

## PNEUMATIC TUBES.

The installation of a comprehensive pneumatic-tube system between the several Executive Departments—and their widely scattered branches and bureaus within the District is earnestly recommended.

## ASSAY OFFICE AT NEW YORK.

I repeat my recommendation of last year that the assay office at New York be sold and a new one erected in a more suitable location. The present site will bring enough to buy one more eligible and erect a more suitable building and have a respectable balance left to cover into the Treasury. The present building is inadequate in size and in every way inconvenient.

## DRAWBACK.

Wise provision has been made for the exportation, with benefit of drawback, of imported merchandise and of manufactures composed in whole or in part of imported material. The Treasury Department has endeavored in every feasible way to simplify the application of this privilege and to make its operation practicable. Many difficulties exist, however, annoying to exporters, which can be removed only by legislation. I therefore recommend the careful reconstruction of the drawback laws with a view to their simplification, and especially that the privilege of drawback be extended to barrels, boxes, cans, and other receptacles, though imported in completed form, when exported filled with American food products. A carefully safeguarded system of substitution similar to that now in operation in France would undoubtedly increase to some extent our export trade. Several other extensions of this privilege could, in my judgment, be wisely made. I am also of the opinion that in applying these laws greater discretion could be safely lodged with the Secretary of the Treasury, the exercise of which would overcome many unforeseen difficulties and frequent technical obstacles.

LESLIE M. SHAW,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

To the SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.