

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Movements of Lieutenant General Grant.

His Social Campaign in the Capital.

The General's Return to Washington and Departure for the West.

The Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Gold Adopted in the Senate.

The Whiskey Tax Again Before Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 11, 1864.

GENERAL GRANT'S DEPARTURE FOR THE WEST. General Grant returned to-day from the Army of the Potomac, accompanied by General Meade, and soon afterwards started for the West, attended by several officers of his staff.

PARLIAMENTARY JOKE ABOUT GRANT'S NEW SWORD.

Just before Grant's arrival Representative Washburne took to the White House a handsome sword, presented to General Grant by his admirers in Illinois, to show the President and Mrs. Lincoln. "Yes," said the President, "it is very pretty. It will do for a Commander-in-Chief."

GENERAL GRANT AT SEWARD'S DINNER.

At Seward's dinner General Grant made his social debut in Washington and delighted everybody. He has a great deal of character in face and manner—more of this than of what we call intellectuality. His reserve is natural. His tendency is reflective, rather than expressive. He thinks a great deal, and expresses himself in action. It is in what he does that one must analyze and know him.

GENERAL GRANT TO ATTEND THE METROPOLITAN FAIR.

A committee from New York, appointed by the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, waited upon Lieutenant General Grant to-day to secure his attendance at the opening of the Fair on the 28th inst. The General has communicated a favorable response through the Chairman, Major W. W. Leland, formerly of his staff, and may be expected to be present unless prevented by pressing public duties.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN IN REFERENCE TO THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The President to-day sent to the Senate the following message:—EXECUTIVE MESSAGES, WASHINGTON, March 9, 1864. TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 1st inst., respecting the point of commencement of the Pacific Railroad on the hundredth degree of west longitude, and of the branch road of the western boundary of the said hundredth degree of longitude, I transmit the accompanying report from the Secretary of the Interior containing the information called for by the resolution of the 1st inst. of November last.

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THE SALE OF SURPLUS GOLD IN THE TREASURY.

The adoption of the gold resolution with Mr. Sherman's amendment by the Senate to-day, by a majority of twenty-two, is regarded as going far towards securing its adoption by the House when it comes up next week. The course of the gold market since the defeat of Stephens' bill in the House has convinced many who voted against it of the absolute necessity of having some check upon speculation which is established, and its friends are confident that the bill will be found to have sufficient strength in the House to secure its passage.

THE SPIRIT TAX.

The Committee of Ways and Means are preparing a bill to remedy the deficiencies in the recent Tax law in regard to spirits. The amendment proposed in the Senate to-day repealing the additional impost upon liquors taken away the only item of available taxation on spirits which the law retained, and renders it a complete nullity. The Committee are averse to a sliding scale, and will, it is understood, impose a definite tax of seventy-five to eighty cents per gallon. All the tax bills will be shortly reported. Congress, as well as the country, is becoming impatient at the delay in the presentation of a system of taxation which will secure sufficient revenue to defray the proper expenses of the Government and maintain a credit in the Treasury.

THE COASTING TRADE OF THE GREAT NORTHERN LAKES.

The Secretary of State has been directed to obtain information of the Secretary of the Treasury, saying, in substance, that there is an impediment or prohibitive enactment exempting American vessels from tonnage or other duties in the ports of Canada, so some of those ports duties are laid on them under the name of "light dues," "hospital dues," "excise on beer," for the repair of boilers, &c. Hence there exists no going to or from Canada, and the duties which vessels are obliged to pay in part to subjects of foreign powers, including those residing in the United States (American vessels), on entry in its ports on the Northern, Northwestern or Northwestern frontiers from the British North American provinces. In view of these facts, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Treasury Department, the House to-day passed a bill to repeal the second section of the act to regulate the

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, March 11, 1864. THE ADMISSION OF COLORADO AND NEVADA AS STATES. The Senate bill for the admission of Nevada and Colorado into the Union as States will be considered on the 17th inst. which day is set aside for the consideration of Territorial business.

THE CONTESTED MISSOURI ELECTION CASE.

Mr. Blair, (rep. of Mo.,) rising to a question of privilege, asked leave to submit testimony which was taken after the limitation of the time for that purpose, and which affected the Missouri election case. Mr. Blair stated that he had secured the testimony of Mr. Kroz, the contestant, and remonstrated against this and said the testimony should not be received, as it was taken after the limitation of time. Mr. Blair stated that he had secured the testimony of Mr. Kroz, the contestant, and remonstrated against this and said the testimony should not be received, as it was taken after the limitation of time.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL WALLACE.

General Waller is among the arrivals in Washington to-day.

THE GENERAL WILKES COURT MARTIAL.

At the opening of and before the organization of the Wilkes court martial the accused filed a formal objection to the appointment of the members of the court by the Secretary of the Navy, on the ground that, the Secretary being the prosecutor, and having preferred the charges in his own name, and the subject of the charges relating to matter and correspondence between the Secretary and the accused of a personal as well as public nature, the Secretary was thereby disqualified by reason of supposed bias from naming the members of the court, and that they should have been detailed by the President.

THE UNEMPLOYED ARMY OFFICERS.

The debate upon the joint resolution to drop from the rolls of the army unemployed officers on Tuesday next promises to be warm and protracted. The resolution will be vigorously opposed by friends of the various generals to be affected by its adoption.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

SENATE. The Senate adjourned at 12 o'clock to-day.

NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA RAILROAD COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Morgan, (rep. of N. Y.,) presented memorials from citizens of Philadelphia for additional railroad facilities between that city and New York. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Roads.

THE WHISKEY TAX.

Mr. Clark, (rep. of N. Y.,) offered similar memorials from citizens of New York, in relation to the whiskey tax. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

THE GOLD RESOLUTION APPROVED.

The Senate to-day passed a joint resolution to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to anticipate the payment of the interest on the public debt, by the sale of surplus gold in the Treasury.

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Passage of the Metropolitan Police Bill in the Assembly.

The Bill for the Metropolitan Police Bill in the Assembly, passed to-day by a large majority.

Messrs. Acton, Bergen, Bosworth and McMurray the Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners for the Metropolitan Police, consisting of Messrs. Acton, Bergen, Bosworth and McMurray, were appointed to-day.

The Bill Ready for the Governor's Signature.

The bill for the Metropolitan Police Bill is now ready for the signature of the Governor.

NEW YORK CITY RAILROADS.

There has been another busy day in the Assembly. A large amount of routine business was gone through with and several important subjects disposed of by reports of committees and otherwise.

THE WAR IN THE WEST.

Further Particulars of Sherman's Expedition—Capture of Yazoo City by Negro Troops, &c. &c.

Advices from Vicksburg state that Sherman's expedition has not yet reached that place, except the seventh and eighth regiments, which remain at Canton, Mississippi, until further orders. They did not proceed beyond Meridian.

There was no fighting of consequence. The loss was small, mostly from straggling. The One Hundred and Fiftieth New York lost over two hundred men from straggling, being greater than the entire loss of the balance of the expedition. Four thousand prisoners and six thousand negroes were brought in.

The negro troops at Haines' Bluff made a descent on Yazoo City on the 28th inst., and after a sharp fight occupied the place. Loss, about thirty killed and wounded.

The non-commissioned Unionist elected their county ticket in Shelby county, Tenn., on the 10th inst. The ticket consisted of the following names:—

THE STEAMER ATLANTIC, FROM NEW ORLEANS, ARRIVED THIS AFTERNOON WITH FIVE HUNDRED BALS OF COTTON AND A LARGE NUMBER OF NEGROES.

The steamer Atlantic, from New Orleans, arrived this afternoon with five hundred bales of cotton and a large number of negroes.

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GENERAL BUTLER'S DEPARTMENT.

Attack on Our Pickets by the Rebels.

The enemy attacked our pickets yesterday near Suffolk, and forced them back in disorder, capturing in their retreat several of the unfortunate fugitives. The farmers with their families are coming into our lines.

The Recent Operations Near Suffolk.

A private letter from Fort Monroe of the 6th inst. says:—Last evening, General Kipparick was leaving here to return to his command at Yorktown, near reached General Butler that the enemy had been troubling our lines between Portsmouth and Suffolk. General Butler at once stopped the Yorktown boat and a consultation took place between him and General Kipparick.

Removal of Newspaper Editors.

General Beauregard has received all orders heretofore issued in relation to the removal of newspaper editors from the city of New York.

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