YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

A SOLID SENATOR IN FAVOR OF SPECIE PAYMENT.

The Fourth of July, 1876, the Time to Be Celebrated—A Proposed Commission to Investigate the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic—Commissioners to Represent the Centennial Exposition Next in Order.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Petitions were presented by Mr. Boutwell, Sherman, Ferry, Ames, Chandler, Antoney, and others, from citizens in various parts of the country, for legislation conferring upon commissioned officers of the navy the rank of admiral. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Wells (Rep.), Va., from the Finance Committee, reported favorably on the bill explanatory of the act to regulate the collection of duties on imports, and tonnage of March 3, 1799. This is the bill introduced by Senator Pomeroy on the 5th of December last. It provides that the language contained in the act referred to shall not be construed as to vitiate or involve the confiscation of an entire invoice in consequence of any item or items contained in the same being undervalued, but that such confiscation shall apply only to the merchandise actually undervalued in said invoice.

The bill provides that the President shall appoint, with the consent of the Senate, five Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to investigate the liquor traffic in its economic, criminal, moral and scientific aspects, in connection with pauperism, crime, social vice, and the public health and general welfare of the people; and to report at a reasonable time any such testimony as to the best means of a wise and effective legislation for the prevention of intemperance in the land. These Commissioners are to be selected with reference to personal fitness for an honest, impartial, and thorough inquiry, and shall hold office not to exceed two years. Neither of them shall be a member of Congress, or have any pecuniary interest in the liquor traffic in any form, or be in any way connected with the Government. They are to receive no compensation but the Government is to pay the actual expenses of the investigation. Their report is to be made to the President, and to be transmitted to Congress.

A WHISKEY COMMISSION.

Mr. Kelley, Rep., Penn., from the Finance Committee, reported back a bill providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate the subject of the revenue laws, and to report a measure in the nature of a substitute, and recommended that it be passed. Referred to the Calendar.

Mr. Ingalls, Rep., Kan., introduced a bill to admit Arizona and New Mexico Railroad Company to the right of way through the Indian Territory. Referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

Mr. Butler, Rep., Tenn., introduced a resolution forbidding the publication of remarks in the Congressional Record of any portion of a speech which the member shall deliver outside of the Senate or House of Representatives. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

AN INVITATION TO INDEFINITE RESUMPTION.

Mr. Wells, Rep., Va., introduced the resolution reported by the Committee on Finance, declaring it to be the sense of Congress that the United States notes should be redeemed in coin, and that the faith and further currency of the United States should be redeemable in gold or silver when resumed.

Mr. Sherman, Rep., Ohio, said our country was now on a specie basis, and the promise to pay of Congress was equal to gold in the face of the earth, yet our bonds issued thereon were not equal to gold. It was not in our power to undertake to compel the payment of our bonds in gold. We had put ourselves on a level with the commercial nations of the earth, and to do this we had to use a gold and silver currency. Until we establish a medium of exchange based upon gold and silver, we can never have the advantages of money. He advocated an immediate resumption, and said that the greenbacks of the United States had lost 20 per cent. in all their exchanges from the time the greenback system began in 1861 till now. If the greenback should continue to depreciate, it would continue, and if the party in Congress and the country should stand by it, it would not only actually, but the faith of the Government has been pledged. He was surprised that

NOT A SINGLE DEFINITE PLAN

by which we could get back to specie payment had been proposed. The 4th of July, 1876, would be the centennial of our independence, and he trusted that glorious events would transpire on that day, one of them a return to specie payments. Let the gold accumulate in the Treasury over and above all other demands, and let the interest on the public debt be paid in gold. If that would not be sufficient, put a five per cent. bond on the market which would bring gold at par on the 4th day of July, 1876. Let every dollar of greenbacks be redeemed in coin. In the mean time let the volume of currency be increased to the amount of four hundred millions instead of sixty millions, which was not enough by at least one hundred millions. The trouble was not over anywhere in the country, New York and New England were credit States, and had to pay dues there from all sections of the country, and could not do it in greenbacks. It was scarcity of it there, but to obtain it in a national security equal to the money itself was the purpose. He spoke of the unequal distribution of the currency and

THE PRESSING NEEDS OF THE SOUTH

on account thereof. He denied that the currency was redundant as compared with the circulation of France and England. Those countries were densely populated, and their exchange was small. Another hundred millions of currency would be absorbed, had many debts contracted under it. The agreements were that these should be liquidated in greenbacks. Now it is proposed to compel all the currency, which is to be used in the payment in a more valuable currency than that in which the debts were contracted. It would postpone the time for specie resumption until July 4, 1876, on account of the country being based on this currency, and by putting it off till that time there would be the monetary system devised by the Commission, and would enable their business to stand on that, so that it would adjust itself to the new system. He was opposed to the national banking system, and thought it a vast monopoly, based upon credit, and essentially a paper system, and therefore 20 per cent. less valuable than specie. The business should belong to the people, and not to the Government. He thought it was time for Congress to grant a charter for a GREAT NATIONAL BANK,

let the stock at $25 each, so that the whole country could participate. Let the capital be hundred millions of dollars, one-half in the various States. In time of war such a bank would be a great relief to the Government in its national benefit. Sectional interests would be done away with, and the Government would be relieved from the burden of borrowing money. Congress do something to encourage the industries, industries more than the result.

Mr. Blaine, of Maine, said he moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Pacific railroad bill, which motion was lost—yeas 26, nays 26, the doors reopened and business resumed.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Hoar, Rep., Vt., from the Judiciary Committee, reported back a bill authorizing the Legislature of the several organized Territories, except Utah, to provide a regular session to make an appointment of the Judges to hold courts in the districts, and where the Legislature fails to do so then the Judges of such Territory shall have authority to continue in force till the closest the next regular session of the Legislature. He explained that the exception of Utah was no new legislation, but that there the Congress made the appointment of Judges. The bill was passed.

Mr. Kelley (Rep., Pa.), from the select Committee on the Centennial Exposition, reported a bill reciting that at the various international exposition that have been held in foreign countries the United States had been represented by the receipt of invitations given by the Governments of those countries, and requesting the President to extend in the name of the United States a respectful and cordial invitation to the Government of other nations to be represented at the International Exposition to be held at Philadelphia under the auspices of the Government of the United States in the year 1876.

Mr. Butler, Rep., Mass., inquired whether Congress would not be required to make appropriations to carry the matter through.

Mr. Kelley replied that that question was not involved in this bill at all.

Mr. Butler, Rep., Mass., warned the House that the time was to get the President and Secretary of State supplied with money to this great Philadelphia celebration, and that if this bill passed it would be called on within the next two years for appropriations ranging from FIVE TO TEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Mr. Kelley said that Mr. Hale misapprehended alike the purpose and scope of the bill. The invitation to foreign Governments had been extended by the President in the official form to foreign Governments that Prince Bismarck had brought it home to the attention of his Government, and had formally accepted the invitation. Other Governments had done the same. The Government of the United States, however, disclaimed that it was in any sense a party to extend an invitation in its own name. The Government would be put to no expense, for it paid the expenses of its own Commissioners to London, Paris, and Vienna. Every other nation had done the same, and every nation would pay the expenses of its own Commissioners to the Philadelphia Exposition. The gentleman from Maine had put the amount which the Government would be called upon for a hundred millions of dollars, and the United States. In time of war such a sum would be a great relief to the Government in its national benefit. Sectional interests would be done away with, and the Government would be relieved from the burden of borrowing money. Congress do something to encourage the industries, industries more than the result.

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