New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXVI.....No. 7,841. NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1866. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

Union Meeting in Maryland----Speeches by Several Congressmen.

Jeff. Davis, C. C. Clay and the Approaching Trial.

REPORTS ABOUT THE RIOTS AT MEMPHIS.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Debate on the West Point Candidate Resolve.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSITIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION.

The Bill Concerning the Freedmen's Bureau.

The Tax Bill Again Before the House.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 24, 1866.

UNION MEETING IN MARYLAND.

A mass meeting of the Unconditional Union men of Baltimore County, Maryland, was held at Towsentown yesterday. Strong resolutions were passed, objecting to the repeal of the law disfranchising Rebels in that State, also sustaining Congress in the passage of the Civil Rights bill, and indorsing the Hon. John L. Thomas, jr., M. C. from that district. The meeting was an enthusiastic and spirited one. Stirring addresses were made by Col. Stokes of Tennessee, the Hon. Mr. McKee of Kentucky, the Hon. Hamilton Ward of New-York, and the Hon. John L. Thomas, jr.

DAVIS AND CLAY.

The House Judiciary Committee is still engaged upon the case of Davis and Clay, and their complicity in the assassination and other plots. Considerable testimony has been taken during the last few days as to their guilt. There is no doubt of it in the minds of leading members of the Committee, and all reports to the contrary are untrue. They have not yet determined what recommendation they will make to the House, and the Attorney-General has not yet concluded what he will do with reference to Davis's trial in Richmond. He does not look with much favor on Judge Underwood's Court unless Chief-Justice Chase should preside, which is not at present probable. Mrs. Davis arrived here this morning, and has been receiving her friends all day at Dr. Miller's, a noted Rebel sympathizer. She comes to get her husband released on parole, or have more commodious quarters and less restraint upon him. Of course, she will accomplish her objects.

THE MEMPHIS RIOTS.

Major Gilbreth, sent by Gen. Howard to investigate the Memphis riots, has made a partial report on the subject. He says "The civil authorities have not taken the slightest notice of these terrible riots, and seem to regard them as simply a skirmish between the police and the negroes. It was certainly a very one-sided skirmish, as from the testimony no resistance was made by the negroes after the first night. The citizens have been advised to hold a meeting and denounce the conduct of the mob, but still they either neglect, or refuse to do so. The papers of Memphis are at the root of the whole matter. They have incited riot and murder for months, and this is only a legitimate result of their inflammatory and incendiary articles; and these poor whites, between whom and the negroes a feud has always existed, have been but their tools."

NOMINATIONS REJECTED.

The Senate to-day rejected Samuel McKelvey, nominated as United States Marshal for the District of Western Pennsylvania, and also Mr. Purnell, Blair's candidate for Postmaster at Baltimore; both rejections being on the ground that they were supporters of the President's policy.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

Receipts to-day, $657,142.

THE BOUNTY BILL.

Gen. Schenck will call up his Bounty bill to-morrow, as amended in Committee, and I will try to pass it. There is a large majority in its favor in the House, which guarantees its passage whenever put to vote.

THE AMENDMENTS.

It is expected that the Senate will next week vote upon the Constitutional amendments, and the belief gains ground that the third section will be either altered or stricken out. Almost the entire discussion bears upon that point.

CLEARING SAVANNAH HARBOR.

The Government have awarded to-day a contract to Henry S. Welles of New-York to raise the vessels in the River and Harbor of Savannah. These vessels were sunk by the Rebels to obstruct the channel. The gunboats and other vessels were scuttled and sunk at the time the city was evacuated. There are in all about 20, some of them very valuable, with all their guns and armament on board.

FRANK BLAIR REJECTED.

The statement that the Senate had reconsidered the vote rejecting the nomination of Frank Blair as Collector of the First District of Missouri is incorrect. No confirmation or rejection can be reconsidered unless the motion is made within two Executive sessions after confirmation.

A MISSION TENDERED TO GOV. CURTIN.

It is said by friends of Gov. Curtin that he has been tendered the mission to Italy.

RELIEF OF SUFFERERS.

Gen. Baird, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in Louisiana, reports that he is furnishing food to the inhabitants of the overflowed districts.

PROPOSALS OPENED.

The joint Committee on printing to-day opened a large number of bids for engraving, and illustrations for the Patent Office Report, from Boston, Buffalo, New-York, and Philadelphia. No awards have yet been made.

To The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 24, 1866.

CONFIRMED.

The Senate has confirmed Albert Van Kleek as Postmaster at Poughkeepsie, New-York.

The Senate has confirmed the nominations of Gen. Anson G. McCook of Steubenville as Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Seventh District of Ohio, and David Miller of New-York City as Assessor for the Fifth District of New-York. The Senate also confirmed the following-named to be Captains in the Army: Wm. H. H. Benyaurd, Corps of Engineers; Joseph P. Farley, Ordnance; Michael J. Kelley, Charles H. Hosmer, William Folck, Henry W. Patterson, Richard H. Pond, William M. Wherry, J. B. Irvine, Geo. K. Sanderson, and James A. Hearn.

IMPORTANT MILITARY ORDER.

By direction of the President, the military departments of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama have been discontinued in General Orders No. 32, from the War Department Adjutant-General's office.

In the future the States of North Carolina and South Carolina will constitute a new military department, to be called the Department of the Carolinas, and to be commanded by Major-Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, headquarters at Columbia, South Carolina.

These States will each constitute a military command, the former under Brevet Major-Gen. T. H. Huger, U. S. Volunteers, the latter under Brevet Major-Gen. R. K. Scott, U. S. Volunteers. In addition to their regular duties as military commandants, Gens. Ruger and Scott have been instructed to perform the duties of Assistant Commissioners of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands for their respective States.

The States of Georgia and Alabama will in the future constitute a new department, to be known as the Department of the South, with Brevet Major-Gen. C. R. Woods, United States Volunteers, commanding, headquarters at Macon, Ga. These States will constitute a military command, the former under Brevet Major-Gen. Davis Tillson, United States Volunteers; the latter under Brevet Major-Gen. Wager Swayne, United States Volunteers. Generals Tillson and Swayne have been ordered to exercise the duties of Assistant-Commissioners of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands for the States above-mentioned.

THE NIAGARA CANAL.

The Senate Committee on Commerce had two sessions to-day on the Niagara Ship Canal bill as passed by the House. Mr. Alberger, on the part of the Canal Board of New-York; Mr. Prosser of Buffalo, and a delegation from Rochester were heard in opposition, and Horace H. Day of Newark, A. P. Grant of Oswego, and Judge Norton of Illinois spoke in favor of the measure.

REDEEMING CURRENCY.

In default of any action by Congress providing for the prompt redemption of the national currency by the National Banks, the Secretary of the Treasury contemplates at an early day establishing at the Treasury Department a system of sorting and forwarding to the National Banks their national bank issues.

JOHN MORRISSEY

of New-York is here, representing the New-York lottery interests. His mission is for the purpose of refuting the statements of Marcus Cicero Stanley, who is engaged by the Government prosecuting lotteries.

PRIZE CASE.

The prize-lists for the Bat, captured by the United States steamers Vicksburg, Montgomery, Eolus, Maratanza, Victoria, Emma and Aries, is now undergoing revision through the accounting officers of the Treasury, and will be ready for distribution in a few weeks. The amount involved in this capture is about $100,000.

CANADA SMUGGLERS.

A gentleman connected with the Government, on duty along the Canada frontier, in a letter written to this city concerning the recent reports of the successful war now being waged upon smugglers by the officers of customs, says the preventive and detective forces are in very vigorous operation in all the districts, that of Oswego excepted.

PERSONAL.

Secretary Seward has returned to Washington.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis arrived here to-day from Fortress Monroe.

REVENUE STAMPS.

The various Internal Revenue officers throughout the country are on and after the first of June, to be supplied with stamps, &c., by express instead of by mail, a contract for this purpose having been made by the Treasury Department.

XXXIXTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, May 24, 1866.

AFFAIRS AT STAUNTON, VA.

Mr. TRUMBULL asked leave to withdraw from the files of the Senate the petition of citizens of Staunton, Va., praying for military protection to loyal persons. He had received a letter, he said, from Staunton, informing him that the names of the signers of this petition had been procured for the purpose of persecution by Rebels. Many who signed the petition had since been terrified into publishing retractions, and others were being persecuted and accused of having forged the names of the signers to the petition. It was desired now to let the petition be withdrawn to exempt certain citizens from the accusations of forgery.

The petition was withdrawn.

NATIONAL BANKS IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. WILSON offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into and report upon the condition of the National Banks in the City of Washington, in the following particulars, viz: First, what amounts of Government funds have been deposited in said National Bank, or any of them, in the last twelve months; second, by whom and under what authority such deposits were made; third, what amount and rate of interest, if any, has been allowed on such deposits, and to whom payments of interest, directly or indirectly, have been made.

At the suggestion of Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Wilson modified his resolution by striking out the words "in Washington City," so as to make it applicable to all National banks.

Mr. FESSENDEN said if the inquiry was ordered, it ought to be made by a special committee.

Mr. WILSON accepted the suggestion of Mr. Fessenden, and modified his resolution to make it read that a select committee be appointed, and the resolution was agreed to.

TRIAL OF DAVIS.

Mr. SUMNER presented the petition of an officer of the Veteran Reserve Corps for the trial of Jefferson Davis by a Military Commission, which was referred to the Military Committee.

CANDIDATES FOR WEST POINT.

Mr. WILSON called up the joint resolution in relation to the qualifications of applicants for admission to the West Point Academy. It denies admission to all who have taken part in the Rebellion, and provides that candidates shall be between 17 and 22 years of age. Those who have served in the army shall be admissable up to the age of 24.

Mr. ANTHONY offered an amendment that in the appointments from Congressional Districts, the person authorized to make nominations shall nominate not less than five candidates, from which selection shall be made by competitive examination. This shall not apply to appointments at large by the President.

Mr. NESMITH offered an amendment that hereafter the Superintendent of West Point may be selected from any corps of the army instead of as at present from the Engineer Corps exclusively.

THE RECONSTRUCTION RESOLVES.

Pending discussion on the above the morning hour expired, and the reconstruction resolutions were taken up.

Mr. STEWART took the floor. He said that in the conflict of opinion upon questions of expediency, the only safe course was to do right; that there was little difference of opinion upon the fundamental theories of our Government; that all men are equally entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that the objection to the President's plan of reconstruction was its failure to realize the fond hopes of the American people; that four millions of citizens, whose only offense is fidelity to the Government, should possess these inalienable rights and be added to the strength of the Union in support of its integrity and the financial burdens of the war; and that his plan failed to furnish any security against the unlimited sway of the Rebels in their local State Governments with an increased representation in Congress of the disloyal element of the Rebellion. Yet he would admit that it was better than no plan, and that he was slow to condemn it unless, and until he could improve it. An improvement of the President's plan involved a cure, not an aggravation, of the evils complained of. General amnesty and impartial suffrage were the only obvious remedies. These were indorsed by justice and humanity, but opposed by prejudice and passion. Those who had assailed him (Stewart) for the advocacy of the resolutions he had offered, had failed to find argument to refute the correctness of the proposition. If his (Stewart's) views had been modified by the progress of events, he had but followed the maxim of Mr. Lincoln to adopt new views whenever they appeared to be true views; and if he could secure the support of those only who had changed their opinions by the constant development of new facts for the last six years, he was sure of the success of his proposition. The trouble was that some men attempted to apply old theories to new facts; the theories of Slavery to a condition of freedom. His only hope of return to correct principles was the manifest danger of doing wrong. Leading minds of the nation and the voice of the loyal press had from the beginning expressed a willingness to settle our difficulties by adopting universal amnesty and impartial suffrage. The spirit of Mr. Lincoln which proclaimed "malice toward none, but charity for all," animated the loyal North, and resolved the contest into a demand for justice and mercy. Mr. Stewart contended that the people should be trusted; that any other theory was in conflict with Democratic principles; that the blacks were among us, and must have the ballot for self-protection or extermination as predicted by their late masters; that with the ballot they would have plenty of friends, politicians loving votes more than they hate negroes; that Civil Rights bills and Freedmen's Bureaus could only be made effectual by the war power of the nation, and involved military despotism if carried to the extent required for protection; that the ballot was self-protecting and self-sustaining, and in harmony with the principle that disfranchisement of the Rebels involved military despotism. Yielding to a sentiment of vengeance against the Rebels by disfranchisement, and of hate toward the negro by depriving him of the ballot, was utterly destructive of free government in the South. Somebody must vote, and if we selected classes to vote, and rejected until everybody was satisfied, there would be few left in the enjoyment of the franchise. The Government would be a miserable aristocracy or a cruel despotism, and the conflict could not cease without an extension of suffrage to the blacks and civil and political rights to the late Rebels. When justice was done and mercy extended, the evils of the past might be buried in oblivion, and crimination and recrimination cease in the bright hope of future peace and prosperity. He insisted that none who now are entitled to vote are disfranchised; that those hereafter to vote shall be subject to the same intellectual, moral and property qualifications; that no possible harm could result to the country, but on the contrary it would change the base and strengthen the foundations of our institutions, and prepare them for the grand superstructure of human freedom designed by our fathers. It was hard to disfranchise the Rebels, and in their struggle to achieve the ballot they would have the sympathy of republicans throughout the world; but in an effort to enfranchise the black man, the sympathies of mankind would sustain those engaged in the good work. Congress had already committed the Union party to negro suffrage, and the attempt to deny it would be a false issue, followed by certain defeat. The Democracy did not argue against suffrage, but assumed it to be a great crime, and charged it on the Union party. The charge was true, and could be proved. It was idle to deny it. There was no choice but to confess that impartial suffrage is a part of our creed, and justified before the people. Let the Democracy say, if they will, that a Union soldier shall be disfranchised, a Rebel soldier enfranchised; that he who fed Union prisoners shall not vote, but that he who starved them shall; that our friends shall be punished and our enemies rewarded. And let them contend for disfranchisement and punishment of Rebels if they dare, when we proposed amnesty for justice. Mr. Stewart indorsed the address of the Republic of Switzerland to the Congress of the United States, and appealed to Congress to finish the work so therein recommended. He said that the evils to be avoided were three in number; two political and one financial. The political dangers were the domination of disloyalty in the State governments of the South and increased representation in Congress of the same element. The plan of the Committee proposed no remedy for the tyranny of local State governments, and but a partial reduction rather than the eradication of the disloyal element in Congress. It provided for a part of the financial danger by repudiation of the Confederate debt, and of the claims for emancipated slaves, but left the National credit to be constantly disturbed by consolidated and intensified disloyalty both at the South and in Congress, and to be shaken by contending factions of both blacks and whites for political privileges. In reply to the oft-repeated question: "Would you allow Rebels and traitors to return to Congress, there again to plot treason?" Mr. Stewart said he would answer, No; but that he would take the proper means to exclude; that he would chain them to the ballots of the loyal people, both black and white, to keep them out of office in the same way that the North excludes Copperheads and sympathizers with treason. That if the intellectual chieftains of the Rebellion are excluded from office, and at the same time loyalty is excluded from the ballot-box, treason will find expression through lower and meaner men. That the good faith of the Government was pledged for the protection of the black man, and the Nation dare not violate its obligation. The time might again come when it would be important to divide the South, and to abstract from its material resources the labor of 3,000,000 black men and add it to the resources of the Government which once divided the South and hastened the overthrow of the Rebellion. The Emancipation proclamation was the death-blow to treason, and left the South a house divided against itself. If the blacks are left to destruction, may they not be persuaded by their late masters that emancipation was after all "a curse" and not "a blessing," and after their hopes and aspirations for liberty shall have been extinguished by the iron hand of oppression, may they not refuse in future conflicts which promise no good to them to help those who deluded them. He argued at length the advantages of his plan, and compared it with the report of the Committee. He appealed to Senators to stand by their principles, to deal honestly with themselves and frankly with the South; that it was time the South understood the full extent of the demands of loyal men, and they were made to understand that there could be no peace, but that the conflict must proceed until full protection was extended to every loyal man, whether he be black or white. Mr. Stewart said he would appeal to the South to join in the good work and listen to those who are anxious to be their friends, but who were constrained to speak the truth, and to put no faith in modern Democracy, which had deceived them from the beginning, and was utterly powerless in the future, as it had been in the past, to shield them from the overwhelming power of the loyal North, until they would cease to do evil and learn to do right. When they would let the boudman depart in peace, with the ballot as a shield and buckler, their friends in the North would be like the sands of the sea—without number. He exhorted them to extend the ballot to the black race, and thus retain it for themselves and their posterity. He warned them that by continuing the conflict they endangered their own liberty, and might bring on all the horrors and desolation of another terrible war. He declared that blood, disfranchisement and confiscation was no part of the platform of the Union party to which he belonged, and his mountain home was for peace and union founded upon eternal justice. Nevada loved the country—the whole country. The citizens of Nevada were natives of every State in the Union. Restoration brought to them friendly social relations, peace and happiness.

Mr. STEWART said that he appreciated the difficulties that the Committee had encountered; that they deserved great praise for their faithful efforts to harmonize conflicting opinions; that he hailed with joy the liberal spirit with which their report was presented to the Senate; that he should proceed with the same spirit of compromise and ask the Senate to adopt amnesty and suffrage as a basis of the final plan, modified as the wisdom of the Senate might indicate. Failing in this he should support the majority so long as their measures seemed to contain any elements of good—but he did hope that the essential principles of justice and mercy would never be lost sight of.

At the conclusion of Mr. Stewart's speech, Mr. JOHNSON rose and said—Mr. President—Is it in order now to move to strike out the third section?

The CHAIR—It is.

Mr. JOHNSON—Then I make that motion.

Mr. WILSON—You don't want it acted on now?

Mr. JOHNSON—No; let it go over.

On motion of Mr. HOWARD, further consideration of the pending subject was postponed until 1 o'clock to-morrow.

BOUNTIES TO INDIAN REGIMENTS.

Mr. WILSON called up a joint resolution directing the payment of $100 bounty to each of the privates and non-commissioned officers of the 1st, 2d and 3d Indian Regiments, which was passed.

Mr. SHERMAN submitted the following which he said expressed his own views on the subject of reconstruction; though he did not know as he should offer it, as he intended to vote for what appeared to be the strongest proposition.

Strike out the second and third sections of the proposed amendments, and insert in lieu thereof: Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to the number in each State of male citizens of the United States over 21 years of age qualified by the laws of said State to choose members of the most numerous branch of the Legislature, and including such citizens as are disqualified for participating in rebellion. Direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to the value of real estate and personal property in each State not belonging to the State or to the United States.

The above was ordered to be printed.

OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.

Mr. WILSON called up a resolution to appoint an editor for the official history of the war, at a salary of $2,500 per annum, who shall have access to all papers on the subject in possession of the departments.

Mr. WILSON said the contemplated work would cost several hundred thousand dollars. If done at all, it ought to be done well. It would take from thirty to forty volumes, costing several thousand dollars per volume.

Mr. FESSENDEN said his idea was that the time had hardly arrived for the publication of this matter. He thought it would be better to reconsider the whole subject, repeal the whole resolution, and if necessary to pass it, to do so in a different and less expensive form.

Mr. ANTHONY suggested that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to agree upon and report a plan for the publication of the work referred to, and that meantime the publication be suspended.

Mr. SUMNER hoped the resolution would be recommitted with instructions, and spoke of the necessity of accuracy in such a matter, and the difficulty of obtaining a competent person to edit such a work.

The resolution was, after debate, recommitted to the Military Committee.

At 3½ p. m. the Senate went into Executive Session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE CHOLERA.

Mr. ELIOT (Mass.), from the Committee on Commerce, reported back the Senate's amendments to to the House joint resolution to prevent the introduction of cholera into the ports of the United States, which were concurred in, so that the joint resolution is passed by both Houses.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Mr. WELKER (Ohio), from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back, with amendments, the Senate bill to incorporate the Women's Hospital Association of the District of Columbia.

The amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed.

PRIVATE BILL.

A bill for the relief of Lucinda Gates was reported by Mr. TAYLOR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, and passed.

MONTANA.

A bill, erecting the Territory of Montana into a surveyor's district, was reported by Mr. STROUSE (Pa.), from the Committee on Territories, and passed.

PRESENT OF PLANTS.

The Senate joint resolution for the acceptance of a collection of plants, tendered to the United States by Francis Peck, was reported back from the Committee on Agriculture by Mr. BIDWELL (Cal.) and passed.

The section new reads as follows:

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the former owners of lands, occupied under Gen. Sherman's field order, dated at Savannah, January 16, 1865, shall apply for restoration of said lands, the Commissioner shall refuse to surrender the same.

Mr. SHELLABARGER (Pa.) moved to amend by adding to the foregoing section the following:

Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to effect the right of any person to recover in the proper courts any title or right of possession which such person may have in any of the land held under said field order.

Mr. DAVIS (N. Y.) moved to amend by striking out all after the second section.

Mr. BRANDEGEE (Conn.) moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill until the second Monday in December next, sustaining that motion by the argument that at that time Congress would be in a condition to act more intelligently on the subject, as it would then have before it the reports of the Commission sent by the President and of the Special Committee to be sent by both Houses to inquire into the working of the system; and adding, in an undertone, that the postponement would save some Congressmen, and particularly in Indiana.

The motion to postpone was negatived by 51 to 81.

The morning hour having expired, the bill went over until Tuesday next.

THE BOUNTY BILL.

Mr. SCHENCK gave notice that the Committee on Military Affairs had carefully revised the Bounty bill, and had made alterations in it; that a reprint of it would be made to-day, and that he would ask the House to-morrow, after the morning hour, to consider it.

One very material change made in the bill is that all local bounties paid to soldiers are to be taken into consideration and deducted from the sum which might otherwise appear due.

The bill, as originally reported, provided only for the deduction of the United States bounty already received. This change will cut off from the benefits of the bill, almost all who enlisted after the payment of liberal bounties had commenced.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

The bill reported by Mr. ELIOT (Mass.), on Tuesday, to amend and continue in force the bill establishing the Freedmen's Bureau, came up as the business in order at the morning hour. It is as follows:

A BILL to continue in force and to amend an act entitled "An act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees," and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of America in Congress assembled, That the act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, approved March 3, 1865, shall continue in force for the term of two years from and after the passage of this act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the supervision and care of said bureau shall extend to all loyal refugees and freedmen, so far as the same shall be necessary to enable them as speedily as practicable to become self-supporting citizens of the United States, and to aid them in making the freedom conferred by proclamation of the Commander-in-Chief, by emancipation under the laws of States, and by Constitutional amendment, available to them and beneficial to the Republic.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint two Assistant Commissioners, in addition to those authorized by the act to which this is an amendment, who shall give like bonds and receive the same annual salaries provided in said act, and each of the Assistant Commissioners of the Bureau shall have charge of one district containing such refugees or freedmen, to be assigned him by the Commissioner, with the approval of the President. And the Commissioner shall, under the direction of the President, and so far as the same shall be, in his judgment, necessary for the efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the Bureau, appoint such agents, clerks and assistants as may be required for the proper conduct of the Bureau. Military officers or enlisted men may be detailed for service and assigned to duty under this act; and the President may, if in his judgment safe and judicious so to do, detail from the army all the officers and agents of this Bureau; but no officer so assigned shall have increase of pay or allowances. Each agent or clerk, not being a military officer, shall have an annual salary of not less than $500, nor more than $1,200, according to the service required of him. And it shall be the duty of the Commissioner, when it can be done consistently with public interests, to appoint, as Assistant-Commissioners, agents and clerks, such men as have proved their loyalty by faithful service in the armies of the Union during the Rebellion. And all persons appointed to service under this act and the act to which this is an amendment, shall be so far deemed in the military service of the United States as to be under the military jurisdiction, and entitled to the military protection of the Government while in the discharge of the duties of their office.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the second section of the act to which this is an amendment shall be deemed to authorize the Secretary of War to issue such medical stores or other supplies and transportation, and afford such medical or other aid as may be needful for the purposes named in said section: *Provided*, That no person shall be deemed "destitute," "suffering" or "dependent upon the Government for support," within the meaning of this act, who is able to find employment, and will, by proper industry or exertion, avoid such destitution, suffering or dependence. And the Secretary of War is hereby authorized, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, to continue in office as Surgeons of the Bureau, with their present rank, pay and allowances, the volunteers now employed, and to fill any vacancies with other volunteer surgeons, with like rank and compensation, unless suitable surgeons in the Regular Army can be thus assigned to duty.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of rendering this Bureau self-sustaining, and in the place of lands heretofore assigned to freedmen and thereafterward withdrawn from the control of the Bureau, the President shall reserve from sale or settlement under the homestead or preemption laws, and assign for the use of freedmen and loyal refugees, male or female, unoccupied public lands in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas, not exceeding in all one million of acres of good land. And the Commissioner shall cause the same, under the direction of the President, to be allotted and assigned, from time to time, in parcels not exceeding forty acres each, to the loyal refugees and freedmen, who shall be protected in the use and enjoyment thereof for such term of time and such annual rent as may be agreed upon between the Commissioners and such refugees or freedmen. The rental shall be based upon a valuation of the land, to be ascertained in such manner as the Commissioner may, under the direction of the President, by regulation prescribe. At the end of each term, or sooner, if the Commissioner shall assent thereto, the occupants of any parcels so assigned, their heirs and assigns, may purchase the land and receive a title thereto from the United States in fee upon payment therefor the value of the land, as aforesaid.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the former owners of lands occupied under Gen. Sherman's field order, dated at Savannah, Jan. 16, 1865, shall apply for restoration of said lands, the Commissioner shall procure other lands by rent or purchase, not exceeding 40 acres for each occupant; *Provided*, That such lands can be procured at an average cost not exceeding $25 per acre, and before such restoration is made shall allot and assign them to such occupants upon the terms and conditions named in the preceding section, or set apart for them, out of the public lands assigned for that purpose, 40 acres each, upon the same terms and conditions; *Provided*, That no sale shall be made of lands so purchased at a price less than the cost thereof to the United States.

SEC. 7. *Whereas*, We recognize the necessity and duty resting upon the Government, and resulting from the condition of freedom, of aiding freedmen to receive that needful education which oppressive prejudices, laws, and customs denied them when held in slavery; therefore, be it further enacted, that the Commissioner of this bureau shall at all times co-operate with private benevolent associations of citizens in aid of freedom, and with agents and teachers duly accredited and appointed by them, and shall provide proper sites and buildings for purposes of education whenever such association shall, without cost to the Government, provide suitable teachers and means of instruction, and we shall furnish such protection as may be required for the safe conduct of such schools, and said property shall be and remain the property of the United States until sales thereof shall be authorized by law.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That in every State or district where the ordinary course of judicial proceedings has been interrupted by the Rebellion, and until the same shall be fully restored, and in every State or district whose constitutional relations to the Government have been practically discontinued by the Rebellion, and until such State shall have been restored in such relations, and shall be duly represented in the Congress of the United States, the right to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold and convey real and personal property, and to have full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings concerning personal liberty, personal security, and the acquisition, enjoyment and disposition of estate, real and personal, including the constitutional right to bear arms, shall be secured to and enjoyed by all the citizens of such State or District without respect to race or color, or previous condition of Savery. And whenever in either of said States or Districts the ordinary course of judicial proceedings has been interrupted by the Rebellion, and until the same shall be fully restored, and until such State shall have been restored in its constitutional relations to the Government, and shall be duly represented in the Congress of the United States, the President shall, through the commissioners and the officers of the Bureau, and under such rules and regulations as the President, through the Secretary of War, shall prescribe, extend military protection, and have military jurisdiction over all cases and questions concerning the free enjoyment of such immunities and rights; and no penalty or punishment for any violation of law shall be imposed or permitted because of race or color or previous condition of Slavery, other or greater than the penalty or punishment to which white persons may be liable by law for the like offense. But the jurisdiction conferred by this section upon the officers of the Bureau shall not exist in any State where the ordinary course of judicial proceedings has not been interrupted by the Rebellion, and shall cease in every State when the Courts of the State and the United States are not disturbed in the peaceable course of justice, and after such State shall be fully restored in its constitutional relations to the Government, and shall be duly represented in the Congress of the United States.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all officers, agents and employés of this Bureau, before entering upon the duties of their office, shall take the oath prescribed in the first section of the act to which this is an amendment; and all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Mr. STEVENS (Pa.) moved to amend the sixth section in reference to the Sea Islands, by making it read that when the former owners shall apply for the restoration of the lands, the Commissioner shall refuse to surrender them. Mr. Stevens said those lands were forfeited to the United States as belonging to belligerents, and were allotted to some 6,000 families, who were now in possession, cultivating them and having comfortable homes on them. It would be cruel and unjust to turn them out, leaving the Government to procure for them other lands at the cost of $25 an acre, as proposed by the section.

The amendment was adopted by Yeas 79, to 46 Nays.

OHIO LANDS.

The SPEAKER presented a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting papers in reference to the reappraisement of certain lands in Ohio, pursuant to the authority of the joint resolution approved May 5, 1866, which was laid on the table.

FOREIGN MAILS.

Mr. SMITH introduced a bill to amend the bill to provide for carrying mails from the United States to foreign ports, which was read twice and referred to the Post-Office Committee.

NO EVENING SESSION.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS (Penn.), and by a vote of 64 to 44, the evening session was dispensed with for to-day.

THE TAX BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. DAWES in the Chair, and resumed the consideration of the tax bill, commencing at the paragraph amending section 163 of the existing law.

In the subsequent paragraph all relating to ground coffee and spices was, on motion of Mr. MORRILL (Vt.), struck out, relieving these commodities from penalty for not having revenue stamps attached.

On motion of Mr. MYERS (Pa.), the paragraph was further amended by striking out the words "photographs, ambrotypes, daguerreotypes or other sun pictures of any description," thus relieving them also from penalty for not having revenue stamps attached. They were subsequently inserted in a preceding paragraph of the bill and subjected to a five per cent tax.

Mr. HOTCHKISS (N. Y.) moved to amend the paragraph amending Schedule B, by relieving receipts from the necessity of having stamps attached.

Mr. MORRILL opposed the amendment, stating that last year the Government received $300,000 a month from stamps attached to receipts.

Mr. PRICE moved to amend by abolishing all receipt stamps under ten cents.

Mr. MORRILL opposed the amendment, stating that the small stamps were ten times more productive than the large ones. He hoped that the stamp system would not be given up for many years.

The amendment was rejected.

The paragraph amending schedule C was amended by making the stamp duty on bottles, etc., read thus: "for and upon every can, bottle or other single package containing meats, fish, shell-fish, fruits, vegetables, sauce, raisins, prepared mustard, jams or jellies contained therein, or packed or sealed, made, prepared and sold, or offered for sale, or removed for consumption in the United States after the 1st of October, 1866, where the can and contents do not exceed two pounds in weight, one cent, and for every additional pound or fraction of a pound, one cent," and striking out all the rest of the paragraph.

On motion of Mr. HOOPER (Mass.) a new paragraph was inserted, amending Schedule C, by laying a stamp duty of one cent on cigar lights, where the package consists of 25 lights or less, and one cent additional for every additional 25 lights.

On motion of Mr. MYERS (Pa.) a new paragraph was inserted, amending Schedule C, by striking out the paragraph relating to photographs.

The paragraph amending section 179 of the present act was modified by extensive alterations of the text, and by adding a proviso that whenever in action for penalties the informer is a witness, the defendant shall also be admitted as a witness, and that any person who shall receive any consideration under a threat of informing, shall be liable to a fine of $2,000 and one year's imprisonment.

The tenth section, which repeals several sections of the existing act, was amended by adding section ten to the sections repealed.

The Committee then came to section eleven, which enumerates the articles to be put on the free list.

The following were added to such articles:

Boxes of wood or paper for friction matches, cigar-lights and wax papers, spring, faces, and hands of clocks, sodium and German silver, in bars or sheets, tree-nail wedges and deck-plugs, bags made of paper, cordage and rigging for vessels, rock, ground and calcined gypsum, silex used in the manufacture of glass, window-glass of all kinds, cement, drain and sewer-pipes, reapers, mowers, threshing machines and separators; mills and machinery for the manufacture of sugar, sirup and molasses from sorghum, imphee, beets and corn; cotton gins, hand-rakes and grain cradles; spokes, hubs, felloes, poles, shafts and arms for carriages or wagons; wooden handles for ploughs and for other agricultural, household and mechanical implements, and pail and tub ears and handles.

The paragraph "Mineral coal of all kinds" was amended by inserting "and peat."

The paragraph in regard to paintings and statues was amended by making it read "original paintings, statues and groups of statuary, and casts made therefrom by the artist from the original designs."

The paragraph relating to paper of all descriptions was amended by inserting "except such as is manufactured and used exclusively for wearing apparel."

The paragraph relating to umbrellas was amended so as to read "umbrellas and parasols, and sticks and frames for the same."

The paragraph relating to sails was made to read "sails, tents, awnings, and bags made by sewing, from fabrics or articles."

The Committee rose.

The SPEAKER stated for the information of the House that there were no members desiring to speak on Saturday next, and Mr. MORRILL gave notice that he would insist upon the Tax bill being acted on until disposed of.

At 4¼ the House adjourned.

OHIO DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

Nomination of a State Ticket—Platform of the Ensuing Campaign.

COLUMBUS, O., Thursday, May 24, 1866.

The Democratic State Convention to-day nominated Benjamin Lefevre, of Shelby County, Secretary of State; William Lorwill, of Ashland County, Chief of the Board of Public Works; and Thomas K. Key, of Hamilton County, Judge of the Supreme Court, and adopted the following platform:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Ohio adhere with unfaltering fidelity and firmness to the organization of the Democratic party, and to the ancient, well-settled principles of Thomas Jefferson, the great apostle of American Democracy as acknowledged and accepted by the party from the foundation of the Government, and especially to those of equal taxation and representation of all the States subject to taxation.

Resolved, That the great question of the day is the immediate and unconditional restoration of all the States to the exercise of their rights within the Federal Union under the Constitution; that we will cordially and actively support Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, in all necessary and proper means to carry out his policy as directed to that end, and especially in securing immediate representation in the Senate and House of Representatives to the eleven States now unconstitutionally and arbitrarily withheld on the degrading condition of inferiority in the Union and negro political and civil equality enforced by the Federal Government.

Resolved, That for the purposes above set forth, we will cordially cooperate in public meetings, conventions, and at the polls with all men, without reference to their past party positions, who honestly, and by acts and votes, as well as professions, support the President in his policy of restoration as now declared.

Virginia Politics.

RICHMOND, Thursday, May 24, 1866.

John W. Wright was reëlected Sheriff to-day in Henrico County. For the House of Delegates, English was elected over Magruder, who was an officer in the Confederate army.

MARINE DISASTERS.

Collision of Vessels—Four Lives Lost.

BOSTON, Thursday, May 24, 1866.

The brig Ann Elizabeth, from Sierra Leone, reports, at 2 o'clock this morning, that she was run into by the British brig J. B. Ring, Capt. Sanford, from Cow Bay for New-York, and in five minutes after the collision the latter vessel sunk, carrying down four of the crew. Capt. Sanford and one man only were saved.

Rescue of Persons from a Sailing Vessel.

FORTRESS MONROE, Wednesday, May 23, 1866.

The bark J. L. Thurman, 46 days from Bremen, with 310 passengers, bound to Baltimore, arrived within the Capes yesterday and sailed this morning. She reports having fallen in with the English ship Norborough, April 16, latitude 51 north and longitude 15 west, with her rudder gone and in a leaking condition. Took off her crew, 27 in all, and next day transferred them to the English brig Fanny, bound to Liverpool. On May 11, latitude 49 11 north, longitude 61 west, was in company with American ship Owego, of New-York, from Liverpool, bound to New-York.

The bark Oristedes also arrived within the Capes, 31 days from Bremen, with 279 passengers, and sailed for Baltimore this morning.

FORTRESS MONROE.

Naval Intelligence—Personal—Improvements—Jeff. Davis.

FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, May 22, 1866.

The revenue cutter Moccasin, which has been stationed at New-York and this harbor for the past six months, has been ordered to North Carolina.

The revenue cutter Nemaha now at Baltimore, has been ass