WASHINGTON

Authority for the Issue of the Amnesty Proclamation.

The Railroad Subsidy System Discountenanced in the House.

Ben Butler Demanding Information About the National Banks.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1869.

Visit of the Virginia Delegation to General Grant.

The Virginia committee called this morning in a body, accompanied by other gentlemen from their State, to pay their respects to General Grant. The conversation turned mainly upon the business of these gentlemen before Congress. The General, who showed a familiarity with the provisions of the Underwood constitution, expressed himself in favor of a speedy settlement on the general plan published in the papers of the morning. The interview was of some duration, and was highly satisfactory to the gentlemen of the committee. The delegation subsequently called upon the President and Secretary Schofield. While not asking to have their own disabilities removed by special laws, the committee are exerting themselves to obtain a general relief of all persons in the State of Virginia, and especially to check the further removal of State and county officers now going on there until Congress can act on the whole subject. The Senate's Committee on the Judiciary has under consideration the subject of the restoration of Virginia to the Union, but has not taken formal action upon it.

Butler, the New Leader of the House.

Butler is gradually becoming, if he is not already, the leader of the House. To-day he was the most conspicuous man there, and despite the national bank interest, which is very large in the House, and the Pacific Railroad interest, which is equally strong, pushed through a resolution of inquiry antagonistic to a little arrangement which has provee beneficial to both of them. The Secretary of the Treasury was present during the whole discussion, and was boldly told by the new leader of the House that himself and the Comptroller of the Currency were the "paid agents of the national banks." The reporters understood Butler to say the "Treasurer," but he meant to say the Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. McCulloch seemed to meet the charge with good humor and laughed heartily at it. Butler, however, carried his point, as he generally does.

The Cuban Revolution.

Reliable information received here yesterday from parties in Cuba, in sympathy with the revolutionary party, gives a very different aspect to the present condition of affairs in the ever faithful isle. The revolutionary party, instead of losing ground, is said to be making steady progress, and the leaders are more sanguine than ever of eventual success. Combinations are reported to be in progress calculated to give substantial support to the revolutionists, and stirring news may be looked for shortly.

English Claims for Depredations in the South.

There are now here several British subjects, not naturalized citizens of she United States, in consultation with eminent lawyers about the possibility of presenting certain claims of theirs as an offset to the Alabama claims. The claims of these parties are chiefly for payment of property destroyed by Sherman's army in its march to the sea, and the aggregate amount of those now in agitation and of those likely to follow would more than equal the amount of damages alleged to be recoverable for the depredations on our commerce committed by rebel vessels.

Jobbing Congressmen Squirming.

A good deal of the time of the Senate was consumed to-day in an excited personal explanation by Mr. Harlan about his share in some extensive railroad jobs out West. The red hot shot that the independent press has been pouring into the camp of the railroad rings has been doing severe damage all around, and has awakened so much indignation against the host of speculators that have been plundering with impunity the estates of the nation that a member of the House was found bold enough to offer a resolution prohibiting any more grants of land to any railroads whatever. A Western correspondent has recently addressed himself to the task of uncovering certain schemes in which thousands upon thousands of acres of the public lands were granted to railroads west of the Mississippi by act of Congress on representations of the most flagrant character, and to corporations that never had an existence. The HERALD has been attending to these schemes also, and has already pretty well ventilated some of the leading ones. Senators Harlan and Pomeroy were prominently mentioned in connection with some of these jobs, and the former gentleman took occasion to-day to make a reply at great length, in which he reviewed the strictures upon his connection with a certain Iowa railroad, and took a fling at what he denominated the scavengers and Lazzaroni of the press. His language exceeded what his better sense might approve, without adding to the strength of his explanation. He made one statement that vitally needs correction, to the effect that the sale of the Cherokee lands was advertised in all the leading newspapers of the country; but it happens that Secretary Browning in a late report to Congress states that only an unofficial notice of the sale was ever made, and the lands, 800,000 acres, were afterwards disposed of to a Mr. Joy at one dollar per acre, against the protest of the Cherokee delegation, who asserted that one dollar and a quarter had been already offered by an emigration company. These explanations, after all, are merely an indication that the speculators are beginning to feel the effects of public criticism, and as a republican paper like the Cincinnati *Gazette* has been one of the foremost in this onslaught upon the corrupt members of its own party, it furnishes proof positive that even the cohesive power of public plunder is unable to keep the party any longer intact.

Telegraph Monopolists at Work.

William Orton, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, arrived to-day, and was busy lobbying around the Capital against Washburne's Telegraph bill. There is to be a meeting of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to-morrow; when Mr. Orton, with several members of the lobby, are expected to appear and make a final appeal to have Washburne's bill laid upon the table or strangled in some other way in committee. Their great object is to prevent the bill from being reported to the House, for it is feared that once there it might get through.

Proposed New Mode of Subsidizing Railroads.

The bill introduced in the House to-day by Representative Windom, of Minnesota, to aid in the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound changes entirely the principles heretofore adopted in the grants of subsidy to the Pacific railroads. It does not ask for any subsidy, either in money or in government lands, or in any way add to the public debt. Instead of requiring the issue of United States bonds, as heretofore, for which the government has no security except a second mortgage and one-half the compensation for government troops, it provides that the government shall guarantee the interest only on a limited amount of the bonds of the company, which does not exceed one-half the estimated cost of the road, which bonds are to be secured by a first mortgage on all its property, to be made to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, the company being required to pay the principal and interest as they become due to indemnify the United States for said guarantee of interest. All the compensation for transporting troops, supplies, munitions of war, &c., is to be retained by the government, for which along the line of this road the government is now required to pay, as shown by the reports of the Quartermaster General, over $6,000,000 per annum, being a sum very much larger than the annual interest of this guarantee, and is a further security to the government in case of any deficiency. The Secretary of the Treasury is empowered at any time to order one third of the gross earnings of the road to be paid into the Treasury of the United States until all such deficiences shall be made good. To secure the payment of the principal of said bonds, in addition to the first mortgage above mentioned, the company is required to pay into the Treasury of the United States two per cent of the gross earnings of the road, which is to be invested as a sinking fund for the redemption of said bonds at maturity. This is claimed to be the inauguration of a new policy, and while it does not increase the public debt or require the issue of government bonds, it so extends the aid of the government as to insure the prosecution of this enterprise without danger of adding to the public burdens or of hazarding the public credit.

Purchase and Sale of Gold and Stocks by the Government.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, presented to-day a petition from merchants, bankers and business men begging the Senate and House of Representatives to pass such laws that hereafter all purchases or sales of the loans and bonds of the United States on account of the United states shall be made by inviting public competition through advertising for proposals, and that all sales of gold for account of the United States shall be made at public auction by an authorized official of the Treasury Department, at such time and place, which shall be duly advertised, as the Secretary of the Treasury shall designate. The petition is signed by Messrs. Duncan, Sherman & Co.; Dabney, Morgan & Co.; Taylor Brothers, Green & Sherman and 214 others, of New York; also by the president of the First National Bank, Thomas Watson & Son, Low Matthews, Jeremiah Allen and 225 others, of Philadelphia; also by Cornelius G. Atwood, Enos, Briggs & Co.; J. B. Wentworth, C. N. McCullogh and 159 others, of Boston; also by 195 of Chicago.

The New Finance Bill.

The bill reported from the Senate finance committee by Mr. Sherman is the product of twelve days' consultation, and is intended to declare the embodied financial wisdom of the Senate, though it evidently bears the mark of being a good deal the emanation of Senator Sherman himself. It legalizes gold contracts, applies the proceeds of customs duties to the payment of the interest of the national debt, in the form of a sinking fund; authorizes the issue of ten-forty five per cent bonds to be exempt from taxation; authorizes the issue of gold demand notes to the extent of coin and bullion in the Treasury; and lastly, gives authority to the national banks to issue sixty-five per cent of the amount of their bonds deposited in the Treasury in notes payable on demand in coin, and no bank shall receive less than $50,000 of such notes. In financial circles this bill is certain to become a prominent theme of discussion, as it is believed to be the *ne plus ultra* of Senatorial legislation in that direction for this session.

The Assignments of the Army—Recommendations of the Secretary of War.

It appears from an official document that the number of troops guarding and policeing the frontier is 10,691; operating against the Indians and policeing the frontier, 6,824; operating against Indians, 2,119; guarding the Union Pacific Railroad and policeing the frontier, 657; guarding the Union Pacific Railroad, 405; guarding traffic on the Missouri river, 1,251; operating against Indians and guarding the Union Pacific Railroad, 3,553. Total regular troops, 25,601; total volunteer troops, 1,213. Aggregate, 26,814. The employment of volunteers and the acceptance of one regiment of cavalry from Kansas was authorized by the President if General Sherman deemed it necessary to a successful prosecution of the Indian campaign. The volunteers are to serve for six months. The Secretary of War recommends that he be authorized to hire such suitable building in New York or vicinity as may be required for safe and convenient storage of army stores of any description at a total cost not to exceed $40,000 per annum. He further recommends that no action be taken at present upon the proposition to purchase an armory building in New York city, as submitted on the 10th ultimo.

State Taxes Upon Railroad Passengers.

The war of centralization on the reserved rights of the States threatens to be advanced another stage in the resolution offered by Senator Morgan to-day, calling in question the right of a State to levy a tax upon passengers conveyed across its territory on railroads, rendering the practice thereof illegal and attaching penalties to its enforcement.

Reconstruction of Mississippi.

The Reconstruction Committee finished its investigation of the condition of Mississippi to-day, and sent the testimony and other documents to the printer. No decision as to the character of the report to be made to the House has yet been reached. As already stated in these despatches, the committee is known to be divided on the subject, but a number of them, perhaps a majority, are in favor of admitting the State to representation in Congress with her present State constitution. Mr. Bingham introduced a bill for this purpose to day. It goes to the Reconstruction Committee, and its consideration will precipitate the quarrel regarded as imminent among the members of the committee on this subject.

Regulation of the Judicial Circuits.

The bill introduced in the Senate to-day by Mr. Trumbull, regulating the judicial circuits of the United States, has the importance of meeting a great and growing necessity of the Supreme Court by affording it large auxiliary aid without disturbing its present organism. The amount of business thrown upon the hands of the nine justices of the court is entirely disproportionate to the time and means at their disposal. The court as at present regulated was quite adequate to the judicial business of the country twenty or thirty years ago, but now it is felt that the necessity exists for such an enlargement of its capacity as will meet the immense increase of litigation corresponding with the growth of population. By this bill the nine judicial circuits of the United States will be attended to by nine additional judges, each one residing within his circuit and exercising the power of a Supreme Court judge and acting alone or in conjunction, as occasion may afford, with either a district judge or a judge of the Supreme Court. By this means the time of the Supreme Court judges will be spared from circuit duty, it being optional with them to attend, and can be devoted to the cases on the calendar of the Supreme Court alone. It will also avoid the occurrence of appeal from the decision of a judge on circuit to the same judge in the Supreme Court. It is understood the bill has the hearty concurrence of the Justices of the Supreme Court.

Nominations Sent to the Senate.

The President nominated to the Senate to-day:—John A. Gadsden, Secretary of Legation in Mexico, vice Mr. Plumb; William W. Dixon, Associate Justice for Montana; R. H. Hunt, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Sixth district of Missouri; A. J. Brook, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Twenty-first district of Pennsylvania.

The Inauguration Ceremonies.

It has been ascertained that until the inauguration of Van Buren the President elect always proceeded to the place of inauguration accompanied by personal friends alone and not by the outgoing President.

THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.

Message of the President to the Senate—Whence Came His Power to Declare Amnesty—The Constitution the Authority—Precedents.

The President transmitted the following to Congress to-day:—

TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—

The resolution adopted on the 5th instant, requesting the President to transmit to the Senate a copy of any proclamation of amnesty made by him since the last adjournment of Congress, and also to communicate to the Senate by what authority of law the same was made, has been received. I accordingly transmit herewith a copy of a proclamation dated the 25th day of December last. The authority of law by which it was made is set forth in the proclamation itself, which expressly affirms that it was issued by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the constitution and in the name of the sovereign people of the United States, and proclaims and declares unconditionally and without reservation to all and every person who directly or indirectly participated in the late insurrection or rebellion a full pardon and amnesty for the offence of treason against the United States, or of adhering to their enemies during the late civil war, with the restoration of all their rights, privileges and immunities under the constitution and the laws which have been made in pursuance thereof. The federal constitution is understood to be and is regarded by the Executive as the supreme law of the land. The second section of article second of that instrument provides that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardon for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment. The proclamation of the 25th ultimo is in strict accordance with the judicial expositions of the authority thus conferred upon the Executive, and, as will be seen by reference to the accompanying papers, is in conformity with the precedent established by Washington in 1795, and followed by Presidents Adams in 1800, Madison in 1815 and Lincoln in 1863, and by the present Executive in 1865, 1867 and 1868.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 18, 1869.

The copies accompanying the President's answer to the Senate are as follows:—

First—The proclamation of General Washington, dated July 10, 1795, granting to citizens who had been engaged in insurrection and in resisting the collection of revenue on distilled spirits and stills, in the western counties of Pennsylvania, excepting certain classes described in the proclamation, a general pardon of all treason and other indictable offences.

Second—The proclamation of John Adams, dated on the 21st of May, 1800, granting a full pardon to all and every person, including some persons excepted in Washington's proclamation, engaged in the said insurrection, whereby remedying and releasing unto all such persons all pains and penalties incurred, or supposed to be incurred, for or on account of the premises.

Third—The proclamation of James Madison, dated February 16, 1815, concerning certain foreigners flying from the danger of their own homes, and certain citizens of New Orleans, forgetful of their duty, had co-operated in forming an establishment of the island of Barataria, near the mouth of the river Mississippi, for the purpose of a clandestine and lawless trade. The government of the United States caused the establishment to be broken up and proceeded to prosecute the offenders by indictment, &c. For reasons set forth in the proclamation President Madison granted to the offenders a full pardon of all offences committed against the laws or touching the intercourse and commerce of the United States with foreign nations, and the President directs all suits, indictments and prosecutions for fines, penalties, forfeitures, &c., to be discontinued and released.

Fourth—The proclamation of President Lincoln, dated the 8th day of December, 1863, familiar to the public, granting to all persons (certain classes excepted) who had participated in the rebellion full pardon and restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves and in property cases where the rights of third parties shall have intervened. In this proclamation Mr. Lincoln begins by citing the provision in the constitution empowering the President to grant reprieves and pardons. The laws of Congress declaring forfeitures, &c., and authorizing the President to issue proclamations of pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions as the Executive may deem proper, are then cited. Mr. Lincoln, referring to this act, adds:—"Whereas the Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with the well established judicial exposition of the pardoning power, therefore," &c.

Fifth—The proclamation of President Lincoln, dated 26th of March, 1864, defining cases in which persons are entitled by benefits of his proclamation.

Sixth—The proclamation of President Johnson, dated the 29th of May, 1865, similar to the Lincoln proclamation of December 8, 1863, granting pardon and amnesty excepting for cases therein named.

Seventh—The proclamation of President Johnson, dated September 7, 1867, extending full pardon to certain persons who were engaged in the rebellion. This proclamation extends pardon to the classes mentioned who were not pardoned by preceding proclamations.

Eighth—The proclamation of President Johnson of July 4, 1868, granting a general pardon and amnesty to persons engaged in the late rebellion, with certain exceptions and reservations.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1869.

PREVENTION OF NATURALIZATION FRAUDS.

The PRESIDENT presented a memorial of numerous citizens, alleging that great frauds were committed in various parts of the Union in the late elections, and praying for such amendment to the naturalization laws as will tend to prevent such frauds in future.

GOVERNMENT SALES OF GOLD AND BONDS.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., presented a petition of Duncan, Sherman & Co., Dabney, Morgan & Co., E. D. Morgan & Co., and about 200 other merchants and business men of New York; also of Thomas Robins, Edward M. Lewis and Joseph Patterson, bank presidents, of Philadelphia, and about 230 other merchants and business men of that city, and E. A. Presby, Enos Briggs & Co., H. K. Frothingham and about 160 other merchants and business men of Boston, and W. Coolbaugh, E. Hempstead, C. T. Wheeler and 190 other merchants and business men of Chicago, praying for the enactment of a law reading, That hereafter all purchases or sales of the loans and bonds of the United States on account of the United States shall be made by inviting public competition and thoroughly advertising for proposals, and all sales of gold for account of the United States shall be made at public auction by an authorized official of the Treasury Department, at a time and place duly advertised. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition and remonstrance of merchants of Boston against the renewal of the reciprocity treaty.

Also a memorial of claimants under the late treaty negotiated with Venezuela, in which they ask legislation by Congress to secure them their claims under the award recently made and asking Congress to pay their claims in advance of any money that shall be received under the award.

MR. SHERMAN'S FINANCE BILL.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Finance Committee, reported a bill legalizing coin contracts and appropriating $140,000,000 annually out of the customs receipts to be applied to the payment of the interest and reduction from the principal of the public debt, in lieu of the sinking fund heretofore authorized. A provision is made for a change of legal tender notes for five per cent ten-forty gold bonds; gold notes to be issued to the amount of coin in the Treasury for the purchase of six per cent securities in the city of New York, but the amount of such notes shall only equal the amount of legal tender notes surrendered for bonds. The last section authorizes banks to issue demand notes payable in coin to the extent of sixty-five per cent on bonds deposited by them, regardless of the present limitation of $300,000,000. The following is the bill reported by Mr. Sherman from the Finance Committee:—

Be it enacted, &c., That any contract hereafter made specifically payable in coin shall be legal and valid and may be enforced according to its terms, anything in the several acts relating to United States notes to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided, That this section shall not apply to contracts for borrowing of currency or to the renewal or extension of an indebtedness under a contract already entered into, unless such contract originally required payment in coin.

SECTION 2. That there is hereby appropriated out of duties levied from imported goods the sum of $140,000,000 annually, which sum, during each fiscal year, shall be applied to payment of interest and to the reduction of the principal of the public debt; and such reduction shall be in lieu of the sinking fund provided by the fifth section of an act entitled, "An act to authorize the issue of United States notes and for the redemption and funding thereof, and for funding the floating debt of the United States, approved February 25, 1862.

SEC. 3. That the holder of any lawful money of the United States to the amount of fifty dollars or any multiple of fifty dollars may convert the same into bonds for an equal amount, as herein provided, under such regulations and rules as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, and that the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue to such holder coupon or registered bonds of the United States in such form and of such denomination, not less than fifty dollars, as he may prescribe, redeemable in coin at the pleasure of the United States after ten years, and payable in coin in forty years, and bearing an annual interest of five per cent, payable semi-annually, in coin; which said bonds shall be exempt from taxation in any form, by or under State, municipal or local authority, and the same and the interest thereon and the income therefrom shall be exempt from payment of all taxes or duties to the United States other than such income tax as may be assessed upon other incomes.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to issue gold notes of the United States, not bearing interest, payable to bearer on demand, in coin, at the Treasury of the United States, in such form and of such denomination, not less than ten dollars, as he may prescribe, and such gold notes shall be receivable for all taxes, duties or debts payable to the United States, and the Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized at his discretion to apply an amount of such coin notes, not exceeding the amount of United States notes surrendered for conversion into bonds under preceding section of this act, to the purchase in open market in the city of New York, of any part of the securities of the United States bearing six per cent interest, and thereupon the Secretary of the Treasury shall cancel an amount of said United States notes equal to the securities so purchased; and said coin notes shall also be paid out for coin liabilities of the United States, at the option of the creditor; provided, however, that the aggregate of coin notes issued under this act, and the outstanding gold certificates of deposit, shall not exceed the coin and bullion in the Treasury of the United States, and such coin notes shall be paid according to their terms, and may be reissued from time to time, as the exigencies of the public service shall require.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That any banking association now organized or that may be hereafter organized under the act entitled "An act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for their circulation and the redemption thereof," approved January 3, 1864, is hereby authorized, without respect to the limitation of $300,000,000 of circulating notes, prescribed by the twenty-second section of said act, to issue and circulate in notes as money not bearing interest and payable on demand in coin, and such coin notes shall be obtained in the mode provided in said act as to other circulating notes, and shall be paid on demand in coin instead of United States notes, and only be issued to the amount of sixty-five per cent of the bonds of the United States deposited with the Treasurer of the United States as security for the redemption of said coin notes. No banks shall receive less than $50,000 of such coin notes, and such banks and the said coin notes shall be subject in all other respects to the limitations, restrictions and provisions of said act.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep) of Oregon, gave notice that he wished to offer the following amendments to be printed with the bill:—

To amend section three by adding thereto the following words:—

Provided that not to exceed $5,000,000 lawful money shall be converted into bonds as herein provided in any one month.

Strike out in section four the words "at his discretion," and insert in place thereof the words "and required;" and also strike out in the same section the words "not exceeding," and insert instead thereof the words "equal to."

The following amendment was proposed to be offered by Mr. CATTELL:—

Add at the end of section three the following:—And any holder of any of the bonds provided for in this act may present the same to the Treasurer of the United States and demand lawful money of the United States for the principal and accruing interest thereon, and the Treasurer shall redeem the same in lawful money of the United States, unless the amount of the United States notes then outstanding shall be equal to $300,000,000, and such bonds shall not be so redeemable after the United States have resumed the payment of coin for their notes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. HARLAN, (rep.) of Iowa, called the attention of the Senate to a letter of the correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, General Brynton, which had been copied and commented upon in the New York *Tribune* of the 15th inst., and which was personal to himself, and, he thought, to some other Senators.

The letter and *Tribune's* editorial comments upon it were sent to the Clerk's desk and read.

Mr. HARLAN said now, for the first time, he called attention to a newspaper article. He felt it his duty to do so now, rather for public than personal reasons. He had nothing to say against the respectable portion of the conductors or correspondents of newspapers; but their profession, like others, consisted of three classes:—First, the class who by their talents adorn the profession and give it dignity; second, the mediocre class who, perhaps, help to give it respectability; and third, what he would term the *lazzaroni*, the scavengers of the profession, who do the work that respectable members will not touch. He did not know the correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* well enough to determine to which class he belonged, but the letter to which he had called attention exhibited such a degree of carelessness, or ignorance, or something worse, as would in his judgment, unfit the author of it to be a correspondent of any respectable journal. He then made a long explanation of the facts in each transaction in connection with which he was accused of wrong doing—the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad extension, the sale of the Cherokee Reservation in Texas, and the sale of lands to the Sioux City branch of the Union Pacific Railroad—and stated that he had never had, and never expected to have, any personal interest whatever in these transactions. As to the motives of the writer, he could only conjecture. It could not be malice toward him, because he had never given any occasion or pretext for that; so he was forced to think it must be a desire to blackmail, and in regard to the last item to serve the interests of supposed rival roads.

Mr. POMEROY said the statements of the correspondent affecting himself would not have attracted his attention had they not attracted the attention of the Senate; but as they had done so he would say that they were incorrect in regard to all the material facts. The only way in which he had become interested in railroads in his own State was by the Legislature having put his name into the charters of certain roads as one of the temporary corporators to hold the franchise in trust until capitalists prepared to build the roads could be found. When such capitalists had been found he and the other corporators had always transferred the franchise without compensation. That was the character of his connection with such railroad projects. His aim as a Senator was to represent his constituents fairly and satisfactorily to them, and if he failed to please at the same time the Washington newspaper correspondents he could not help it.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., commented briefly on the letter of General Boynton and the statement of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, in the House, in regard to the vast quantities of public land given away to railroad corporations, which, he said, was made in ignorance of the facts. He also read in the NEW YORK HERALD that he (Mr. Conness) had no less than five jobs before the Senate. Before seeing this he had congratulated himself on what he had supposed to be the fact that his name and influence at least were not in any way connected with "jobs;" but he had been mistaken. The writer, however, had not been very cute in selecting the job with which to connect him. The Sutro tunnel project happened to be one which from the first he had opposed as wild and impracticable.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, said from his knowledge of the Cincinnati *Gazette* and the New York *Tribune* he thought it likely anything he might say in vindication of his colleague would only injure him with those journals; but, nevertheless, he felt it to be his duty to say that the charge against these gentlemen in connection with the Burlington Railroad was a trumped up affair, with no foundation in the facts of the case.

EVIDENCE IN CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to amend the act prescribing the mode of obtaining evidence in cases of contested elections, with an amendment striking out "registers" and inserting "notaries public." Passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill in regard to the discharge of poor convicts. The bill provides that convicts sentenced by any United States Court, and who have been imprisoned thirty days solely for non-payment of fines and costs, shall be discharged upon making oath and satisfying a United States Commissioner that they have no property exceeding twenty dollars in value.

Mr. RICE, (rep.) of Ark., introduced a bill to amend the existing laws in relation to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts of the United States, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill provides that the Circuit Courts shall have original cognizance of suits in equity instituted by corporations against citizens of other States where the amount in dispute equals $500.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., from the Committee on Commerce, reported back the memorial of the New York and London Telegraph Company, with a bill to authorize them to land their cables on the shores of the United States, and recommended the passage of the bill.

Mr. MORTON introduced a bill to punish the collection of taxes on passengers. It provides that it shall be unlawful for any officer of a railroad corporation to pay to any State government or its agents any tax or sum of money for the transportation of passengers through its territories; and that any person violating this law shall pay a fine of not more than $5,000 nor less than $1,000. The second section makes it unlawful for any State government or its agent to collect such tax, and imposes a penalty of $2,000 for a violation. The third section gives the United States Courts jurisdiction in the matter. The bill was referred.

Mr. DRAKE, (rep.) of Mo., introduced a bill to regulate the construction of bridges over the Missouri river and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The bill provides for the appointment by the Secretary of War of a commissioner of engineers to report to Congress what changes or modifications, if any, are necessary in bridges constructed or being constructed on the Mississippi river, so that they shall not obstruct or endanger navigation. Also, that all bridges hereafter to be constructed on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers shall have a span of 400 feet over the channel and other spans not less than 250 feet clear, a height of fifty feet above the high water mark, and piers parallel to the current; the draws to be not less than 300 feet. The plans of the bridge must be approved by a commission of competent engineers, to be appointed by the Secretary of War.

Mr. TRUMBULL introduced a bill concerning divorces in the District of Columbia, which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. SHERMAN reported back from the Finance Committee the Specie Payment bill introduced by Senator Morton, and asked that the committee be discharged from further consideration, because so much of it as they approved had been considered in the general bill reported.

Mr. KELLOGG, (rep.) of Pa., offered a resolution directing the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate an abstract of all the surveys for the railroad made under the direction of the government, with a brief statement of the views expressed in their reports by the officers making such surveys. Referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

Mr. KELLOGG introduced a bill to guarantee the payment of certain bonds to be issued under the authority of the governments of Louisiana and Arkansas to provide for the repairing of the levees on the Mississippi river. Referred.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a bill making a grant of land to the State of Minnesota to aid in improving the navigation of the Mississippi immediately above the falls of St. Anthony. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

AMENDMENT TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Mr. TRUMBULL introduced a bill to amend the judicial system of the United States, which was ordered, printed and referred to the Judiciary Committee. The following is the bill:—

Be it enacted, &c., That the Supreme Court of the United States shall hereafter consist of the Chief Justice of the United States and eight associate justices, six of whom shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 2. That for each of the nine existing judicial circuits there shall be appointed a circuit judge, who shall reside in his circuit and shall possess the same power and jurisdiction as the Justice of the Supreme Court allowed to the circuit. The Circuit Court in each circuit shall be held by the Justice of the Supreme Court allotted to the circuit, sitting alone or with the Circuit Judge of the circuit, or in the absence of said justice by the Circuit Judge, sitting alone or with the District Judge of the district, or in the absence of the Justice of the Supreme Court and Circuit Judge by the District Judge alone; and such courts may be held at the same time in different districts of the same circuit, and more than one such court may be held at the same time in the same district. The Circuit Judges shall receive such compensations for their services as may hereafter be provided by law.

SEC. 3. That nothing in this act shall affect the powers of the Justices of the Supreme Court as Judges of the Circuit Court; but it shall not be obligatory upon them to attend more than one term of such court in any district within their circuits during a period of two years, and such attendance shall not be permitted to interfere with the discharge of their duties as Justices of the Supreme Court.

DUTY ON IMPORTED COPPER.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., the Senate took up the bill to regulate the duty on copper, &c., which was read in full as reported from the committee.

Mr. ANTHONY moved to amend by adding the following, which was adopted:—

On copper in rolled plates called braziers, copper sheets, rods, pipes and copper bottoms, eyelets and all manufactures of copper, of which copper shall be a component of the chief value and not otherwise herein provided for, forty-five per centum ad valorem.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., moved to amend by inserting after the word "ores" in the ninth line the words "containing sulphur," and in line tenth, after the word "therein," the words "and on all copper imported in the form of ores not containing sulphur two cents on each pound of fine copper contained therein."

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Conn., advocated the amendments offered by Mr. Morrill.

Mr. CHANDLER, in reply, said that this was not the first time Connecticut had attacked the interests of Michigan. The cry of the Connecticut protected manufacturers was the cry of Jeff Davis when he had succeeded in forming his government, "Let us alone!" But he warned them that, like the confederacy, they would not be let alone, and if she continued to say to the Northwest, "Stop your mines," the answer would be, "Stop your factories."

Mr. FERRY did not know what he had said or done to invite such an attack; but he would say, in reply to it, that Connecticut's prosperity was due to the enterprise and energy of her own sons, and that she asked no favors.

Mr. WHYTE, (dem.) of Md., moved an amendment in the form of a proviso, that any person or corporation importing foreign carbonates or copper ores into the United States shall, upon filing a bond, to be approved by the collector of the port at which such importations are received, that they are to be used in smelting in the proportion of two tons of native copper ore to one ton of that imported, be allowed a drawback upon the importation to the extent of the duty thereon. This amendment he advocated in a speech, in which he said that native copper could not be smelted advantageously without the use of foreign carbonates.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., said that so far as he knew there was no good foundation for such a statement, and read a letter to that effect from an expert.

Mr. SHERMAN said that although his State was not directly interested in the bill, he would state why the committee had reported it unamended. The reasons were that it has passed the House in this form by a vote of about two to one; that the interests to be protected by it were anxious for its immediate passage; that the objections made to it had not seemed very forcible, and that it was impossible to maintain the tariff system of the country unless protection was made general.

Mr. MORRILL did not think the amendment offered by Mr. Whyte germane to his amendment, and suggested that it be withdrawn and offered at the end of the section.

Mr. WHYTE withdrew the amendment temporarily.

Mr. ANTHONY suggested that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Chandler) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Morrill) had better compromise their differences on this bill. He did not wish to vote against either.

Mr. CHANDLER said that that could be done only by his abandoning the copper interest, which he had no intention to do.

A vote was then taken on Mr. Morrill's amendment, which was lost—yeas 20, nays 27.

At twenty minutes to five o'clock the Senate adjourned, the bill still pending.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1869.

MEMORIAL OF J. HANSEN.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., presented the memorial of J. Hansen asking the interposition of the United States government with Prussia for indemnification for the violation of a contract with him in the matter of the Holstein Ship Canal. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., presented the petition of two hundred and fifty citizens of New York praying Congress to propose an amendment to the constitution securing the right of suffrage to citizens without distinction of race or color.

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

The SPEAKER proceeded to call the States and Territories for bills and joint resolutions.

Under the call bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read twice and referred as follows:—

By Mr. POLAND, (rep.) of Vt.—Providing for the issue of United States bonds, retiring United States notes, and for a free system of national banking.

The bill proposes the issue of coupon or registered bonds to the amount of $1,000,000,000, redeemable in coin after thirty and fifty years respectively; the thirty year bonds to bear interest at four and a half per cent in coin, and the fifty year bonds to bear interest at four per cent. The bonds to be exempt from national, State and municipal taxes, except the income tax, and to be exclusively used in payment of or exchange for outstanding bonds or notes that have fallen due or bear interest at higher rates. The Secretary of the Treasury is to retire and cancel all United States notes now outstanding by their conversion into such bonds. Circulating notes are to be issued to the national banks as fast as the United States notes are cancelled, until the amount of United States notes outstanding shall be reduced to $100,000,000. The national banks are hereafter to make their deposits for the security of their circulation in the bonds provided in the act.

By Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass.—Relating to church property in the lately rebellious States. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. It proposes that where church property has been given to Africans the trustees thereof shall be elected by the congregation.

By Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass.—To prevent the alienation to foreigners of grants of privileges from the United States. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. ELIOT, (rep.) of Mass.—To regulate and protect the fur seal trade at the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. VAN HORN, (rep.) of N. Y., for his colleague, Mr. Stewart—For the construction of lines of telegraph between Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington under the direction of the Post Office Department. Referred to the Post Office Committee.

By Mr. WOOD, (dem.) of N. Y.—To repeal the act to incorporate the National Insurance Company of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

By Mr. BARNES, (dem.) of N. Y.—To prevent the loaning of money on United States legal tender notes as collateral security. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency. Also to prohibit banks of issue from paying interest on deposits, except on some specified time, not less than thirty days. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. BROOKS—To exempt the manufacturers of printed newspapers from tax the same as the manufacturers of other prints. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOYDEN, (rep.) of N. C.—To amend the Internal Tax law. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIFT, (rep.) of Ga.—To amend the Bankruptcy act. Referred to the Committee on the Revision of Laws.

By Mr. CALLIS, of Ala.—For the appointment of a select committee on the Ku Klux outrages in Alabama. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

By Mr. KELLOGG, (rep.) of Ala.—Relative to the sale of gold and bonds. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. NORRIS, of Ala.—Granting right of way and lands to a railroad company in Alabama. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands. Also for the renomination on the recommendation of the delegations from the Southern States of midshipmen to the Naval Academy. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

By Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio—To admit the State of Mississippi to representation in Congress. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. It provides for the admission of Mississippi whenever its Legislature shall have ratified the fourteenth article of amendment to the constitution of the United States. It declares null and void the disability imposed by the third section of article seven of the constitution of Mississippi.

By Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio—Providing that no commissions as brigadier generals shall be issued until the number of brigadiers is reduced below eight and fixing eight as the number of brigadier generals after that time. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. SULTAN, (rep.) of Ind.—To close the land system in certain States. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands. Also to incorporate the National Homestead Association. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By Mr. KERR, (dem.) of Ind., and others—For the removal of legal and political disabilities. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

By Mr. BOLES, (rep.) of Ark.—To aid in the construction of the Arkansas and Pacific Railroad. Referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroad.

By Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Iowa—To amend the judiciary system of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

By Mr. WINDOM, (rep.) of Minn.—Additional to the act granting lands for the construction of a railroad and telegra