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FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1899.

GEODETIC OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES*

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THE geodetic operations in the United States, as executed by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, may be grouped into three distinct periods of time. The work was authorized by Congress in 1807, but a quarter of a century elapsed before anything was done in the field worthy of the name of Geodesy. This closed the first period, which may be characterized as the era of preparation and education of public sentiment. In 1832 operations were begun with vigor, and the foundation was laid for a great national work. The Survey was conducted on the same general lines of policy for eleven years, when the reorganization of 1843 established its permanent status. No great deviation has since been made from this plan, which has now held for fifty-five years. If we eliminate the Civil War period of five years, during which work was suspended, and regard operations before the reorganization as of a preliminary nature, we have half a century of geodesy. During its comparatively short existence the Survey has been three times under the control of the Treasury Department, twice under the Navy, and once under law requiring its personnel to be army or navy officers. The direction of the work has, however, remained throughout

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