

of adjusting international contentions which marks a forward step in civilization. The disputed questions settled were as follows :—

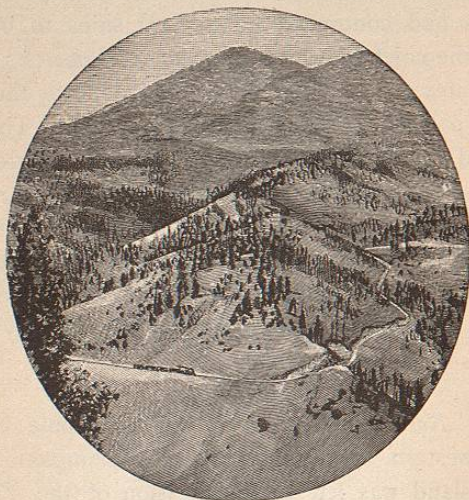
(1) *Alabama Claims.*— During the war the Confederate authorities had contracted for several ships to be built in England, the chief of which was the *Alabama* (§ 584). The United States claimed that the damage done by these vessels should be paid for by the English government. These claims were called the “Alabama claims,” and were referred for settlement to five commissioners, one each from England, United States, Italy, Brazil, and Switzerland. They met at Geneva, Switzerland, and awarded \$15,500,000 to the United States, which amount was to be paid into the treasury of the United States and distributed to the owners of the property destroyed by the vessels built in England.

(2) *The Northwest Boundary.*— The dispute concerning the northwestern boundary between Washington and Vancouver’s Island was left to the decision of the Emperor of Germany. He declared in favor of the boundary-line claimed by the United States.

(3) *Fisheries.*— The dispute over the right of citizens of the United States to fish in the waters along Newfoundland was settled by commissioners, who decided that they should have the privilege of fishing in these waters for twelve years upon the payment of \$5,500,000 to Great Britain.

621. **The Fifteenth Amendment** was ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the states in 1870. This amendment provided that no law should be passed to prevent citizens from voting on account of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

622. The Pacific Railroad.— The great railroad connecting Omaha, Nebraska, with San Francisco, California (a distance of 1900 miles), and uniting the East with the West, was completed in 1869. Three other transcontinental lines of railroad



Marshall Pass, showing route of Pacific Railroad through the mountains.

have been built since then, so that one may now travel across the United States in as short a time as the trip from New York to Boston required a century ago.

623. Great Fires.— Several great fires occurred during this administration, of which the chief was the Chicago fire of October 8-9, 1871. Five square miles were ravaged by the flames, twenty thousand houses were burned, property to the amount of two hundred million dollars was consumed, and over two hundred and fifty persons perished.

About a year later Boston was partly destroyed by a great fire,— the loss amounting to \$80,000,000. The sufferings of the people in these cities were greatly alleviated by generous

contributions from all parts of the United States and foreign nations. The burnt districts in both cities were soon covered by larger and better buildings than before.

624. Political Affairs.— Grant's administration was marked by great political excitement. The South was struggling to free itself from Radical misrule, — Republican administrations created by the "carpet-baggers," and supported mainly by negro votes. A state of affairs bordering on war existed there until, by the elections of 1876, the Southern whites regained full control of the states.

During the time of the Reconstruction régime a secret society called the *Ku Klux Klan* was organized in the South to check and resist Radical rule and to hold the negroes in subjection. This organization often resorted to violence, and crimes were committed in its name, but it was the chief means of preventing the lately enfranchised negroes and the adventurers who misled them from so dominating the Southern states as to destroy the very foundations of society.

625. Grangers.— In 1868 the secret society of *Grangers* was organized mainly by farmers in the northwestern states and spread rapidly through the South and West. Its object was to unite the farmers on matters of common interest, as well as to benefit them in other ways.

626. Reëlection of Grant.— One wing of the Republican party, composed of those who were dissatisfied with the Congressional policy of reconstruction, became known as the "Liberal Republicans." They hoped that by selecting a platform and a candidate acceptable to the Democrats, they might defeat the Radical Republican party. They nominated Horace Greeley,¹ the editor of the *New York Tribune*, for the presi-

¹ Greeley had been a life-long enemy of the Democratic party and was not supported very enthusiastically by the Democrats. He died of disappointment before the meeting of the Electoral College and the opposition vote was scattered among several candidates.

dency. The Democratic convention endorsed the Liberal Republican platform and candidate.

The regular Republican party renominated Grant for the presidency with Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, for vice-president. The electoral vote stood 286 for Grant and Wilson to 63 for the opposition.¹

627. Corruption in Office. — During Grant's two terms many political scandals were unearthed. These were due doubtless in a large measure to laxity in administration, consequent upon the war, and also to the credulity of the president, who was a famous soldier, but not well adapted to great civil responsibilities.

The *Crédit Mobilier* was a company organized to build the Pacific Railroad. It was discovered in 1873 that measures promoting its interest had been passed through Congress by means of bribery.

Back Salary Grab. — In 1872 a bill was passed by Congress advancing the salaries of many of the officers of the government. The president's salary was raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per annum. The salary of a congressman was raised from \$5000 to \$7500 per annum. The act made the advance in salaries date from the beginning of the current term. The law was nicknamed the "back-salary grab," and provoked such opposition throughout the country that it was speedily repealed, except as to the salaries of the president and the judges of the Supreme Court.

Whiskey Ring. — In 1875, it was discovered that a "whiskey ring," composed of prominent officials, had colluded with distillers in the West in defrauding the government of the revenue on whiskey. Several persons of wealth, social influence, and high standing were tried, convicted, and punished for this violation of the laws of the land.

¹ Seventeen of the votes against Grant were not counted by Congress. The total number of votes against him was 80.

Impeachment of Belknap. — In 1876, Secretary of War Belknap was impeached for receiving bribes for appointment of officers. He escaped conviction by resigning his office.

628. Indian Troubles. — Two insurrections occurred among the Indians during Grant's administration. The first was among the *Modocs* in Oregon. They were subdued after a year's fighting.

The *Sioux Indians* in Montana, under their chief, Sitting Bull, defied the Federal authorities. In June, 1876, General Custer, with a small band of 250 men, attacked a large force of these Indians, and he and all his men were killed after a brave resistance. The Sioux then retreated into British America.

629. Financial Matters. Panic of 1873. — A financial panic occurred in 1873, and its effects continued to be felt for several years. It was caused by the lavish expenditures of the war, a series of poor crops, the too rapid building of railroads, the contraction of the currency, and the demonetization of silver. From 1868 to 1872 the railroad mileage of the United States increased 50 per cent. The panic started from the failure of a banking house in Philadelphia, which was largely concerned in the Northern Pacific Railroad.

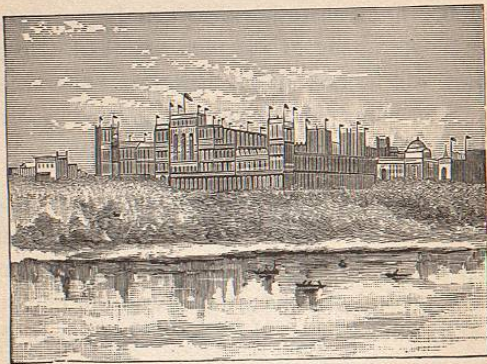
Demonetization of Silver. — Early in 1873 a coinage act was passed in which the silver dollar, which had always been legal tender, was dropped from the list of coins to be minted. The silver dollar was worth more at this time than the gold dollar. The effect of the omission of the silver dollar from the coinage act was to destroy the full legal tender power of silver, stop its free coinage, and thereby lessen its value. This omission was hardly noticed at the time, and its effect was understood neither by the people nor by many members of Congress.

Resumption of Specie Payments. — The "greenbacks"¹ which Congress had issued during the war were worth much

¹ Paper money, the back of each bill being printed in green ink.

less than their face value, because Congress was unable to redeem them in specie. In 1875 an act was passed declaring that on January 1, 1879, specie payments would be resumed. Greenbacks at once rose to par, and have since remained on the same level as gold and silver.

630. The Centennial in 1876.— In spite of the financial stringency, the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Inde-



Centennial Exhibition Buildings, Philadelphia, 1876.

pendence was celebrated with great success at Philadelphia by an International Exposition. It was followed by a series of centennial anniversaries at several historic spots, commemorating important events of the Revolutionary War.

631. The Centennial State.— Colorado was admitted into the Union in 1876, and hence it is called the "Centennial State."

632. The Election of 1876.— The Republicans nominated for president Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio, and W. A. Wheeler, of New York. A strong element of the Republican party endeavored to renominate Grant for a third term, but the opposition was too decided.

The Democrats nominated Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, for the presidency, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, for the vice-presidency.

The campaign was very exciting. The congressional elections in 1874 had shown a reaction toward the Democratic party. At first the election of Tilden was conceded by the Republican press, but soon afterward the result of the elections in the states of South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida was claimed to be uncertain. In South Carolina and Florida many Democratic votes were thrown out, on the ground that Republican voters had been intimidated and so prevented from voting. The "Returning Boards"¹ in these two states declared the Republican electors chosen. The Democratic electors charged fraud, and claimed that they had been elected; so both sets of electors met and sent in their votes to Congress. In Louisiana, the Returning Board, refusing to comply with the law in many points, declared the Republican electors chosen, and the governor, who was held in his place by Federal troops, gave them certificates. McEnery, the Democratic candidate for governor, claimed the election, and gave certificates to the Democratic electors. Oregon also sent in two sets of returns. One of the Republican electors was declared disqualified by the governor, who appointed instead a Democrat to serve as elector.

Not counting the votes of the states of South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and Oregon, Tilden received 184 votes, Hayes, 163. A joint rule adopted by Congress in 1865 provided that disputed electoral votes could only be counted by the consent of both Houses. If this rule had been followed, Tilden would have been declared elected, inasmuch as he had

¹ "Returning Boards" were created by law during the Reconstruction troubles, and invested with extraordinary powers over the counting of votes in disputed elections. They could throw out votes and manipulate the figures as they chose, and no appeal could be taken from their decision.

a majority of the electoral votes about which no question could be made. The Democratic House wished now to follow this rule. The Republican Senate refused to abide by it.

633. The Electoral Commission.—To settle the dispute, which was not provided for in the Constitution, the *Electoral Commission* was created. It consisted of five senators (two Democrats and three Republicans), five representatives (three Democrats and two Republicans), and five supreme judges. The act creating the commission provided that two of the judges should be Republicans, and two Democrats, the four judges to choose the fifth themselves.¹ A Republican was chosen, thus constituting the commission eight Republicans and seven Democrats. The commission, by a party vote of 8 to 7, decided in favor of the Republican electors for South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, counted the Republican instead of the Democratic elector from Oregon, and thus gave the presidency to the Republican candidate. Hayes and Wheeler thus received an electoral vote of 185, while Tilden and Hendricks received 184.

634. Summary.—A treaty with England in 1871 provided for the peaceful settlement of the Alabama claims, the Northwest boundary, and the Fishery dispute. The Fifteenth Amendment, giving negroes the right to vote, was declared adopted. The first Pacific Railroad was completed. Fires at Chicago and Boston caused great loss of property. Grant was reelected over Horace Greeley, the candidate of the Liberal Republicans and Democrats. The administration was characterized by much corruption in office. Silver was demonetized and specie payments were resumed. The Centennial Exposition was held at Philadelphia. Colorado was admitted. The Electoral Commission settled the disputed presidential election by declaring Hayes, the Republican candidate, elected over Tilden, his Democratic opponent.

¹ Doubtless Judge David Davis, an Independent Democrat, would have been selected had he not resigned his office just at this time to accept a senatorship from Illinois. The choice then fell on Judge Bradley, a Republican.

635. Thought Questions.—Name the presidents who owed their election to military renown. If the principle of "arbitration" in the settlement of national disputes had been recognized from the beginning of our history, what war could most readily have been averted? Were any of our wars *inevitable*? Recall the peculiar circumstances of the presidential election of 1800; of 1824. In what ways did the contest of 1876 differ from the others?

TOPICAL ANALYSIS (RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD).

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| JOHNSON'S ADMINISTRATION. — 1865-69. | } | 604. The New President. | | | |
| | | 605-607. Reconstruction Plans. | { Lincoln's plan.
Johnson's plan.
Plan of Congress. | | |
| | | 608. Distrust of the President: | By Congress. | | |
| | | 609. Readmission of the States. | { The Fourteenth Amendment.
Final readmission. | | |
| | | 610. Result of Reconstruction Policy. | { The "iron-clad" oath.
"Carpet-bag" governments. | | |
| | | 611. Impeachment of the President. | { Tenure of Office Bill.
Johnson's opposition.
Impeachment and trial. | | |
| | | 612. Jefferson Davis Brought to Trial. | { The judges.
The indictment.
The result. | | |
| | | 613. Maximilian in Mexico. | | | |
| | | 614. The Atlantic Cable. | { The leader of the enterprise.
Laying of the cable. | | |
| | | 615. Purchase of Alaska. | { Discovery and name.
Purchase by United States.
Extent of territory. | | |
| | | 616. Presidential Election. | { Candidates and platform.
Result of the election. | | |
| | | GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION. — 1869-77. | } | 619. The New President. | |
| | | | | 620. Treaty of Washington. | { Alabama claims.
Northwest boundary.
Fishery dispute. |
| | | | | 621. The Fifteenth Amendment. | |
| | | | | 622. The Pacific Railroad. | { The first road.
Subsequent roads. |

623. Great Fires. { At Chicago.
At Boston.
624. Political Affairs. { Misrule of "Carpet-baggers."
The Ku Klux Klan.
625. The Grangers.
626. Reëlection of Grant. { Split in Republican party.
Result of the election.
627. Corruption in Office. { The Credit Mobilier.
The back salary grab.
The whiskey ring.
Impeachment of Belknap.
628. Indian Troubles. { The Modocs in Oregon.
The Sioux in Montana.
629. Financial Matters. { Panic of 1873.
Demonetization of silver.
Resumption of specie payments.
630. The Centennial at Philadelphia.
631. Colorado Admitted.
- 632, 633. Presidential Election. { The candidates.
Contested result.
Settlement by Electoral Commission.

RECENT EVENTS.

(HAYES TO MCKINLEY.)

HAYES'S ADMINISTRATION.

One Term: 1877-1881.

636. Life and Services of the New President. — Rutherford B. Hayes was born in Ohio in the same year as President Grant, 1822. He was a lawyer by profession, but rose to the rank of brigadier-general in the War between the States. He served one term in Congress, and three terms as governor of Ohio. After one term as president he lived quietly at his home in Ohio, where he died in 1893. President Hayes was a man of great purity and dignity of character. His influence was wisely used to mitigate sectional feeling, and to promote justice and sound ideas in the administration of the government.



Rutherford B. Hayes.

637. Character of the Period. — This period was characterized by steady growth. The country was recovering from the results of the war and gathering new strength. The administration was an unusually quiet one. There is little of importance to be recorded in its history.