

providing our own means of ocean transportation is for the wisdom of Congress to determine...

A postal convention has been concluded between the United States and Great Britain...

Negotiations are pending for a radical change of our postal arrangements between the United States and Great Britain...

With the view to facilitate the receipt and delivery of letters in New York, Boston and Philadelphia...

One of the prominent subjects which have demanded my attention is that of procuring more efficient means for the regularity and safety of our mail routes...

Experiments have been made on the great railroad lines between New York and Montgomery, Alabama...

way one individual is held responsible, without charges of malfeasance...

It is frequently charged that the mails have not uniformly equal expedition with travellers on railroads...

It may be proper to add in this connection that the preparation of all necessary forms and instructions for maintaining accountability on routes where this work is already commenced...

For a number of years the attention of Congress and of the commercial public has been directed to the necessity of adopting measures to insure greater speed and regularity in the transmission of the mails between New York and New Orleans...

The great northern and southern lines are controlled by railroad from New York, via Philadelphia, Washington, Richmond, Petersburg, Weldon, Wilmington, Kingsville, Augusta, Millin, Macon, and Columbus...

The transportation of the great northern and southern lines by the proposed new route would be subject to the same conditions as the present route...

The establishment of the proposed service, while it would not interfere with the carriage of the local mails on the inland route...

By conveying the mails for California upon the proposed route as far as Cedar Key, and forwarding them thence by a separate steamer to Aspinwall, Greytown, or Housaculo...

The river is divided into the following sections for distribution of the local mails at the different towns and offices on it...

As to the great through mail from Cairo and New Orleans, the hope is indulged that there will be no necessity for continuing it on the river, as at present...

The personal acquaintance of the Postmaster General with that river, and the facilities of the steam service, fully convince him that no regular and expeditious transportation of the mails need ever be looked for so long a route, at any reasonable compensation...

to this contractor could well afford to submit, having amply allowed for it in his bid and obtained a contract accordingly at a high price...

In the existing contract, however, for transporting mails between New Orleans and Cairo there was no express provision that the contractor should take on themselves all the risk of failures by physical causes or unavoidable accidents...

Under the bill several applications were made for the remission of fines and forfeitures under late contracts for services on the Mississippi river...

The irregularity of the service, as fully ascertained by this investigation, would have induced the annulment of the contract; but, having only some eight or ten months yet to run, no one was found willing to take it, except at a rate double the present compensation...

All the difficulties in relation to this route have been liquidated in the present year, and the department looks forward to the day, believed not to be distant, when the great through mails from Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, and other important cities of the West, can be transmitted to New Orleans in less than half the time now required...

A detailed statement will be presented to Congress showing the fines and deductions which were imposed upon the contractors for imperfect mail service during the fiscal year...

By an act of Congress of March 3, 1851, the Postmaster General was required to adjust and settle the claim of George Chorpensing...

Mr. BARKS, of Massachusetts, submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to by the House...

Mr. WARNER, of Arkansas, submitted a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five to examine the new hall, and report when it can be occupied with safety...

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, again asked consent to submit his resolution providing for the payment of the clerks and other employees of the House who have been employed during the present session...

Mr. DOWDELL, of Alabama, submitted the following resolutions: Whereas the people of these United States, from their earliest history to the present time, have been led by the hand of a kind Providence...

In making the pro rata allowances, the act of Congress must be specific on this point. I have taken as the basis of the calculations the original pay under each contract, instead of the higher sum of \$30,000, to which, as above observed, the contract was afterwards raised...

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, read from the Clerk's desk a memorial from citizens of the State of Indiana, renouncing against the employment of chaplains by Congress and in the army and navy...

Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, thought that the ministers ought to be paid, and would, therefore, move to reconsider the vote by which the main question was ordered...

Mr. MORRIS, of Illinois, caused to be read from the Clerk's desk the proposition of the clergy of Washington city submitted to the last Congress, and which had been accepted for two months...

Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, moved that the amendment be laid on the table; which motion was negatived.

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The amendment was then adopted—yeas 119, nays 94—and the resolution was amended was agreed to.

The question recurring upon agreeing to the preamble to the resolutions.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Thirty-Fifth Congress—First Session.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1857.

SENATE.

Hon. JAMES A. BAYARD, from the State of Delaware, appeared in his seat this morning.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, &c. Mr. STUART presented a memorial of members of the board of education of the State of Michigan...

Mr. BROWDER presented joint resolutions of the legislature of California in favor of a uniform rate of postage throughout the United States...

Mr. GREEN gave notice that he should to-morrow, or on some early day thereafter, ask leave to introduce a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the payment of horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service of the United States..."

Mr. DOUGLASS gave notice that he should to-morrow, or on some early day thereafter, ask leave to introduce a bill to enable the President to hold a convention and form a constitution preparatory to their admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States...

Mr. FOOT gave notice that he should to-morrow, or on some early day thereafter, ask leave to introduce a bill making grants of public lands to actual settlers, and a bill for the relief of George P. Marsh...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS. The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the War Department, informing the body that by some mistake the usual appropriation for the manufacture of arms was omitted in the regular army appropriation bill for the present session...

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Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, moved that the amendment be laid on the table; which motion was negatived.

Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That all public documents of which extra copies are ordered to be printed for distribution, but which have not been delivered to members under the resolution of the last House of Representatives, shall now be delivered by the officers having charge of the same to the representatives in this House of the respective districts entitled to the same according to the rate of distribution established.

After a brief discussion between Messrs. QUITMAN and H. MARSHALL, of Kentucky, Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, stated that it was notorious at this time that books ordered five or six years ago were being written at this very hour, and were prepared year after year for publication, but which had never been printed, with regard to some of the works ordered some three or four years ago, there were plates preserved by the Secretary of the Interior that would run the single volume up to two or three thousand dollars. His idea was that it was the duty of this House, before they ordered the printing of any work, to have the work presented to Congress, and to have it printed by the committee. It was fully ascertained that if a rigid examination was made before it was allowed to go to the printer, the country would be relieved of a vast amount of debt imposed upon it. They heard gentlemen talk about the printing for the last Congress. Who was to blame for it? Had grown out of the ordinary course of business, or the result of the printer's policy? He hoped that the question would receive the consideration of the House, and that they might do as it was proposed that they should and ought to do—reduce the expense of the public printing.

Mr. TAYLOR, of New York, remarked that this resolution seemed to be a measure of a necessary and a desirable character, and that it would be well to have it passed. He demanded the previous question.

The previous question having been seconded, the resolution was passed; and at ten minutes of 2 o'clock the House adjourned to meet at 12 o'clock on Monday next.

THE PRESS ON THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION. So long as the fundamental principles which have been laid for the constitution, we should accept the same with gratitude, rather than peevishly grumble because all the details are not precisely as we would have wished them. All that has been contended for was the liberty of the people to decide for themselves whether they should enter the Union under the banner of freedom or slavery.

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