

WASHINGTON

Result of Caleb Cushing's Mission to Bogota.

The Prospects of a Darien Ship Canal.

A Writ of Prohibition Issued Against Judge Underwood of Virginia.

Passage of Senator Wilson's New Army Bill in the House.

Unfavorable Report on the Proposed Pension to Mrs. Lincoln.

Discussion on the New Suffrage Amendment in the House.

and section 41. of special orders No. 286, series of 1864, dismissing from the service without trial Lieutenant Martin Nelson, Sergeant William States Infantry. In both cases the review of the proceedings proved that the officers had been treated harshly and condemned upon insufficient evidence.

The latest story told about the efforts to pump Grant on his Cabinet appointments concerns a lady, the wife of a prominent Senator. A gay party was assembled at Grant's residence several nights ago, and the ladies composing it formed a group around the great man of the mansion, talking pleasant small talk for some time, when one of the party, a sprightly and handsome lady, thought the opportunity favorable and the general's mental guard sufficiently negligent to venture in where other folks than angels have hitherto feared to tread.

The Congressional Committee having in charge the arrangements for an inauguration ball held a meeting to-day, which lasted for three hours. The main question discussed was how to overcome the Senate's objections to the use of the Rotunda and other portions of the Capitol. After various plans were proposed and rejected it was finally decided to ask the Senate for the use of the Capitol in which to give an inauguration reception, thus getting rid of the contraband nature of dancing. This committee agreed to have nothing to do with the arrangements of the Inauguration Committee, on account of the objections of the latter to mingling the African and Caucasian chrysa in the joys of the dance.

General Butler struck the keynote of real reform in Indian affairs on Wednesday when he declared against any more treaties with the Indians within the boundaries of the United States, and boldly took the ground that hereafter Indians as well as other people must be governed by laws. The laxation members and their confederates in the lobby who live by plundering the government through the Indian treaty system grew pallid with fear and anxiety during the general's remarks.

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Senator Pomeroy's Pet to Have a New Dress. Senator Conness entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which Pomeroy's Central Branch Pacific bill was rejected. He gave as a reason that his friends wished to lay it on the table for the purpose of perfecting amendments which should make the bill satisfactory. The first object of this is to take out the sting of a recent clause in the bill where any opportunity might be seized to press it through. Further inquiry develops also the fact that the purpose to obtain subsidies in bonds is entirely abandoned, not only by the Central Branch but by the other applicants now asking aid.

The Senate Committee of Indian Affairs has done just what was rumored and expected—voted, with one exception, to report against the bill. It is the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the War Department. This is, of course, to keep the matter in the hands of the present officers and agents on the frontier and the ring in Washington, which the Indian Congressional Committees form a part, or at least their intimate friends do. But they feel that they have a struggle to carry their point. Their strongest point is delay. They promised to report promptly. They have held the bill more than a month already. But they must at last report. They must content with the strong recommendation of Gen. A. Grant and our foremost army officers, the unflinching consent of leading men in the Senate, and with the powerful influence of an overwhelming majority in

the lower House. If the matter is brought squarely before the Senate the report of the committee will fall. But to bolster up the old system they propose to say we believe that the Secretary of the Interior had not adequate time to attend to this very important branch of our home affairs. The War Department would not have time. Matters so great and complicated should have the exclusive attention of a separate department, with a Cabinet officer at its head. But all this is a mere blind and will deceive nobody. We believe that the Senate will insist on putting the whole matter into the War Department, under charge of officers already in pay of the government, and thus reduce expense and diminish fraud. But expect sharp debate on the proposition.

The Overland Mail Contract. Postmaster General Randall gave his testimony before the same committee in relation to the Western Fargo contract, and showed that there was nothing corrupt or improper in making the contract. This closes the investigation of the subject, and it is understood that Mr. Randall will shortly prepare a report.

The Merchants' National Bank of Little Rock, Ark. Later information received at the Treasury to-day from the Merchants' National Bank of Little Rock, Ark., states there are strong hopes entertained that the bank will survive its difficulties. They assert that they hold a claim, now pending in Congress, involving \$100,000, the same in which Perry Fuller is interested, and they claim that the State of Arkansas is in debt to them to a considerable amount, which they cannot obtain until the new tax is levied, in any case it is said that the deposits are not so large as to cause any loss to the government.

The Supreme Court—Judge Underwood Re-arrested from Interfering with the Virginia Election. In the Supreme Court of the United States to-day Joseph H. Bradley presented the petition of the Attorney General of Virginia and of James Lyons, of counsel with him, stating that on the 8th of May last a man named Griffin was arrested and committed to jail according to the laws of Virginia on the charge of felony. After conviction he was sentenced to confinement in the Penitentiary for two years. On the 9th of November J. C. Underwood, Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern district of Virginia, discharged the prisoner on the ground that Judge Shepley, Judge of the Circuit Court, was not a competent judicial officer, he being disqualified under the third section of the constitution of the United States. This proceeding against the Judge was illegal. No rule was served upon him, and besides it was a fact that Shepley was, in 1867, duly and legally appointed a Judge according to the constitution of Virginia. Subsequently Sally Anderson was sentenced by the Judge of Henrico county to be hung for arson, and similar sentences was passed upon James Jeter Phillips for murder, and these parties were also released by Judge Underwood. Mr. Bradley of counsel for the Attorney General and James Lyons, of counsel for the State of Virginia, a speedy remedy, and that a writ of prohibition be issued directed to Judge Underwood, restraining him from any further action in the cases above mentioned, and especially in that of James Jeter Phillips, in derogation of the constitution of the United States and the laws of Virginia. The Supreme Court granted a writ to show cause, &c., returnable on Friday next, and the motion was set down for argument on that day.

Amending the Judicial System of the United States. The Senate Judiciary Committee had a special meeting last evening for the consideration of bills exclusively concerning the organization of the Judiciary. Mr. Trumbull's bill to amend the Judicial system of the United States, providing for nine additional circuit judges, with the same power and jurisdiction as the Justices of the Supreme Court, gave rise to some debate. The object of the bill, as explained by the Senator, was to give to each circuit a full and complete organization of the courts, and to allow it more time to attend to immediate business, was generally concurred in, but it was thought advisable to take the other bills relating to the Supreme Court and draft their provisions in one. The bill relating to the organization of district courts in Virginia and other States was also considered and postponed. Other matters relative to the Judiciary were passed upon, and several bills of minor importance were instructed to be reported.

An Indian Delegation at the Capitol. A delegation numbering over a dozen of Kiowa, Fox and Sac Indians, dressed in all the barbarous splendor of paint and feathers, blazing red blankets, classed and felt hats, moved through the Capitol today amid an immense crowd of curious spectators. They seemed to take a deep interest in the picture of De Soto discovering the Mississippi which is made to adorn the walls of the rotunda. They shunted with great grace over the red carpet in the marble room and smiled strangely at finding themselves duplicated front and rear in the huge mirrors. One of the warriors bore a remarkable resemblance to Ben Wade, having a good deal of the same massive jaw and deeply furrowed face peculiar to the great champion of human rights. He was a Kiowa Indian, and on being introduced to Mr. Wade he greeted forth his gratification at finding among the pale faces one, at least, who filled his ideal of a great and noble sachem. They seemed very little awed by the sight of the Capitol, and were moved from their accustomed stolidity more by the red carpets and gay frescoes than by anything else.

Internal Revenue Decisions. Commissioner Rollins, in accordance with the section of the Internal Revenue law, which does not require actual competition alone as the condition for the same or equal taxation, decides that if two or more gas companies are located within the corporate limits of any city or town, or if two or more companies are so located, whether within the same corporate limits or not, that they can compete with each other. They are not to pay the same rate of tax, which rate is to be determined by the monthly product of the company having the largest production. The above decision is based upon questions which have been under consideration concerning the rates of taxation proper to be assessed upon the gas companies of Boston and East Boston.

The Tobacco Dealers' Monthly Returns. The Commissioner has written a letter stating that the law imposes a penalty upon dealers in tobacco for non-compliance with the requirements of making monthly returns in the matter of making monthly inventories. Persons, however, who continue to sell and neglect it, or refuse to make such inventories, necessarily fall under suspicion. If, upon examination of their stock, it shall be found to be wanting, the presumption is that no tax has been paid upon it, and it should be reported to the collector for seizure, and then the burden of proof will be upon such dealer to show cause why proceedings shall not be commenced for the forfeiture of all such untaxed goods to the United States. In the absence of any inventory officers are

not supposed to know that a dealer is selling old stock. Pension to Mrs. Lincoln. About a week ago Senator Morton introduced a bill granting a pension to Mrs. Mary Lincoln, widow of President Lincoln, from Jefferson, Texas, who was killed during the war of the rebellion. This resolution was referred to the Committee on Pensions, and the committee reported in favor of the bill. The bill was passed by the House and is now in the Senate.

Secretary Browning's Reception. Secretary Browning has issued cards of invitation to all the heads of bureaus and employees of the Department of the Interior, including the ladies of their several families, to visit the Secretary and Mrs. Browning from two o'clock to-day until nine this evening. This idea seems to be original with Secretary Browning, and the special invitation is regarded by the officers and clerks of the department as a kind of appreciation on the part of the Secretary of their merits, social as well as official.

Rewarding an Inventor. Senator Drake presented yesterday a bill for the relief of Abbott O. Ross, appropriating the sum of \$5,000 as compensation for the use of his contrivance on the Mississippi gunboats during the war, which consisted in offering a salute of hot water and steam to any renegade rebel who attempted to board the gunboats. The boarders never came, but the invention was admirable for softening hard tack and cooking potatoes.

Sales of Public Lands in California. The General Land Office is in receipt of reports showing that during nine months, terminating with December last, there was recorded at the Stockton, Cal., Land Office, and paid into the United States Treasury over \$500,000 on account of proceeds from sales and locations of public lands.

Treatment of Colored Laborers at Fortress Monroe. General Butler introduced a resolution in the House calling for information from the War Department as to discrimination in the treatment between colored and white laborers at Fortress Monroe.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS. Third Session. SENATE. WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1869. MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS. Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN, (rep. of N. J.), presented a memorial from Rev. Dr. McCosh, President of Princeton College, and the professors of that institution, asking Congress to make an appropriation to enable them to take observations of the total eclipse of the sun in August next, and stating that such observations can be best made in the southern part of the United States.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), presented the petition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the repeal of the duty on plants and seeds. Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), presented the petition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the repeal of the duty on plants and seeds. Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), presented the petition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the repeal of the duty on plants and seeds.

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in the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the government of the United States the use of the land and the right of way. Referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroad.

Mr. HASTON'S bill authorizes the construction of a railroad from Dallas, Texas, to Shreveport, from Memphis to Little Rock, and from Cairo to Fulton. Mr. HASTON'S bill authorizes the construction of a railroad from Dallas, Texas, to Shreveport, from Memphis to Little Rock, and from Cairo to Fulton.

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to provide for a reduction of the military forces and other purposes. Various amendments were reported by the Military Committee.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep. of N. Y.), then moved an amendment, providing that the various bills for the relief of generals shall not be filed at present, which was adopted.

The bill was then passed in the following form: It is enacted, That the grade of regimental commissary in the cavalry shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the infantry shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the artillery shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the engineering shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the medical shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the quartermaster shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the adjutant shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the chaplain shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the surgeon shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the veterinarian shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the quartermaster shall be abolished, and the grade of regimental commissary in the adjutant shall be abolished, and the grade of 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