New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXXVIII...No. 11,613. NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1878. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

CONGRESS UP ALL NIGHT.

A STRUGGLE TO FINISH BUSINESS.

THE HOUSE RECKLESS IN ITS TREATMENT OF BILLS—BUTLER AND COX GET UP A SPECIAL ROW OF THEIR OWN—A LABORIOUS TIME IN BOTH BRANCHES.

Both branches of Congress were in session all day yesterday, and until long after midnight. The House defeated the bill to pay the Fisheries Award after a scene of excitement and confusion, in which the Speaker twice sent the Sergeant-at-Arms to General Butler to make him take his seat. That gentleman and S. S. Cox were the leaders of the fight against the bill. The House defeated the Brooklyn Market bill, and passed the Internal Revenue bill amended in a surprising manner, which is explained below. The Senate was occupied principally during the day and evening with the Sundry Civil bill. A Democratic caucus was held during the day.

AN EPISODE IN THE SENATE.

THE SOUTHERN POLICY ATTACKED, AND AN ITEM TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF THE LOUISIANA COMMISSION DEFEATED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The dull monotony of the proceedings in the Senate upon the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill was broken into this afternoon by a half-hour's debate on the question of paying the expenses of the Commission sent by President Hayes to Louisiana last year for the purpose of adjusting the political controversy there. The Committee on Appropriations had reported an amendment making an appropriation for this purpose.

Mr. Spencer expressed surprise that such an amendment could be inserted in the bill. He said that the appointment of this Commission and its work were wholly illegal. It was sent to New-Orleans to turn out the legal or Packard Government, and to set up the Nicholls Government. He thought that its members ought to be censured rather than paid.

Some Senator at this point sent to the Clerk's desk a newspaper clipping containing what purported to be the items of expenditure by the Commission, and they were read.

Mr. Windom, chairman of the committee, said he had never heard of these items before, and knew nothing about them; the committee had accepted the estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Conkling asked Senator Windom if he knew of any law for the appointment of the Commission.

Senator Windom replied that there might be no law for it, but there was no law for nine-tenths of the objects for which appropriations were made in the bill under consideration.

Senator Conkling thought that Mr. Windom must be mistaken, and said that on further consideration the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations would certainly correct his assertion that Congress was called upon to appropriate money for things done without authority of law. Mr. Conkling then called for the yeas and nays, and in a five-minute speech opposed the amendment. He said that a certain condition of affairs existed in Louisiana which called the President to his feet to decide which was the legal government to sustain. He would not say that the President had no right to make an inquiry to ascertain which was the legal government, but that was not what the Commission had done. Its members had gone there instructed, as the letter given them by Secretary Evarts showed, to do something else, which was not authorized either by the Constitution or the laws. He did not believe it wise for Congress to set its stamp of approval upon these proceedings, as it would do by appropriating money to pay the expenses of the Commission.

Mr. Thurman followed, drifting almost immediately into a discussion of the Louisiana question in all its length and breath. He assumed that Mr. Conkling had expressed certain opinions which the latter wholly repudiated, and was proceeding, as the Senator from New-York said, to knock down the man of straw he had set up, when he was reminded that he had already occupied more than the five minutes allotted by the rules of the Senate, under which the discussion was going on.

Mr. McMillan replied to Senator Thurman, declaring that the Packard Government was prevented from exercising its rightful functions by an armed mob, and that the only part the United States troops took in the matter was to preserve order.

Mr. Eustis denied that any mob menaced Governor Packard and his Legislature, and said that Governor Nicholls refrained from interfering with Mr. Packard's occupancy of the State House. The latter remained there 120 days undisturbed, and might have remained there to this day.

Senator Kellogg defended the legality of the Packard Legislature and showed that it had been recognized by the lawful Government of the State, and that it possessed a quorum in both Houses.

The most striking speech of the debate was made by Senator Blaine. He said the only question presented to the Senate was whether Congress should approve the acts of the President and of the Commission by appropriating money to pay its expenses. He did not desire to seem to attack anybody after the fact, but he was not in favor of approving this expenditure, and thus giving sanction to what had been done. Referring to his speech delivered in the Senate on the 8th of March, 1877, in which he said that no man on earth had it in his power to throw a cloud over the title of President Hayes except the President himself, and that Governor Packard was elected by the same votes which placed President Hayes in office, and had the same right to his office which the latter had, Mr. Blaine went on to say that the illegal proceedings of this Commission, which went to Louisiana to toll off enough members from the Packard Legislature into that of Nicholls, in order that Nicholls might be recognized as Governor, were the source of the complications and troubles that have followed since. Nobody ever heard of any attempt by the Commission to establish a Legislature that should recognize Governor Packard. Mr. Blaine spoke with all his usual force and fire, and aroused the entire Senate.

Immediately after his speech a motion to lay the amendment on the table was carried by a vote of 30 in the affirmative to 22 in the negative. Several Senators declared that they voted in the affirmative not because they doubted the wisdom of making this appropriation, but because, at this late day in the session, the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill would certainly fail if the Senate was allowed to drift into a debate on the Louisiana question.

IN THE SENATE AFTER MIDNIGHT.

THE SUNDRY CIVIL BILL STILL PENDING—THE LIBRARY ITEM POSTPONED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17—Midnight.—The Senate has been exceedingly industrious all the evening, and will complete the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill in half an hour. The debate has been of the briefest character, and, except on one or two points, has not been of general interest.

The Senate has failed to make any provision in the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill for the Library of Congress. It may be remembered that the Library Commission reported about two weeks ago in favor of laying the foundations of the new library building in Judiciary Square, one of the most beautiful parks in the centre of the city. Those who advocate the erection of this building on the plateau east of the Capitol, succeeded in inducing the Senate Committee on Appropriations to ignore the report of the Library Commission, and to adopt an amendment directing the Secretary of the Interior to ascertain at what cost the Capitol Hill site could be obtained. The controversy between the advocates of these rival sites was so sharp in the Senate when the subject was reached that the only way to stop a discussion that would endanger the passage of the Appropriation bill was to drop the subject altogether. This was the more to be deplored because Librarian Spofford is already struggling with 60,000 books for which he has no shelf-room, and this postponement will make it impossible to relieve him for a year or two to come.

1:30 a. m.—The Senate is still at work on amendments to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, the one now under consideration being one to pay Southern mail contractors before the war—the same that was defeated in the House earlier in the session.

THE BILL TO DECREASE THE REVENUE.

THE HOUSE FINALLY PASSES IT AFTER A FIGHT—THE MAN WHO REPORTED IT ORIGINALLY COMING OUT AGAINST IT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The House of Representatives devoted the entire day session to the completion of the Internal Revenue Bill. This measure was originally reported from the committee by Mr. Burchard; but it has been so amended that during the afternoon to-day Mr. Burchard surrendered the control of it to Mr. Tucker, announced his determination to vote against it, and moved to lay the bill and amendments on the table.

The most important features of this bill, as it has been amended are, first, the reduction of the tax on manufactured tobacco from 24 cents to 16 cents per pound; the establishment of tobacco warehouses; certain changes in the method and machinery for the collection of the tax upon distilled spirits; and the repeal of the stamp tax upon matches. The bill, as originally reported, contained a section recommended by the Controller of the Currency for the relief of depositors in insolvent banks, whether National, State, or savings.

This section was considered at the Treasury Department as one of the most important features of the bill. It is not thought to be good public policy for the Government to levy a tax upon the property of depositors in National, State or savings banks, a portion of which has already been lost through the insolvency of those banks. The demagogues in the House of Representatives, who are always on the lookout for any opportunity to make an attack upon the banks of the country, mistakenly supposed that this section was for the relief of the banks themselves, and therefore, after a considerable struggle, they succeeded in striking it out. The stockholders and owners of banks had no interest whatever in this legislation, as the remission of the tax proposed was only to take place when its collection would reduce the amount to be paid to depositors.

The reduction of the tobacco tax is a measure upon which those interested in the manufacture and sale of tobacco were divided; but the representatives of Southern manufacturers have been influential enough to carry their point, and the result is the adoption of this amendment.

The repeal of the tax on matches is in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, although the revenue of the Government at the time he wrote his report was in a much more healthy state then than at present. The reason for recommending the repeal of this tax was that it is levied upon an article that enters into universal consumption and more than doubles its cost in the hands of the manufacturers. The amount of revenue collected from matches during the last fiscal year was $2,982,275.

The opponents of the bill made a desperate effort to defeat it to-day by dilatory motions and by insisting on the reading of the engrossed bill when the question was reached. This postponed a vote upon the measure until the evening session, when it was passed.

ACKLIN GETS UP A CAUCUS.

HE GETS, IN RETURN, A TERRIFIC SNUB FROM HIS PARTY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—There was a brief Democratic caucus to-night which was not without its humorous side with reference both to its object and its result. Notwithstanding the mystery surrounding it, there were few members present. It appears to have been called on the personal and individual responsibility of Representative Acklin, the member recently admitted from Louisiana in the place of Darrall. It is well known that all the Republicans and some of the Democrat, believe that Acklin was not elected and that the seat belonged to Darrall. As soon as the doors of the caucus closed Mr. Acklin arose and explained why the caucus had been called. He said there was a Timber bill on the Speaker's table relating to Louisiana, which ought to be taken up and passed. In fact if it was not passed there would not be a Democrat returned to the House from his district. He wanted the Democrats to make a party question of it. Mr. Morrison, who sat near, replied quickly, "O, d— the Timber bills; we've had enough of them. What difference, Acklin, does a few votes make, and can't we count you in as we did before?" A roar of laughter followed, and the caucus melted away without taking any action.

A PANDEMONIUM IN THE HOUSE.

BUTLER AND COX THE LEADING SPIRITS IN THE UPROAR—THE FISHERIES AWARD BILL DEFEATED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The closing days of the session in the House of Representatives have been unlike those of any previous occasion of a similar character in many years. The appropriation bills being out of the way the advocates of a reduction of the tax on tobacco held the House down to work on the bill, which has been the object of effort for several days, and it was finally disposed of between 9 and 10 o'clock this evening. This kept in check those members who had special measures for which they wished to secure attention, but it made their anxiety so much the greater.

As soon as the block was taken from the wheels of legislation, two or three unimportant matters came up and were disposed of, the House getting more and more disorderly, and more and more out of the control of the Speaker.

The excitement culminated when Mr. Crapo obtained the floor and called up the Halifax Fisheries Award Bill. More than a hundred Representatives were on their feet at once, and, before the Clerk had read a dozen lines of the bill, there were objections on all sides; the voices of General Butler and S. S. Cox being heard above the general din. The former said that this was a Senate bill making an appropriation, and was therefore of such a character that it could not originate in that body.

The Speaker, who has been reported as opposed to the bill, showed that he was really in favor of it by saying that the bill did not originate in the Senate at all, but that though identical with one passed by the Senate, it was by his suggestion reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A Pennsylvania Representative then made the point that as the bill contemplated an appropriation, it must go to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The Speaker sustained this point, but Mr. Crapo, at once moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

All this time there was a scene of the wildest confusion on the floor. General Butler, determined to be heard and to defeat the bill, was attempting to address the House, while his voice was drowned by the shouts of his associates and the noise of the Speaker's gavel. The only words spoken by him that could be heard in the gallery were the declaration that the House was in a great hurry to get rid of $5,000,000, and an appeal for the privilege to speak five minutes against the bill.

S. S. Cox, too, was on his feet, making a great deal of noise, but his words were not audible.

Mr. Waddell complained that the Speaker was not recognizing member in the order in which they had applied to him.

The Speaker replied that he reserved the right to recognize members out of that order to facilitate the transaction of important public business; this bill was international in its operation, being in pursuance of a treaty made by two nations.

General Butler shouted out that only a part of a nation had approved this.

Mr. S. S. Cox began to make dilatory motions, and in the midst of the most tumultuous disorder General Butler attempted to make his speech. The shouting was kept up. The Speaker pounded in vain, and finally sent the Sergeant-at-Arms to put down General Butler. This caused great laughter and applause. At a subsequent stage of the proceedings the Speaker was obliged to send the Sergeant-at-Arms again to General Butler; and Mr. Thompson stood at his side for several minutes until the call of the roll actually began, and then the Speaker released him.

To pass the bill under a suspension of the rules required a two-thirds vote, and this it failed to get, the count standing 155 in the affirmative to 87 in the negative. It is difficult to see how this bill can be got into a position where it can be passed without a two-thirds vote, but it is still hoped that it will not fail, as that would probably make another extra session necessary. The Senate will probably help the House out of its scrape by putting the Fisheries Award upon the Sundry Civil Appropriation.

TELEGRAPHIC TALK WITH SHERMAN.

VARIOUS MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE ANXIOUS TO KNOW THE SECRETARY'S PURPOSES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The friends of the Senate bill permitting 4 per cent bonds to be purchased with legal-tender notes and directing that greenbacks may be received for customs have been busy to-day planning to secure action upon the bill in the House of Representatives. Mr. Fort, of Illinois, and Mr. Phillips, of Kansas, have been leading in the matter. General Ewing has been quite as active as they in his efforts to organize its defeat. He proposes that its consideration be postponed until December. As a part of his tactics he has made various extraordinary statements about Secretary Sherman's intentions if the Senate bill should pass. To ascertain exactly what Secretary Sherman's purposes would be, Representative Phillips has had the following telegraphic correspondence with Secretary Sherman:

I.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 17, 1878.

The Hon. JOHN SHERMAN, *Secretary of the Treasury*:

Several members desire to know if the House agrees to the Senate substitute for the bill to repeal the Resumption Act if there is danger of legal-tenders, taken for 4 per cent bonds, being locked up, or if they will not only be paid out for current expenses, but any surplus there may be used in retiring bonds bearing a higher rate of interest. Respectfully, WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS.

II.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1878.

To the Hon. W. A. PHILLIPS:

My intention and expectation is to apply all the proceeds of 4 per cent bonds, whether sold for United States notes or coin, to the redemption of 5-20 6 per cent bonds. Hope the House may make the power to receive United States notes for customs duties discretionary instead of compulsory. Respectfully, JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

III.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 17, 1878.

The Hon. JOHN SHERMAN, *Secretary Treasury*.

Your answer does not cover the question whether you will keep in circulation the legal-tender notes receivable for customs, or whether they will be hoarded, so as to produce contraction. W. A. PHILLIPS.

IV.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1878.

The Hon. W. A. PHILLIPS.

I certainly would obey the law in letter and spirit, and would seek to keep in circulation all the United States notes *that could be maintained at par with coin*. Notes received for duties *could* be used in the purchase of coin or bullion. JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

THE HOUSE'S NIGHT SESSION.

THE MEMBERS SUBSIDE TO CALMNESS AFTER MIDNIGHT, BUT NOT TO REASON.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—At midnight, the House by a two-thirds vote resolved to go to business on the Speaker's table, the agreement being that no debate should take place on any measure, and that no bill should be passed except by a two-thirds vote. The House had by this time subsided into a condition of comparative order, and it seemed as though considerable important business might yet be transacted before adjournment.

1 A. M.—The House after half an hour's debate has defeated the bill providing for the sale of certain Government property in Brooklyn, adjoining the Navy Yard, by sending it to the Committee of the Whole. The opposition to this measure was of the most senseless character, and was made by Representatives who knew nothing of the merits of the question. For instance, it was said that this was not an advantageous time to sell property, and that the bill proposed to squander public property; but the House was afraid of a "job," and would not listen to reason on the subject.

1:30 A. M.—The House having received word from the Senate that the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill would not be completed for several hours, an attempt to carry a vote for a recess was made, and was defeated on the count by tellers. The roll is now being called on this question.

THE LATEST FROM CONGRESS.

THE HOUSE TAKES A RECESS AT 2:45 A. M.—THE SENATE STILL AT IT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 18—2:45 A. M.—The House has done nothing since it voted to go to business on the Speaker's table. All debate being cut off, a large minority are suspicious of jobs, and have refused to allow any business to be done. A vote to take a recess until 10 a. m. has just passed.

The Senate is still busy on amendments to the Sundry Civil bill, with a prospect of passing the bill about daylight.

The enrolling clerks of the House and the most experienced clerks of the Senate agree that it will be a physical impossibility to adjourn at 4 o'clock to-day. It will require at least nine hours to enroll the Sundry Civil bill after it comes from the Senate.

4 A. M.—Before the House adjourned, it passed several bills removing the political disabilities of Southern men, among them being E. Kirby Smith.

The Senate is still at work on the Sundry Civil bill. The amendment providing for the payment of certain Southern mail contractors for services before the war, was offered by Mr. Merrimon. The Senate, by a vote of 31 to 21, decided that it was germane to the bill. Mr. Conkling made a point of order against it; but another vote resulted in again declaring it to be in order. Mr. Merrimon then made several verbal changes in the amendment, and it was adopted, 28 to 22. It was then resolved that no contractor should be compensated if already paid, this being adopted on Mr. Wadleigh's motion. Mr. Blaine wanted it arranged that contractors should give bond to pay back to the United States any money which it should afterward appear had already been paid to them. Mr. Saulsbury thought this preposterous. Mr. Blaine said that Congress must protect the Treasury. Mr. Conkling corroborated this, and said he believed that these were dishonest claimants. He spoke very strongly. Mr. Gordon objected to these men being called rascals as a class.

At 3:15 a. m., the Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock.

OHIO'S CONVICT LEGISLATOR.

O'CONNER ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH FRAUDS IN THE COLLECTION OF BOUNTIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

COLUMBUS, June 17.—It was hoped that John O'Conner, the bounty-jumper, deserter, convict, and late expelled member of the House of Representatives, had left the State and that no more would be heard of him. A few days since he left this city for Chicago, but was picked up by the United States Marshal at Indianapolis and brought back, and is now held in custody, the charges being that while an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, he acted as claim agent for the collection of bounties. It is alleged that he issued fraudulent physicians' certificates; but whether he ever obtained payment on these claims has not yet been disclosed. Mr. J. Dunn, Special Agent of the Pension Bureau, is now here investigating the matter. Rumor is current that the case is a clear one against O'Conner, but the officers will make no disclosures until the investigation is completed.

BUNKER HILL.

CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE.

BOSTON, June 17.—The one hundred and third anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill was celebrated here to-day as a general holiday. Business was suspended and the public buildings were closed. Bunker Hill Monument, the public squares and a large number of residences in Charlestown were gaily decorated. Salutes were fired, bells were rung at sunrise, noon and sunset, and band concerts were given morning and evening. The principal military feature was the visit of the 2d Connecticut Regiment, 550 strong. They were received by the 5th Massachusetts Regiment, and with them paraded the streets and visited Bunker Hill Monument in the forenoon, where they were reviewed by Governor Rice and staff and other dignitaries, military and civic. Other military organizations and the army and navy Veteran Corps also paraded. The day was also observed at Haverhill, Lynn, Winthrop and other places.

INCIDENTS AT THE CAPITAL.

GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL NEWS.

GLOVER'S METHODS SHOWN TO BE PECULIAR—LINDERMAN—APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Dr. Linderman replies to the attacks upon him by Mr. Glover. It appears that the Republican members of the committee were not informed about the investigation. One of Glover's assistants tried to buy silence of an innocent man for $1,000. Major Reno desires an investigation of the Custer massacre. Two District Commissioners have been appointed.

DR. LINDERMAN NOT FRIGHTENED.

GLOVER'S "INVESTIGATION" AN AFFAIR OF THE MOST ONE-SIDED AND INIQUITOUS DESCRIPTION—WHAT LINDERMAN SAYS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Republican members of Mr. Glover's committee report that no consultation has been held with them in regard to the accusations against Dr. Linderman. The Republican member of the sub-committee which was appointed to inquire into this matter has not even been informed in regard to it. The whole evidence submitted by Dr. Linderman in defence was taken at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and he had not even been examined by the committee when the so-called report was given out. A Republican member of the committee, who has heard all the testimony, says there is not a particle in it which reflects upon him that is not wholly hearsay.

Dr. Linderman says that Mr. Glover has treated him with conspicuous unfairness. The director says that no report has been made by the Glover committee, and that, so far as he knows, the investigation has not been finished. He says that the credible and legal testimony before the committee does not and cannot convict him of any improper official conduct, nor show anything against his integrity as a man. The testimony to his prejudice is simply hearsay, and would not be received by any court in the land. Dr. Linderman also asserts that the whole case against him has been made up by discharged employés, and that it is nothing less than a conspiracy. He says that he does not propose to fight the case in the newspapers, nor does he intend to take any steps until the report and the testimony are before the public. Dr. Linderman does not deny specific facts, and will not say whether he employed his son, whether he dealt in Bonanza stocks, whether his family received $1,000 from the San Francisco Mint, nor whether he employed persons of improper character contrary to law. He is very defiant, however.

Dr. Linderman says Glover's vindictiveness has been known to him for months. As far back as April Mr. Glover wrote a letter to a gentleman threatening Dr. Linderman, and indicating an intention to destroy him. This letter is now in the director's possession, and shows that Mr. Glover, on the day it was written, went to the President and asked for Linderman's removal. The whole force of the Mint Bureau is being employed on the books, and it is the impression that Mr. Glover will let nothing except garbled reports of the testimony go out, but will keep everything in its one-sided shape until Dr. Linderman's term of office is about to expire in December next, and then use it to defeat his reappointment.

A PATRON OF BLACKMAILERS.

A SPECIMEN OF THE KIND OF MEN THAT SURROUND GLOVER AND SUGGEST TO HIM INVESTIGATIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Some of Mr. Glover's assistants have been attempting to do a thriving business in the blackmailing line. Investigation took place into the condition of affairs in the Second Auditor's office, and one of the men who had something to do with it has since approached some of the officers of that bureau and suggested that some one making the original accusations would retract and withdraw them if he was paid $1,000. Of course, this offer was refused. The fact is, Glover's committee, in the case of the Second Auditor, even found it unnecessary to take any evidence in defence, and informed the Auditor, officially, that the testimony was for the prosecution only, none other having been taken. The committee said that there was nothing found against the office.

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

THE PRESIDENT'S TWO CIVILIAN NOMINEES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The President has selected for the two civilian Commissioners of the District of Columbia Mr. Josiah Dent and Captain S. Ledyard Phelps. The former of these gentlemen is a resident of Georgetown, and is a lawyer and a prominent member of the Committee of One Hundred, through whose influence legislation in the interest of the District of Columbia has been secured from the present Congress. His appointment is understood to be not acceptable to the members of the District Ring and on that account will probably commend itself to a majority of the citizens of Washington and Georgetown. Captain Phelps has been a Commissioner for several years, and has given very good satisfaction by his administration. Several members of the Cabinet are reported to have disapproved of these nominations. If either or both of these nominations should be defeated through the failure of the Senate to act upon them, the President would be authorized to commission them, as no vacancies in the offices they have been appointed to fill have occurred during the session of the Senate. The engineer officer who is to serve on the Commission will not have to be confirmed by the Senate. Colonel Casey is reported to have declined the place when it was offered to him. Generals Wright, Gilmore and Colonel Poe are mentioned as the officers from whom the President is likely to select the third Commissioner.

A DEMAND BY MAJOR RENO.

HE ASKS BANNING THAT HIS CONDUCT IN THE CUSTER FIGHT BE INVESTIGATED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Major Reno, whose conduct at the time of the Custer massacre has been severely criticised, has addressed the following letter to General Banning, chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs:

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1878.

The Hon. H. B. BANNING, *M. C., Chairman Committee on Military Affairs*:

SIR: Having read in a New-York newspaper of the 13th instant that your committee had "decided to report favorably to the House a resolution directing an investigation into the Custer massacre, and that a resolution for a sub-committee to sit in recess and send for persons and papers would be presented," which action was based on a letter addressed to the Hon. W. W. Corlett, Delegate from Wyoming, by one Frederick Whittaker, I beg leave to inform you that I have come to Washington to express personally to your committee my earnest desire that the contemplated investigation be ordered as soon as practicable. During the last two years I have been compelled to suffer the circulation of various malignant reports concerning this affair and myself, emanating, it is presumed, from the same irresponsible source. This being the first time that their author, perhaps emboldened by my silence, has ventured to give them definite shape, I respectfully demand that I may have this opportunity to vindicate my character and record which have been thus wickedly assailed. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. RENO, Major 17th Cavalry.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

A PROMISING COTTON CROP.

WASHINGTON, Monday, June 17, 1878.

The June returns to the Department of Agriculture indicate an increase of fully 3 per cent in the area planted in cotton. The percentages as compared with the average of 1877 are: Virginia, 100; North Carolina, 101; South Carolina, 103; Georgia, 102; Florida, 100; Alabama, 104; Mississippi, 100; Louisiana, 101; Texas, 106; Arkansas, 98, and Tennessee, 98. The condition of the crop is better than in June of last year. The figures are as follows: Virginia, 88; North Carolina, 87; South Carolina, 99; Georgia, 101; Florida, 98; Alabama, 101; Mississippi, 98; Louisiana, 98; Texas, 104; Arkansas, 98; Tennessee, 97. The general average of condition is 99. The stand is generally good. In limited districts it is imperfect in consequence of the planting of seed of impaired vitality. The season is earlier than the last by an average of ten days. In a few localities a difference of from three to four weeks is claimed in favor of the present crop. The comparatively low condition in North Carolina is due to wet weather and cool nights. In several districts in Georgia the best prospect for many years is claimed. In Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, rains have been frequent, and in some districts injuriously heavy. Very favorable weather has been enjoyed in Texas. Few insects are reported. Fields are unusually clean in culture, and labor is increasing in efficiency.

MORE STATIONS ON THE COAST.

The Senate, on motion of Senator Conkling, passed without amendment this morning the Cox bill reorganizing and extending the Life Saving Service. As there is no question concerning the prompt signature of this bill by the President, it is sure to become a law. This bill contains the provisions recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury and the present Chief of the Life Saving Service, Mr. Kimball; and its passage will insure the immediate reorganization of the service, and a great increase in its efficiency.

NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day:

Josiah Dent and S. L. Phelps to be Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the terms of one and two years from July 1.

George Eyster to be Assistant United States Treasurer at Philadelphia.

Clement Biddle, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Surgeon in the Navy.

Edward F. Taylor to be Register of the Land Office at Sacramento, Cal.

Edward C. Kemble, of New-York, to be Indian Agent at Crow Creek Agency, Dakota.

William W. Dewhurst to be Postmaster at St. Augustine, Fla.

Ordnance Department—Captains Lawrence S. Babbitt and William A. Maryc to be majors; First Lieutenants John E. Green and John Pitman, to be captains; First Lieutenant Rogers Birnie, jr., of the 13th Infantry, and Second Lieutenant Ira MacNutt, of the 3d Artillery, to be first lieutenants of Ordnance.

Artillery promotions—Second Lieutenant Arthur Murray to be first lieutenant; Additional Second Lieutenant Francis P. Blair to be second lieutenant, and also Second Lieutenant B. H. Gilman to be first lieutenant of the 13th Infantry.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE MENACED.

BERLIN ALARMED AT TIDINGS OF ANOTHER PLOT—MANY SOCIALISTS ARRESTED.

LONDON, Tuesday, June 18, 1878.

The Standard publishes the following telegram from Berlin yesterday:

"A report received from Vienna of a meditated attempt on the life of the Crown Prince Frederick William caused some sensation here to-day. One hundred and thirty Socialists were arrested to-night at the Tivoli Biergarten, near this city."

FEARS OF REACTION IN FRANCE.

LONDON, Monday, June 17, 1878.

A Paris letter says: "Some apprehension prevails lest a new attempt be made to put a reactionary Ministry in control of the Government, for the purpose of influencing the coming Senatorial elections. Such a step would be the last desperate effort of the Monarchists to prevent the firm establishment of the republic, and leave the question of the revision or the Constitution open three years longer. Unless the coming elections can be influenced in some such way, the Republicans are sure to obtain a majority in the Senate. It is impossible to predict whether President MacMahon will lend himself to such an intrigue, because his character is little understood. The most significant fact giving ground for Republican fears is the dictatorial attitude adopted by the War Minister toward the Left in the latter part of the session. The Conservative newspapers have also been publishing threatening articles. The Conservatives rely on German support, in consequence of the Anti-Social movement."

MINISTERS KASSON AND STOUGHTON.

LONDON, Tuesday, June 18, 1878.

The Times understands that nothing is known at the United States Legation, in Vienna, of any request for the appearance of Minister Kasson before the Potter Investigation Committee at Washington.

The Hon. E. W. Stoughton, the American Minister to Russia, writes to the press repudiating all complicity in the proceedings which form the subject of investigation.

THE GREAT FRENCH RACE.

PARIS, Monday, June 17, 1878.

Prince Soltykoff's horse Thurio ran the race for the grand prize of 20,000 on Sunday, in 3m. 22s. Cannon was the jockey. The betting was five to one against Thurio, who is an English horse.

THE GERMAN LIBERAL PLATFORM.

BERLIN, Monday, June 17, 1878.

The leaders of the National Liberals, in view of the approaching elections in Germany, have issued manifestoes declaring that the party will support all proposals for the protection of order which do not jeopardize the permanent guarantees of liberty.

THE MEXICAN DISTURBANCES.

MACKENZIE'S FORCES TO BE PURSUED IF ON MEXICAN SOIL.

GALVESTON, June 17.—A telegram to *The News* from Eagle Pass, Texas, says the Mexican Government having discovered that General Mackenzie is on their soil with American troops, has ordered Colonel Nuncio, falsely reported dead, to take a hundred soldiers and go after General Mackenzie. His troops being poorly mounted, it is not expected he will overtake General Mackenzie. General Naranjo is expected to arrive at Piedras Negras in a few days to assume command of the department, vice General Falcon, deceased. The general impression is that the revolution is a failure.

THE SOMERVILLE FIRE.

AN EXTENSIVE PORK PACKING ESTABLISHMENT BURNED—THE LOSS BETWEEN SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS—THE INSURANCE.

BOSTON, June 17.—At 10:30 o'clock last night a fire broke out in one of the main buildings of the extensive pork slaughtering and curing establishment of Charles H. North & Co., on Medford-st., Somerville. Owing to its highly inflammable character, the flames spread rapidly, and all save one building were destroyed. The loss is estimated at between $700,000 and $800,000. There is an insurance of $150,000. The buildings constituted a continuous chain of structures six in number, and two main ones of brick, six stories high, and covered an area of four acres. Extensive cellars extended under the whole range, in which a large amount of meat was stored, in various stages of curing. Besides the buildings and machinery, and the meat in the cellars, 1,200 newly slaughtered hogs, 1,300 live hogs, 1,000 tierces, 1,000 cases and 800 barrels of lard, a large amount of bacon and 1,500 barrels of glue were destroyed. Also, two frame tenement house were burned and ten others were slightly damaged. The fire departments of this city and Cambridge were summoned, but could only prevent the spread of the flames to the adjacent buildings. Only one accident is reported. A man fell from a building and broke his leg. Some twenty families were turned out in anticipation of a general conflagration, and loss was occasioned in the excitement of hasty moving. Five hundred men are thrown out of employment.

The insurance is as follows:

Amazon, Cincinnati	$25,000	Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	$2,500
Standard, Trenton, N. J.	2,500	Orient, Hartford, Conn.	2,000
Manhattan, N. Y.	6,800	Security, N. Y.	2,000
Hoffman, N. Y.	5,500	Standard, N. Y.	2,500
Imperial, London	5,000	Gebhard, N. Y.	2,500
British-American	2,500	St. Paul, Minn.	2,500
Sun, Philadelphia	700	Springfield	2,500
Philadelphia	1,500	Guardian, N. Y.	2,500
Alliance, Boston	4,500	Lorillard, N. Y.	2,000
Meriden, Meriden, Conn.	2,500	National, N. Y.	1,500
Commercial, N. Y.	2,000	Gloucester	2,500
Girard, Philadelphia	2,000	Com'wealth, Boston	2,500
Northern, Philadelphia	2,000	La Caisse Générale, Paris	3,500
Irving, Philadelphia	2,500	Imperial and Northern, London	3,000
Home Mutual, Boston	2,500	Newark City, N. J.	1,500
Roger Williams, Providence, R. I.	5,000	Underwriters' N. Y.	2,500
Union, Philadelphia	2,500	Virginia, Richm'd	2,500
Reading	1,500	Fairfield, South Norwalk, Conn.	2,500
Franklin, Boston	2,500	Equitable, Providence, R. I.	2,000
Star, N. Y.	2,500	Exchange, N. Y.	2,500
Union, Galveston	2,500	Faneuil Hall, Boston	2,500
Revere, Boston	2,500	Atlantic, N. Y.	2,500
Shawmut, Boston	4,500	People's, Newark, N. J.	2,500
St. Joseph, Mo.	7,500	Royal Canadian, Montreal	2,500
Western, Toronto	2,500	Enterprise, Cincinnati	2,500
American, St. Louis	2,500	Lamar, N. Y.	2,500
Germania, N. Y.	2,500	Merchants', Providence, R. I.	1,500
Toledo	1,500	M'nfrs', Newark, N. J.	2,000
Citizens', St. Louis	1,250	Delaware, Wilmington, Del.	2,500
Newark, Newark, N. J.	2,500		
Fire Association, Philadelphia	3,500		
Granite, Richmond, Va.	2,500		
Buffalo, Buffalo, N. Y.	5,000		

VALLEY FORGE CENTENNIAL.

POTTSTOWN, Penn., June 17.—The Valley Forge Celebration Committee held a meeting to-day. Reports indicate that the celebration on Wednesday will be a successful affair. The large tent, capable of holding 10,000 people, was erected this morning.

WIFE MURDER AND SUICIDE.

AUBURN, N. Y., June 17.—Thomas Wilkinson, of Locke, Cayuga County, murdered his wife yesterday, by shooting her three times through the breast. He then shot himself through the heart, causing instant death. His wife had refused to live with him.

PEACE-MAKING AT BERLIN.

THE PROCEEDINGS TARDY.

THE CLAIMS OF GREECE TO A SEAT CONSIDERED—THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT DOUBTED.

The members of the European Congress were three hours in session yesterday. They considered the claim of Greece to representation, but left the matter undecided. The Bulgarian question was also under discussion. The Congress adjourned to Thursday. The British Government says the alleged Anglo-Turkish agreement was printed surreptitiously and is incomplete.

THE CONGRESS AGAIN IN SESSION.

THE ADMISSION OF GREECE STILL IN DOUBT.

BERLIN, Monday, June 17, 1878.

The Congress met at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The sitting lasted until nearly 5 o'clock. Prince Gortschakoff was present.

NO FIXED PROGRAMME PREPARED.

LONDON, Monday, June 17, 1878.

Reuter's telegram from Berlin denies the statements that a programme of proceedings for each sitting of the Congress has been definitively fixed. It reports that the question of the admission of Greece to the Congress was brought forward to-day, but no decision was reached. The question has assumed more importance than was at first expected. France, England, and perhaps Germany will support the admission of Greece. Russia and Italy may possibly oppose it from apprehension that Greece, under British protection, might become a great Oriental power, and a formidable rival to the Slavs. Confidence in a peaceful result