TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS,
First Session.

TUESDAY, June 9, 1846.

IN SENATE.

The journal having been read,

GRADUATION AND REDUCTION OF THE PRICE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Mr. YULEE desired to know of the chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, when it was intended to take up the bill to reduce and graduate the price of the public lands, and for other purposes?

Mr. BREESE expressed the anxiety on the part of the committee to have the bill alluded to, considered and passed, and moved that it should be taken up with a view to making it the special order for Monday next.

The motion to take up was agreed to, and the bill made the special order for Monday next.

[A message was received from the House of Representatives, announcing that said House had passed an act to amend the act entitled "An act to grant a quantity of land to the Territory of Wisconsin, for the purpose of aiding in opening a canal to connect the waters of Lake Michigan with those of Rock river.]

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. WESTCOTT submitted the following resolution; which lies over:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be requested to furnish the Senate with a copy of such portion of a letter from Commodore Lawrence Kearney, United States navy, dated on or about the 31st ultimo, as relates to a dock at the navy yard, Pensacola.

Mr. TURNEY submitted the following resolution; which lies over:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of exempting from arrest and seizure the property of volunteers for debt during their continuance in the military service of the United States.

Mr. YULEE submitted the following resolution; which lies over:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be directed to inquire into the best means of establishing a regular communication by mail between St. Augustine and Key West, and between Key West and Pensacola, and particularly whether the steamers connected with the revenue service can be employed for such purpose without injury to the public interest.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. MILLER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported, without amendment, the House resolution authorizing the erection of a monument to Washington upon the public grounds within the city of Washington, D. C.

Mr. ASHLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported, without amendment, the bill relative to, and increasing the duties of, the Attorney General.

Mr. DICKINSON, from the Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the House bill for the relief of Laughley and Jenkins, reported it without amendment.

Mr. D. also, from the same committee, submitted an adverse report upon the petition of Jonathan Tyse; which was ordered to be printed.

GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Senate considered the resolution submitted by Mr. CASS, providing for the printing of 5,000 copies of the message of the President, received a few days since, transmitting certain correspondence between the United States and Great Britain in relation to the right of search, a copy of the protest by Mr. CASS against the Quintuple treaty, and the correspondence in relation thereto.

Mr. HUNTINGTON moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Printing; which motion was agreed to.

GRANTS OF LAND FOR INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The Senate considered the resolution submitted by Mr. YULEE, inquiring into the expediency of granting alternate sections of the public lands to the several States in which they lie, for the improvement of the navigation of rivers and the prosecution of public works; which resolution was *not* agreed to.

HOUR OF MEETING.

The Senate considered the resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. HOUSTON, providing for the meeting of the Senate at the hour of 10 o'clock, a. m.

Mr. NILES suggested, as a modification, that the hour of 11 be inserted instead of 10.

Mr. HOUSTON accepted the modification, when On motion, it was ordered that the further consideration of the subject be postponed until Monday next.

REMOVAL OF THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

The Senate considered the following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. WOODBRIDGE, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the President whether any measures have been taken to carry into effect the 3d and 6th articles of the treaty with the Chippewa Indians, entered into at La Pointe on the 4th day of October, 1842, so far as the same relates to the removal of those Indians from the mineral lands of Lake Superior, and whether any and what suitable country has been, or is intended to be, provided for the future residence of these Indians.

EXPEDITION TO THE UPPER ARKANSAS.

The following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. BENTON, was agreed to:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, the report of the expedition led by Lieutenant Abert on the upper Arkansas and through the country of the Cumanche Indians, in the fall of the year 1845.

SYNOPSIS OF TREASURY REPORTS.

Mr. MANGUM moved that the Senate take up a motion to print a synopsis of treasury reports which had been laid on the table some weeks since.

Mr. ATCHISON remarked that the subject had been discussed at some length at the time when the motion to print was laid on the table. His objection to the resolution to print was founded on the impropriety of sanctioning the unauthorized employment of clerks by heads of departments. He trusted that the motion would continue to lie on the table, and he called for the yeas and nays on the question to take it up.

Mr. DAVIS hoped that the resolution would not be taken up in the absence of the senator from Maine, [Mr. EVANS,] who had, it appeared, taken the pains to inform himself thoroughly as to its merits.

Mr. CRITTENDEN understood that the question was simply whether the person who had performed the labor was entitled to compensation.

Mr. ATCHISON remarked that the individual could prefer a claim for compensation; but he (Mr. A.) was not prepared to sanction such a procedure on the part of an officer of the government as had originated this matter. If one clerk could be employed without authority, so might fifty.

The yeas and nays were then taken, with the following result:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Archer, Berrien, Cass, Chalmers, John M. Clayton, Corwin, Crittenden, Hannegan, Jarnagin, Johnson of Maryland, Johnson of Louisiana, Mangum, Morehead, Pearce, Rusk, Sevier, Simmons, Webster, and Woodbridge—20.

NAYS—Messrs. Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Bagby, Benton, Breese, Calhoun, Thomas Clayton, Colquitt, Davis, Dayton, Dickinson, Dix, Fairfield, Haywood, Houston, Huntington, Jenness, Lewis, McDuffie, Miller, Niles, Pennybacker, Phelps, Speight, Turney, Upham, and Westcott—28.

So the Senate refused to take up the resolution.

THE BRIG GENERAL ARMSTRONG.

The Senate considered the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, asking to be discharged from the further consideration of the claim of the owners of the brig General Armstrong, and that the papers and documents in relation thereto be laid on table.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, moved to strike out the resolution concluding the report, and insert the following:

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be requested to take proper measures again to bring this subject before the Portuguese government.

Mr. ATHERTON was proceeding to make some remarks on the merits of the case, when

Mr. WEBSTER suggested that the proper course of procedure would be to refer the report to the Secretary of State.

Mr. ARCHER said that the object of the amendment of the senator from Louisiana [Mr. JOHNSON] was only to render attention to the case more imperative on the Department of State, and added some remarks relative to the justice and interesting character of the claim.

Mr. ALLEN observed that the form of amendment was rather unusual, and that the senator from Massachusetts had suggested the proper course. The honorable gentleman was proceeding with some additional remarks, when he was interrupted by

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, who expatiated at some length on the justice of the claim.

Mr. ALLEN then remarked that he had not disputed the justice of the claim at all. He had only ventured to make a suggestion as to the proper course of procedure.

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON could see no difficulty or impropriety in the amendment. In his humble judgment the attention of the secretary should be invoked to the subject.

Mr. SEVIER then moved that the further consideration of the subject be postponed, and that the Senate proceed to the special order of the day—the Post Office appropriation bill.

Mr. WEBSTER said that, beyond all question or doubt, the true course was to refer to the Secretary of State. He supposed that this was a just claim, but so were a great many others of a similar character; and he thought that they ought to be cautious in taking up indiscriminate claims against foreign governments and making them matter of legislative interference. Such subjects belonged properly to the Executive department. It belonged to the Executive to represent the just claims of their citizens against foreign governments. That was the usual and appropriate course; and he hoped that in this instance it would not be thought proper to depart from it. He objected to the amendment, certainly not on account of any want of confidence in the justice of the claim, but because he did not wish to open the door to the practice of individuals seeking and obtaining an expression of the opinion of Congress as to the validity of their claims against foreign governments. If so, where would it end? He thought that all the ends of justice would be attained by referring this matter to the Secretary of State. The expression of their opinion would be thus inferentially given. At all events it would be given as far as was proper.

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON could see nothing improper in calling the attention of the Executive to the case. If it were improper to do so, the present would not be the first instance, by any means, in which that had been done. But this was a most remarkable case. For a period of more than thirty years these claimants had been seeking redress. The senator from Massachusetts would perceive that even the reference of the memorial and report as proposed by him was, according to his view, an improper interference.

Mr. WEBSTER. Not at all.

Mr. CLAYTON. If they could refer the opinion of the committee, why not the opinion of the whole body? Where was the difference? If the senator believed that this was a just claim against the government of Portugal, why not honestly say so?

Mr. LEWIS insisted on his motion to postpone.

Mr. ARCHER said that the senator from Massachusetts had represented this as a course of procedure without precedent. It was not so. There had been hundreds of such cases.

Mr. WEBSTER. Name one.

Mr. ARCHER could not at present name a case, but if he had the records of the Committee on Foreign Relations before him, he could refer to many similar cases referred to the State Department.

Mr. WEBSTER. Certainly.

Mr. ARCHER. And to be presented to foreign governments?

Mr. WEBSTER. I do not remember any such case.

Mr. ARCHER made a few further remarks, and then the motion to postpone being put and agreed to, the Senate proceeded to the special order of the day.

POST OFFICE APPROPRIATIONS.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department, for the year ending June 30th, 1847, when

Mr. NILES withdrew the amendment submitted by him a day or two ago, appropriating $25,000 for steam mail service to Liverpool, England, and submitted the following:

"And the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to apply twenty-five thousand dollars of the money appropriated for mail transportation for a line of mail-steamers from the United States to Bremen, and a further sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for a line of mail-steamers from the United States to Liverpool, in England; but no further sums shall be directed to any other objects than the transportation of the mail within the United States."

Mr. NILES then said that he would request the attention of the Senate to a few remarks which he had to offer in explanation of the amendment.

Mr. DAVIS requested the honorable senator to state the general terms of the contract.

Mr. NILES replied, that by the terms of the Bremen contract twenty trips were to be made annually to that port, touching at Cowes, at $350,000 per annum for a term of four years. The contractors were to furnish four steamships, each of a tonnage of fifteen hundred tons. The contract, in contemplation for the conveyance of the mails to Liverpool, embraced five steamships, making the same number of trips as to Bremen, each ship to be of two thousand tons or upwards. The Senate would understand that these contracts depended on the action of Congress, and that the appropriation was intended essentially, if not entirely, for the purpose of giving the sanction of Congress to the contracts, as the money would not, in all probability, be wanted till next year. The Postmaster General considered this of great importance, and was not disposed to proceed further without having thus received the sanction of Congress. Altogether independent of its bearing on the general interests of the country, the project was of great importance viewed as an indirect means of securing to the government in time of war the use of a steam navy. If any thing was to be done, he was satisfied that action must be immediate. The Cunard line was about to be duplicated, the trips to be made alternately from New York and Boston. That addition would, however, probably depend upon the fact whether the American line were established or not. It would appear to be somewhat uncertain whether the Cunard company would proceed in duplicating their line in case of the establishment of the line now contemplated by the Postmaster General. He had a word or two to say with regard to the importance of this line; and he hoped that he would receive a little more attention from the Senate than he had been so fortunate as to meet when he addressed it on the same subject the other day. In a commercial point of view the line to Bremen was not, perhaps, so important as the other; but there were connected with it numerous political advantages. To the people of Germany and Prussia the enterprise was one of great importance. The Prussian minister took a deep interest in it, and a special agent had been sent from Bremen for the express purpose of aiding in the completion of this work of commencing a direct communication between the United States and the German states, which would so materially enlarge the commercial and political intercourse, and extend the relations of both countries. Bremen was rapidly increasing in commercial importance. Its commerce had doubled within the last year. It was the terminus of many railroads which extended to various parts of Germany; and it was supposed that the business intercourse of a large portion of Germany and Prussia, embracing a population of forty or fifty millions, with this country, would centre at that point. That would of course make Bremen the great mart in which the staples of this country would be exchanged. With regard to the other route, every one was aware that the trade of the United States with the port of Liverpool was very great, and the course of that trade would be accommodated a good deal to this line of steamers. The most valuable merchandise was now transported by these steamers, and the whole benefit of the transportation accrued to Great Britain. There was an urgent necessity for some legislation on that subject, and he had had the honor of reporting a bill to meet that desideratum. Letters sent by these steamers were subject to a postage of twenty-five cents, and all letters conveyed in private ships were subject to a ship postage of six cents. The United States received nothing of that postage. They had no law for taking any postage on letters going to Europe or coming hither from Europe in private ships. In addition to all that, it was to be borne in mind that the United States were thus maintaining, by their money, ships which in time of war would be turned against them. They were public ships—at least they were designed to become such at any time when it was deemed necessary. They were under contract to be taken into the public service when occasion required. And it was, therefore, intended that the ships to be employed by the United States in conveying the mail to Europe should be liable at any time to be taken into the public service at the valuation of three competent appraisers. Whether they viewed this matter, therefore, with reference to the various matters connected with it in time of peace, or as connected with the defence of the country, it appeared to him that by delay they not only abandoned a profitable enterprize to a rival people, and neglected to avail themselves of a useful means of defence, but actually maintained that which was at any time liable to be turned against them. In every view of the subject it was one of the highest importance. The danger of delay was manifest. If the ground was not speedily occupied, it was probable that very soon it would be impossible for them to enter upon it with hope of success. He, therefore, hoped that the sanction of Congress would be given to this project. He had stated the other day, that it was the opinion of one of the contractors, Mr. Collins, of New York, a gentleman of great experience and intelligence, that the cost of constructing one of these steamships would not exceed the sum of $500,000, whereas those built by the government and less serviceable, cost $750,000. It was also estimated that the annual expense of keeping up a steamer of this magnitude would be about $70,000—making an aggregate of $350,000 for the five steamers, which it was proposed to employ—about the sum designated for this service. So that, these steamships would be undoubtedly much cheaper than if the government undertook to construct them, even supposing that there was no return for the service. But he had no doubt that when the system was once in operation it would be found to be attended by no expense whatever—that the revenue would meet all the expenditure. That was his opinion, formed after the best consideration which he had been able to give the subject.

Mr. ALLEN then rose and said, that sensible of the importance of this subject, he had turned it over in his mind with some care. As they were now at the starting point of a system, the end of which no one could foresee, he thought that it was very proper that they should examine the ground with no little caution. It was proposed to carry the United States mail between New York and Liverpool. He had yet to learn that there was any United States mail between New York and Liverpool to be carried. He knew of no such thing in existence as a United States mail between Liverpool and New York, New York and Liverpool, or between any other ports. The foundation upon which this new system was based was that of creating quietly and under the general power to regulate the Post Office, a steam-navy, with a view to the defence of the country, by patronizing particular companies of men in the construction and navigation of steamboats. Let them look at this project a little more closely. In order to be profitable, it would be necessary to remove competition. Was it likely to effect that? Already they had a monopoly of the mails in the interior of the country, yet they were likely soon to have the post office expenditure saddled on the general treasury. It was, then, absurd to suppose that, in the ocean, they could carry on the business profitably. The honorable gentleman then went on to argue against the injustice of endowing a line from New York to the exclusion of other ports. Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, New Orleans, and all the chief cities on the coast, would be petitioning for the establishment of mail lines to Europe. And then, again, looking at the other end of the line, Liverpool would not satisfy the merchants. They would demand a line to the East Indies, to Buenos Ayres, and so on. It was unjust to those of our citizens in the interior to turn a deaf ear to their calls for additional post offices, and bestow this immense patronage on lines to Europe. The farmer had often fifteen or twenty miles to travel to the nearest post office, thus losing a day's work. Why not establish post offices for the accommodation of their people in the interior? Besides, he was opposed to the government engaging in joint stock concerns, which had already inflicted such evil on the country. He wished to keep this government clear of all manner of connexion with human combinations—especially moneyed combinations. The example of Great Britain had been pointed to. That was one reason why he would avoid the project. Mr. A. proceeded at some length, and with much vehemence, to oppose the whole project of establishing the proposed steam communication with Great Britain for the conveyance of the mails.

Mr. DAYTON had only a few words to say; and although not affecting full knowledge of all the details, yet he could correct certain errors in point of fact of the senator from Ohio. The matter did not appear to him (Mr. D.) to call for great excitement. It was a simple matter of business. The senator had said he did not know of any law recognizing a United States mail to Liverpool. If that meant anything, it meant that the government had no right to send a United States mail to Liverpool. It was too late to make such an objection. By the act of March, 1845, the Postmaster General was authorized to contract for sending the mail to Liverpool. But the senator said it was giving bounties to companies to override the energies of individuals. That was talking without the book. Did the senator forget that this very contract was made with an individual by public advertisement? But they were told that they were about to give bounties to enable companies to compete with the British lines. Again: the senator was talking without the book. Had he forgot that the postage was now enormous? And yet he talked of the "cheaper postage" of the British lines! Instead of increasing they would diminish the postage to which American citizens were now subjected. Great Britain got about forty cents on every letter sent to this country, and the United States got nothing. That was what the senator in his loose language called the cheaper postage of the British lines. The senator spoke of a joint-stock partnership! How? Did it arise from the permission to take, if we wished, the steamer at a valuation? That was altogether optional. The senator had been altogether mistaken as to the matters of fact. Mr. D. then went on to describe the contract of the government with Mr. Mills, for the purpose of refuting the allegation of the senator from Ohio, that the contract was equivalent to a joint-stock partnership. He then spoke of the vast advantages which would accrue from the establishment of the proposed line of steamers. It was idle to say that this and that point would need the same accommodation. The line united two important points in the two continents from which the mail would be distributed in the most extensive manner possible, not merely as a matter of post office revenue, but in view of the great and obvious commercial advantages which would flow from it, the proposed measure was one preeminently worthy of the favorable action of Congress.

Mr. HUNTINGTON remarked that the amendment had a double aspect. Under existing laws, it might be doubtful whether Congress had the power of controlling the Postmaster General in the contract for the conveyance of the mails to Bremen. Not a word was said in the law about submitting the contract to Congress for its approbation. He had made the contract as authorized. Though he (Mr. H.) thought the line to Bremen would be a failure, yet he was for carrying it into effect if the contract was obligatory, having been fairly made. He would not hesitate in enforcing it by making the appropriation. He hoped the time would never come when the United States would refuse to fulfil its contracts. Whatever individuals and States might do, he trusted that the faith of the nation itself would never be disgraced and broken by a refusal to comply with the obligations of a contract. He wished the subject brought fully before the attention of Congress in that aspect particularly. He thought that the line to stand was that between the two great commercial emporiums of the world—New York and Liverpool. He was opposed to the line to Bremen on the ground that it would be attended with sundry disadvantages which he pointed out. To the Cunard line they were paying the enormous tax of from a million and a half to a million and a quarter of dollars annually in postage and freight. That line had made money—had prospered so greatly that a duplication of the steamers was contemplated. Not only as a matter of expediency but of profit the establishment of the proposed line was demanded. He made these remarks with the view of discovering whether they would establish two lines or one. With regard to the contractor, Mr. Collins, of New York, he was a gentleman, who by enterprise, experience, and integrity, was eminently fitted for the successful prosecution of the work in a manner reflecting honor on the country. Prompt action was necessary, as in case of the duplication of the Cunard line, contractors would not be so well disposed to enter on the work. The contract for the line to Liverpool must be for a given time, and a sum much larger than that wanted. Therefore, on the whole, as to the amendment, he could say with great cheerfulness, with regard to the Bremen contract, that if not bound to carry it out, he was opposed to it, and would go for the Liverpool line. If otherwise, then he thought the time had not arrived for two lines.

Mr. SIMMONS thought that the senator labored under some misapprehension with regard to the Bremen line. The Postmaster General was authorized to make the contract for that line, as he was for that to Liverpool, which latter was not now under consideration. The Bremen contract had been made. He (Mr. S.) had stated at the time that these appropriations belonged to the naval bill, and the proposition was brought forward now simply to test the sense of Congress. Referring to the remarks of the senator from Ohio, [Mr. ALLEN,] he would ask if the very fact of the increase of the steam navigation, which was absorbing the conveyance of merchandise and passengers, was not the strongest argument in favor of Congress taking such action as would secure to the citizens of this country a share in the business?

Mr. DIX said he was unwilling to trespass on the attention of the Senate, and yet he could not consent to have the question taken without making a few remarks. The policy of contracting for the transportation of the mail to foreign countries, under the direction of the Post Office Department, was established by the act of the 3d of March last. He should take that act for his starting point. He would not go beyond it for the examination of any question of power. It authorized the Postmaster General to contract for the transportation of the United States mail between any of our ports and a port or ports of a foreign power, whenever, in his opinion, the public interest wouldbe promoted. All such contracts were to be made with citizens of the United States, and the mail to be transported in American vessels, by American citizens. The act also contained a provision, by which the Postmaster General, or Congress, were at liberty at any time to discontinue or terminate any line which might be established. Under this act the Postmaster General issued his advertisement for proposals for carrying the mails on various routes.

Here Mr. Dix read from a report of that officer, stating that, though authority was given to make private contracts, it had been thought best to adopt the usual mode, by public notice. Under the advertisement a variety of propositions had been received, and one, made by Mr. Edward Mills, of New York, had been accepted. Mr. Mills proposed to run a line of steamers from New York to Bremen twice a month, touching at Cowes, with the privilege of going alternately to Havre. If the line was run regularly to Bremen, Mr. Mills was to receive $400,000 per annum for conveying the mails; if alternately to Havre, $350,000; and it was understood, if the arrangement should be concluded, the alternative would be adopted. After the time limited by the advertisement for receiving bids or proposals, Mr. Edward K. Collins made a proposition to run a line from New York to Liverpool. Mr. Dix here referred to the Postmaster General's report, and read Mr. Collins's proposition, as well as a recommendation from that officer to Congress in favor of it. Mr. Collins proposed to run his vessels, which were to be of 2,000 tons tons burden, with engines of 1,000 horse power, to Liverpool twice a month for eight months, and once a month for the other four, for $385,000. Mr. Collins was one of the most active and intelligent merchants in New York; he was a man of large capital; he possessed, in an eminent degree, the confidence of the commercial community; and whatever he undertook would be executed. Mr. D. said he would now look at the respective advantages of these two routes for the purpose of seeing what probability there was that the government would be remunerated for the money to be paid in the performance of this mail service. Bremen-Haven was at the mouth of the Weser, which furnished an access into the heart of northern Germany. It was the chief outlet for the maritime commercial communications of the Zollverein States. The vessels on this line would touch at Cowes, carrying letters as well as passengers to England. They would go alternately to Havre, carrying letters and passengers to the continent. So far as passengers were concerned the government had no interest in the matter. The only question was, whether the government would be remunerated by postages on the letters sent by this route for the amount it would pay for mail service? He should pass by the political considerations of an important character in promoting a more intimate intercourse between us and countries between which and ourselves it was desirable that the best understanding should exist. Liverpool, on the other hand, was the European terminus of the great channel of commercial intercourse between the eastern and western hemispheres. Mails would most advantageously follow these channels. At least four-fifths of the letters passing between the two hemispheres were supposed to be commercial, and between any two countries they would bear a just proportion to the extent of their intercourse. He would now see what this was. In 1844 and 1845, that is, the year terminating the 30th of June, 1845, the value of our imports was as follows:

From England	$44,687,859
From France, on the Atlantic	20,181,537
From the Hanse towns, of which Bremen was one	2,912,537
The two latter combined gave	23,093,787

Little more than half the value of our imports from England. In the same year the value of our exports was as follows:

To England, $46,286,178; to France on the Atlantic, $14,322,685; and to the Hanse towns, $4,945,120. The two latter combined, gave $19,267,805; less than half the value of our exports to England. There was one item in which our export to the Hanse towns exceeded that to England; and we carried to the former 46,460 hogsheads of tobacco, and only 26,111 hogsheads to England. Looking, then, to the commercial intercourse of the countries terminating or lying upon the two routes, he should say the government would be most likely to be remunerated for its expenditure for mail service on the Liverpool line. It would unquestionably be safe, looking to pecuniary returns alone. But the arrangement had been made for the Bremen line. Expectation had been strongly excited in the Zollverein States, between which and ourselves attempts had been more than once unsuccessfully made to put our commercial relations on a footing of greater intimacy; and if the proposition should not now be sanctioned, it would undoubtedly be a source of great disappointment. He would not say the government was absolutely pledged, as the proposal had been accepted on the condition that an appropriation should be made by Congress, and the appropriation was necessary to perfect it. But he believed both lines might stand, as proposed by the chairman of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, [Mr. NILES.] They do not necessarily interfere. Our intercourse with Great Britain would alone sustain one, and he left it to senators to judge whether from the statistical details he had given, the government would not be likely to be remunerated by the other. Mr. D. here referred to the Postmaster General's report to show that 600,000 letters were annually carried by the Cunard line to Boston. About 1,000,000 passed through New York alone to and from Europe, and over 3,000,000 passed annually between the United States and Europe. Commercial letters were supposed to average double postage, containing as many bills of exchange, invoices, &c. There were considerations connected with the public defence which he would not overlook. The government had reserved, by the act of the 3d March, the right to take the vessels on these lines at an appraisement, if it should want them for war purposes. Great Britain covered the ocean with war-steamers, constructed and supported at her own expense. She had arrangements with companies for carrying her mails, putting afloat others which she could command in case of war. France had also a large number of steamers. She had some, he knew, in the Mediterranean—war steamers of the first class, constructed and supported by the government, but carrying the mails and even carrying passengers to repay her the expense of keeping them afloat. We proposed, by paying for mail service to be performed, to offer an inducement to individuals to build steamers at their own expense, which might become war-steamers. They might be regarded as a substitute for public armed vessels. We might thus have a steam-navy prepared for us, in case of emergency. We should save the outlay for construction, save the annual interest on the outlay; save the annual expense of maintaining them; and save the gradual decay and loss of the principal. The cost of these vessels built by individuals would be about two-thirds the cost of those built, by the government, though equally good (such was the difference between public and private economy;) and if we should take them we should save this difference in the cost. Under the appropriation now to be made there would be no immediate expenditure. The appropriation was asked to sanction the arrangement. Time would be required to build these vessels. And the government would pay nothing until the mail service had been actually performed. Finally, if it should prove an unprofitable arrangement, it might be abandoned. If Congress was to act at all, it must act now. Arrangements were on foot to duplicate the Cunard line, by sending a semi-monthly steamer to New York. If we established a line to Liverpool, these arrangements would be abandoned. This was well understood. We now pay, as senators have stated, a million and a half of dollars to British steamers for the transportation of passengers and letters, and for freight. Were we willing to pay another equal sum for the purpose of sustaining British steamers, training their officers, and making them familiar with our coast and ports? He had no desire to say a word in discouragement of the familiar intercourse which existed between the two countries. He desired to see it continued. But when we might, without loss, enlist our own private capital in a great measure of public defence, it seemed to him unwise to let the opportunity pass. It was literally our only opportunity. For if the Cunard line should once be doubled, we could only do at a serious sacrifice what we could now do without loss. It had been said by the senator from Ohio [Mr. ALLEN] that this was a proposition to enter into a partnership with privileged companies, or particular individuals, for the construction of steamers. The senator appeared to him to misapprehend the matter. We proposed to have no concern in the construction of these vessels. They were to be built with private capital. We had nothing to do with them till they were built. And then we were only to pay them a certain sum for performing a certain service. There was no more partnership in the transaction than there was between the government and a contractor who carried the mail in his coach on the land. They stood on precisely the same footing, and there was to be no more connexion between the parties in the one case than in the other. One word for the city of New York. She had not sought these arrangements. She was not a suitor to Congress for them. The Postmaster General had issued his proposals, and they had been accepted by individuals in New York. This was all. She desired no advantage over her sister cities. She sought none. She was the proposed terminus of the line in the United States merely because her position made her so. In conclusion, he would only add, he hoped the appropriation for both lines would be made. For the Bremen line, for the reason that the arrangement had been made so far as it depended on the Post Office Department. For the Liverpool line, because he believed it would repay the expense of the proposed mail service; and it was, therefore, proper to consider its claims by itself and irrespective of any other.

Mr. MOREHEAD did not regard the government as committed to this line of policy, which he considered as exceedingly dangerous. He did not concur with his friends from Connecticut [Mr. HUNTINGTON] or Rhole Island [Mr. SIMMONS] that the government was committed to the contract. He was opposed to the scheme on the ground of the expense. Would a steamer once a month do that great government?

Mr. SIMMONS corrected the senator. There was to be a steamer semi-monthly to each place—a steamer once a week to Europe.

Mr. MOREHEAD had assumed the fact; he was not as familiar with the details of the measure as the senator from Rhode Island. But he insisted that the experiment was dangerous, and they could not foresee the vast expense.

Mr. BENTON remarked that it was not at all a new thing to hear of splendid projects by which the federal government was to be made rich. When he came there, there was a project for filling the coffers of the government by boiling salt water. Then there was the scheme of raising live oak in Florida; and he recollected making a calculation at the time, that for every foot of live oak they put into their ships, they would pay out a cubic foot of silver or gold—he did not recollect what, nor did he care which—he would stick to the gold. Now they were to get rich by copper mines. When the morus multicaulis fever raged, he expected every day to see a project announced by which the government would be enriched by the morus multicaulis scheme. But it died away. Now they were to get rich by carrying letters. Already they were bankrupt by carrying letters at home, but the carrying of letters to Europe was to enrich them beyond all calculation. Certainly it was one of the duties of the federal government to carry letters at home, but it had been a money-losing, and not a money-making business. The wise men who established the government never entertained the morus multicaulis idea of making money by carrying letters. He wished it to be remembered that on that day he gave it as his opinion that this project would turn out to be a morus multicaulis business. But they were thus to supply themselves with ships of war! Well, in other days, men had come there with heads on their shoulders, and after some reflection, had set about the establishment of navy-yards, with proper workmen, and all necessary arrangements were made for procuring and preparing the timber and other materials for constructing ships of war. But now, all of a sudden, that system was to be superseded by a scheme of getting the ships built by a kind of partnership. It reminded him very much of the memorable business transaction of Moses, in the Vicar of Wakefield. Blind, spavined, and wind-broken, they were to buy the horse at an appraisal; and they were to do all this because, forsooth, Great Britain had done so! Great Britain ran a line—where? To Halifax. For what purpose? To communicate with the Canadian possessions. And so it was with her steam line to the West Indies. She went to her own dominions, continental and insular, which she meant to retain. There was no question as to the British policy. But there was no analogy between her policy and that now contemplated by this project. The whole thing was absurd. As well might it be contended that this nation should be involved in a debt of nine hundred millions sterling, because the national debt of Great Britain amounted to that sum, as propose to establish steam lines because Great Britain had done so. We had heard of many wild projects—this was one of the wildest. The government was committed to nothing in this matter; and if it were, he would violate the obligation at all hazards, rather than embark in such an enterprise. He had spoken on two or three occasions during the session because he could not help it. He now spoke willingly, because he wished to express his entire disapprobation of this whole scheme.

Mr. DAVIS thought that the views of the senator from Missouri just expressed, were not as liberal as those which were usually presented by him. He (Mr. D.) considered it an open question. It was not a fair view to represent this as a speculation for making money by conveying letters? That was not the object of the policy. The object was to afford additional means of commercial intercourse. Who did not acknowledge the great advantages now flowing from the speed and regularity of the steam navigation of the Atlantic? During the last four years, the arrivals of the steamers at the port of Boston in the month of May, had not varied twelve hours. Great Britain received more than the bonus of ninety thousand pounds annually, which she paid to the steam lines.

Here a motion was made to adjourn, as it was now late in the afternoon.

Mr. SPEIGHT called for the yeas and nays. The call was seconded, and the question was about to be put, when

Mr. CRITTENDEN desired to offer a resolution, as he expected to be absent for a few days from the city, and he hoped that the senator from Mississippi would accommodate him.

Mr. SPEIGHT. I am willing to do anything to accommodate the gentleman if he is going to leave the city. [A laugh.]

Some conversation took place on the point of order.

Mr. BERRIEN hoped that the senator from Kentucky would be allowed to offer his resolution. He had been patiently awaiting on his feet an opportunity to do so, since the motion to adjourn was made.

Mr. CRITTENDEN. Yes; ever since.

Mr. BERRIEN earnestly hoped that such meekness would not be suffered to go without its reward.

Mr. CRITTENDEN then introduced the following resolution; which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of such appropriations as may be necessary to carry into effect a contract made on the part of the government with J. B. Ferriebault & Pelugee Ferribault, for the purchase of the island at the confluence of the rivers St. Peters and Mississippi.

Mr. SEVIER then offered a joint resolution correcting a clerical error in a bill passed the other day.

[A message was received from the House of Representatives, announcing that said House do insist upon their amendment in the bill making alterations in the pay department of the army, and asking the appointment of a committee on the part of the Senate to confer with a similar committee of the House.

Also announcing that said House had passed the (House) bill to authorize the President of the United States to sell the reserved mineral lands in the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, supposed to contain lead ore.]

And then at a late hour, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE TERRITORIES.

Mr. BOYD, in pursuance of the request yesterday made, and for the reasons then stated by him, was excused from further service on the Committee on the Territories,

And Mr. KAUFMAN was announced as having been appointed in his place.

The SPEAKER announced that the special order of the day was the consideration of Territorial business.

THE SECRET SERVICE FUND.

Mr. VINTON, from the select committee heretofore appointed under the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That another select committee of five members be appointed to inquire into the truth of the charges this day made in this House by Mr. CHARLES J. INGERSOLL against Mr. DANIEL WEBSTER, with a view to founding an impeachment against said DANIEL WEBSTER; and that said committee have power to send for persons, papers, books, and vouchers.

Rose, and asked leave to make a report.

Objection was made.

Mr. VINTON moved that the rules be suspended to enable him to make the report.

The SPEAKER said it was not competent for the gentleman to make such a motion, because the House was already acting under a suspension of the rules in the consideration of the special order.

Mr. DROMGOOLE. The report can be made by general consent.

Mr. VINTON asked it.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. VINTON] asks the unanimous consent of the House to make a report from a select committee.

Cries on all sides, "agreed."

The SPEAKER. The chair hears no objection.

Mr. VINTON presented the report.

Mr. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL rose to request that the bill from the Senate, on the Speaker's table, in relation to French spoliations be taken up, and referred.

The SPEAKER. The motion will not be in order until the House has disposed of the subject matter before it.

Mr. DOUGLASS called for the special order.

Mr. VINTON, (proceeding after the interruption.) The report concludes with two resolutions. One is simply a resolution asking that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject; and that the report be laid on the table, and printed.

There is another resolution that requires immediate action, if it be acted on at all. But, to understand that resolution, it will be necessary that the report should be read. It is not long, and I ask that it be read.

Mr. DOUGLASS said he felt compelled to call for the special order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman cannot now do so. The chair expressly announced that the business before the House was the consideration of the special order. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. VINTON] then rose and asked leave to make a report. No objection was made. The report of the committee is now before the House, and must be disposed of in some way or other before the House can proceed to the transaction of other business.

Mr. DOUGLASS. Then I move to lay the report on the table.

Mr. G. S. HOUSTON. And to print.

[Several voices. Let us know the contents first. Read, read.]

Objection was made to the reading.

The SPEAKER. The reading of the report is called for and is objected to. The question is, "Shall the report be read?"——

There is evidently a majority up. The report will be read.

The clerk read the report, which concludes with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the testimony taken in this investigation be sealed up by the clerk under the supervision of the committee, endorsed "confidential," and deposited in the archives of the House, and that the same be not opened unless by its order.

Resolved, That this report be laid on the table and be printed, and that the select committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

The report is signed by—

SAMUEL F. VINTON,
JEFFERSON DAVIS,
DANIEL P. KING,
SEABORN JONES.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion to lay on the table.

Mr. BOYD. And to print.

The SPEAKER. And to print.

Mr. BOYD. I move the previous question on the motion to print.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. I hope the motion will be withdrawn to enable me to make a minority report from the same committee.

Mr. S. JONES, (a member of the committee.) I hope the House will allow me to make a remark in connexion with the minority report which the gentleman desires to submit.

Mr. HOPKINS. I suggest to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOUGLASS) to withdraw his motion, so as to allow the two reports to be printed together.

Mr. DOUGLASS. I withdraw the motion.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. Being unable to agree in all the conclusions arrived at by the majority of the select committee, on which, without solicitation or previous knowledge on my part I was placed, I have thought it my duty to present these points in which I disagree, briefly, in the shape of a minority report, which I hope may be received and ordered to be printed.

It is, however, due to the House to state that in this minority report I have embodied the letter from Mr. F. O. J. Smith, of Maine, to Mr. WEBSTER, referred to in the majority report, and which substantially corresponds with the statement of Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL at the time the charges were made.

I have felt it due to truth and justice, as connected with all parties in the controversy, and to the facts of the case, to embody that letter in my report. I state this to avoid the imputation of a desire on my part to smuggle the letter before the House or the country without the permission of the House.

Mr. SEABORN JONES said that before the minority report was received, he desired to submit a question to the decision of the House. If the House would advert, in its recollection to the report which had been made by the majority of the committee, it would perceive that ample justice had been done to Mr. INGERSOLL, who had brought forward these charges, by the declaration of the committee in relation to his impression—that from the examination of the letter of Fog Smith (as he was sometimes called,) he [Mr. INGERSOLL] was warranted in the impression he had taken up. Now, the reading of that letter, or the exposure of it, could not place Mr. INGERSOLL on higher ground. The committee said that he was warranted (Mr. J. might not use the precise words of the sentiment, but he spoke the sentiment itself) that there was sufficient evidence to warrant him in the conclusion he had drawn from the letter, that an attempt had been made to corrupt the party press, for the purpose of carrying out the views of the administration, or for some other purpose. And the committee said that from the mere reading of that letter, unexplained by other evidence, Mr. INGERSOLL was warranted in coming to the conclusion at which he had arrived. The publication of the letter could be of no other service than that. It could not place Mr. INGERSOLL on ground higher than that on which the committee had placed him. It was their intention, so far as a conclusion drawn from *prima facie* evidence could accomplish that object, to place Mr. INGERSOLL on the highest ground—to say, that a *prima facie* case had been made out in support of his opinion. But the committee at the same time said that this opinion would be entirely changed by an examination of the testimony taken in connexion with the subject—that they had examined that testimony, and had come to the conclusion that no such attempt had been made; that there had been no improper use of the public funds in connexion with the public press; that there had been no intention inconsistent with probity and honor in the disbursement of that fund. It would be unjust—it would be improper—it would be iniquitous to publish that letter unconnected with the explanatory testimony. And the committee had submitted a resolution asking, in accordance with the recommendation of the President, when the testimony was asked, and when he refused to furnish it, that it should not be disclosed. Why? Because the President had said, that he would not disclose it, except for the purpose of an impeachment. And the report went on, and almost in so many words, asked the House not to disclose it, except it was intended for that purpose. He (Mr. J.) believed that he did not misrepresent the gentleman who was about to make a minority report, in saying, that that gentleman did not disagree in the conclusions of the committee.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. I do.

Mr. S. JONES. The gentleman's report will speak for itself. If I understood it correctly it does not. But it is a matter of injustice to publish a part of the testimony, and leave the balance, which would explain it unpublished. Neither the House, nor any individual can come to a just conclusion without having the whole testimony. The House, therefore, must either come to the conclusion to publish the whole testimony, or, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee, to suppress the letter a copy of which the gentleman has embodied in his report.

If the House think proper to violate the implied pledge under which the President communicated the information for its benefit, so be it. The committee have endeavored to do justice, and I think have done justice to all parties in this unpleasant transaction. The House will determine for itself whether it will accept the results of the investigation, or whether it will direct the whole testimony to be laid open and submitted to the examination and scrutiny of every one.

I am satisfied that this government is more pure, more virtuous, more honest, more straight-forward, and upright in its administration of the foreign intercourse fund—commonly called the secret service fund—than any government on earth. But I know there may be places where those who commit crimes, and adopt a course of conduct ten times worse, may hold us up to public reprobation, and say, "look at this republic; see to what means *they* resort, to carry on this foreign intercourse."

Mr. BRINKERHOFF said, if he understood the gentleman from Georgia [Mr JONES] correctly, he states that the majority of the committee have come to the conclusion that, in the disbursement of that portion of the secret service fund which passed through the hands of Mr. Smith of Maine, no other than an equitable and proper use of the money had been made for just and proper ends.

[A voice: "No; no."]

So I understood the gentleman from Georgia, (said Mr. B.) Now, from that conclusion I dissent, and dissent in my report.

Mr. S. JONES (Mr. B. yielding) explained that he had stated, that so far as regards the conduct of Mr. WEBSTER, whose conduct the committee were directed to inquire into, the committee did not see that any use had been made of the fund in connexion with the public press but what was just and proper.

The SPEAKER. [Addressing Mr. JONES.] Did the chair understand the gentleman from Georgia as objecting to the report of the minority?

Mr. JONES replied in the negative. He objected to the publication of the letter embodied by the gentleman from Ohio in his report—that the gentleman should be permitted to disclose a part of the testimony, by copying it into his report. He did not object to the report. He thought it a matter of right that the gentleman from Ohio should make a minority report; but he did say, if the House intends to pass a resolution to have these documents sealed up, and marked "confidential," then the gentleman should be directed to strike out that part of his report before suggested.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF resuming. I suppose (said he) it was my right by leave of the House to make a minority report, and in that report to embody whatever I conceive to be necessary, fully to represent my views, and the grounds on which they are based; and if this should render it necessary to publish the whole of this testimony, in my opinion it would be so much the better for the cause of truth and justice. I totally dissent from the opinion expressed with so much confidence by the majority of the committee. I believe the public interests can in no way suffer from the publication of the whole testimony, and exhibits in this case. I cannot conceive it will injure the present relations of the government; its future or anticipated relations with foreign powers; and the past is done with and settled. The northeastern boundary is disposed of. If, as the majority of the committee contend, the evidence fully exonerates Mr. WEBSTER from any improper imputation and charge, of course it must in the person of Mr. WEBSTER exonerate the administration and the country. How, then, if the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the committee be just, can the character of the country suffer in the eyes of foreign powers by a full publication of the testimony? It cannot. If the conclusion at which they arrive be correct, then the character of the country cannot suffer; if it be incorrect, then justice to the character of the man who made the charge, and to the character of him upon whom the charge is made, requires that it be published; and the resolution with which I conclude the minority report provides for the publication of the whole testimony.

Mr. BURT interposed; and, (Mr. B. yielding,) said he desired, as the question before the House at this time seemed to be on the reception of the report of the gentleman from Ohio, to suggest to the gentleman before further remarks be made, and that the House may be enabled also intelligently to determine whether the report shall be printed, that he now send it up to the clerk to be read.

The SPEAKER. The chair understands that the House have agreed to the reception of the report.

Mr. SEABORN JONES said he had objected to receiving the report with the letter embodied in it.

The SPEAKER. The chair distinctly put the question to the gentleman from Georgia, whether he objected to the reception of the report. The gentleman replied that he did not object.

Mr. JONES said he did not object to the report, but to that part of it which contained a part of the testimony which the majority of the committee recommended to the House not to publish.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. It amounts to this, then, that the gentleman from Georgia does not object to my minority report, but to a part of the report itself.

Mr. HOGE moved that both these reports, with the accompanying resolutions, be laid on the table and printed; and on the latter branch of the motion he moved the previous question.

Mr. J. P. MARTIN inquired of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BRINKERHOFF] whether or not Mr. INGERSOLL was allowed the privilege of appearing before the committee, and prosecuting the charges against Mr WEBSTER?

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. No, sir; he was not.

Mr. VINTON addressed the chair.

The SPEAKER reminded gentleman that the question before the House was not debatable.

Mr. VINTON said he merely desired to answer what he understood to be the inquiry of the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. MARTIN.] Mr. INGERSOLL (he said) was not denied the privilege of coming before the committee. He did not ask the privilege.

The question was then taken on laying the reports on the table, and agreed to.

The question recurring on the second branch of the question—the motion to print,

The demand for the previous question was seconded, ayes 82, noes not counted.

And the main question was ordered.

Mr. VINTON inquired of the Speaker what was the question?

The SPEAKER replied on printing the two reports, with the accompanying resolutions.

Mr. VINTON. Does the motion embrace the printing of the papers accompanying the report of the majority?

The SPEAKER. It does not.

Mr. T. B. KING inquired of the Speaker whether the question on the printing could be divided?

The SPEAKER said no; because both reports had been included in the same motion.

Mr. KING was understood to inquire whether it was competent to omit a part?

The SPEAKER said a motion to print a portion of the report and not the balance could not now be entertained.

Mr. BRODHEAD called for the reading of the resolution attached to the minority report.

Which was read as follows:

Resolved, That the testimony and exhibits taken before the select committee of this House instructed to investigate the charges against DANIEL WEBSTER, late Secretary of State, together with the reports of the majority and minority of said committee be laid upon the table, and printed, and that said committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

The reading having been concluded,

Mr. ROOT asked the yeas and nays on the motion to print; which were ordered.

Mr. WINTHROP (amidst some confusion) asked whether the report of the minority might not be read. He did not know that gentlemen had any privileges on this floor, but if it was a privilege he would venture to make the motion.

Objections were made to the reading.

So the SPEAKER put the question to the House; and, in accordance with its decision,

The minority report was read.

A brief conversation followed between Mr. J. DAVIS, Mr CULVER, and the SPEAKER.

The question on the motion to print both reports was then taken, and resulted as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Abbott, John Quincy Adams, Anderson, Atkinson, Barringer, Bedinger, Bell, Benton, Biggs, James Black, Blanchard, Bowlin, Boyd, Brinkerhoff, Brodhead, Milton Brown, Wm. G Brown, Buffington, Burt, Wm. W. Campbell, John H. Campbell, Cathcart, John G. Chapman, Augustus A. Chapman, Chase, Chipman, Clarke, Cobb, Cocke, Collin, Crozier, Cullom, Culver, Cummins, Cunningham, Daniel, Dargan, Darragh, Garrett Davis, De Mott, Dillingham, Dobbin, Dockery, Douglass, Dromgoole, Dunlap, Ellsworth, Erdman, Edwin H. Ewing, Faran, Ficklin, Fries, Garvin, Gentry, Giddings, Giles, Gordon, Graham, Grider, Hamlin, Hampton, Harmanson, Harper, Herrick, Hoge, Hopkins, George S. Houston, Samuel D. Hubbard, Hudson, Hungerford, Washington Hunt, James B. Hunt, Charles J. Ingersoll, Jenkins, James H. Johnson, Andrew Johnson, George W. Jones, Seaborn Jones, Kaufman, Kennedy, Daniel P. King, Preston King, Thomas Butler King, Leake, La Sere, Lewis, Ligon, Long, Lumpkin, Maclay, McClean, McClelland, McClernand, Joseph J. McDowell, James McDowell, McGaughey, McIlvaine, McKay, John P. Martin, Barclay Martin, Morris, Moulton, Niven, Norris, Parish, Payne, Perrill, Perry, Pollock, Rathbun, Reid, Relfe, Rhett, Ritter, Roberts, Julius Rockwell, John A. Rockwell, Runk, Russell, Sawtelle, Sawyer, Scammon, Schenck, Seaman, Alexander D. Sims, Thomas Smith, Caleb B. Smith, Robert Smith, Stanton, Starkweather, Stewart, St. John, Strohm, Strong, Sykes, Thibodeaux, Thomasson, James Thompson, Jacob Thompson, Thurman, Tibbatts, Tilden, Towns, Tredway, Trumbo, Vance, Vinton, Wentworth, Wheaton, White, Wick, Williams, Winthrop, Woodward, Woodworth, Wright, Young, and Yost—158.

NAYS—Messrs. Stephen Adams, Ashmun, James A. Black, Cranston, Jefferson Davis, John H. Ewing, Elias B. Holmes, Isaac E. Holmes, McHenry, Pendleton, Phelps, Root, Severance, Simpson, Stephens, and Toombs—16.

So the reports were laid on the table.

The SPEAKER again announced the special order of the day.

PUBLIC PRINTING.

Mr. G. DAVIS (leave having been denied) moved the postponement of the special order, to enable him to make a report from the select committee on printing, and asked the yeas and nays; which were ordered, and, being taken, were, yeas 72, nays 99.

So the special order was *not* postponed.

TERRITORIAL BUSINESS.

The House resumed the consideration of the special order.

MINERAL LANDS.

The bill directing the President of the United States to sell the reserved mineral lands in the States of Illinois and Arkansas, and Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, was takenup; the pending question being on the demand for the previous question.

Mr. HOGE suggested to Mr. G. S. HOUSTON to modify the substitute he had offered, so as to make the *minimum* price $2 50 instead of $5.

Mr. S. JONES asked leave to introduce a resolution, providing for the printing of the whole testimony in the case of the report of the select committee above referred to.

Objected to.

Mr. J. moved a suspension of the rules.

Not in order.

The demand for the previous question was then seconded. The main question was ordered. The substitute of Mr. HOUSTON was *agreed to*.

And the bill was read a third time and *passed*.

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL asked leave to take up, with a view to reference, the bill from the Senate on the Speaker's table in relation to French spoliations.

Objected to.

THE DESMOINES RIVER.

The bill granting lands to the Territory of Iowa, to aid in the improvement of the navigation of the Des Moines river in said Territory, coming up on the question of concurring in the amendment, and on ordering the bill to a third reading,

The amendments were severally acted on.

An amendment by Mr. RATHBUN to strike out the following proviso:

Provided, That the lands hereby appropriated shall be included in the quantity of land to which Iowa shall be entitled under the 8th section of the act entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights" when said State shall be admitted into the Union.

Gave rise to a discussion, (to terminate which, by the previous question, several ineffectual efforts were made,) and which was participated in by Messrs. RATHBUN, STEPHEN ADAMS, RHETT, McCLERNAND, STEWART, THURMAN, VINTON, DODGE, BOWLIN, GORDON, and J. DAVIS.

The previous question (demanded by Mr. GORDON) was then seconded. The main question was ordered, and being taken, the amendment of Mr RATHBUN was *rejected*.

The bill was read a third time and *passed*.

IOWA.

The bill to define the boundaries of the State of Iowa, and to repeal so much of the act of 3d of March, 1845, as relates to the boundaries of Iowa, coming up on the question of engrossment;

Mr. VINTON moved to amend it, in the first section, by striking out "thirty minutes" (with reference to the northern boundary.)

Mr. V. asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, were yeas 63, nays 92;

So the amendment was *rejected*.

And the amendment of the committee having been acted upon—

The bill was read a third time and *passed*.

FOX AND WISCONSIN RIVERS.

The bill to grant a certain quantity of land