THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,895. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1866. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

WASHINGTON

THE TARIFF BILL IN THE HOUSE.

Speech of Mr. Morrill in Explanation and Support of the Bill.

Upwards of Nine Hundred Million Dollars in Currency in Circulation.

Proposed Reorganization of the Departments.

THE WAR CLAIMS OF THE STATES.

Proposition in the Senate to Allow Interest on Claims for Money Expended for the Benefit of the General Government.

Passage of Several Land Grant Bills in the House.

Nearly a Million Acres of the Public Domain Given in Aid of Internal Improvements.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, June 28, 1866.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The incidental query of Secretary Harlan of a friend a day or two since as to who was to be his successor in the Interior Department has given rise to the impression that he intends to resign his portfolio at an early day. His election to the Senate, added to the unpleasantness and embarrassment of his position as one of a hopeless minority in a Cabinet pledged so inflexibly to a line of policy antagonistic to his views, would seem to impel him to resign. It is known that the President has been waiting the request of not only Mr. Harlan, but of other members of his Cabinet as well, to be relieved for a long time, and is prepared to fill their places at short notice. Judge O. W. Browning, of Illinois, will doubtless succeed to the Interior Department whenever Mr. Harlan gets ready to withdraw. This fact settles another fact, that Judge Browning is not a candidate for the Illinois Senatorship. Indeed, I am assured he would not accept that position if it were tendered him.

THE DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO THE MEXICAN MUDDLE.

The denial of Mr. Seward's New York organ of the late developments of the HERALD in regard to the Mexican business has only tended to confirm the popular conviction of the truthfulness of the charges. It is asserted with positiveness, not only in the Senate chamber, but in circles calculated to be even better informed, that there is ample basis for the story of the secret treaty, and developments will be made in a very few days tending to establish the facts in the case.

The Mexican business is just beginning to assume interesting proportions. Mr. Romero recently put forth a pamphlet reviewing Santa Anna's record, and aiming to show what his professions of republicanism are worth, made up of compilations from official documents from Santa Anna's correspondence with various parties. The representatives of the Juarez government, presuming they have disposed of the ex-President in this interesting publication, will next turn their attention to Ortega, who, they claim, can be as readily brushed away. When policy shall dictate such a course they will probably take up Mr. Seward's intrigues, for which I am led to believe they are fully prepared.

THE TARIFF BILL

was taken up in the House to-day in Committee of the Whole, and its consideration opened by a written speech from Mr. Morrill. Mr. Morrill and the friends of the measure express a determination to oppose any recess before the passage of the bill, and hope thereby to coerce the opposition into its support. The assurance having been given out that the bill would be informally passed to-day until after the proposed recess, its consideration at this time is considered a piece of bad faith. No material progress was made in its discussion to-day.

THE NAVAL OFFICE AT NEW YORK.

The fight for Naval Officer at New York grows wearisome to some of the contestants, who are about to retire to their respective homes and await Presidential action. The more shrewd and knowing ones among them, however, are said to be satisfied that no appointment to the vacancy will be immediately made. The President probably intends to retain his hold on the place for the present.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER PUBLIC HONORS HAD BEEN RENDERED TO REBELS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

The President to-day sent a message to the House in reply to a resolution requesting information as to whether any of the civil or military employes of the government have assisted in the rendition of public honors to the rebel living or dead. He incloses communications from the heads of departments, in substance as follows:—

The Secretary of State says he has no knowledge or information on the subject of the resolution. The Attorney General remarks that his department has no knowledge of such disloyal demonstration on the part of any officer subject to its jurisdiction, and he believes that none such has taken place. The Postmaster General says he has no information upon any branch of the inquiry, so far as it may relate to the officers and employes of his department. The Secretary of the Interior says, "None of the employes of this department, so far as I am advised and believe, within the State of Georgia or any other of the rebel States, have in any way countenanced or assisted in the rendition of public honors to traitors either living or dead, or concurred in the obstruction or denial by the rebel authorities of the privileges of doing like honors to loyalty at the graves of Union soldiers who have perished far from their homes and kindred." The Secretary of the Treasury makes a similar reply. The Secretary of War says his department is not in possession of any official information upon the subject.

THE TAX ON NATIONAL BANKS—CIRCULAR FROM TREASURER SPINNER.

A circular has been issued by General Spinner, United States Treasurer, embodying the opinion of Solicitor of the Treasury Jordan, "from which," the former says, "it will be seen that no authority is invested in the Treasurer's office or in the Department to refund to any national bank the amount of duty claimed to have been erroneously exacted from it, either by direct return of the amount paid or by allowing it as a credit to the bank on the payment in July next. The only remedy then left to the banks affected by this opinion of the Solicitor is in the provision by Congress for repayment of the amounts claimed. In the endeavor to procure such action by Congress I will cheerfully co-operate by a representation of the facts, and in any other proper way. Circular No. 41,866, issued under date of February 10, 1866, in which it was proposed to refund by allowing to be applied as payment on the July return any amount which a bank should show to be due to it by reason of the modified regulations respecting surplus, cannot, therefore, under the construction given by the Solicitor of the Treasury to the powers and duties of this office be carried out."

FRESH WATER SITE FOR IRON-CLADS—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE UNFAVORABLE FOR PORTLAND.

The Board constituted by the order of the Secretary of the Navy to examine a site at or near Portland, Me., for a fresh water basin for iron-clad vessels of the navy and to ascertain the advantages and loss of said site, have made a report on the subject. They visited the place and made all the requisite examinations, and say, after a length of time occupied in the construction and large expenditure of money, the result would be simply the possession of a fresh water basin, to be supplied with water from a company. It would be frozen over with ice eighteen inches and more thick at least five months in the year. It would also be within reach from the sea of rifle projectiles in use at the present day, and removed from a navy yard where established facilities exist for repairing, equipping and fitting out vessels when required in an emergency. The Board, for reasons given, consider it proper to express the hope that some other place may be found, not far from a navy yard, where abundance of fresh water can be commanded without resorting to such expensive structures, and the position of which shall not only be within speedy reach of our great coal fields, numerous iron mills, shell works and various naval supplies required, but also so far removed from sea as to secure it from the possibility of being reached by hostile shot. The report is signed by Melancthon Smith, Captain United States Navy; B. S. Alexander, Major of Engineers, Brevet Brigadier General United States Army, and Q. N. King, Chief Engineer United States Navy.

LAND GRANT BILLS PASSED, ETC.

In the House to-day no less than ten land bills were passed, granting in the aggregate nearly a million of acres of public lands to various companies for internal improvement. Among these the most considerable was the bill granting two hundred thousand acres of land in the upper peninsula of Michigan to the Portage Lake and Lake Superior Canal Company. This company have previously secured a grant of two hundred thousand acres, making four hundred thousand in all, to aid them in constructing a ship canal across Keewenan Point, on Lake Superior. The object of the canal is to save the perilous navigation around the point where so many vessels have been lost, and shorten the route from the Sault St. Marie river to the head of Lake Superior. The route of the proposed canal will save about twenty-four hours in time to steam vessels. The new route leaves the lake at Portage entry, runs through Portage lake, and then by a canal of about two miles in length reenters the lake. It is an important improvement for the Lake Superior country. The bill has already passed the Senate, and now only requires the President's approval.

The General Land Office has just transmitted to the Governor of the State of Michigan approved list No. 10, vesting title in the State for 7,071 acres of swamp lands inuring under the provisions of the Congressional grant by act of 28th September, 1850; and to the Governor of Iowa an approved list of swamp and unexplored land covering 6,168 acres, vesting title in the State under the State grant.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate to-day confirmed John Spear as Collector of Internal Revenue for the district of Kansas, and Duff Green as Marshal for the Southern district of Mississippi. The latter is not the Duff Green, of quondam political notoriety. The Senate to-day ratified several Indian treaties.

A report in circulation yesterday that the Senate had rejected the appointment of Mr. Sloanaker as Collector of Internal Revenue at Philadelphia proves to be untrue. No action has yet been taken in the matter. The old incumbent, Colonel Taggart, is meanwhile collecting the revenue and pocketing the commissions.

It is said that the Senate, in executive session, has resolved to confirm no appointments that lack the indorsement of the Senator of the State whence the appointee hails. If this really is the case the President will be seriously embarrassed in making appointments.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATION BILL.

The appropriations of the River and Harbor bill, approved on the 23d inst., amount to $2,696,067 91. The following are among the items:—For surveys of the Atlantic coast, $30,000; the Pacific coast, $25,000; the Northwestern lakes, $100,000; the Western and Northwestern rivers, $100,000; for improvements of Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas and Ohio rivers, $550,000.

PARDONS GRANTED.

The President to-day directed pardons to be granted to eight persons from Alabama and Texas, a few of them under the first exception, or "petty officer" clause, but most of them under the thirteenth, or twenty thousand dollar, clause.

OPERATIONS OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN VIRGINIA.

Brevet Brigadier General F. D. Sewell, Inspector General of the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of Virginia, has just completed a tour of inspection in that State, and in his report to the Bureau speaks highly of the conduct of Colonel Brown, formerly Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau for Virginia. He recommends the consolidation of the sub-districts and a reduction of the agents of the Bureau to one-third of the present number. He states that the issue of rations is steadily decreasing and will be less after the crops come in. The largest issues are made at Richmond, Petersburg, Hampton and Norfolk, where there are great numbers of contrabands. He recommends that they be sent back into the country, where the demand for labor is much beyond the supply.

RECEIPTS FROM CUSTOMS.

The following is a statement of the receipts from customs at the four principal ports of the United States from the 16th to the 23d of June:—

New York	$2,108,787	Philadelphia	154,819
Boston	291,784	Baltimore	69,457
Total			$2,604,848

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

The internal revenue receipts to-day were $869,933.

NEW PATENTS.

The Commissioner of Patents will issue one hundred and ninety-two new patents for the week ending July 3, 1866.

SURGEON GENERAL BARNES

has published in circular form for distribution extracts from letters received by him from the leading surgeons of the world, bestowing the highest possible encomiums on his circular No. 6, and expressing the hope that our government will provide for the publication of a volume embodying the experience of the medical staff during the war.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, June 28, 1866.

LAND TITLE IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nevada, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to quiet the title to certain lands in Benicia, California.

BRIDGING THE MISSISSIPPI.

On motion of Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., the Committee on Post-Office and Post Roads were discharged from the further consideration of a petition for a general law on the subject of bridging the Mississippi river.

REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENTS—THE GOVERNMENT PATRONAGE.

Mr. BROWN, (rep.) of Mo., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for such a reorganization of the civil service, and especially of the Post Office, Treasury and Interior Departments, as shall secure appointments to the same for specific terms, after previous examination by proper boards; as shall provide for promotions on the score of merit or seniority, and authorize dismissals under the safeguard of trial or signature; as shall officer each branch of the service with well trained experts in the details of its business, and as shall assimilate them all more nearly to those conditions and regulations which govern the enlistment and officering of the army and navy of the United States, and which have successfully precluded the latter from being used merely as reservoirs of political patronage or ordinary appliances of party power.

Mr. BROWN said the substance of this resolution was an attempt to conform the civil service, in many of its details and appointments, to the regulations which govern the military service of the country. He could not hope, at this late stage of the session, to get any final or definite action on this subject. A subject of such large character necessarily involves so much consideration that all I can hope, at the present time, is to bring it to the attention of the distinguished gentlemen who compose the Committee on the Judiciary, and to invite for it their consideration. I will say furthermore, however, that I have been engaged in the preparation of bills concerning the objects there specified, with the design of bringing them before the Senate, at this session, but absence and sickness have interfered so largely with my ability to prepare them that I have not been able to complete them. I do not think it right, however, to let the whole subject go by without making some notice of it, or without stating that it is my design, if I am spared, to present that subject in a more tangible form at the next session of Congress.

The resolution was adopted.

WAR CLAIMS OF THE STATES.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced the following joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Finance:—

Resolved, &c., That interest shall be computed and paid to each State on all its claims for money expended by such State for the use and benefit of the United States for the public military defence, according to the following rules, viz.:—First, the principal sums on which interest shall be computed shall be those which, before such computations, have been paid or passed to the credit of such State; second, interest shall be allowed on those sums only on which the State either paid interest or lost interest by the transfer of an interest-bearing fund; third, it shall be calculated up to the time of one payment made, which payment shall be first applied to the interest, and if it shall exceed the interest due the balance shall be applied to diminish the principal; but if it falls short of the interest due the balance of the interest shall not be added to the principal so as to bear interest.

MINERAL LANDS.

Mr. STEWART called up the bill to regulate the occupation of the mineral lands and to extend the right of preemption, which, after a discussion, was passed. The bill was published last week.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Finance Committee, reported the Indian Appropriation bill.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUFFRAGE BILL.

Mr. CLARK, (rep.) of N. H., said that he had been requested by Mr. Morrill, who was absent, to move the postponement of the regular order, which was the District Suffrage bill pending yesterday. The motion prevailed and the Suffrage bill was postponed.

NIAGARA SHIP CANAL.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., called up the Niagara Ship Canal bill, which was read.

Pending the reading of the bill Mr. SHERMAN moved the postponement of the further consideration of the subject until the first Monday in December next. He said it involved an ultimate expense of six million dollars. It was contingent also on the consent of the State of New York, and he thought that consent ought to be obtained first.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., inquired of Mr. Sherman whether he thought the consent of the State of New York was necessary.

Mr. SHERMAN said it was required by one of the provisions of the bill. It was a question which might give rise to a great deal of debate.

Mr. HOWE spoke against the postponement. This was a work which interested not New York alone, but the entire country; and therefore Congress ought not to wait for the State Legislature of New York to take the initiative steps. He hoped the motion to postpone would not prevail.

Mr. GUTHRIE, (dem.) of Ky., doubted the right of Congress to incorporate a company to do the proposed work. He had no doubt of the right of the government to construct a ship canal for national defence. He favored the postponement, not believing the government to be at present in a condition to undertake such work. It was more important to restore the South to her political and commercial relations.

Mr. McDOUGALL, (dem.) of Cal., said this question was twenty years old, and there was no cause whatever why its settlement should be longer delayed.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., said he was strongly and earnestly in favor of this measure, and he hoped it would not be postponed.

Mr. WADE, (rep.) of Ohio, said he differed from his colleague on this question. He thought it was an important measure and one that ought to be considered immediately. It was now urged that the time had not come for this work. This had been said for years. It was said that we could not afford it. The same plea had been urged before we had any national debt. He (Mr. Wade) was ready to vote for the bill now.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., said a majority of the Committee on Commerce was opposed to asserting the right of Congress to authorize this work without the consent of New York. It therefore incorporated a provision such as referred to by Mr. Sherman. He would prefer to see that stricken out. He believed that Congress had the right, under the war power as well as under the power to regulate commerce, to pass the bill.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, preferred to see the bill recommitted rather than postponed. He was in favor of the construction of the Ship canal, and believed Congress had the power to construct it; but he did not believe Congress ought to authorize a private corporation to go into New York and construct this work and control it after its construction. He would vote for a bill to have the work done under the superintendence of the Engineer corps of the Army.

Mr. SHERMAN withdrew his motion to postpone, and

Mr. GRIMES moved to recommit the bill to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., said he was very much gratified at the tone of this debate, to hear all Senators estimate this work in its full importance. He was glad to hear that all men were in favor of it, and that the only question was as to the time. He believed the present financial condition of the country, instead of being a reason for postponing the measure, was a reason for its speedy passage. When they were pressed by difficulties they put forth their energies to recover themselves, and so it ought to be with nations.

Mr. SUMNER wanted to see the bill placed immediately on its passage. He wanted an opportunity to vote upon the amendment of the Senate committee to make the operation of the bill dependent upon the consent of the State of New York. He wanted that question settled now for all time.

Mr. STEWART spoke in favor of the bill. He believed the expenditure would be a profitable one for the government. It would increase the taxable value of property, and in the end reduce the national debt by increasing the wealth of the country.

THE TAX BILL.

Pending the consideration of this subject the Tax bill was returned from the House.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., moved that the Senate insist on its amendments and agree to the committee of conference called for by the House. The motion was agreed to, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Fessenden, Van Winkle and Guthrie on the part of the Senate

CHARITABLE SOCIETIES AND THE WAR.

Mr. CRESWELL, (rep.) of Md., introduced a joint resolution for the payment of religious and charitable societies in loyal States for property destroyed during the war.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate went into executive session, and at three o'clock adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, June 28, 1866.

THE PUBLIC LANDS, LAND GRANTS, ETC.

Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., from the Committee on Public Lands, reported several bills, as follows:—

For the discontinuance of land offices and authorizing modifications in the limits of land districts, which was read three times and passed.

The Senate bill to create an additional land district in the State of Oregon, which was read three times and passed.

The Senate bill concerning certain lands granted to the State of Nevada, which was passed, with amendments.

The Senate bill making a grant of lands in alternate sections to aid in the construction and extension of the Iron Mountain Railroad from Pilot Knob, Missouri, to Helena, Arkansas, which was passed, with amendments.

Mr. DRIGGS, (rep.) of Mich., from the same committee, reported back the Senate bill granting lands to the State of Michigan to aid in the construction of a harbor and ship canal at Portage Lake, Keweenaw Point, on Lake Superior, which was passed.

Also the Senate bill granting certain lands to the State of Michigan to aid in the construction of a ship canal to connect the waters of Lake Superior with Lac La Belle, in that State, which was passed.

THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN CONNECTICUT.

While the latter bill was under discussion Mr. STEVENS sent up and had read as an amendment (in order) a telegraphic despatch from New Haven, Conn., announcing the approval of the constitutional amendment by 125 to 88 votes. (Applause and laughter.)

The SPEAKER announced that that could hardly be considered an amendment to the bill. (Laughter.)

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

On motion of Mr. JULIAN, the Committee on Public Lands was discharged from further consideration of the petition of the trustees of the Indiana Agricultural College, and the same was laid on the table.

CONSIDERATION OF LAND GRANT BILLS RESUMED.

Mr. JULIAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to explain and limit an act to grant the right of way to the Humboldt Canal Company through the public lands of the United States, which was passed.

Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Minn., from the same committee, reported back the Senate bill making an additional grant of lands to the State of Minnesota in alternate sections to aid in the construction of railroads, which was passed with amendments.

Mr. DONNELLY, from the same committee, also reported the House bill granting a section of land in the Fort Snelling Military reservation to the State of Minnesota for the establishment of an asylum for the relief of disabled soldiers and sailors of that State and of the United States, which was passed.

Mr. DONNELLY, from the same committee, also reported the House bill to amend the act of May 5, 1864, granting lands to Minnesota to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior. Mr. Donnelly explained that the object of the bill was simply to permit a change of location.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., spoke of the vast quantity of public lands granted to Minnesota, and moved to lay the bill on the table, which was lost, by yeas 46, nays 72.

The bill was then passed.

MISSOURI CONTESTED ELECTION.

The report of the Committee on Elections in the contested election case from Missouri of Boyd against Kelso was then called up, and the resolution declaring Mr. Kelso entitled to retain his seat was adopted.

A resolution was then adopted to pay Mr. Boyd $2,500 in full for the time spent and expenses incurred by him in making the contest.

DISPOSAL OF BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE.

The morning hour having expired, the House proceeded to dispose of the business on the Speaker's table, as follows:—

Request of the Senate for a committee of conference on the act making a grant of lands to Kansas to aid in the construction of the Northern Kansas Railroad and Telegraph. Agreed to.

The Senate amendments to the joint resolution for the relief of Woodward and Chorpenning, of Pennsylvania. Concurred in.

The Senate amendments to the House bill to continue in force and to amend the act to establish the Freedmen's Bureau.

On motion of Mr. ELIOT, (rep.) of Mass., the amendments were non-concurred in and a conference committee was asked.

AMERICAN REGISTERS TO FOREIGN BUILT VESSELS.

Mr. PIKE, (rep.) of Me., offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of providing that in all cases of granting American registers to foreign built vessels the owners shall pay to the government forty per cent ad valorem, that being the average of duties under the existing tariff.

UNITED STATES FENCING, DRAINING AND LAND COMPANY.

Mr. COX, (rep.) of Wis. introduced a bill to incorporate the United States Fencing, Ditching, Draining and Land Company, which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS OF DAKOTA TERRITORY.

Mr. ASHLEY, (rep.) of Ohio, on behalf of the delegate from Dakota, introduced a bill to provide for the publication of the laws of Dakota Territory, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Territories.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE TAX BILL.

The SPEAKER appointed Messrs. Morrill, Allison and Winfield a committee on conference on the tax bill.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT—FRESH WATER BASIN FOR IRON-CLADS.

The SPEAKER presented a message from the President transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, and a copy of the report and maps prepared by the Board of Examiners appointed under the joint resolution of June 1, 1866, to examine a site for a fresh water basin for iron-clad vessels. Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO THE INQUIRY IN RELATION TO PUBLIC HONORS TO REBELS.

The Speaker also presented a message from the President transmitting reports from the heads of the Executive Departments in answer to the House resolution of the 4th of June as to whether civil or military employes of the government have assisted in the rendering of public honors to the rebels, living or dead. Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Scofield in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the Tariff bill.

Mr. MORRILL addressed the House in explanation and support of the bill. He said:—Mr. Chairman, at this late period of the session and in this hot weather I know that the despatch of business will be hailed with more good will than any discussion of great principles of economy involving protection or free trade or of the minute details of a tariff bill involving the present condition of trade and the nice adjustment of duties on imports to our system of internal taxation, and I shall, therefore, as a matter of taste, as well as from the impossibility of doing otherwise from sheer exhaustion, trespass upon the patience of the committee no longer than may be necessary to show that some action is imperatively required at our hands, and that the action proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means, taking into careful consideration the circumstances of the country, the condition of our national finances, and the currency with which all commercial transactions must be conducted, is reasonable and proper. The close of the war exhibits a Northern loss by death in the service of not less than two hundred and fifty thousand men, and an equal number it may be computed have been physically incapacited for manual labor, so that not less than half a million of men between twenty and thirty years of age, the athletes of the world, have suddenly been withdrawn from the fields, workshops and mines of the old free States of the Union. This loss represents in the aggregate the industrial and vital force of not less than two million five hundred thousand men, women and children, though survivors and dependent of the five hundred thousand smitten in battle, or of those who tasted the bitter cup of rebel prison, or who failed of complete restoration to health and soundness of body, notwithstanding the sweet mercies of our own flag, are the precious legacies of the war to be provided for, though consumers and no longer producers of wealth, nor perhaps of even the ordinary means of subsistence. The loss of the South, though nominally less, may be practically equal, as their recuperative power appears comparatively inferior and was more crippled by the relentless track of war. This great subtraction from the essential forces of the country cannot be at once repaired. Many of those who went forth to the war, though untouched by steel, shot or shell, have found new fields of enterprise and labor as yet unremunerative, but promising in the end prosperous homes. A wave of population has gone southward hardly perceptible now, but which is likely to exhibit itself in the returns of the next census. Some accessions from Europe have come, amounting to 287,397 in the year 1865; but the pitiless war conscriptions now going on there, and the perpetual allegiance demanded will most likely arrest the tide of emigration which otherwise might justly have been anticipated from that quarter. The deduction to be made from all these considerations is that our present supply of labor is largely deficient, so largely that we cannot at present compete with the dense and crowded populations of the Eastern hemisphere in hardly any branch of human industry, and yet it is more important than ever that every man should find work. I hope labor in America will forever be far more highly rewarded than elsewhere. It is so now, and that distinction is the glory of our country, of our institutions and of American policy. But just now labor, like everything else, is artificially dear. High prices must be paid or the capital invested in lands, mines and manufactures must be wrecked and abandoned. But for the war, and had we remained in our normal condition, unvisited by unusual taxes and the disturbing flood of an exclusively paper currency, our people would have occupied a more impregnable position as against foreign competition than they ever occupied in their previous history. Now we are vulnerable to the attacks of anybody from any quarter who has anything to sell. Foreign artificers of brass and iron and even of clay we cannot resist. They are able to undersell our own people. Our present amount of circulating currency is vast. Of legal tenders, so-called, we have $401,282,468; of national bank notes, $280,301,906; of outstanding notes of the old State banks, not including those having less than five per cent of their capital, $48,479,732; of fractional currency, $27,053,709, and of compound interest notes, $139,926,910, amounting in all to $917,014,769. I do not cite these figures as a reproach to anybody, but as a fact, and a monstrous fact, attended by evils increasing day by day, and the longer contraction, the true remedy is withheld, the more difficult will be found its application. At the time of the surrender of Lee and Johnson any terms of settlement might easily have been obtained from the Southern rebels with ample guarantees for the future, as they panted for nothing so much as deliverance from the pains and penalties of treason, and anything short of expatriation would have been promptly accepted. That opportune moment passed away never to return. So the transition from paper to specie at that time might perhaps have been made with less strain upon the country, with less inconvenience to individuals than it can now or ever be brought about. The people were prepared for it. The goal in point of fact was almost reached. Nobody was in debt and nobody was distressed. The nominal reduction of inventions would have left all with relatively equal purchasable values. But, unfortunately, this policy did not prevail, and now trade stands against any reduction of values, and Congress itself grudgingly authorizes the return of only about four millions per month of our huge volume of currency, the presence of which stimulates sales and strangles production. Our country from one of the cheapest places to live in, is becoming one of the dearest. The wages paid to labor are not too much, considering what those wages will pay for in bread and meat, in rent and clothes. No manufactures can be made while this state of things last, to be sent abroad, and unless war, pestilence or famine occurs among foreign nations they will want none of our corn or wheat, beef or pork at anything like what it costs to produce it. Our gold, it is true, they eagerly despoil us of, and why not? As money, it is getting to be obsolete. Gold coin is itself depreciated in our market because it is useless, save as so much convenient and portable merchandise. If used for the payment of an existing contract it is worth no more than an equal amount of United States legal tender notes. Our whole monetary system is bloated by more than a fourfold addition to the currency in circulation. It is unnatural, and daily begets diseases of a new type—formidable because unknown—as well as those with which we are already familiar and know to be dangerous. Having to deal with such facts, and it being impossible to remove this incubus upon the labor of the country at once, our legislation must recognize the situation and trim our sails for such breezes as may blow. Our imports of foreign goods this year are nearly double what they were last year, and we pay for them by sending abroad gold and silver and United States bonds at a little more than half their face value. Another reason, and one of the most cogent, for a revision of the tariff at this time is the insufficient rates now levied upon foreign wools. This is a question which has vexed Congress for forty years. The evils endured by woolgrowers somehow never disappear let the laws take what shape they may. The flocks of sheep in South America, in Australia, at the Capes and elsewhere have become so large, so much improved by mixed breeds that they threaten to force the American woolgrowers to abandon a chosen and most attractive pursuit. Formerly the wool obtained from Buenos Ayres was coarse and full of burrs, but by crossing with the merino breeds it has become entirely changed in character, and now wools, equal in grade to the average American growth, can be bought in South America for fifteen cents per pound. It is not washed, and burrs still accompany it. But no American husbandman, not even those who are located in proximity to unfenced prairies, where the summer feed can be appropriated without let or hindrance, can compete with such prices. They must, unless at once taken care of, succumb. For the past four years, notwithstanding the nominally high prices for wool, the amount received when reduced to a gold standard shows that the business of wool growing has not been remunerative, not affording one half the profits of any other kind of farming, and many owners of sheep have been preparing to quit the business for something more hopeful. Unless Congress shall do something to revive the courage of those men the stock of sheep that will be offered for slaughter the coming fall will exceed anything the country has heretofore witnessed. The complaint is loud, universal and real, not stimulated. Never, since I have had the honor to be a member of this House, have so large a number of petitions been received, or with so many and respectable signatures upon any subject. The Committee of Ways and Means have been flooded with these documents from the East to the farthest West. The tariff of 1857, against which I voted, allowed wool under eighteen cents to come in free, and reduced the ad valorem tariff on woods coming more than that. The tariff of 1861 placed a small ad valorem duty on wool under eighteen cents, and a specific duty on all wool above that rate, besides providing many provisions against fraud. This was considerably improved by the tariff of 1864; but the value of wool abroad being less than represented or believed to be, importers still got competing wools through the Custom House at rates never above six cents per pound, and sometimes at even less. Last fall and winter the wool growers, through their various agricultural societies and other State and national organizations, got together for the first time and discussed the subject of wool growing in its relation to rival foreign interests. The wool manufacturers also met with them in joint convention. After months of patient toil and critical examination they presented to us, in April last, the fruits of their joint labor, so far as it relates to the duties upon wool. The proposition as regards woollens came along considerably later. A mutual agreement was arrived at, and upon a basis fair and equitable, of equities that had never agreed before. I think their work does honor to those who conceived, and who have so far successfully matured, these several propositions. These propose much higher rates upon wool because of the perfection of the classification, which is so framed as to catch all wools that can by any possibility compete with American wool. There is no loop-hole through which any wool can escape the duty intended. It is fixed and certain. The Custom House officer, though a fool, can not err therein. I know the woolgrowers will be satisfied with their own proposition, as they should be, for it amounts to more on Mestiza wool than would a duty of seventy-five per centum ad valorem, and I hope we shall not attempt to offer anything less or in any other shape, for whatever is not in the form of a specific duty would be, as in most other cases, valueless. The greatest protection the American wool growers could have would be the disclosure of the fact at every sale of woollen clothes, whether the same were made of American wool or not, as clothes made of sound American wool are really worth for actual service, for hard wear and tear, far more than those made of the tender and brittle foreign wools. The duties upon woollens, it will be seen, are very carefully adjusted so as to cover the duties which the manufacturers pay first on wool and dyestuffs, the Internal Revenue taxes on their sales, and in addition twenty-five per cent ad valorem. The compound duties in the bill, though following the principle first adopted in the tariff of 1861, may not be understood at a glance; but when carefully studied they will be found to have the extent I have indicated, and no more. If this bill becomes a law, as I trust it will, the woollen manufacturer will not find his condition any better than now. Foreign goods, I fear, will crowd our marts with nearly the same imposing profusion that they have done heretofore, or at the rate of over a million dollars for every day in the year. Last year our imports amounted to $234,756,447, but this year they will reach not less than $409,411,513. This is a drain that we are in no condition to bear. Every spare dollar in the country is needed to fund our rapidly maturing national obligations. For the past year we have received from California but a little over $29,000,000, and yet our exports of gold and silver at New York alone from May 12 to June 16 amounted to $36,515,462. When can we resume specie payments if this stream of merchandise inward and flow of gold outward is allowed to continue? Clearly it is the duty of the government to moderate, if it cannot control, this reckless course of trade before bankruptcy ensues and the business of the country receives a check from which it may take years to recover. I do not think it necessary to go into the details of many branches. There is not a member of the House who does not know and feel that there is urgent need of legislation upon the tariff. To adjourn without such legislation would be a calamity and a blunder. Take the iron trade. It is true they made money during the war; but they are not doing it now. They are paying laborers for making a ton of iron nearly as much as it would cost abroad. There are some little items in the Tariff bill which hardly arrest the eye which give employment to thousands, and therefore require considerate treatment at our hands. Among these permit me to cite one or two examples:—Eyelets, made of brass and then tinned, as an article of commerce so far as to attract, have but recently been introduced. They will be noticed in shoes and boots, and, though invisible in other articles for ladies' wear, they are still there. I find that of these small and very cheap articles—costing no more than from seventeen to eighteen cents per thousand—the amount we consume annually rises to the respectable sum of four millions of dollars. Hoop skirts is another article of extensive use, for which we are supposed to be indebted to the genius of Eugenie, who, failing to rule the Emperor of the French, has great audacity in ruling French fashions. In New York city alone twenty-five thousand persons find employment in all the branches of the hoop skirt manufacture. It would be possible to mention many other articles, apparently trifles as light as air, which furnish the means of support to a large number of industrious and thrifty families. The articles added to the free list in the bill are few in number and of inconsiderable importance. Such articles as form the base or raw material of other manufactures, and of which there is no domestic supply, scientific theorists as well as practical legislators agree should be charged with little or no duty. When any country has superior natural advantages for the production of a specific article, it may be useless and a waste of capital for others to attempt rivalry in the same direction. We have nothing that will compete with the white cliff stone of England for chalk and whiting, and as it enters into other manufactures to a considerable extent and gives business to our home and bound vessels, it deserves to be free. We produce rock oil or petroleum, and while it bubbles up and spontaneously runs away from its fountains, to be had only for the catching, it will be difficult to find any article in other markets to supplant the poor man's light, as Mr. Schofield, from Pennsylvania, aptly calls it; and so long as we have a surplus to spare it will find purchasers. Salt, when it is made from springs, depends mainly for its cheapness upon the amount of saline matter contained in the water. The relative value of salt springs in Virginia, Michigan, New York and Ohio differs widely. In some of these States the business now continues, but without a higher duty most of them must wind up. If in any of these States mines could be found where salt could be taken out in pure crystals the saline springs would have to be abandoned. As it is we cannot afford to be dependent upon other nations for so indispensable an article in peace and war as salt. Even if it can be obtained elsewhere nominally at a less price, our own establishments must be preserved—encouraged to the full amount of their capacity; and even then one-half of all we consume will be brought from abroad. We cannot afford to make it free, nor yet can we afford to tax it so heavily as to make it a luxury or anything but what is an article for human nature's daily use. The discovery of an enormous deposit of chloride of potassium in a bed of rock salt in Germany may prove to be the chief source from which commerce will draw its future supplies. Manifestly the maker of ordinary potash salts, who cuts down timber and burns it to ashes for this sole purpose, cannot compete with an article already made, and which only needs to be taken from the mine and purified. This is an advantage of which Germany cannot be deprived. The Indian who stole his brooms already made could always undersell the Indian who only stole his timber. England, with untold wealth in minerals, coals, clay and cheap salts, eclipses in many productions all the nations of the earth. Soda ash is one of these productions, entering largely into the manufactures of various other descriptions. The cost of soap, glass, and many textile fabrics depends much upon the price of soda ash. At Pittsburg, Pa., they have salt and cheap coal, and have from time to time striven to establish the manufacture of soda ash, but thus far without marked success; and if the manufactured cannot succeed at this point it will hardly do better elsewhere. Under these circumstances, but for the glimmering hope that an article of such extensive use may yet be established, it might have been well to place it on the free list. We have left it where it is, to pay a duty of a half cent per pound. The supply of ivory cannot be increased, and it is supposed to be annually diminishing. It takes twenty thousand elephants, it is said, to furnish the annual supply of a single manufacturing town—Sheffield—in England. Our wants are large and increasing. It is proposed, therefore, to remove the small duty now imposed upon this useful as well as beautiful article, and as the gigantic game from which ivory is obtained is hunted by persons without regard to race or color, I presume no one will object. One of the many reasons for a new tariff now is that the termination of the Reciprocity treaty leaves the duties on agricultural productions and on lumber, fish and coal, at such rates as were imposed at times when it made no difference what the rates were, as all such articles came in from the provinces practically free, and of course our tariff laws in this respect now call for revision. The wisdom of terminating it indeed is already apparent. There are none of its provisions that we cannot surrender without a pang. Some of the pretentious claims concerning the fisheries, as, for instance, the right of excluding our fishermen from the shore within three miles, and from bays, drawing the line from headland to headland, might be annoying, but even if admitted on our part, as they are not likely to be by any modern Secretary of State, such claims, were they to be strictly enforced, would be of little damage to us, and of no profit whatever to the provinces. There is no more reason for exempting grain, flour, cattle, horses, wool, butter, and cheese imported from the British provinces from revenue duties than there would be in the case of the importation of similar articles from Great Britain. In peace the mother country and all her colonies are all our friends; in war they are not less our enemies. It is due, however, to the present British Minister, Sir Frederick I. Bruce, to say that he has manifested a high toned spirit of fairness touching the questions as to the fisheries, and that he seeks their solution without making such exactions as would be likely to provoke national conflicts. Through the courtesy of the Secretary of State I have learned that the British Minister has information that the Canadas, New