

that object. With that view the Winnebagoes had been taken into consideration, and a tract of land of sufficient extent set apart for their future permanent residence. The situation of that tribe, fast sinking under the degrading influences which surround them, and pressed upon by the whites, renders it a measure of humanity to remove them promptly across the Mississippi; but they were given to understand that they were not to consider the neutral ground as their permanent home. A treaty, likewise, has been negotiated by Governor Dodge with the Chippewas, by which that tribe could a large tract of country east of the Mississippi, and have agreed to retire to lands west of that river.

A mistake has been committed by the surveyors of the United States, in determining the boundary line of the land ceded to the Government by the Confederated Tribes of the Sacs and Foxes by the treaty of September, 1832, and it was immediately determined to do justice to the Indian proprietors of the soil, and correct the mistake. The true line, however, would have excluded a fine portion of country, which was already settled and improved; and whatever may be the ultimate policy the Government may think proper to adopt, the full amount claimed; whereas those who have accounted for all they have received remain without any remuneration. If the provision attached to the appropriation act of 1835, for the improvement of certain harbors, which prohibits any allowance to officers for extra official duties and responsibilities, is intended to be permanent, it ought to be applied to the Indian officers, as well as to the officers of the army and navy. But if Congress be of opinion, that it is just to allow some remuneration for extra services, in cases where great responsibilities are incurred, then it would appear better to determine that compensation by law. I would by no means recommend that any allowance should be made for disbursing the usual and ordinary appropriations for the ordinary services, but where large amounts are expended upon officers, involving great risk, from circumstances beyond their control, and against which no human precaution can protect them, it appears equitable that some compensation should be allowed, which on every account it would be better to fix by law.

In the present uncertainty which prevails on the subject of the intention of Congress permanently to prohibit by law officers of the army from claiming or receiving any remuneration for disbursing moneys, the different interpretations given to the act, renders its operation unequal and unjust. In almost all instances where the officers have withheld moneys and brought suits for the recovery of some charge for commissions on their disbursements, the courts have awarded the full amount claimed; whereas those who have accounted for all they have received remain without any remuneration. If the provision attached to the appropriation act of 1835, for the improvement of certain harbors, which prohibits any allowance to officers for extra official duties and responsibilities, is intended to be permanent, it ought to be applied to the Indian officers, as well as to the officers of the army and navy. But if Congress be of opinion, that it is just to allow some remuneration for extra services, in cases where great responsibilities are incurred, then it would appear better to determine that compensation by law. I would by no means recommend that any allowance should be made for disbursing the usual and ordinary appropriations for the ordinary services, but where large amounts are expended upon officers, involving great risk, from circumstances beyond their control, and against which no human precaution can protect them, it appears equitable that some compensation should be allowed, which on every account it would be better to fix by law.

It is the duty of the Government to provide for the support and comfort of the Indians. It now appears that their annuities really do not reach them, and that the accumulation of debts incurred, in a great measure, by the sale and disburse, but which are charged to the whole nation, and paid out of the common fund. The effect of such an arrangement is obvious. It encourages the vicious, and deprives the industrious of all incentive to exertion. The whole of this subject is so confused, that it is impossible to state the condition of the tribes, and the character of the Government, that I propose to treat in a separate report, and to suggest such improvements in the existing laws and regulations, as may insure the faithful application of their funds to the individual wants of the Indians.

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On motion of Mr. WRIGHT the petition and papers relative to Thomas Hamilton was withdrawn from the files.

Mr. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill to restrain the issue of Bank bills in the District of Columbia, of denominations less than five dollars.

Mr. WRIGHT replied that but three of the committee were present when the bill was drawn, and that all present had assented, and also remarked that the bill was a precise copy of one which was engrossed the last session.

Also, the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

A report of the Secretary of State, in obedience to a resolution of Oct. 12, 1837, relative to the seizure of a Dutch government of the American brig Mary at Curacao; and also

Report of the Secretary of State relative to Mexican affairs.

Severally laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

A bill authorizing the establishment of a coast relief squadron, was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing a drawback on imported hemp manufactured for export, was passed a third reading.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and in a few minutes Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, December 12, 1837.

Petitions and memorials were presented by Messrs. Evans, Smith, and Carter of Maine.

Messrs. Albertson and Cushman, of New Hampshire.

[Mr. CUSHMAN presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Portsmouth, N. H., Boston, Mass., and others, praying for an appropriation to improve Rye harbor—referred to the Committee on Commerce; of Nathaniel Gunnison of New Hampshire, relative to the distribution of the residue of the prize money made by the Bon Homme Richard, Commodore John Paul Jones—referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; of Nathaniel Gunnison, stating that in 1779, the Continental squadron, commanded by Paul Jones, captured from the enemy three vessels, called the Union, Betsy, and Charming Polly, valued at fifty thousand pounds sterling, which were sent into Bergen, Norway. The King of Denmark and Norway ordered them to be restored to the British, on the alleged ground that they were the property of the King of Denmark and Norway, the petitioner does not know; but whether it was or not, he thinks the United States ought to respond therefor, and prays that his distributive share, as the representative of one of the captors, may be paid to him—referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.]

Mr. ADAMS presented several memorials against the annexation of Texas, and moved their return to a select committee, with instructions to consider and report thereon.

Mr. HOWARD moved their reference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The above motions lie over till to-morrow.

Mr. ADAMS presented a petition, praying for the abolition of slavery in the Territories of the United States, and moved its return to a select committee, with instructions to consider and report thereon.

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