

WASHINGTON. THE SENATE IN NO HURRY.

DEPOSED TO MAKE THE HOUSE WAIT A LITTLE FOR AN AMENDMENT—THINGS THAT MAY DELAY.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The business of Congress is so far advanced that adjournment at 4 o'clock to-morrow, in accordance with the resolution of the House, is possible, although nobody familiar with the ways of the Senate believes that it is at all likely to occur. All the appropriation bills except one, the Indian, have been passed and are now in the hands of the enrollers, and will be done by noon to-morrow. The Indian bill will be reported to-morrow and passed without delay, and thus the absolutely essential legislation will be out of the way. The Democratic majority in the House have reached that point at last when they are very anxious to get away; but the temper of the Senate is averse to being hurried, and will probably forever be opposed to allowing the House to take more than a submissive part in deciding any concurrent question. So that even if the Senate could adjourn as well as on Monday at 4 o'clock, it would probably fix the hour somewhat later or postpone it until the next day. The indications last night were very strong that the Senate would delay the adjournment. Many of the Democrats appealed to the Republicans to call up the House resolution, but no Republican would consent. In the evening session Mr. Edmunds gave notice that he would to-morrow call up for consideration until finished the school amendment to the Constitution. Everybody knows that when the Senate attempts to discuss a constitutional amendment the members have before them no short task. A still further indication of the intention of the Senate is found in the alleged purpose of Senator Morton to return and speak on the Mississippi report of Senator Boutwell. In addition to all this the Hawaiian treaty is yet undisposed of, but that may be gotten rid of easily.

A PRETENSE AT REFORM.

THE ACT TO PROTECT GOVERNMENT CLERKS FROM POLITICAL ASSESSMENT—IT DOES NOT PROTECT THEM AT ALL.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—A careful reading of the civil service reform paragraph of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill leads to the belief that it will be even less effective than the law enacted and partially carried into effect five or six years ago. Clerks and other employees of the Government not appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate are protected from political assessments when they are made by other officers or employees of the Senate; yet the new law does not prevent chairman or agents of political committees who are not in the employ of the Government from making assessments upon clerks, nor does it forbid clerks and other Government employees from paying such assessments when made. This is a very important omission.

TOO MUCH SILVER IN CALIFORNIA.

WHY THE ISSUE OF SMALL COIN HAS BEEN A DANGER TO THAT COAST.

UNHEARD-OF SMALLNESS.

THE SALARIES OF LADY CLERKS TO BE CUT DOWN TO SPARE THOSE OF VOTERS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—One of the meanest propositions that has recently been made is credited to a very high officer of the Government, who, it is said, proposes that in reducing the force of clerks in the several departments, the salaries of all ladies now receiving \$1,200, \$1,400, \$1,600 or \$1,800 shall be reduced to \$900, in order that it shall not be necessary to discharge as many male clerks of the higher grades as will otherwise have to go. The number of ladies in the employ of the Government who receive more than \$1,000 salary is small, and in almost every instance they are experts in the department of the service in which they are placed. It is not claimed that the male clerks who will receive their salaries can do the work any better or as well as it is done by the ladies. Indeed it is proposed to keep the ladies in their present positions, but to add what is taken from their salaries to the pay of clerks who can vote and render other political service.

GEN. PORTER'S EXPLANATION.

HE CONFIRMS THE REPORT OF WILSON ON A FEW MINOR POINTS—SPECIAL AGENT MOORE'S TESTIMONY—END OF THE INVESTIGATION UNTIL WINTER.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Gen. Horace Porter, the former private secretary of President Grant, was examined yesterday before the Committee on Whisky Trials in St. Louis. His testimony was to the following effect: In passing through Gen. Babcock's room one day I fell into a conversation with him and others who were present; Babcock said he had received through an anonymous source a very extraordinary letter, which he handed me to read; it was postmarked "St. Louis," and appeared to be a copy of a letter written by General Babcock, addressed "Mr. Henderson." It was the "bottom and top" letter which the committee has had before it, and it was headed at the top "a true copy," as I understood, neither Gen. Babcock nor any of his assistants recognized the handwriting of the anonymous sender; I stated that I did not believe Mr. Wilson had been guilty of writing a letter of that character, and that if it was a practice in business not to pay any attention to anonymous letters; Gen. Babcock stated that that was the course he always pursued, and that he did not think it worth while to show this letter to the President; I understood him to say that it had been shown to Mr. Pierpont and Mr. Brewster; I told him that I thought it would only be an act of justice to Mr. Wilson to send the letter to him; the letter was handed to me to show to Mr. Wilson, and in the course of the day I went to call on him; I handed it to him; he appeared to know all about it, and said that he was not surprised, as he had known that the letter had been sent or stolen from the post-office in St. Louis; he said it was a correct copy of his letter, and after a while he brought out his letter-press copy-book, and read the two copies of the letter; my recollection is that they were identical, except as to the letters "W. H.," which in the anonymous copy were inserted in parentheses after the word "top." Mr. Wilson stated very positively that that letter had no reference whatever to the President or to Gen. Babcock; he only wanted the truth in regard to it to be understood; I told him that according to my understanding it was being held in the hands of the President and that he was not to show it to the President and to state to him the "W. H." was interpolated in the copy, and also to make to the President the same explanation which he had made to me; you will observe that I had a copy of a letter with me, not an original letter, and not purporting to be an original letter, and that the letters "W. H." were not inserted in an original letter and in a different handwriting, as has been asserted, so that I could not have said I saw this forged letter in the original letter.

WESTERN EXPLORATION.

THE WHEELER EXPEDITION PREPARING TO TAKE THE FIELD.

CAMPAIGN NEWS.

GOSPIP AT SARATOGA. VIEWS OF PARTY MEN—TILDEN'S POSITION DISCUSSED—FEELING IN THE SOUTH—STATEMENTS OF JOHN MORRISSEY.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, Aug. 12.—During the past three weeks there has been probably more of that subtle and imperceptible essence called "political influence" at work in Saratoga than in any other village or city in the republic, Washington City perhaps excepted, though those who appear to wield the power are by no means alone the ones who hold the "influence." Governors, ex-Governors, State officers, ward politicians, and those who "work for the good of the party," and who have their own good, meet and hold "conferences." When a politician says a conference is held at the United States or the Grand Union, he means usually that he has seen two or three prominent politicians sitting cross-legged on the benches of the "reading room" for his last race to Congress. Men of both parties commingle and exchange views in a proper spirit of friendliness. Saratoga by this means does more annually for the health of the body politic than for the physical perfection of the American people. It is only those "stump" speakers, who never come to Saratoga, who disgust the masses with transparent vituperation and debating partisanship. Owing partly to the return of hot weather and partly to several important departures, the political horizon looks unusually plain to-day. But there is plenty of talk from acknowledged political oracles, whose views are of value in casting the homopoe of the country for the next four years. Republicans who reason carefully and get their data from the same long experience which has made them august and gray—and I might add, modest, else their opinions would gather additional weight with less impersonality—have given expression to the following views: The Democrats are fighting on the defensive in everything. St. Louis after Cincinnati, and in this State the Democratic Convention is to follow the Republican. These are only two instances. They began to follow at a safe distance from the Republicans long before St. Louis, and they occupy the same position after New York. Republicans think, mainly because they have frittered away their opportunity for soft money. The defensive play did not affect the result at St. Louis. Tilden had the Democratic party in training for his nomination before the Republicans met at Cincinnati. The majority shall be displayed in "fixing things" may be extended to a National Convention, but Republicans launch at the thought that such political management can effect much in a National canvass. Tilden's political craft cropped out so disastrously in his letter of acceptance that the unprepared party has been broken off. The automaton in politics may be suited to a locality where there was more than a local interest, but it can have no effect in a national influence. Most gratifying surprise to the Republicans has followed Tilden's letter. The Democratic candidates, in their letters, tore the masks from each other's faces. The party is committed to soft money by its own platform provisions partially, but mainly by the great soft money majority which made Gov. Tilden give one step and will pull the minority after him. The men whom Gov. Tilden held his book with Hendricks to catch are probably for soft money. The Senate, which if Tilden is elected, will be in a council, remains a leading position in the Government, however it may be, and will fight resolutely to keep its power under bond and mortgage. A President, if he would do the right thing, is powerless without a party to execute his plans. Republicans believe that the campaign will settle down to a contest between hard-money Republicans and soft-money Democrats. This is a money campaign. Civil service reform means honesty and economy in the expenditure of public money. And when the Republican party defines money to be a medium of value unvarying, something definite and solid on which to build a man's property, the support of the independent voter, who has held aloof for four years, looking for this very thing, is definitely counted for Hayes and Wheeler.

THE VENEZUELA AWARD.

WORTHLESS AND FRAUDULENT CLAIMS ALLOWED—DISHONEST PRACTICES IN THE COMMISSION—JUSTICE TO VENEZUELA URGED.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The report of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Venezuela awards, which was presented on Friday, says the Venezuela Mixed Commission was fully organized on the 18th of April, 1868, consisting of one commissioner appointed by Venezuela, and David M. Talnage appointed by the United States, and an umpire, Machado, appointed by Baron Stockel, Russian Ambassador to the United States. The commission adjourned Aug. 5, 1868. The arbitrator awarded by the two commissioners to the citizens of Venezuela the sum of \$350,188 07, and the amount to be paid by Venezuela, \$350,188 07, and the other report of the commission was \$794,122. The Venezuelan Government insists that Baron Stockel never appointed the person who served as umpire; that he intended to appoint Dr. Philippe Machado, although his appointment read simply Señor Machado. It is also declared that the name of Juan N. Machado, Jr., was inserted in the appointment in a fraudulent manner. The Venezuelan Government, under these circumstances, declares that the findings of the umpire in the making of two-thirds of the awards were utterly void. Our Government holds that the appointment was regular, but the report declares that neither Talnage nor the umpire had been duly appointed. The report says, "in the habit of referring those who had honest claims to a friend, who demanded of him for presenting them to the commission. The committee says it is also proved conclusively that all the certificates that were awarded by the commission were represented by William P. Murray, brother-in-law of the American Minister (Talnage) and Talnage, the commissioner himself acting in the double capacity of judge and attorney." The report also states that the American commissioner, in the name of that of William H. Aspinwall, of New York, and the other report of the commission was \$794,122. 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