows: Anthracite, \$4,352,181 (increase, \$8,453,957); bituminous, \$797,299,856 (increase, \$19,458,000); total value, \$182,491,837 (increase, \$27,891,661). The above figures show a notable increase in 1887 over 1886 in the aggregate output and value of both anthracite and bituminous coal. The production of the total year ending December 31st, 1887, was 7,897,487 short tons, valued at \$112,625,074. This is the greatest product ever reached in the United States, being 1,022,419 tons greater than in 1886. 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