THE CAPITAL.

Important Correspondence Relative to Equalizing Soldiers' Bounties.

Views of the Chairman of the Internal Revenue Commission.

He Considers the Project Fraught with Peril to the National Finances.

Proclamation by the President of the New Japanese Treaty.

Favorable Results of General Grant's Late Richmond Visit.

Petition for the Expulsion of Senator Garrett Davis.

Senate Discussion of the Bill to Facilitate Inter-State Communication.

Continued House Debate on the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Passage of the New York and West India Telegraph Bill.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1866.

HOPELESS CONDITION OF THE RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

The Reconstruction Committee is practically bursted up, as the Washington correspondent of the HERALD prophesied it would be several weeks ago. At their last meeting the members failed to agree upon Robert Dale Owen's plan or any other plan, and split. Now the delegations from each State, separately, have agreed to debate upon a plan of reconstruction independently of the committee, and report to the House. The Joint Committee has so far dissolved as to acknowledge that a collection of members selected at random from the House can do more towards framing a plan than an organized committee can. Thad Stevens acknowledges that his attempt has been a failure.

RADICAL DESPONDENCY OVER RECONSTRUCTION AFFAIRS.

Prominent republicans here are already writing home to their political friends that reconstruction affairs are not only in a bad way, but have become absolutely desperate, through the folly and bad management of the radicals. They advise their friends to return to the party platform and the policy of Mr. Lincoln, which is substantially that of Mr. Johnson. They now admit that the only practical way out of the difficulty is to admit loyal men as fast as they present themselves, and are beginning to understand that that is all the work of reconstruction necessary. They very pertinently inquire if, by this means, Congress should be filled with loyal men representing Southern States, is it not precisely what all desire.

THAD STEVENS SHOWING SIGNS OF REPORMATION.

Thad Stevens, who of late has shown signs of a disposition to mend the error of his ways, spent some time in the Senate to-day in earnest conversation with several of the prominent conservative members of the body. Sumner hung around on the outskirts of the party for some time, and tackled Thad as he was about leaving, apparently subjecting the erratic member to a lecture.

OUR COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH JAPAN.

The President has proclaimed the convention between the United States and the empire of Japan for the reduction of import duties. The following articles, used in the preparation and packing of teas, shall be free of duty:—Sheet lead, solder, matting, rattan, oil for painting, indigo, gypsum, firing pans and baskets. Second—The following articles are to be admitted at the reduced duty of five per cent:—Machines and machinery, drugs and medicines, iron in pigs or bars, sheet iron and iron wire, tin plates, white sugar in barrels or crushed, glass and glassware, clocks, watches and watch chains, wines, malted and spirituous liquors. The prohibition of the importation of opium, according to the existing treaty, remains in full force. The citizens of the United States, importing or exporting goods, shall always pay the duty fixed thereon, whether such goods are intended for their own use or not.

EFFECT ON THE NATIONAL DEBT OF EQUALIZING SOLDIERS' BOUNTIES.

The following letter has been addressed to the chairman of the Revenue Commission:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, April 19, 1866.

SIR—A bill has been reported, for the action of Congress, in respect to the equalization of soldiers' bounties, which will, in my opinion, require an expenditure on the part of the government of from two hundred to two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, thus adding an equivalent sum to the principal of the public debt, and requiring an additional annual payment for interest of from fifteen to eighteen millions of dollars. As the relations of the national debt to the industry and resources of the country have been especially referred to you for consideration, I desire that you will inform me, at your earliest convenience, what effect this proposed increase of the national debt and annual taxation is likely, in your opinion, to have upon the finances and development of the country, and what changes may be necessitated thereby in our future revenue system and policy.

I am, most respectfully, yours,
H. McCULLOCH, Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. DAVID A. WELLS, Chairman United States Revenue Commission.

The following is the reply of Mr. Wells.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1866.

SIR—In reply to your note of the 19th in relation to the subject of appropriations involving additional loans or increased taxation permit me to speak without reserve.

The country is now passing through a critical period of its financial experience, and it seems essential that the proposition should be proclaimed and maintained that the borrowing period for the nation has passed, and that henceforth and until another extraordinary emergency arises the national expenditures are to be met by taxation exclusively. Nothing less can satisfy the holders of the public debt; nothing less can sustain national credit as such a standard as will keep open to the nation the resource of loans for future emergencies.

The existing public debt of the United States (taking the accumulated wealth and rate of interest into consideration) is now comparatively larger than that of any of the States of the Old World, and is only exceeded in actual amount by that of Great Britain. It is now proposed to increase this enormous debt to such an extent that the annual interest on the addition will be nearly equal to one-fourth of the average annual expenditures of the whole government during the decade prior to the commencement of the rebellion. The largest amount of revenue ever drawn from the British people in any one year, irrespective of loans, has never exceeded $75,000,000, while the amount of revenue which the United States has drawn during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year by the various forms of direct and indirect taxation has been $410,000,000, or at the rate of upwards of $540,000,000 per annum. This immense sum, in opposition to the settled policy of all other nations and in defiance of their experience, has been taken mainly from the industry of the country. The present large receipts of revenue cannot, however, be accepted as any sure indications of the future; and so long as they are drawn from taxes on industry they are no satisfactory indications of the prosperity of the country. For the next fiscal year, moreover, a large falling off in receipts arising from diminished importations, changes in values and quantities of industrial products and from other causes may be expected. This deficit cannot now be easily estimated; but that it will be large cannot be doubted, especially if the country, as now seems probable, is to be visited by pestilence.

It would seem as if the mere statement of these facts ought to suffice as an argument against any immediate increase of our enormous burden of debt and taxation. If, however, we further consider the manner and distribution of the taxation by which the nation is at present raising its revenues, the argument becomes even more cogent and unanswerable. As is well known, the exemption from taxation at present, in the United States, of any form of capital, or any process, or result of industry is the exception, rather than the rule. This system necessarily involves a most extensive duplication of taxes, and this in turn entails and maintains an undue enhancement of prices, a decrease both of production and consumption, and consequently of wealth; a restriction of exportations and of foreign commerce, and a large increase in the machinery and expense of the revenue collection. It needs no gift of prophecy or trained financial intellect to determine the result of a persistency in such a policy; for as nations, like individuals, have their limits to their resources, and nations, like individuals, may have their patriotism taxed beyond endurance. A reduction and equalization of national taxation has therefore become not merely expedient, but imperative. Circumstances will not, however, admit of a reduction sufficient to give all the relief demanded by the nation being made at once. Hitherto, it has been already stated, a very large proportion of the revenue has been derived from the taxes on industry or the capital which directly supports industry, and comparatively a small part from spirits, tobacco, liquors, legacies, successions and other sources, which all experience has demonstrated may be taxed mostly without in way arresting the progress of national development. Indeed it may be asserted that laws sufficient to insure the collection of any large revenue from these latter sources have not yet been enacted, the existing laws being in many respects inoperative upon the statute book. Until, therefore, new laws can be enacted and their efficiency proved by experience, many of the worst features of the present revenue system must be retained and endured. In order to at present raise by taxation a sum sufficient to pay an annual interest of six per cent on an addition of two hundred and fifty millions to the principal of the public debt, viz, fifteen millions, the present rate of taxation must be maintained on the following articles or their equivalents, the receipts of the fiscal year 1865 being assumed as the basis of the estimate:—Hats, caps, bonnets, coats, vests, pants, overcoats, shirts, collars, stockings, gloves, mittens, boots, shoes, mocassins, salt, cheap soap, starch, paints of all kinds, paper of all descriptions, books, magazines, pamphlets, maps, engravings and all printed matter, ploughs, harrows, cultivators' rakes, winnowing mills, hay and straw cutters, trunks, harnesses, lime, cements, building stones, bricks, stoves, pottery ware and window glass, the revenue from the direct tax on all these articles for the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1865, not having been in excess of $15,000,000. If, however, it is urged that the government can afford to relieve all the above enumerated articles and many others from taxation, and still pay the interest on the proposed addition to the debt, I reply that the condition of the revenue will not at present allow of an exemption of all the necessaries of life, and all the common forms of industry from taxation; and that no principles of political economy is better established than that a tax upon one of the necessities or indispensable forms of industry is in fact upon all.

Under the above circumstances, therefore, it would seem as if nothing but the salvation of the nation itself could warrant any immediate increase of the national liabilities or the people's taxes.

I am, yours most respectfully,
DAVID A. WELLS,
Chairman United States Revenue Commission.

To Hon. HUGH McCULLOCH, Secretary of the Treasury.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The President to-day sent a message to Congress submitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Eastern Division.

It appears that the Company were required to complete one hundred miles of their road within three years after acceptance of the condition of the original act of Congress. This period expired December 22, 1865. Sixty-two miles had been previously accepted by the Government. Since that date an additional section of twenty-three miles has been completed. commissioners appointed for the purpose have examined and reported upon it, and an application has been made for its acceptance. The failure to complete one hundred miles of the road within the period prescribed renders it questionable whether the executive officers of the government are authorized to issue the bonds and patents to which the company would be entitled if this as well as other requirements of the act had been observed. This failure may, to some extent, be ascribed to the financial condition of the country incident to the recent civil war. As this company appear to be engaged in the energetic prosecution of the work, and manifest a disposition to comply with the conditions of the grant, the President recommends that the time for completing that part of the road be extended, and that authority be given for the issue of bonds and patents on account of the section now offered for acceptance, notwithstanding the failure, should the company in other respects be thereunto entitled.

SENATOR DAVIS' EXPULSION PETITIONED FOR.

Senator Sumner presented to the Senate to-day the petition of certain citizens of the United States to expel Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, from the Senate, for utterances, as it is said, used in his speech upon the Civil Rights bill, when returned with the President's veto. Mr. Davis put a clincher upon the matter by exposing the reasoning of the petition. Upon examination of the document it was discovered that thirty-six darkies had adopted this means of exercising their civil rights by impugning the motives of a Senator. Among the names of the petitioners there were five Moons, five Vincents and five Fenners, making fifteen out of the thirty-six members of three families. The petition savors strongly of a radical artifice. It is time such proceedings in the Senate were held up in their full light before the people.

SENATOR DOOLITTLE AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE.

A copy of the resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin, dictating to Senator Doolittle the course he should pursue upon the leading questions now before the Senate, and censuring him for his vote upon the Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights bills, were read to-day in the Senate by Mr. Howe. Senator Doolittle has been acting in his whole course according to the principles of the Legislature that elected him, which was conservative, and, unlike some other members of the body, has held to his principles, despite the uproar raised by a majority of radicals who happen to prevail at this time in the Legislature of his State.

GENERAL GRANT'S LATE RICHMOND VISIT.

General Grant's visit to Richmond was marked with many pleasing incidents and gratifying results. People flocked to see him in large numbers, from curiosity, no doubt; but during his stay he was called upon respectfully by such persons as Robert Ould, ex-rebel Commissioner for Exchange of Prisoners; General Joseph Anderson, of the Tredegar Iron Works; Mayor Mayo, Generals Wickham and Henningsen, Judges Lyons and Meredith, Hill Carter, Walter Harrison and many other influential citizens. The ladies also called upon Mrs. Grant freely, and every one who came manifested becoming feelings and sentiments. The railroad company placed a special car at his disposal, the Spottswood Hotel assigned him a large suit of rooms, the Ballard House offered to do the same, and every one vied to contribute to his comfort and pleasure. He dined once with General Turner, temporarily commanding; visited Fort Harrison and other points of interest, and returned well pleased with his visit.

EXCELLENT CUSTOMS ARRANGEMENTS AT BURLINGTON, VT.

The Treasury Department has received from one of its agents, who is eminently well qualified to judge of and pronounce upon any matter connected with the Department, a report in reference to the customs district of Burlington, Vt., which he describes as having in active operation the best preventive system that he has yet seen. Orders from the Department are better understood and more rigidly enforced. Seizures of contraband goods are reported daily, and smuggling has become so hazardous that, when practised at all, it is only in a small way.

CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF NITRO-GLYCERINE.

The House Committee on Commerce had the subject of nitro-glycerine under consideration yesterday. Tal. P. Schaffner, one of the original inventors, was examined at length, and gave much valuable information concerning it and what is known as Nobel's blasting oil. He had never used it except for military purposes, and had always doubted its safety for blasting. He exhibited samples of nitro-glycerine to the committee, exploded some of it by concussion, and then put portions of it in a blazing fire, to prove that when properly made it was difficult to explode. A red hot iron immersed in it had no other effect than to decompose the oil. A plan was suggested to prevent further accidents from Nobel's compound, and a bill will be reported soon.

DEFEAT OF A CHOLERA PREVENTIVE RESOLUTION.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, a member who has got up a considerable reputation as an economist, during the session to-day defeated a resolution appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars to prevent the advent of cholera into this District. Mr. Washburne and the others who voted against this appropriation have been very free to vote money for the support of indigent contrabands here and elsewhere.

PERMISSION NOT GRANTED TO MRS. JEFF. DAVIS TO VISIT HER HUSBAND.

It is known that Mrs. Jefferson Davis has, by letter and through General Dick Taylor, sought permission to visit her husband; but in this she has not yet succeeded, the request having, it is said, been denied by the President for prudential reasons.

THE CHICAGO POST OFFICE.

The statement that Wilson, of the *Journal*, has applied for the Chicago Post Office is incorrect. Neither he nor his friends have endeavored to dispossess the present incumbent, and there is no prospect of an immediate change in the office, notwithstanding the political complexion of the present postmaster.

PARDON OF THE MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS.

It is understood that special pardons have been granted in the cases of Mayor Monroe and Alderman Nixon, of New Orleans. The grave charges of attempt to procure the assassination of Commodore Bailey, United States Navy, which were brought against Munroe, have been, by evidence of Rear Admiral Farragut and Commodore Bailey, it is said, refuted to the entire satisfaction of the President.

CRIMINALS PARDONED.

The following named criminals were pardoned by the President to-day:—

Andrew Masters, indicted for forgery in Missouri; Jacob Upper, convicted in the Northern district of New York of violation of the Internal Revenue laws and sentenced to ten days' imprisonment, to pay a fine of $40 and the costs of the suit; George E. Gilman, convicted in the Eastern district of Michigan of smuggling and sentenced to pay a fine of $250 and costs; Melville Moir, convicted in the Eastern district of Michigan of smuggling and destroying letters in his charge as letter carrier, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment; Richard Clayton and Barzillai Glover, convicted of passing counterfeit currency and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

A CONVERTED RADICAL.

F. W. Kellogg, ex-Congressman from Michigan, Chandler's right hand man, now collector of internal revenue for the Mobile district of Alabama, heretofore counted a radical of the radicals, arrived here a few days since from his temporary Southern home with considerably modified ideas. He insists that Congress must modify the test oath, or that none of the Southern appointees can be confirmed. Secretary McCulloch sent him to the House to-day to express his convictions to certain members who were opposing the modification asked for. Kellogg met with rather a cold reception from his former friends, who charged him with having turned copperhead. He replied by telling them they were all a pack of insane fools, and should be sent to a madhouse. "Things is working."

SOLDIERS' GRAVES TO BE PRESERVED FROM OBLITERATION.

The War Department has just issued an order relating to graves of United States soldiers, as follows:—

All persons engaged in the cultivation of land, who may have the graves of United States soldiers located upon their lands, are hereby forbidden to mutilate or obliterate the traces of such graves by ploughing, or otherwise to disturb the headboards, stakes or fences around them. All officers on duty as provost marshals, post commanders or otherwise connected with the military service, are instructed to send information of the locality and condition of such graves and of any breach of this order to the Quartermaster General.

THE RECOMMENDED LIST OF THE ST. LOUIS MILITARY BOARD.

The list of officers recommended for brevet promotions by the Military Board lately in session at St. Louis embraces all regular army officers above the rank of captain. The Board took the list of names from the Army Register for 1865; so that the names of regular officers above this rank were in reality before them for consideration.

PROJECTED JOHNSON DEMONSTRATION.

Preparations are on foot for a mammoth Johnson meeting, under the auspices of the National Union Club.

PERSONAL.

Governor Fairchild, of Wisconsin, and General Asboth are among the arrivals this evening.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following appointments:—

Collectors of Internal Revenue—Jefferson A. Weston, of Nebraska City, for the district of Nebraska; S. T. Gage, for the district of Nevada; James C. Orr, of Wheeling, for the First district of West Virginia; Nathaniel B. Langford, of Virginia City, for the district of Montana.

Assessors of Internal Revenue—Rev. Albert G. Leonard, of Parkersburg, for the First district of West Virginia; John Connell, of Toledo, Iowa, for the Fourth district of Iowa.

Consuls—Victor Beauchee at Jerusalem; J. Ulrich at Monterey, and Edward Robinson, of New York, at Strasburg, France.

Agent of the Wachita Indians—Henry Shanklin, of Kansas.

Deputy Postmasters—Caleb Lamb, at Newton, Iowa; Edwin B. Smith at Westfield, Mass.; Edwin Rogers at North Adams, Mass.; Mrs. Elizabeth Brown at Logansport, Ind.; Henry Chickering at Pittsfield, Mass; A. H. Hallowell at Kansas City, Mo.; G. A. Benedict at Cleveland, Ohio; Alexander Sharp at Richmond, Va.

Register of the Land Office for the Council Bluffs District—Frank Street, of Iowa.

United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota—Charles Easton, of Minnesota.

Surgeons in the Navy—Passed Assistant Surgeons Frederick E. Potter and Edward S. Bogart.

Commander in the Navy—Lieut. Commander Leonard Paulding.

The Senate also confirmed a large number of military appointments, among them Brigadier General John M. Thayer, of the United States Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious services during the war, to be major general by brevet, and Brigadier General Wager Swain to be major general of volunteers.

The following volunteer brigadier generals are brevetted major generals for distinguished, gallant, faithful or meritorious services:—Joseph R. West, Thomas J. McKean, Byron R. Pierce, Fitz Henry Warren, Cyrus Hamlin, James D. Fessenden, Thomas Kilby Smith, John H. Ketchum, S. A. Duncan, Henry B. Banning, John H. Martindale, John McNiel, Benj. Dornblazer, Smith D. Atkins, Mason D. Brayman, W. R. Woods, Walter Gershom, John Newton and J. W. Sprague. Also the following colonels to be brigadier generals by brevet:—T. H. Bennett, Frank J. White, Darius B. Warner, Lewis G. Brown, Geo. W. Monroe, W. W. Marple, W. R. Shafter, John Pattee, Thos. N. Brown, W. J. Landeau, Thos. Sherman, Jr., and Jos. J. Smith.

The Senate also confirmed Brevet Colonel Ely S. Parker, of the United States Volunteers, lieutenant colonel and military secretary to the General commanding the armies of the United States, to be second lieutenant in the Second regiment of cavalry; Brevet Colonel Adam Badeau, of the United States Volunteers, and military secretary to the General commanding the armies of the United States, to be second lieutenant in the Fourth regiment of infantry; Major George K. Leet, assistant adjutant general of volunteers, to be assistant quartermaster, with the rank of captain, in the regular army. A large number of other appointments were confirmed, including colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and first lieutenants by brevet, for meritorious services.

CONSULAR RECOGNITION.

The President has recognized Martin Lewis as Vice Consul of Denmark for the State of Maryland.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1866.

CLAIMS OF LOYAL CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

Mr. CLARK, (rep) of N. H., introduced a bill to provide for the payment of certain claims against the United States, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. It provides that the claims of all loyal citizens and residents for quartermasters' stores and services actually furnished to the army of the United States may be submitted, with proper proofs of the claim, to the Quartermaster General, who may report the claim to the Third Auditor with a recommendation for payment, if the claim is found to be just and the claimant loyal. It provides a similar reference of subsistence claims to the Commissary General of the United States, and if the claim shall be disallowed, in whole or in part, provision is made for its prosecution before the Court of Claims, if the sum in controversy exceed five hundred dollars.

PETITION FOR THE EXPULSION OF GARRETT DAVIS.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented the petition of citizens of the United States, that whereas Mr. Davis, Senator from Kentucky, said, in the discussion of the Civil Rights bill, that if the bill passed he should be compelled to regard himself as an enemy to the government, and as that bill passed he is therefore an enemy of the government, and ought to be expelled.

Mr. DAVIS, (rep.) of Ky.—I will ask that the petition be read.

THE CHAIR—The petition will be read at length.

The SECRETARY read as follows:—

To the SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—

The undersigned, citizens of the United States, earnestly pray your honorable body, as Mr. Davis, a Senator from Kentucky, declared in his speech on the 6th instant, in relation to the passage of the bill to protect all persons in their civil rights and furnish the means of their vindication, that if the bill became a law he should feel compelled to regard himself as an enemy of the government and to work for its overthrow, and as the bill has been declared to be the law of the land by the action of the two houses of Congress, and as we feel bound to regard Mr Davis as standing in the attitude avowed by him, of an enemy to the government, as stated in his declaration, that he be expelled from the Senate with other traitors, and held to answer for his crime.

Mr. DAVIS—With the permission of the Senate I will make a single remark in relation to that petition. It is true that I used in substance the words used in that petition, but by the omission of the context it is made to be a garbled statement. As an example of garbling, the petition reminds me of a specimen quoted in one of the newspapers recently, to this effect:—"The Bible teaches that there is no God." When those words were read in connection with the context they were about as follows:—"The fool hath said in his heart that there is no God." Well, sir, the specimen of my speech referred to in the petition is about as fair as what I have just quoted.

The petition was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

APPROPRIATION FOR COLLECTION OF CUSTOMS REVENUE.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution, which was adopted, appropriating $2,100,000 to pay the expenses of collecting the revenue from customs.

NEW YORK AND MONTANA IRON MINING COMPANY.

The Senate bill to enable the New York and Montana Iron Mining Company to purchase certain public lands, reserved from sale, was taken up, discussed and laid aside at the expiration of the morning hour.

FACILITATION OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE STATES.

At one o'clock the bill to facilitate commercial, military and postal communication between the several States was taken up.

Mr. HOWELL, (rep.) of Mo., took the floor against the bill, speaking of it as a measure to give to the general government powers expressly belonging to the States. It was passed through the House, he said, without proper consideration. He objected to the whole scope and tenor of the bill as a blow at the whole railroad system of the United States.

THE NEW YORK AND WEST INDIES TELEGRAPH.

A message from the House here announced the passage in that body of the bill to encourage telegraphic communication between the United States and Cuba, with amendments, one of which restricts the charges of the company to three dollars and fifty cents for the first ten and twelve dollars for the remaining ten. The amendments were agreed to and the bill as amended was passed.

RELIEF OF ARMY PAYMASTERS.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a substitute for the bill for the relief of paymasters of the army. The substitute directs the accounting officers to put to the credit of paymasters, or additional paymasters, all sums of money paid by them to officers, soldiers or employes connected with the military service of the United States, provided such payments shall be shown to have been actually made in good faith, without fraudulent practice or intent, and where the erroneous payment was not the result of gross negligence or carelessness.

The substitute was agreed to, and the bill as amended was passed.

THE WAR CLAIMS OF KANSAS.

On motion of Mr. SCHENCK the Committee on Military Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill authorizing the Secretary of War to settle claims of the State of Kansas for the service of the militia called out on the requisition of Major General Curtis, and it was referred to the Committee on the War Debt.

CLEANSING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Mr. INGERSOLL, (rep.) of Ill., from the Committee for the District of Columbia, reported a bill placing $25,000 at the service of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, for the purpose of cleaning and purifying the city, in view of the danger from cholera and other epidemics, and asked to have it put upon its passage.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., objected, but suggested its reference to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. He would examine it, and if he found it all right he would make no objection to having it taken up and disposed of.

Mr. HARDING, (rep.) of Ill., suggested an amendment, looking to making the hall of the House healthy and comfortable. He had nearly perished since he came here, for want of fresh air. It reminded him of the black hole of Calcutta.

Mr. INGERSOLL replied that there was a Committee on Ventilation of the Capitol.

The bill was read twice and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

Mr. ASCONA, (dem.) of Pa., from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims, with a substitute for the first section. The substitute provides that the Court of Claims shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine claims of any paymaster, quartermaster, commissary of subsistence, and other disbursing officer of the United States, or of his administrators or executors, for relief from responsibility on account of loss by capture or otherwise, while in the line of duty, of government funds, vouchers, records and papers, and for which such officer was and is held responsible.

On the suggestion of Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., a proviso was adopted that an appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court, as in other cases.

The amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed.

TAXATION OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND NATIONAL BANK CURRENCY.

Mr. DELANO introduced a bill declaring certain obligations of the United States and the national bank currency subject to taxation under State authority. It was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banks.

Mr. DARLING, (rep.) of N. Y., offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into and report upon the expediency of establishing Daboll's fog trumpet at Sandy Hook, port of New York.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The House resumed the unfinished business of yesterday, being the Northern Pacific Railroad bill.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., addressed the House in support of the bill. At the close of his speech

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., offered a substitute for the bill. The substitute changes the phraseology of the first section by inserting before the words "shares per mile," in every place they occur, the words "the interest upon;" adds a proviso to the third section "that no warrants for said lands shall be issued by the government in advance of the construction of the several portions of the road as required by the charter;" strikes out the fifth section and inserts in lieu of it the words "the time limited in said charter for commencing the construction of said railroad and telegraph, and the several periods limited for completing the same, are hereby respectively extended one year."

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., made an argument against the bill, referring to the active exertions of the lobby agents in manipulating the Chicago Board of Trade, and procuring from it a circular requesting members from Illinois to vote for the bill. He had made a computation of the amount for which the United States would be liable under this bill, and the amount was sixty-nine millions and fifteen thousand dollars. He sent to the desk and had read an extract from a pamphlet published by the directors of the company estimating the value of the land granted at four hundred and seventy-three millions six hundred thousand dollars, and the entire cost of the road at one hundred and twenty millions, leaving to the shareholders a clear profit of three hundred and fifty-three millions six hundred thousand dollars. This, he said, was the representation when the company wanted to attract capital, and yet it comes to Congress now asking further subsidies.

Mr. STEVENS suggested that if all that were true it would be an excellent security for the guarantee asked from the government.

Mr. FARNSWORTH replied that the object sought for in the passage of this bill was a speculative one, in order that the present directors might sell out, as others had done. He did not believe the country needed a second railroad to the Pacific, and he thought it better that the seventy millions asked for should be used in digging a canal across the Isthmus, connecting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. He had not the slightest idea that this company would build the railroad. It would simply sell out its charter. The last company had sold its interest for one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and their charter after the passage of this bill would be worth millions of dollars. When he saw the exertions made by lobby agents and unprincipled adventurers he distrusted the whole thing. For this declaration he was responsible here or elsewhere, either in a technical or untechnical sense. (Laughter.) It would be better for the government to construct and operate the road itself than give away these enormous grants and subsidies.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa., spoke against the bill, challenging its friends to show any clause in the constitution justifying the appropriation of money from the national Treasury for such a purpose, and expressing his surprise that his colleague (Mr. Kelley) should have delivered the beautiful essay which he had done to-day in favor of a measure which would take three hundred thousand dollars out of the pockets of his constituency.

Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Min., spoke in advocacy of the bill. He said the whole matter resolved itself into the question whether the United States would be safe in giving the guarantee asked for it, and certainly, if the land grant of the company was as valuable as represented, there could be no risk in the guarantee. In the course of his remarks he referred to the suggestion made yesterday, that agents of the Central Pacific Railroad were lobbying against this bill.

Mr. HIGBY, (rep.) of Cal., remarked that if any such influence was at work it would most naturally be addressed to members from California, as being most interested in the matter; but he had not seen any agent of the Central Pacific Railroad, and believed that no such influence was at work.

Mr. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, as one who had been actively hostile to the bill, repelled the insinuation of any railroad or other influence being brought to bear on him, and expressed the belief that no railroad company was represented here in opposition to the bill.

Mr. DONNELLY disclaimed making any such assertion. He had simply referred to it as a suggestion that had been made in the course of the debate. He continued his speech in advocacy of the bill, and had read by the Clerk the speech made by Mr. Lincoln to Mr Colfax on the very evening of the President's assassination, in which he said to Mr. Colfax, "Tell the miners from me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation, and we shall prove in a very few years that we are indeed the treasury of the world."

Mr. DODGE, (rep.) of N. Y., addressed the House in support of the bill. He proposed to consider the matter as a business man. The grant of lands made to the company was a good bargain, if those who had it had been able to carry out the project. But they found that the moment they presented the charter to capitalists the objection was made that ten, twenty or thirty millions would have to be expended before the lands were made available. The consequence was they could not get American capitalists to invest in it, though they could get British capitalists to do so. Some of the best railroad men in New England, however, had met in Worcester, examined the charter, and decided to prevent, if possible, its passing into the hands of British capitalists. They had taken the charter, paying only the expenses legally and honorably incurred in preliminary surveys, printing, &c. He believed the interests of the company demanded the completion not only of the Central, but of the Northern Pacific Railroad. He differed entirely with those who supposed that the commitment of the government would shake the credit of the country. He had no hesitation in saying that the aid given by the government to the Central Pacific Railroad had done as much as any other thing to give substantial credit to the government obligations here and in Europe; because capitalists knew that with the opening of a railroad to the Pacific the production of precious metals would be doubled. He believed that if it was known to-day that by some magic the Central and Northern roads could be completed in a couple of years, and that the government had paid a hundred millions to the roads, the fact would strengthen, not diminish, the credit of the country. He had no interest, directly or indirectly, in either road; but he knew some of the gentlemen who had taken the matter in hand, and he knew that they expected to put their hands in their own pockets and produce the money to build the road. They were some of the best railroad men in the country, and they sought the passage of the bill not for speculation, but to build the road.

Mr. HUBBARD, (rep.) of Conn., spoke for five minutes in opposition to the bill.

Mr. SMITH, (rep.) of Ky., offered an amendment to the second section by adding a proviso that the lands on the north side of said railroad, the proceeds of which are also to be pledged for the payment of the interest guaranteed by the government, shall not be sold except on terms to be agreed on by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., made a strong speech against the bill, denouncing it as the vastest, greatest and most gigantic scheme of public plunder ever brought into the House of Representatives. He warned members of the republican side of the House that they would be held by their constituents to a strict account for their votes on these stupendous appropriations of the public money and for such objects. He undertook to say that if this question were submitted to the constituents of any member, it would not get a thousand votes.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Oregon, said that nine-tenths of his constituents would vote in favor of it.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., would make an exception in the case of his friend from Oregon; but he thought that the people living east of the Rocky Mountains should have some voice in the matter. He gloried in the spirit which Governor Fenton, of New York, had shown in putting the knife of the veto into the corrupt and rotten Legislature of that State, and for which he deserved a monument from the people. If the national Executive would stop vetoing Freedmen's Bureau bills and Civil Rights bills and veto some schemes of legislation that were likely to pass, he would to that extent receive the gratitude of the American people.

Mr. WENTWORTH, (rep.) of Ill.—He is going to do it, too. (Laughter.)

Mr. THAYER, (rep.) of Pa., remarked that he saw on the bills of the House another House bill, entitled a bill to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad, to connect the great lakes with the Gulf of Mexico, and wanted to know whether the gentleman from Illinois would give him any information about it.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., declared that he could not, and that it was impossible to keep track of these railroad schemes, they were so numerous. He wanted to know where all these schemes were to lead.

Mr. GARFIELD suggested to the Pacific coast.

Mr. WASHBURNE—To the Pacific coast "in a horn." (Laughter.) They would lead to the bottom of an empty Treasury.

Mr. WINDOM, (rep.) of Minn., suggested something about the Illinois Ship Canal.

Mr. WASHBURNE replied that that was an additional reason why he did not want all the money to go away in the direction of the Pacific Railroad, and mentioned the name of General Grant, as one of the corporators, put in for the sake of effect.

Mr. DARLING asked whether the gentleman himself had not moved to insert the name of General Grant, instead of McClellan.

Mr. WASHBURNE said that, although he had no recollection of it, it was very likely; and was an excellent change. If the gentleman was aggrieved about it, he hoped he would make his grievance known to his constituents. General Grant had told him (Mr. Washburne) that an effort had been made to get from him an endorsement of this scheme, but that he had refused to give it.

Mr STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., obtained the floor; but he said he was so frightened with terrible pictures, of gorgons dire and hydras and other terrible beasts, drawn by the gentleman from Illinois, that he did not want to proceed to-night.

Mr. WASHBURNE said that, in consideration of his friend's nerves, he would move to adjourn.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The SPEAKER presented a message from the President transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior in reference to the eastern division of the Pacific Railroad Company.

OVERLOADING EMIGRANT SHIPS.

Mr. WASHBURNE gave notice that the Committee on Commerce had prepared a very important bill in regard to overloading passenger ships, and, as it was connected with the question of cholera, he would ask the House to consider it to-morrow, after disposing of the Northern Pacific Railroad bill.

COLLECTION OF IMPORT DUTIES.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS the Senate joint resolution making an appropriation for the expenses of collecting the revenue from customs was taken from the Speaker's table, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY BILL.

Mr. WARD, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a remonstrance of prominent members of the bar of Chemung county, New York, against the Federal Judiciary bill.

TRANSFER OF REGISTRY.

Mr. LAFLIN, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a petition for the transfer of the schooner Mary, from a Canadian to an American bottom.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE RESOLUTIONS—SENATOR DOOLITTLE REQUESTED TO RESIGN.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (dem.) of Wis., presented memorials from the Wisconsin Legislature on the equalization of soldiers' bounties; in reference to a ship canal through the State of Wisconsin, connecting Lake Michigan with the Mississippi river and the Gulf of Mexico; for the improvement of the harbor of Superior City, Wisconsin, and a joint resolution declaring it to be the duty of Senator Doolittle to resign. The latter was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

The House then, at five o'clock, adjourned.

The Fort Sumter Regulars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, April 26, 1866.

In your issue of Saturday last, under the heading of "The Border War," is the following in regard to the First artillery:—

The First artillery was under the command of Major Anderson, at Fort Sumter, and has been at Fort Hamilton ever since the capture of that place (Sumter) by the rebels.

Believing the error to be unintentional and that the article will place a very deserving regiment in an improper light before the public, permit me to request you to insert the following:—The regiment claim the honor of having fired the first gun in defence of the Union (having formed part of the garrison of Fort Sumter), and the last gun to crush the rebellion; having fired the only guns (eighteen rounds) at the surrender of Lee. Instead of having been at Fort Hamilton during the war, the regiment has participated in upwards of two hundred skirmishes, battles and engagements, as the official records of the War Department will show, and which record will compare favorably with that of any other regiment.

Police Intelligence.

CHARGED WITH STEALING A GOLD WATCH.

William Powers, a man thirty years of age and a native of Maryland, was arrested by officer Sullivan, of the Fourth precinct, on the charge of having stolen a gold watch valued at two hundred dollars from Jacob Jacobs, of 118 Chatham street. Powers had entered the complainant's store under pretence of wishing to make some purchases, and while at the counter was caught in the act of stealing the timepiece. The accused was taken before Justice Dowling and committed to the Tombs for trial in default of one thousand dollars bail.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Captain Wilson, of the Twenty-first precinct, yesterday arrested Solomon Frank, a butcher, on the charge of cruelty to animals, under the new law recently passed by our Legislature. Frank was found with twelve calves, with their legs tied with cords and packed closely in a small cart