WASHINGTON

The Reconstruction Bill in the House.

OPPOSITION TO THE SHERMAN SUBSTITUTE

A Vote to be Taken This Morning.

The Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Bill Passed in the Senate.

The Contingent Fund of the State Department Reduced to $30,000.

ARRIVAL OF JOHN H. SURRATT.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1867.

The Reconstruction Bill in the House.

There was an earnest and decidedly acrimonious debate in the House of Representatives to-day and to-night on the Sherman amendment to the Stevens bill to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States. On the motion to non-concur made by Mr. Stevens the party seemed much divided, and, although it was alleged that to non-concur at this time was to kill the original bill, and with it all prospect of any reconstruction bill for the present session, the amendment was violently opposed by Messrs. Boutwell, Stokes and Hotchkiss in support of the motion of Mr. Stevens to non-concur; but the more influential of the moderate men, including Messrs. Wilson, of Iowa; Bingham, Schenck, Shellabarger and Garfield, of Ohio; Thayer, of Pennsylvania; Blaine, of Maine, and Farnsworth, of Illinois, were in favor of the Sherman amendment. In the evening session speeches were made in opposition to the amendment by Messrs. Stevens, Banks and others, when the House has to give the balance of the night's session to debate, and to take the question to-morrow at eleven o'clock in the morning. The opposition to the amendment appears to be on the increase, and its fate is very probably sealed. General Banks' unexpected attack will undoubtedly help to kill it.

The Secretary of the Treasury Before the House Judiciary Committee.

Secretary McCulloch was examined before the House Judiciary Committee to-day, having been summoned to testify upon matters connected with the Treasury Department. As this committee is said to be studiously engaged in working up the impeachment evidence, it is not unlikely that the members of the committee did not permit the opportunity to pass without putting to the Secretary a few questions in that connection, and it is reported this evening that such questions were propounded. Later in the day, those who waited at the President's door anxiously awaiting an audience, were surprised to hear loud laughter in the Presidential apartment, where the Secretary was probably giving his committee experience.

The Tariff Bill.

It is known that the House in December last passed an emergency tariff bill, which at the present session was exhaustively analyzed by the Senate. The amendments of the Senate were referred to the Committee of Ways and Means some days ago, and to-night they reported a large number of amendments to the Senate amendments, restoring to a great extent the original House rates. The committee reduce the duty on salt from 24c. and 30c., as fixed by the Senate, to 16c. and 22c. a bushel, and on linseed to 20c. a bushel, and advance the duty on steel 1½c. over the Senate rates, with corresponding advances on many articles of hardware. Wool and woollens are advanced to correspond to the House bill. The prohibition of the importation of firecrackers is stricken out, as is also the section relating to the drawback on shipbuilding, agricultural and other implements. The clause with regard to damaged goods and under valuation is also stricken out. The ninth section, adding freight and commissions to invoice values, is repealed. The duty is advanced on sal soda, caustic and carbonate of soda, while those on spelter and silk goods are greatly beyond the Senate rates. The rates of duties are mainly retained on iron, but are advanced on some articles and reduced on others. The Senate proposes to levy a duty of eight, eleven and twelve cents on scrap iron; the committee recommend five and ten. Cotton rates are somewhat advanced over those of the Senate. Ivory is stricken out of the free list, and the privilege that the Pacific Railroad Company may use foreign iron instead of American, as now provided by law, is denied.

The Amendatory Internal Revenue Bill.

The new Internal Revenue bill, it is thought, will be taken up by the House this week, and it is probable that the amendments recommended by the Commissioner will be agreed to. That the commissioner is growing anxious about the fate of the bill is evident from the number of visits he makes to the House to urge speedy action. The bill covers over forty-five pages, and among the changes it proposes in the present law is one exempting from taxation $1,000 income instead of $600.

Arrival of John H. Surratt.

A steamer believed to be the Swatara, arrived off the Navy Yard this evening with John H. Surratt on board. A guard has been stationed at the wharf to prevent communication with those on board, excepting by high official permission.

Encroachments on the Harbor of New York.

The Secretary of War to-day transmitted to the Senate, in response to its resolution of the 14th inst., a communication from A. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, and the report of General Newton relative to the encroachments on the harbor of New York. General Humphreys states that in 1856 a commission was instituted, consisting of General Totten, late Chief of Engineers; Professor Bache, of the Coast Survey, and Admiral Davis, which fixed the limiting shore lines of New York harbor, beyond which no obstructions or deposits should be allowed in the waters, particularly insisting on the importance of maintaining, without diminution, the reservoir spaces of the harbor for the full influx of flood tides. Their report, though accepted by the State of New York, and though including the New Jersey portion of the shore, has not been accepted by and is not binding on the latter State. He says further that serious encroachments are now in progress from the New Jersey shore, consisting mostly of wharves, wagon roads and extensions of the shore by driving piles and filling between them, which constructions were carried on by the New Jersey Central Railroad Company. He denies that these operations are injurious to the New York harbor.

General Newton, in his report, says that the encroachments upon the flats below Jersey City should be vigorously resisted by the government, if it has the power, and recommends that a line of bulkheads be drawn around the eastern shore of Bergen creek. He discloses that there is no excuse for these encroachments. In his latest report, dated January 28, 1867, he suggests that the increase of the city and the crowded state of the docks and wharves at its lower portion "may have the effect of rendering the conversion of the Jersey flats into docks and basins convenient and desirable to commercial and business interests." He thinks the plan deserves careful consideration, and that possibly such a course might prevent the building of structures prejudicial to the harbor of New York.

The Indians.

A delegation of forty-four Indians, representing some twelve bands of the Yancton and Upper Missouri Sioux from Dakota Territory, arrived here to-day. They are arrayed in the full dress costume of their hunting grounds, and are objects of no little interest here on account of the late hostility manifested by some of the bands of this tribe to the government. The delegation is accompanied by their Superintendent, Mr. Foulk. Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, agent of the Kiowas and Comanches, is here looking after the interests of his Indians. It had been reported among them that the government intended to locate the Kansas Indians in and around their lands, which cover some sixty-two thousand square miles. A large portion of it, however, is rather barren, and the upper part of it only is used as a hunting ground. Regarding to the conditions of the treaty made with these tribes, if the government locates any more Indians on the reservation it will be necessary to supply the Kiowas and Comanches with food, as game will be so scarce in a year or two that it will be impossible to find enough for their subsistence.

Commissioner Bogy, after a correspondence with the Secretary of War, has succeeded in having transferred to the charge of the Indian Department some six or seven thousand Navajo Indians, now held as prisoners by the military at Borque Redondo, New Mexico. These Indians cost the government last year for food and transportation the sum of one and a half million of dollars, whereas by this transfer the Commissioner proposes to take better care of them at a cost not exceeding half a million of dollars. The wretched condition of these Indians and the continual retention of them as prisoners by the government demand the immediate action of Congress in the matter. Some decisive steps should be taken to relieve the wants of these Indians and save the government useless expenditure of a large amount of money annually. It will be seen that by the transfer of these Indians from the jurisdiction of the military to the Indian Department the government saves at least one million of dollars per year.

Visitors at the White House.

The White House to-day has been thronged up to the hour for closing the doors by a large number of seekers after Presidential interviews. Very few, however, were successful in their desires, as the President was most of the day engaged with the members of his Cabinet. Secretaries McCulloch, Welles and Stanton, Postmaster General Randall and Attorney General Stanbery were successively in consultation with the President, and occupied his attention until after one o'clock. Mr. Johnson seemed to be in unusually good spirits to-day.

Reception of the Ladies of the White House.

The ladies of the Executive Mansion held their usual weekly reception this afternoon. It was very largely attended by members of the foreign legations, officers of the army and navy, heads of departments, Senators and Representatives, accompanied by ladies.

Polygamy in Utah.

The Legislative Assembly of Utah have petitioned Congress to repeal the act of 1862, providing for the punishment of polygamy in the Territory. In support of their petition they say that there has not been a single case tried under it, and that as the constitution of the United States prohibits any interference with religion, they have the right to practice polygamy as a part of their creed, that institution being of Divine origin. They also assert that polygamy has had a great moral influence, saving the people from prostitution and kindred evils.

Smuggling on the Canadian Border.

The Treasury Department has received information recently in reference to smuggling along the Canadian border. Late inspections represent that the smugglers are organizing in bands for the more systematic prosecution of their unlawful traffic. Information was given by officers of the customs that a thrifty business was being carried on along the eastern frontier of Maine. Contraband goods were being introduced in considerable quantities from New Brunswick into Maine, in the vicinity of Houlton, and on the western frontier, where the Kennebec road crosses the border, goods were brought in and carried down the west branch of the Penobscot river. Attention has been given to both these leaks, and the profitable business of "dodging the duties" has been materially damaged by official interference.

Confirmations by the Senate.

The following nominations were confirmed to-day by the Senate in executive session:—Milton W. Warden to be Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Eighth district of Ohio; David Turner to be Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Ninth district of Indiana; Norman Eddy to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the Ninth district Indiana; Jesse J. Alexander to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the Seventh district of Indiana.

The Public Lands.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has just received from the State Land Office at Lansing, Michigan, a list of selections by that State under the act approved July 2, 1862, donating public lands to the States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agricultural and mechanic arts, amounting in the aggregate to 8,060 acres.

Modification of Spanish Quarantine Regulations.

A circular relative to some modifications of the very stringent quarantine regulations hitherto enforced by the Spanish government has been received at the Department of State from the United States Legation at Madrid. The circular says:—

The sanitary condition of Europe and of some portions of America has recently improved, and as it is no longer necessary to continue stringent health regulations the Queen has therefore deigned to order that vessels from France, England, Italy, Denmark, the United States, Hamburg, Holland, Sweden and Norway shall perform only three days quarantine in the ports of Carthagena, Cadiz and Santander designated for that purpose, where the marine boards of health are charged to examine their certificates and crew list to know if the vessels have touched at other ports where infectious diseases prevail, or if deaths have occurred on board, and to see that all the legal requisites have been complied with.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1867.

CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN BILLS.

The Senate concurred in the House amendments to change certain collection districts in Maryland and Virginia; also in the House amendment to the bill to amend the act to prevent smuggling, and for other purposes; also in the House amendment to the bill to permit the owner of the yacht May Flower to change her name to the Sylvia.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE BANKRUPT BILL.

The CHAIR appointed Messrs. Poland, Morgan and McDougall the committee of conference on the Bankrupt bill.

SYMPATHY FOR THE CRETANS.

Mr. MORGAN, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the resolutions of the New York Legislature expressing sympathy for the Cretans. The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Petitions and memorials were presented and referred.

ACCOUNTS OF DISBURSING OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., from the Military Committee, presented a joint resolution to facilitate the settlement of accounts of disbursing officers; which was passed. It repeals so much of an act of 1862 as provides that accounts shall be rendered direct to the proper accounting officer, and provides that all vouchers shall be sent to the bureau to which they belong, to be there examined and afterwards passed upon by the proper accounting officer of the Treasury.

PROPOSED ASSAY OFFICES IN UTAH AND ARIZONA.

The Senate on Finance was, on motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, discharged further consideration of petitions for the establishment of assay offices in Utah and Arizona Territories.

REPORT OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS, ETC.

Mr. HENDERSON (rep.) of Mo., introduced a resolution for the printing of five thousand copies of the report of the physics and hydraulics of the Mississippi river alluvial deposits, &c. It was referred to the Committee on Printing.

SITE FOR A NEW POST OFFICE AND SUB-TREASURY BUILDING IN BOSTON.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass., introduced a joint resolution providing that the Mayor and Postmaster of the city of Boston, the Assistant United States Treasurer and the President of the Board of Trade of said city, and Alphonse Hardy, Daniel Davis and John A. Andrew, of Boston, be appointed a commission to select a proper site for a building for a Post office and for the accommodation of the Sub-Treasury in said city, and that they report to the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury at their earliest convenience the selection made and the price at which the same may be purchased, if a new site be selected, and if the report shall meet the approbation of the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury they shall communicate the same to Congress with such additional recommendations as they may deem proper. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

AWARDS TO LOYAL INDIANS.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of Kansas, introduced a joint resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to pay the awards heretofore made and reported to him by the commissioner appointed under the forty-ninth section of the treaty with the Choctaw and the Chickasaw Indians of July 10, 1866, to ascertain the amount of losses sustained by loyal Choctaws and Chickasaws by being driven from their homes on account of their loyalty, and sell such amount of bonds or stocks belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations held in trust by the government as may be necessary to pay said awards. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

APPEALS AND WRITS OF ERROR IN THE SUPREME COURT.

Mr. HARRIS, (rep.) of N. Y., moved that the Senate take up the bill in relation to appeals and writ of error in the Supreme Court.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., moved to take up the bill for the election of Congressional printer.

Mr. SUMNER understood that the Senate was to proceed to the consideration of the Louisiana bill as soon as what was known as the Military bill was disposed of.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., wished to say that he had some appropriation bills which he should desire to call up as soon as the morning hour expired.

The bill named by Mr. Harris was taken up and read as follows:—

That where any appeal or writ of error has been brought to the Supreme Court from any final judgment or decree in an inferior court of the United States, for any judicial district in which subsequently to the rendition of such judgment or decree the regular sessions of such court have been suspended or interrupted by insurrection or rebellion, such appeal or writ of error shall be valid and effectual, notwithstanding the time limited by law for bringing the same may have previously expired; and in cases where no appeal or writ of error has been brought from any such judgment or decree, such appeal or writ of error may be brought within one year from the passage of this act.

This bill was laid aside temporarily, and the Senate took up

THE BILL FOR THE ELECTION OF A CONGRESSIONAL PRINTER, which was read. As amended by the Senate it makes a printer an officer to be elected by the Senate, and abolishes the present office of Superintendent of Public Printing. The salary is fixed at $4,000.

Mr. ANTHONY explained the object of the bill to be to make the officers named in it immediately responsible to Congress instead of to the President.

Mr. WILLIAMS inquired of Mr. Anthony if he was sure that there was no constitutional objections to this bill. The constitution provides that all officers of the United States shall be appointed by the President, and he (Mr. Williams) was not sure that the public printer could be regarded in any other light than that of an officer of the United States.

Mr. ANTHONY thought it competent for the Senate to elect a printer, and make him one of its own officers.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Ind., thought the Senate had a perfect right to choose an officer to superintend the printing of its proceedings and journals.

The bill was then passed as amended, and goes to the House for concurrence in amendment.

RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATION BILL.

The River and Harbor Appropriation bill was received from the House and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. FESSENDEN moved to take up the Military Academy Appropriation bill.

Mr. SUMNER moved to take up the Louisiana bill. There was a distinct understanding that it was to be proceeded with as soon as the Military bill was passed.

Several Senators rose and disclaimed any such understanding.

Mr. WADE said if he ever had such an understanding it was before there was anything looking like reconstruction in the Military bill.

Mr. SUMNER did not agree that the amendment to the bill passed on Sunday made the necessity for the Louisiana bill any the less. He thought it increased it.

PASSAGE OF THE BILL IN RELATION TO WRITS OF ERROR IN THE SUPREME COURT.

The Senate resumed the consideration of Mr. Harris' bill, laid aside a short time since.

Mr. HARRIS offered an amendment that the provisions of the bill shall not apply to any case in which the time limited by law had expired before the rebellion. As thus amended the bill was passed, and goes to the House.

THE MILITARY ACADEMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1868, was taken up. It contains a proviso that no money shall be appropriated under it for the pay or subsistence of any cadet from any State lately in rebellion until that State shall have been readmitted, and that no money shall be expended under or in violation of the law prescribing an oath of office, &c. The committee recommended the striking out of this proviso.

Mr. FESSENDEN said the proviso was unnecessary, and was embodied in existing acts.

It was stricken out.

Mr. WILSON moved an amendment relieving the Chaplain of the Academy from academic duties, that he may devote his whole time to the moral and religious training of the cadets.

The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was passed, and goes to the House for concurrence in amendments.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill was taken up. Among the items is $17,000 for the suppression of the African slave trade.

The Committee on Finance recommended the restoration of the Portugal mission.

Mr. SUMNER opposed the amendment.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, said he believed Mr. Harvey had been paid out of the contingent fund of the State Department, which, by the last year's appropriation bill, was $50,000, although five years ago it was only $12,000 a year.

Mr. SUMNER said it would be remembered that it was provided by law that no money should be paid to Mr. Harvey out of any fund whatever.

Mr. GRIMES said he understood the Secretary of State had a way of using this contingent fund so that one minister who was his friend might get $3,000 for travelling expenses and another whom he did not like might get nothing.

Mr. FESSENDEN said the amendment of the committee provided only for the payment of the Minister to Portugal. It could not be applied to Mr. Harvey, because the law of the last session provided that no money should be paid for any future services rendered by Mr. Harvey, and until this was repealed Mr. Harvey could not be paid.

Mr. DIXON, (rep.) of Conn., defended Mr. Harvey, and expressed the belief that he would yet be paid what was due him for his services. He did not know how this would be done, but he believed it would be done at some future time.

Mr. FOGG, (rep.) of N. H., condemned the conduct of the State Department in keeping Mr. Harvey in his position after Congress had declared him an unfit representative of the nation.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., contrasted the conduct of Mr. Harvey with the conduct of Mr. Anthony, and contended that the offence of the latter was the greater, though he thought Congress ought not to take official notice of either.

Mr. FESSENDEN asserted the right of Congress to withhold appropriations to pay men who had proven themselves unworthy of public confidence. He had nothing to say as to Mr. Harvey's particular case; but he totally denied the doctrine of Mr. Dixon, that because the constitution or laws made an office Congress was therefore compelled to appropriate money to pay whomsoever was appointed. This was a slavish doctrine, to which the country would never consent.

Mr. SUMNER regretted that the Finance Committee had recommended this amendment. He should be compelled to vote against it, as he preferred the bill as it came from the House. A diplomatic appointment, he might say, stood upon two legs. The first was the act creating the mission, which, in the case of Portugal, was passed in 1856, and the second was the annual appropriation bill. By repealing the first, or failing to provide for the second, Congress had an undoubted right to practically abolish a mission.

After further debate the question was taken on agreeing to the amendment to insert an appropriation for the Portugal mission, and it was agreed to, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Hendricks, Johnson, Kirkwood, McDougall, Morgan, Poland, Riddle, Ross, Saulsbury, Van Winkle, Wade, Willey, Williams and Yates—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Brown, Chandler, Conness, Cragin, Creswell, Fogg, Fowler, Frelinghuysen, Howard, Howe, Morrill, Sumner, Trumbull and Wilson—14.

An amendment was adopted appropriating $30,000 for Atlantic cable despatches.

Mr. WILSON moved an amendment that the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain be accredited also to the Court of Portugal, and shall receive as compensation for such extra services $5,000 per annum.

Mr. FESSENDEN hoped this would not be adopted, at least until it had been considered in a committee.

Mr. FOGG spoke in favor of the proposition. He proposed to consolidate several other missions.

Mr. SUMNER said there was but one objection to Mr. Fogg's idea, and that was that we should not have so many offices for political aspirants if we adopt it.

Mr. Wilson's amendment was disagreed to—yeas 15, nays 20, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Brown, Chandler, Cragin, Creswell, Fogg, Fowler, Howard, Lane, Morrill, Poland, Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, Wilson and Yates—15.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Buckalew, Conness, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foster, Harris, Hendricks, Kirkwood, McDougall, Morgan, Patterson, Riddle, Ross, Sherman, Van Winkle, Willey and Williams—20.

Mr. WILSON offered the same amendment, so modified that the Spanish Minister shall receive $3,000 instead of $5,000 for the extra service at Portugal. It was disagreed to—yeas 12, nays 20.

The bill was then passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECESS.

The Senate at a quarter past four went into executive session, and at half-past four to a recess until seven P. M.

Evening Session.

THE DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATION BILL—RECONSIDERATION OF THE VOTE BY WHICH IT WAS PASSED.

Mr. GRIMES moved to reconsider the vote passing the Diplomatic Appropriation bill, for the purpose of amending it by reducing the appropriation for the contingent fund of the State Department from $50,000 to $30,000. He said that before the war the amount appropriated for the purpose was only $20,000. It was always paid in gold, and could not, therefore, be increased on the plea of depreciated currency. He was willing to increase it fifty per cent over what it was before the war.

Mr. SUMNER opposed the amendment.

Mr. DAVIS opposed it, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the Secretary of State, who had, he said, during the past few years, shown himself a statesman of wise experience and an ardent lover and supporter of the constitution.

Mr. SAULSBURY, (dem.) of Del., regretted to hear his friend from Kentucky deliver a eulogy on William H. Seward. He (Mr. Seward) had tinkled his little bell too often to command the respect of the democrats. He (Mr. Saulsbury) regarded Mr. Seward as the Mephistopheles of the age. There had been great complaints against Andrew Johnson; but what could be expected of a man who had William H. Seward on one hand and Edwin M. Stanton on the other? The President had discharged his duty as best he could; but he could not do it fully with such men about him. If he had discarded them long ago he would have commanded the respect of the civilized world. They were now dragging him down and trying to make a compromise with the Senate and House of Representatives. He (Mr. Saulsbury) hoped the President would agree to no such thing, but would regard the great behests of the constitution and of the Eternal God whom he adores.

The motion of Mr. Grimes was agreed to by the following vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Brown, Chandler, Conness, Creswell, Fogg, Grimes, Howard, Howe, Lane, Morrill, Patterson, Ramsey, Ross, Stewart, Wade and Wilson—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Buckalew, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, Saulsbury, Sherman, Sumner, Van Winkle, Willey and Williams—15.

The bill was then passed.

THE TENURE OF OFFICE BILL.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the conference committee on the bill to regulate the tenure of office, made a report. The conference committee agreed to retain the amendment of the House, which was to strike out the exceptions of Cabinet officers from those who cannot be removed without the consent of the Senate, and they agree to insert the following proviso:—

Provided that the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of the Navy, of the Interior, and the Postmaster General and the Attorney General, shall hold their offices respectively during the term of the President by whom they may have been appointed, and one month thereafter, subject to removal by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

After debate, in which a number of Senators participated, the report of the conference committee was agreed to by the following vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Brown, Chandler, Conness, Fogg, Fowler, Henderson, Howard, Howe, Lane, Morgan, Morrill, Ramsay, Ross, Sherman, Stewart, Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, Williams, Wilson and Yates—22.

NAYS—Messrs. Buckalew, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Hendricks, Johnson, McDougal, Patterson, Van Winkle and Willey—10.

The report of the conference committee now goes to the House.

ASSAY OFFICES IN OREGON, IDAHO AND MONTANA.

A bill to establish assay offices at Portland, Oregon, and Boise City, Idaho, was taken up.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., moved to amend by including Helena, in Montana Territory, which was adopted.

The bill was then passed, and $75,000 appropriated to carry its provisions into effect.

THE LOUISIANA BILL.

Mr. SUMNER moved to take up the Louisiana bill.

Mr. WILSON favored the motion. He was for considering the Louisiana bill before the bill that passed on Sunday was taken up. The great wrong of the President was in giving the control of the Southern States into the hands of rebels. He had done as great a wrong in this respect as General Grant would have done had he surrendered to General Lee after having defeated him. He (Mr. Wilson) had just received a letter from the editor of the Savannah *Republican*, who had been arrested, tried, sent to the jail for a year and fined $1,000 for saying that a man who used to be postmaster in Savannah was a defaulter. It was known that the government was now prosecuting this ex-postmaster as a defaulter, but for mentioning this fact the editor, who was a loyal man, was punished by a rebel judge and a rebel jury. He (Mr. Wilson) believed that the Louisiana bill, modified so as to extend suffrage to the blacks, and made to apply to the other States, would be a good basis of reconstruction.

Without acting on the motion to take up the bill, the Senate, at ten P. M., adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1867.

The reading of the journal of Saturday occupied nearly half an hour, which time was spent in earnest consultation by members on both sides of the House, who collected in groups, discussing the Military bill and the course to be pursued in connection with it on its being reported back from the Senate to-day. Just as the Clerk had concluded the reading of the journal the Secretary of the Senate appeared at the bar and announced the passage by the Senate of the act for the more efficient government of the rebel States, with amendments in which he was directed to ask the concurrence of the House. The bill went to the Speaker's table.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED.

The SPEAKER then proceeded, as the regular business in order in the morning hour on Monday, to call the States for bills and joint resolutions for reference merely, under the call, and disposed of them as follows:—

By Mr. MILLER, (rep.) of Pa.—In relation to the tariff on railroad iron, declaring it incompatible with the policy of the protection system and of the industrial interests of the country to admit under any pretext whatever free of duty foreign iron, whether manufactured for railroad purposes or otherwise, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Pa.—A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, declaring that for any reasonable ground which shall not be sufficient ground for impeachment the Judges of the Supreme Court and those of the inferior courts of the United States shall be removable by the President on the address of two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

By Mr. HISE, (dem.) of Ky.—To abolish the tax on coffee, sugar, molasses and raw cotton. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROMWELL, (rep.) of Ill.—Directing the Secretary of War to survey both sides of the Mississippi river at the Des Moines rapids, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. URSOM, (rep.) of Mich.—A resolution of the Michigan Legislature asking an appropriation to aid in the construction of the harbor of New Buffalo, Mich., which was laid on the table.

By Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Mich.—Like resolutions asking appropriations for the improvement of Portage lake and river, and asking grants of land to aid in the construction of the Mineral Range Railroad, which was laid on the table.

By Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Iowa—For the relief of persons imprisoned for debt. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

By Mr. CHAVES, of New Mexico—A memorial of the New Mexico Legislature asking an increase per diem for members of the Legislative Assembly, and an increase of pay for Territorial officers; asking for appropriations for school purposes, instead of the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of land, and asking for a commission to investigate losses of citizens of that Territory during the revolution of 1847, and by Indian depredations. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

By Mr. HOOPER, of Utah—A memorial of the Utah Legislature praying for the repeal of the act to punish polygamy in the Territories. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

By Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind.—A joint resolution on the subject of republican governments for the States of the Union. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

By Mr. RICE, (rep.) of Mass.—Authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to grant the use of guns for the trial of the Ridgeway battery. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

By Mr. PAINE, (rep.) of Wis.—Explanatory of the joint resolution of July 25, 1866, for the relief of certain officers in the army. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. COX, (rep.) of Ill.—Directing the cotn held by the Secretary of the Treasury, by order of the President, and claimed by the Bank of Virginia, the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, and the Exchange Bank of Virginia, to be paid into the Treasury, with the right of the claimants to prosecute their claims thereto. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

By Mr. BARNES, (rep.) of Ill.—A resolution of the Illinois Legislature in reference to a navy yard at Mound City. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. WINDOM, (rep.) of Minn.—A concurrent resolution of the Minnesota Legislature on the financial condition of the country. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Minn.—Resolutions of the Minnesota Legislature relative to the protection of the emigrant route through Minnesota to the gold fields of Montana. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions introduced several Mondays ago by Mr. Noell, in reference to extending the suffrage to women. Having half an hour left of the time he had last Monday, he consumed it in reading an argument in support of his proposition, which afforded considerable amusement to members in his vicinity, when the fall of the Speaker's hammer indicated the expiration of Mr. Noell's time.

Mr. MCRUER, (rep.) of Cal., arose, and remarking that the session was too short to justily any more expenditure of time on the subject, he moved that the resolutions be laid on the table. The motion was agreed to, and the resolutions were laid on the table.

RESOLUTIONS BY SENATOR.

The SPEAKER proceeded with the call of States for resolutions, when resolutions were offered as follows:—

By Mr. WHALEY, (rep.) of W. Va.—Directing the Committee on Ways and Means to consider the propriety of including the employés of the government printing office in the joint resolution granting additional compensation to certain employés in the civil service in Washington. Adopted.

By Mr. LATHAM, (rep.) of W. Va.—For a recess of the House, daily, except Saturdays, from half-past four till half-past seven. Adopted.

By Mr. HERNDRON, (rep.) of Oregon—Declaring that the constitution authorises the Chief Executive to extend the pardoning power to persons who have been tried by the proper tribunals and convicted of crime, and to none other, and that consequently all pardons granted to such as have never been convicted or tried are without foundation in law and null and void. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. ELDRIDGE, (dem.) of Wis.—Directing the Committee on Banking and Currency to inquire into the expediency of the withdrawal of national bank currency as rapidly as it can be done without injustice to the national banks, and supplying the place of such currency with United States Treasury notes.

Mr. BROOMALL, (rep.) of Pa., moved to lay the motion on the table. The motion was agreed to—95 to 86—and the resolution was laid on the table.

THE CONGRESSIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

On motion of Mr. PRICE, (rep.) of Iowa, the use of the hall was granted for next Sunday evening to the Congressional Temperance Society.

DISTRICT MATTERS.

On motion of Mr. INGERSOLL, (rep.) of Ill., the Senate amendments to the House bill to incorporate the National Capital Insurance Company were non-concurred in, and a committee of conference asked for.

On motion of Mr. ROSS, (dem.) of Ill., the committee on the District of Columbia was instructed to report a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage in the District.

THE NATIONAL BANKS.

Mr. HUBBARD, (rep.) of W. V., asked leave to offer a resolution directing the Committee on Banking to inquire into the expediency of requiring the national banking associations to retain as a part of their redemption reserve a certain percentage of the gold interest paid by the government on the bonds deposited as security on their circulation, the same to be retained as a basis for the resumption of specie payment.

Mr. SCOFIELD, (rep.) of Pa., objected and the resolution was not received.

THE MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., the House proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table, the first business taken up being the amendment of the Senate to the House bill to provide for the more efficient government of the insurrectionary States.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa., asked the Speaker how it happened that, although when the House adjourned on Saturday there were some twenty bills on the Speaker's table, this bill, which only came in this morning, was the first to be taken up?

The SPEAKER replied that that was according to the rule which required the business on the Speaker's table to be considered in the following order:—First, messages from the President, and other Executive documents; second, messages from the Senate, and amendments proposed by the Senate to House bills; and third, bills and resolutions from the Senate.

Mr. RANDALL expressed himself satisfied with the Speaker's explanation.

The amendments of the Senate having been read,

Mr. STEVENS moved that the House non-concur in the amendments, and asked for a committee of conference.

Mr. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, moved that the House concur in the amendments.

Mr. STEVENS having the floor, yielded for twenty minutes to

Mr. BOUTWELL, who addressed the House in opposition to the amendments: I am aware that the provisions of this bill have been thoroughly discussed by the House, and that I have had my full share and opportunity of discussion; and if I did not believe that this bill, as it comes from the Senate, was fraught with great and permanent danger to the country, I would not now attempt to resist further its passage. The majority here, representing the majority of the loyal people of the country, has the control of the government for the next two years and more; and we have every reason to believe, in the nature of things, that the loyal ascendency will be maintained in this country. We ought to be able, and we certainly are able to reconstruct the government on a loyal basis. But, in any event, nothing more can happen to the country than the reconstruction of the country on a disloyal basis. If it is to be reconstructed on a disloyal basis, there are two things that I ask:—First, that we who believe ourselves loyal to the government and to the country shall not in any way be responsible for the reconstruction of the government in the hands of disloyal men; and, second, if it is to be the fortune of the country that it shall be reconstructed on a disloyal basis, then I desire to postpone the calamity to the latest day possible. If during this session, or during the Fortieth Congress, the majority acts according to its means and opportunities, it cannot fail to secure the reconstruction of those ten States and their restoration to the Union through the agency of loyal men and by loyal means. My objection to the bill is this—it is fundamental. It is conclusive that it provides, if not in terms, by the measures which it proposes, for the restoration of those governments at once, through the agency of disloyal men, and I say that that great fact, which is near to us if this bill passes, ought to restrain us from any action in favor of this measure although, we allow the 4th of March to pass without doing anything, whatever, for the restoration of the government. I do not believe that the people of this country are perpared to accept any measure of restoration that looks to the introduction of disloyal men, first into the government of ten States, and then into the government of the country. But if that be their purpose, I say it is our duty, standing here with power in our hands to-day to resist the reconstruction of this government through any such agency or with any such certain results near at hand. I pass over in this bill the provisions of the second section, by which all power is put into the hands of the President of United States, with the simple declaration that if the Civil Rights bill were to be enforced by the President according to its terms and its intentions it is sufficient for the protection of liberty of person and rights and of life throughout those ten States, and if that be so, then the necessity for the passage of a Military bill for the government of the South arises simply from the fact that thus far the President has failed to perform in its fullest extent, (and by that remark I do not say whether he has failed or not from any wilful neglect of duty), this duty under the law, and has not used the power placed in his hands for the protection of the loyal people of the ten States recently in rebellion. Until you have some assurance that the vast powers which the President already possesses are to be used in behalf of loyalty and justice and of life, why give him additional powers? I would give no more military power to the President in these ten States until we have evidence that he is prepared to exercise that with which he is already clothed, in the interest of loyalty and justice, and for the protection of life, liberty and property in the South. Under this bill there is not one rebel in the South, from Jefferson Davis himself, if he were released from Fortress Monroe, to the humblest soldier who, trained in the armies of the rebellion, or practised the nefarious business of the guerilla, deprived of the right of suffrage. It provides for universal amnesty and restoration to political power. The pending constitutional amendment deprives certain persons of the right to hold office, but the power of this government and the power of States is not in the right to hold office. It is in the immensely superior power of the people to elect to office. The men elected to office will represent those by whom they are elected, and thus the reorganization of those ten States be turned over to the rebels. You give them the front seats in the work of reconstruction, the places of power, of influence, of trust, and do you expect after submitting all authority to them that you can reconstruct loyal State governments then? Now is the time to cherish and nourish the loyal sentiments of the people. We ought to see to it that the men under whose guidance those States are reconstructed are loyal men. We oughtto remove from the business of reconstructing South Caolina for example, the Orrs, the Pickens' and the Boyd Grathe, and all those men who participated in the rebellion. This bill leaves the whole matter of reconstruction open to anybody and everybody in the South who may choose to engage in the work. The result will be that in those several States the ancient rebel party will resist reconstruction for a time, and when they see it becoming inevitable in any State they will take the business into their own hands, and will reconstruct the government according to their own ideas, and will come here with every condition precedent, fully satisied according to the letter of the law. They will have the whole control of the State governments in their own hands, will have the control of the police and of the military. And do you expect the negro, unaccustomed to political struggles, timid, careworn, broken down in spirit by the institution of slavery, to rally in two, five, or ten years, so as to overthrow those rebels and deprive them of its place, of the power which they possess