POLITICAL ENTOMOLOGY.

SUNSET COX SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE MOTH QUESTION.

Applied Science in Congress—Mysterious Analogies of Nature and Politics—The Lackey Moth of the White House and the Hawk Moth of the Army.

In the House of Representatives Feb. 6, during the discussion of the Army Appropriation bill, the question of an appropriation of $50,000 for the use of a preparation to preserve woolen and cotton fabrics from mildew being before the House, Mr. Cox said:

I move to strike out of the bill "$50,000," and insert "$25,000." It is too much money should be given for preserving from moths the cassimeres, kerseys, cottons, tents, and clothing on hand.

This House was hardly prepared for the statement of the gentleman from New York (Mr. Wheeler) that there were $7,500,000 worth of uniforms on hand.

Mr. Wheeler—Not of uniforms, but of clothing, blankets, tents, &c., growing out of the stock accumulated during the war.

Mr. Cox—I know, sir, that every day these articles are wasting. Hence these appropriations. The money is to be preservative of the clothes and tents on hand.

I have a report before me from Quartermaster-General Meigs—perhaps the best officer in our service. It shows that we are spending hundreds of thousands to fight moths. They are worse than domestic or foreign enemies.

Before I come to the point, I may refer to the report of Quartermaster Bingham, of Dec. 30, 1872? This report shows that then we had $23,435,821.27 in woolen clothing and tents—mostly the former. This did not then include some forty-two thousand blankets, worth $128,000. Nor did this include coats, jackets, trousers, flannel sacks, blankets, goods made up, and not made up. These items run into the millions, and the moths run into them. [Laughter.]

FOOD FOR MOTHS.

Here are $8,000,000 worth of coats, jackets, and trousers. Nearly eight hundred thousand of these articles of apparel for an army of thirty thousand. Our appropriation is a dollar and sixty-six and two-thirds cents per soldier—not per month. Omitting the woollen blankets and "mounted great coats" for the cavalry, I suppose, for the "sky-blue kerseys," there is a splendid objective point for the army of moths, which no great general of that corps should omit to attack, if feeling well. Did the moths fail, if they did, what need of this appropriation?

In this list we have at least one million and a quarter yards of flannel not made up. We have millions of dollars of this peculiar woollen property not yet made up into uniforms.

It is subject to the attack of the moth. A large part of this is still on hand, either in uniform or otherwise. The gentleman confesses to seven millions. Now, according to the report of the Quartermaster-General just referred to, there were $600,000 appropriated in a couple of years last past for a peculiar kind of process, which is said to prevent moths getting into this cloth and clothing. The Quartermaster-General in this report asks this Congress this year for $100,000. I copy his statement:

The expenditures on account of the moth and mildew proof process of George A. Cowles & Co. during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, were $300,000. This includes $200,000 appropriated for that purpose during the last fiscal year. To prepare such articles of woollen and cotton fabrics on hand as may be found to be susceptible to the process, an additional sum of $100,000 has been asked in the estimate for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Wheeler—And we give them half of it.

Mr. Cox—Why do you reduce? You give them $50,000. I know that. I still propose to reduce it. I do not understand whether we can by law sell out all this cloth and clothing at once. I do.

Mr. Wheeler rose.

Mr. Cox—The gentleman knows I have only five minutes, and he must not interrupt me.

Mr. Wheeler—I will not trench on the time of the gentleman.

THE VALUE OF MOTHEATEN CLOTHES.

Mr. Cox—You can get the floor at any time. I would prefer, rather than be fighting moths at such an immense expense, to give these uniforms away. Observe those eminent colored men in the gallery. They sit with us so regularly. [Great laughter.] They toil not (laughter), neither do they spin. They are the lilies of the valley. Yet Solomon in all his glory would not be arrayed like them if they were clothed with these "sky-blue" uniforms! [Renewed laughter.] They sit yonder, uniformly, day after day, and we never hear a murmur! Yet them appear in the "sky-blue kerseys" in the halls of the Republic—heavenly blue. [Laughter.]

Why, Mr. Chairman, any man who does business, instead of paying at the rate of three or four hundred thousand dollars in two or three years to prevent moths from getting into clothing, would sell the whole concern out. Moths are the evidence of honest, intelligent labor. But I am growing personal. It takes more to keep out the moths than the clothing and cloths are worth according to our systems of finance. It is very curious that I find so much "mutheaten clothing" sold. In the depots of Jeffersonville and Philadelphia, according to the Quartermaster's report, there was sold as follows:

Year.	Jeffersonville.	Philadelphia.	Total.
1869	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
1870	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
1871	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
1872	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
Total	$[illegible]	$[illegible]	$1,190,038.49

If mutheaten clothes bring so much, what is the rest, the unmutheaten, worth? Who buys the mutheaten clothes and cloth? Who judges of the moth and mutheaten? Who is innocent and hungry moth? Where are the experienced tailors and tailors? I pass this as I insist on the practical question, why does Congress pay a lot of money and to feed moths? This is not a philosophical conundrum. Why, if there is so much clothing on hand, does the Quartermaster say it was right that the Government should sell to Lehigher was $600,000. Why were the expenditures on account of clothing and equipage in the same period $858,412.56.

MOTHS AND THIEVES.

Oh, it is said that there are new styles. *Oh, Monsieur le President!* New styles! New uniforms are ordered for the army. Well, why should not the fresh fashions be made of new cloth, under fresh contracts, from time to time, lest they kill the moths of his prey?

Now, sir, what are these moths? It is a matter of much concern to our families. Our women ought to know. Science ought to tell us. Scripture ah! I see my friend from Massachusetts is impatient. He is anxious to rise. I am afraid he will make a facetious illustration. He is thinking of that. I love the moth and that do not crush it—

Several Voices—"Where thieves break through and steal."

Mr. Cox—I did not know the House was so accomplished in the Scriptures. [Laughter.]

I think the gentleman (Mr. Dawes) was about to apply it to the Democratic side of the House. I have anticipated him by a more appropriate application. The whole House, including the gallery, know just where this quotation fits.

What is the moth, Mr. Chairman? I have asked him in [illegible] [laughter], and [illegible] in Chambers's Encyclopædia, volume [illegible] there he is. [Great laughter.] There he is, [illegible]

The moth is a burglar, a nocturnal rascal. He makes his home of them. It is worth while since it costs us nearly half a million to know our enemy, to know his power. Do not [illegible] it is significant, because it is of the butterfly species. It dresses with a antennæ! [From base to side these antennæ are pectinated, like the molles (laughter); and they are [illegible] the leaves of cultivable state. I speak not of their beauty of color. I refer to the number of their eggs. If there is one moth I prefer to another it is the lackey moth; but the lackey is the one I have [illegible] illustrated [holding up the volume]. The lackey moth is represented in pollard oak by this belt of eggs; second, as the [illegible] which, as the price in the cocoon, [illegible] Bill-Bedford insect for which we [illegible] in this Army bill. [Laughter.]

ENTOMOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE.

Now, after this analysis of this insect, I would [illegible] from the distinguished gentleman [illegible] New York, my colleague (Mr. Wheeler), [illegible] the moths, to protect our army clothing [illegible] which we would give this $50,000, is the [illegible] of the *Lepidoptera* of [illegible]. [Laughter.] Let there be no [illegible] question. [Renewed laughter.] I [illegible] the gentleman must allow me [illegible] refresh my entomological knowledge [illegible] know that I could not get a satisfactory [illegible] When I first read the item in this bill [illegible] for the purchase of moths, I paused [illegible] and when I read that $300,000 had been expended for that purpose, I [illegible] in my simplicity, why so much [illegible] spent for such a purpose, when [illegible] economize by selling out our [illegible] army clothes. Casting [illegible] I remembered that the [illegible] was stuff. Then, as I looked up the price of snuff and [illegible] I found the tariff was fifty [illegible] cent. Every sneeze was about a [illegible] American manufacturers from [illegible] I was about to tell how [illegible] tariff and all to prevent [illegible] using this article of [illegible] I found an adjutant in my [illegible] Mr. Beck.

[illegible] the result of my inquiries: [illegible] clothing and equipage of the [illegible] by the process of Cowles & Co. [illegible] destruction by moths." Now, [illegible] are insects. We have camphor, naphthalene, camphor ships, which our [illegible] in plain words, they use some [illegible] I guess it smells badly—perhaps [illegible] but whatever it is it costs [illegible] the *lepidopter* of our best [illegible] gun also has a tolerably fair representation of the results of the Democratic [illegible] which breaks its egg and goes [illegible] of the stuff it feeds on, [illegible] $300,000 a year. But how does this [illegible] pay so much for save our Government? Mr. Cowles & Co. say that they [illegible] every thread and fibre. They leave the goods in the spring for months; then knead the goods in the fall. Then they dry them on a machine which makes, I think, nine hundred revolutions per minute. This makes the saturation perfect. [Laughter.]

THE PARTY MOTH.

Mr. Wheeler—I desire to ask my colleague a question. Has he studied the history of the party moth? It has fed on his party, and no chemical process has yet been invented, I believe, to stay its ravages. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cox—I submitted, as the House will see, out of deference to the majority and their feelings, to draw any partisan or political lesson out of these moths and their predatory habits. [Laughter.] I have material, however, for a speech of an hour and a quarter on that point. If the gentleman will allow me, I will say it is in study in connection with the Administration. [Laughter.]

And, sir, since I am challenged to it by my friend—not provoked, for he never provokes any one, except to admire him, and love him, the more one knows him—I will endeavor to read in the life and character of the moth some of those attributes which are making the people regard the Administration so carefully.

The real moth that we have to deal with, in a political way, is a combination of the lackey moth, which generally haunts the White House and hovers about the purlieus of power, and the hawk moth, which is sometimes in the army, or educated there. At these moths you will find both a political and destructive significance. If you note how they are hatched; how they hide in cocoons; how they creep into dark places through crannies; how they go into closets where goods are stored; how they lie all summer quietly —— [Laughter, the members gathering in the speaker.]

Mr. Field—I rise to a question of order. Let the House be brought to order. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cox—I hope my friend of the elegant toilet will come down this way. [Laughter.]

[Here the hammer fell.]

Several Members—Go on, go on.

Mr. Wheeler—I hope my colleague will have unanimous consent to proceed.

The Chairman—Does the gentleman from New York yield to his colleague?

Mr. Wheeler—Certainly. I yield all my time to him.

MYSTERIOUS ANALOGIES.

Mr. Cox—I thank the gentleman and the House very kindly. It is not often that we have a scientific question which requires such analytic research like this before us. It is not often the Committee of the Whole is engaged in the mysterious analogies of nature and politics. It is not often, as a friend near me remarks, that I take the floor on questions of this kind. [Laughter.] But it seems to me that something ought to be said to justify these moth appropriations, and said a little more seriously. May I quote from "Harris's Treatise on Insects" to illustrate the physical and political relations of the moth? ["Go on!"]

The clothes moth, in its natural state—

Like the politician—

never leaves its cocoon until it emerges therefrom as a winged moth. Wherever it is seen as a naked worm, it is because it has been disturbed and knocked out of its case.

For example, by an election or otherwise. I am told those scientists, the Grangers, are going after the naked worm—

and in these instances the moth—

And just so also the politician—

does not feed, but in a few days dies.

How sad the thought, but how true the analogy! [Laughter.]

And then the eggs, according to certain French authors——

Mr. Field—Mr. Chairman, I insist upon my point of order.

Mr. Wheeler—I hope the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Field) will not do that. This is the only matter in connection with the army which has not yet been discussed. [Laughter.]

Mr. Platt of Virginia—I would like to get the fullest information about the habits of the creature from the gentleman from New York in discussing; and I wish him to mention, when these moths die, whether other moths take their places.

Mr. Cox—That depends upon whether they have a navy yard in their district. [Great laughter.]

NATIONAL MOTHS.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will not detain the House very much longer; it is so good natured. I would read a few more scientific extracts, with a view to a political lesson:

The eggs (according to Latreille and Duponchel, from whose works the following extracts are chiefly taken) hatched in three days, and the little white caterpillars or moth worms proceeding therefrom immediately begin to gnaw the substances within their reach.

Just as a man from a district like that of my friend would reach out quietly with his antennæ after a little patronage here and there, for instance, about a navy yard. It is perfectly natural. I think I did it myself when I was in accord with the Administration in 1856. One or two postmasters, I think, sufficed as the "substances" I began upon. Since then—and how long it seems—our side have not even had the opportunity of acting the moth upon the national patronage.

Again I read:

The little whitish caterpillars or moth worms proceeding therefrom immediately begin to gnaw the substances within their room and cover themselves with the fragments, which they fix together, and line lining them with silk. Some pass the summer within their rolls——

That is, I suppose, go down to Long Branch, ride in free palace Pullman cars, hang in——

some carrying their cocoons about on their backs and others fastened to the sides of their lairs, and thus carry them from time to time by successive portions of the two upon extremities and by application to the sides, which they slit for this purpose. Concealed within their movable cases or in their last cocoon, they carry on the work of destruction through the summer——

That is when Congress is not in session——

and in the autumn——

That is just before elections [laughter]——

they leave off eating, make fast their habitations, and remain at rest and seemingly torpid throughout the winter.

That is until committees of investigation get to work. [Laughter.]

Early in the springthey change to chrysalids within their cases, and in about twenty days afterward they are transformed to winged moths, and come forth and [illegible] in the evening.

These are the defaulters who go off without being called to account by the Administration—they come forth and fly about in the evening till they have paired and are ready to lay their eggs.

Mr. Field—I insist upon my point of order. [Roars of laughter.]

A FAMILY QUESTION.

Mr. Cox—I will submit just one question. If I had the shortbread facility of my friend from New York (Mr. Wheeler) I would put it into good shape. [Laughter.] I think it should be something like this: Whether the moths which we are called upon to appropriate against—and whose incursions upon our army clothes are so wasteful—are the moths of the more numerous branch of the *Lepidopterot*, or do they belong to the *Phalenæ* family of Linnæus? [Laughter.]

Mr. Wheeler—To that question I answer in the affirmative. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cox—And have they a robust thorax, and if we apply snuff to them, instead of the expensive petroleum solution, will they not sneeze out the predatory thorax, so that we can thereby save $50,000 a year? [Laughter.]

But, sir, to be serious for a moment, and in conclusion. No man has suffered more than myself from the extraordinary essays on Saturday and other days in the Senate and House, at home and abroad, in pamphlet and press, from the currency question. I believed I had mastered some of its abstruseness. I was sure at one time that inflation would carry. I saw the light of victory in the eye of my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley). Then I recalled the vicissitudes of politics. I read, reread, dreaded if bonds, notes, gold and silver, exchanges and convertibilities, until I was in despair. But today, sir, it is all clear. The solution of the financial problem is the moth. It is the *Lepidopteri*. I feel it. Whether produced by the war or by bad administration, the causes are at once solved by considering the baleful results of the moth. Therefore, sir, I propound this interrogatory, as the final relief of our financial debates and worries. Any gentleman of the ability of my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley) or my colleague (Mr. Mellish) can answer.

FAMILIAR SUPPOSITIONS.

Suppose that, in the event of the success of the bill of the honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley), there was at once established an interconvertibility between the three sixty-fives which he proposes and the national bank and greenback currency [great laughter], and in the processes of contraction the five-twenties should go into bonds and the greenbacks refuse for the national bank notes, in consequence of the extraordinary resumption of our irredeemable debt last September by the Treasury, at five dollars apiece in river quarters; and the imports should at once fall off several millions, while the exports reciprocally affecting the export of specie from New York and Louisiana, the big trade of Indiana, the hoop-pole trade of Ohio, and, indirectly, the clam trade of Cape Cod, and to such an appreciable extent that the German bankers, being in correspondence with the halls of New York, should, by a sudden panic, create a demand for the Sagginaw copper, dollar or notes of Ishpeming, Michigan, quoted the other day by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and thence would ensue a rush of bears who had possessed themselves of their own currency and invested it in the three sixty-fives; and the currency would back south, and then shrink, and thus produce an elasticity that would move the crops, and induce such speculation in that in one of its shrinks we should collapse, would it so affect the Ashantee war and the expenses of Great Britain as to demoralize the Saginaw Mining Company, destroy the destructive influences of the *Lepidopteri* moth, and give the country a new spirit for the centennial of American Independence? [Great laughter.]

SAVE US FROM MOTHS.

All these things should be considered. We expect that when a man like my colleague (Mr. Wheeler) addresses an intelligent House that this he should know all about these things. He is eminent, and exposed to the reproaches of poverty.

He should be able especially to tell us where all these uniforms and clothes are, and why it takes so much money to take care of them. He should run for Governor of New York on the moth issue.

Mr. Wheeler—Here they are holding out a pamphlet. The gentleman can take into some with him and have his measure taken for one. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cox—If my friend will only print it in the *Record*, it will satisfy the people. Say what and laugh as we will, it is the truth, that there is clothing enough on hand now to save one-third of all the reserve that has been illegally issued from the Treasury; and we appropriate hundreds of thousands to save it from moths! God help the Government from moths!

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

THE SENATE INFLATIONISTS SHOWING THEIR HANDS.

Demanding Increased Circulation or a Redistribution of the Currency—Passage of the Army Bill in the House—Protecting the Indians from Swindlers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Mr. Sargent (Rep., Cal.) presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of that State instructing their Senators and Representatives in Congress to oppose the bill recently introduced in the House by Mr. Ward of Illinois to develop the mining resources of the United States. The resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. Sargent said the bill had been credited to him by some mistake, and he took this opportunity to state that he was opposed to the bill, believing it to be subversive of the mining interests of all the States and Territories. In consequence of the bill having been credited to him a meeting had been held among the miners and he had been denounced. He did not introduce the bill, was opposed to its passage, and the criticisms against him were unjust.

On motion of Mr. Thurman (Dem., Ohio) the memorial presented by him a few days ago in regard to the government of the District of Columbia and the memorial of the Governor of the District were taken from the table and referred to the joint select Committee to investigate the District Affairs.

THE CHARGES AGAINST ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. Bayard (Dem., Del.) asked that the resolution offered by him yesterday calling upon the President to inform the Senate whether any officer of the United States army on duty in South Carolina had been instrumental in procuring legislation in that State to compensate him for services rendered in the discharge of his duty, &c., be passed. He said the matter was brought to his attention last March, and he had no doubt a great wrong had been perpetrated upon the people of South Carolina and the fair name of officers been dishonored. Hence it was in the interest of all that the matter be exposed and promptly corrected. South Carolina had been deprived of $35,000, given as rewards for the conviction of persons under the Ku-Klux act. Major Lewis Merrill of the United States army, it was charged, had received $21,400 of that amount, and had been busy in obtaining the passage of the act authorizing the reward by the act by the South Carolina Legislature. He sent to the Clerk's desk and had read the report of a commission for the distribution of rewards, in which the name of Major Merrill appeared as having received the above amount.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Bayard said convictions were secured by paying those who had committed murders to testify against others. Such things were shocking in the history of the country's administration of justice. Many of the men thus convicted were now

LANGUISHING IN A NEW YORK PRISON.

Mr. Howe (Rep., Wis.) said a few years ago the Congress of the United States distributed $100,000 among the officers of the army for arresting one criminal, and not such a bold one either as these miscreants.

Mr. Bayard said he wanted to know if the action of this officer in lobbying through the bill to obtain a reward would be approved. He thought it an outrageous piece of business.

Mr. Scott (Rep., Pa.) said it had been his good fortune to meet Major Merrill, and he thought if the insinuator, the gentleman from New York, was in personality, he would not think he was the man to be guilty of any bad conduct. If there was any one man living to-day to whom the people of South Carolina were indebted for enforcing peace and order, and putting down these Ku-Klux organizations, that man was Major Merrill. He (Mr. Scott) did not oppose the passage of the resolution, as he was not afraid of the record of Major Merrill. He suggested to the Senator from Delaware, however, that the President could not obtain from the records of the War Department information as to the money paid by the State of South Carolina.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The morning hour having expired, the Chair announced as the regular order the unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill for the withdrawal of twenty-five million national bank currency from those States having an excess, and the reissue of it to the States not having their pro rata of currency.

The amendment offered by Mr. Sherman to the section authorizing the Comptroller of the Currency to issue the currency to be withdrawn to States having less than their pro rata, declaring that the Comptroller might do so without waiting for the return of the circulating notes of other banks, was agreed to.

Mr. Merrimon (Dem., N. C.) moved to strike out the words "twenty-five," relating to the amount to be withdrawn and reissued, and insert "forty-five" in lieu thereof.

Mr. Logan (Rep., Ill.) opposed the passage of the bill, and said it would interfere with an increase in the currency which he desired. He was willing to let the New England States have the eighty million excess, but he wanted the currency sent to the South and West, where the West would have the same opportunity as those of New England.

Mr. Anthony (Rep., R. I.) said his State had twenty-one millions capital before the war, and has the same now.

Mr. Logan—And you have not got enough now.

Mr. Anthony—Yes, sir.

Mr. Logan—Then, in Heaven's name why do you stand here obstructing the way of the increased and other sections which want more currency? Rhode Island is a great State—a rich State. She should have twice as much currency as she has now, and Illinois would have none. Then we could come and borrow from you and pay you a high rate of interest.

A DEMAND FOR MORE CURRENCY.

Mr. Morton (Rep., Ind.) said this bill did not go far enough—not one-third of the way. If it was right that the currency should be equalized it was right that it should be fully equalized. The bill would give no relief to Illinois, Michigan, and other States in that section, because other States in the South had a greater delinquency than they. It was very pleasant for the people of the West to come here and have to beg for simple justice. It had been said that the West would not take the money when it was offered her. Suppose she could not? The West was growing, and the question was not what she was able to do in 1872 but what she was able to do now. Do we want money? There had been a cry that to increase the currency would only aid speculation. He believed in speculation. The man who went to Colorado, laid out a town, and built houses and stores was a speculator, but he was a public benefactor. He believed that to make money was always from the East would disorganize business there and he was opposed to it; but if there could be no increase of currency, he favored the passage of this bill and a redistribution. He argued that an increase of national bank notes would place no obstacle in the way of a return to specie payment, and if forty, fifty, or sixty millions should be added to the national bank circulation, greenbacks would not be cheapened in the least, nor would there be any increase in the premium on gold. In 1868, after the distribution of the $54,000,000, the Comptroller of the Currency said it still required forty million dollars to equalize the currency. Four years of unprecedented growth have passed away since then, and if $40,000,000 were required at that time to make equalization, at least $80,000,000 would be required now.

The question was further discussed by Messrs. Sargent (Rep., Cal.), Stewart (Rep., Nev.), and Morrill (Rep., Vt.), who opposed any further inflation of the currency, and by Messrs. Logan (Rep., Ill.), Morton (Rep., Ind.), and Ferry (Rep., Mich.), in favor of redistribution or inflation, to test the West and Southwest, that they secure the amount of currency they demand. The argument of the inflationists was that the West and South had so increased in business and population that they required more money, and that the East could not do with any less than it now had.

Pending the discussion on Mr. Merrimon's amendment to insert seventy-five in place of twenty-five, the Senate at 5 P. M., adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Lowe (Rep., Kan.), from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill extending to the 1st of January, 1875, the time within which settlers on the Cherokee strip in Kansas, may make proof of settlement and payment, deferred payments to bear five per cent. interest. Passed.

Mr. Shanks (Rep., Ind.), from the same committee, reported a bill relative to private contracts or agreements made with the Indians prior to the 21st of May, 1872. The bill makes very stringent provisions as to the examination and endorsement of all such contracts by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs before any payment be allowed to be made under them.

Mr. Shanks said that a statute passed in 1847 forbade the making of executory contracts with Indians. But that nevertheless contracts were made and were recognized and very large amounts of money had been collected under them. Another prohibitory law was made in 1872. The bill applied to contracts made prior to 1872, and required that they should be subjected to the scrutiny of an official examination and should be endorsed either as not being extortionate or fraudulent, on or being exorbitant or fraudulent and until contracts are endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs their legality must not be recognized by any Government official. After this explanation the bill was passed.

PREVENTING FRAUDS ON THE INDIANS.

Mr. Coulinge (Dem., Mo.), from the same committee, reported a bill to secure more efficient administration of Indian affairs. The bill makes detailed provisions in the direction of prohibiting the perpetration of frauds upon Indians.

Mr. Beck (Dem., Ky.) suggested the propriety of inserting in the bill a provision restoring the requirement made in the act of the 3d of March, 1871, but subsequently repealed, that all vouchers for Indian supplies shall be examined by the Board of Indian Commissioners. He had seen it stated in a public letter from Mr. Welch that half a million dollars had been wrongfully paid since the repeal of that requirement.

Mr. Shanks, who had introduced the bill, said that the committee proposed to consider that subject and to report upon it.

Mr. Beck—Then I have no amendment to offer. The bill was passed.

BUTLER PROTECTING HIS FRIENDS.

Mr. Foster (Rep., Ohio), from the Committee on Appropriations, asked leave to report back a substitute for the resolution offered by Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania in relation to the Sanborn contracts, directing the Secretary of War to furnish full copies of them, and of all schedules, correspondence, and orders of the department relating to them, and a statement of the amount paid under them, by whom, &c.

Mr. Butler (Rep., Mass.) objected, and the resolution was not received.

The Speaker said that he had received a communication from Mr. E. R. Roberts of New York stating that his time was so engrossed by his duties as a member of the Committee of Ways and Means that he could not serve on the Joint select Committee on the Affairs of the District of Columbia. He was therefore excused, and his colleague, Mr. Bass, was appointed in his stead.

The Senate amendments to the joint resolution for a military court of inquiry in the case of Gen. O. O. Howard were taken up and concurred in. They were merely verbal.

The House then went into committee of the whole on

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The amendment offered yesterday by Mr. Cobb (Rep., Kan.), looking to the transfer of the Government transportation from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad to the Kansas Pacific Railroad, was adopted after a brisk debate, in which Mr. Holman (Dem., Ind.) claimed that under the terms of the original grant to the former road it was bound to transfer the troops and munitions of the Government absolutely free of charge.

Mr. Cox (Dem., N. Y.) offered an additional section that no money shall be paid except for the purposes for which it is specifically appropriated.

Mr. Wheeler (Rep., N. Y.) said that that is the law at present.

Mr. Cox—But it is not enforced.

Mr. Wheeler—I know it is not.

Mr. Cox's amendment was rejected.

Mr. Cox offered an amendment that the army shall not be used in aid of the pretended State Government known as the Kellogg Government in Louisiana, or so as to interfere in the elections of that State or any other State.

Mr. Wheeler made the point of order that the amendment proposed new legislation and was not in order.

Mr. Sypher (Rep., La.) hoped the amendment would be admitted, as the Kellogg Government had troops enough to thrash out the rebel Democracy.

Mr. Randall (Dem., Penn.)—It has rascals enough.

The point of order was sustained and the amendment was excluded.

The committee then rose and reported the bill, and the House proceeded to vote on the amendments. The first vote was on the amendment offered by Mr. Hoar of Massachusetts, extending the time for the presentation of claims to Nov. 1, 1875. The amendment was agreed to—Yeas, 131; nays, 104.

All the other amendments were agreed to in bulk, and the bill was passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Cox of New York in the chair, on

THE FORTIFICATION BILL.

The discussion of the bill ranged through the whole question of the necessity for forts in the concrete and in detail. The testimony of Gen. Sherman, taken before the Military Committee, was quoted on both sides of the argument, which prompted Mr. Butler (Rep., Mass.) to say that while he had a very high respect for Gen. Sherman as a soldier, he thought him the worst witness he had ever met.

The item of $300,000 for the fort at Willett's Point, New York, was the point of attack by Mr. Holman (Dem., Ind.), who moved to reduce the amount to $50,000, resting on the statement of Gen. Sherman that that fort would be important in the event of the blocking of the channel at Hell Gate. But until then he would not spend a cent on it.

The reduction was opposed by Messrs. Starkweather and Kellogg of Connecticut, and by Messrs. Woodford, Mellish, Potter, Whitehouse and Wm. H. Robertson of New York. The amendment was rejected and the full amount ($300,000) appropriated.

After progressing through about one-half of the bill including the harbors in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware and New Jersey, the committee rose and the House at 4:40 P. M. took a recess until 7 P. M., when the House went into committee of the whole on the bill revising and consolidating the statutes.

THE BREEDING OF FISH

Spawn from the Penobscot Hatched in the Delaware and in the Potomac.

The adjourned meeting of the American Fish Culturists' Association terminated its annual session yesterday. The Hon. Robert B. Roosevelt, temporary President, took the chair. Mr. Fred Mather, who is a young and enthusiastic trout breeder, related his experience in the safe transportation of trout spawn, their hatching and breeding, and the kinds of food necessary for the young fish. Mr. H. J. Reeder, Fish Commissioner for Pennsylvania, described the methods used in transporting the spawn of California salmon to the Susquehanna, and the spawn of Sacramento salmon from the Penobscot to the Delaware. Both experiments were successful. The young fish now abound in the rivers, and will soon be large enough to be taken. The profit which will be derived from these fisheries may be judged by the success in introducing fourteen black bass into the Potomac fifteen years ago. The price of fish now sold in the markets of the seaport cities in many large cities. The inhabitants living near that river can take as many as they please. The stocking of such rivers with valuable fish is a contribution to the general wealth, for fishing is free to all, and the poor man can enjoy a dinner of salmon as well as his wealthy neighbor. If the rivers throughout the States are stocked, until all the streams in the United States are as full of fine-flavored fish as in the time of the aborigines. The success of these experiments shows that time only is needed to achieve great results.

Mr. Charles Wallbeck of New York city, referring to the difficulties of many fish dealers in eluding the laws prohibiting the catching of fish out of season when they are spawning and uneatable, said that fish were caught on the eastern coasts and taken to New York, Philadelphia, and other cities and sold. He urged the association to endeavor to procure the passage of a law making it a crime to expose in one State fish caught in another out of season. The proposition was favorably received. Mr. Seth Green read a short paper on the "Propagation of Frogs from the Spawn." The reading of a few other papers was followed by a discussion on general topics relating to fish culture.

Interesting to Hatters—A Crushing Monopoly

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: The undersigned, hat manufacturers, are a committee appointed by the trade to oppose the extension of the Wells patent for forming hat bodies. This patent has been operated for over a quarter of a century as a close monopoly. The burden imposed upon this branch of manufacturing by the Wells Association, added to the burden of an extremely high rate of duties on the imported raw materials used by hatters, has almost destroyed the business.

This patent is now before the Senate committee, asking for another extension, which, if granted, will make thirty-five years. There has been a single Wells hat body machine (as Wells invented it) in use for twenty-five years.

It is only used as a means of suppressing every hat body machine which has been invented, and for the purpose of litigation and damages. Many thousands of men and women depend upon us for employment. On account of the recent action of the owners of the patent, we are unable to provide work for them. We cannot make hats now, because it this patent is renewed, the hatters who are in the Ring will do all the business, and if not, received whatever price they choose to put upon it, which would be ruinous to us and our customers, so that our national bank notes, in consequence of the extraordinary resumption of our irredeemable debt last September by the Treasury, at five dollars apiece in river quarters; and the imports should at once fall off several millions, while thus reciprocally affecting the export of specie from New York and Louisiana, the big trade of Indiana, the hoop-pole trade of Ohio, and, indirectly, the clam trade of Cape Cod, and to such an appreciable extent that the German bankers, being in correspondence with the halls of New York, should, by a sudden panic, create a demand for the Sagginaw copper dollar or notes of Ishpeming, Michigan, quoted the other day by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and thence would ensue a rush of bears who had possessed themselves of their own currency and invested it in the three sixty-fives; and the currency would back south, and then shrink, and thus produce an elasticity that would move the crops, and induce such speculation in that in one of its shrinks we should collapse, would it so affect the Ashantee war and the expenses of Great Britain as to demoralize the Sagginaw Mining Company, destroy the destructive influences of the *Lepidopteri* moth, and give the country a new spirit for the centennial of American Independence? [Great laughter.]

SAVE US FROM MOTHS.

All these things should be considered. We expect that when a man like my colleague (Mr. Wheeler) addresses an intelligent House that this he should know all about these things. He is eminent, and exposed to the reproaches of poverty.

He should be able especially to tell us where all these uniforms and clothes are, and why it takes so much money to take care of them. He should run for Governor of New York on the moth issue.

Mr. Wheeler—Here they are holding out a pamphlet. The gentleman can take into some with him and have his measure taken for one. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cox—If my friend will only print it in the *Record*, it will satisfy the people. Say what and laugh as we will, it is the truth, that there is clothing enough on hand now to save one-third of all the reserve that has been illegally issued from the Treasury; and we appropriate hundreds of thousands to save it from moths! God help the Government from moths!

House of Representatives.

Mr. Lowe (Rep., Kan.), from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill extending to the 1st of January, 1875, the time within which settlers on the Cherokee strip in Kansas, may make proof of settlement and payment, deferred payments to bear five per cent. interest. Passed.

Mr. Shanks (Rep., Ind.), from the same committee, reported a bill relative to private contracts or agreements made with the Indians prior to the 21st of May, 1872. The bill makes very stringent provisions as to the examination and endorsement of all such contracts by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs before any payment be allowed to be made under them.

Mr. Shanks said that a statute passed in 1847 forbade the making of executory contracts with Indians. But that nevertheless contracts were made and were recognized and very large amounts of money had been collected under them. Another prohibitory law was made in 1872. The bill applied to contracts made prior to 1872, and required that they should be subjected to the scrutiny of an official examination and should be endorsed either as not being extortionate or fraudulent, on or being exorbitant or fraudulent and until contracts are endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs their legality must not be recognized by any Government official. After this explanation the bill was passed.

PREVENTING FRAUDS ON THE INDIANS.

Mr. Coulinge (Dem., Mo.), from the same committee, reported a bill to secure more efficient administration of Indian affairs. The bill makes detailed provisions in the direction of prohibiting the perpetration of frauds upon Indians.

Mr. Beck (Dem., Ky.) suggested the propriety of inserting in the bill a provision restoring the requirement made in the act of the 3d of March, 1871, but subsequently repealed, that all vouch-

THE TWEED CASES.

The Suit for the $6,000,000 Taken from the Broadway Bank—Was it the Property of the City or the County of New York?

ALBANY, Feb. 11.—A large number of persons were in the Court of Appeals chamber this morning to listen to the argument of the Hon. Charles O'Conor in behalf of the people in the Tweed cases. Samuel J. Tilden, Wheeler H. Peckham, and Charles O'Conor appeared in behalf of the people, appellants, and Elisha Root and Wm. Fullerton for the respondent, Ingersoll, impleaded with Woodward, Tweed, and Garvey. The case came up on the requirement of the appeal from the demurrer to the complaint. The case, it will be remembered, turns mainly on the point whether the money taken from the National Broadway Bank (the subject matter of the suit) was the property of the city or of the county. In an extended and elaborate review of the local government of New York, its character, and the various changes which had been made, Mr. O'Conor sought to show that since the incorporation of the city the Board of Supervisors, or so-called county Government, was very little more than a nominal power. The respondent, it is true, claims great power and authority for that board, which, however, has no real existence, in any respect. The Board of Supervisors previous to 1870 was, he insisted, a very small affair, and by the charter passed in that year, at the instance of Tweed himself, it was completely shorn of any power whatever, the functions of the city Government being lodged in numerous commissions, which were a part of the grand scheme set on foot by Tweed and his compeers. He contended, also, that the Board of Supervisors of New York was in no sense a corporation, notwithstanding the extensive power claimed for it by the other side, and possessed no corporate powers whatever. They could not even be sued for any debt or county charge.

Under the acts passed with great facility by the Legislature this mock Government was authorized to condemn lands belonging to the city for court house purposes and pay for them in bonds which were absolutely worthless, for the authority which gave them was, though a quasi corporation, a mere sham. It had been established that they had not, like other Boards of Supervisors, the power to levy annual taxes to carry on the Government. In this respect it was on a par with the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the city. The money in question in this suit was issued on bonds of the county signed by Connolly as Comptroller. The issuance of these bonds gave no title to the moneys raised upon them. In the Broadway Bank case it could in no way come into their hands and no suit could be brought against the Supervisors for their payment, for they had not a dollar in any treasury and possessed no property which could be levied upon. The $6,000,000 in question was never in the hands of the County Treasurer. The bonds were to be paid by the taxpayers, and not by the Supervisors.

He then went on to say that, after the bonds were issued and the moneys paid, some sort of an act was passed which attempted to provide for their payment, but they have never been paid. They were included in the consolidation act, and, as has been stated, in 1870, Mr. Connolly was given sovereign power in the matter. The system of bond issuing was perfect, and under the legislative acts passed by the Ring any amount of bonds or county stock, as it was termed, was authorized to be issued and fastened upon posterity.

Mr. Elihu Root followed for the respondent, taking the ground that the county of New York was a corporate body under the revised statutes, and as the money in question was in the possession of the Board of Supervisors, they were owners thereof and responsible therefor