WASHINGTON

The Constitutional Amendment Passes the House by a Two-Thirds Vote.

Proposed Mail Steamship Line Between New York and Amsterdam.

Passage by the Senate of the Pension and Navy Appropriation Bills.

Blackmail Operations of Lobbyists and Claim Agents Exposed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1869.

The Proposed New Constitutional Amendment.

The great event in the House to-day was the passage of the joint resolution reported from the Committee on the Judiciary by Mr. Boutwell submitting to the State Legislatures an amendment to the constitution providing for universal suffrage. All the republicans voted for it with the exception of John A. Bingham, of Ohio, John Baker, of Illinois, and David Halsey, of West Virginia. Of course the democrats all voted against it. The carpet-baggers who voted against it were Nelson, Tift and P. M. D. Young, of Georgia. Mr. Bingham had himself proposed an amendment, which, when put to a vote, could command but twenty-six supporters. This overwhelming defeat enraged him so much that he voted steadily with the democrats on the preliminary motions, as well as on the passage of the joint resolution itself. No attempt at filibustering was made by the democrats beyond the successful efforts of Mr. Brooks in calling the yeas and nays in ordering the joint resolution to a third reading. It is the opinion of Mr. Boutwell that the measure will pass the Senate at an early day.

The New York Election Frauds.

The special committee to investigate the New York election frauds held a meeting after adjournment of the House yesterday. A new witness, named John McCloskey, of New York, had been summoned by the chairman, under the impression that he could unfold a tale of democratic frauds that would throw a perfect flood of light upon the late election in that State. On his direct examination Mr. McCloskey admitted that he had procured bogus naturalization papers in a manner that must have been known to Judge Barnard, and Mr. McKean, one of the clerks of the Supreme Court. These naturalization papers he gave to several parties, who, he supposes, made use of them at the election. On cross-examination, however, the witness acknowledged that neither Judge Barnard, Mr. McKean nor any other person had induced him to procure the bogus papers or was privy to the fact—that he committed the wrongful act of his volition, in fact, without prompting from any of the leaders of the democratic party. Mr. McCloskey is or was a messenger of the Court of General Sessions in your city.

No Inauguration Ball—General Grant's Dislike to President Johnson.

The inauguration ball question seems to be as far from a settlement now as it was in the beginning. Now that it is definitely decided that General Grant will not appear at any ball or reception held on the 4th of March, and as a consequence it is more than probable that there will be no ball and reception on that day, it may not be uninteresting to give a brief history of the efforts made to arrange for these entertainments and to state the present condition of the question. The original committee which started the project of having a grand inauguration ball, and which applied for the use of the Rotunda and old Hall of Representatives of the Capitol for the purpose, was composed largely of republicans. The arrangements went smoothly on; there was no doubt entertained that Congress would allow the Capitol to be used for the ball; the committee proceeded to develop the minor arrangements in regard to the management of the entertainment. Here they came *vis a vis* with an unforeseen obstacle. That obstacle was the negro. Some insisted the ball should be free to all who should purchase a ticket, negroes included; others were not prepared to go to that length, arguing that such a rule would mar the success of the ball. The contention over this important point grew warm, and, in some way or other, the advice of General Grant was sought in the matter. The General examined both horns of the dilemma and settled the dispute effectually by requesting the committee to drop the matter just where it was, informing them that the project did not meet his approbation. Thereupon the committee resolved to abandon the idea, in accordance with the General's views. At this juncture the citizens took up the project, thinking it much to be regretted that so commendable a measure should fail without another effort. Prominent among the citizens were H. D. Cooke, ex-Mayor Wallach, Mr. Mohun and Mr. Sheppard. They were aided by a number of other well known citizens, most of whom are conservatives and democrats. This committee examined the National theatre and one or two other buildings, which did not appear suitable for the purpose, so they finally applied for the north wing of the Treasury. Their application was favorably considered, and to-day they were informed that the Treasury could be used for the purpose on certain conditions. The Secretary stipulated that no injury should be done to the building; that the progress of the workmen engaged in finishing the extension should not be retarded, and that none of the government funds or employés should be used in making the necessary preparations. The supervising architect, who has the immediate charge of this portion of the Treasury, consented, provided General Grant promised to attend the ball. All these provisions were accepted by the committee, and negotiations were at once opened with Grant to obtain the desired promise. At this stage of the proceedings, however, fresh obstructions presented themselves. The original committee had been watching the movements of the citizens' committee very closely. They soon saw there was a strong probability that they would succeed, and they became alarmed. They called another meeting, alluded to the effort of their rivals as a democratic scheme to get hold of General Grant and deprive the negroes of their unquestionable right to dance in the same room—yes, even in the same set with the President. They resolved that their meeting was an adjourned meeting, drew up a formal request to the Secretary of the Treasury asking for the privilege of holding a ball and reception in the north wing of the Treasury, and claimed that this idea originated with them. Another attempt was made to-day in the Senate to procure a reconsideration of the vote refusing the Capitol for a ball, and asking that it be granted for a reception. The motion failed, and on the heels of this defeat came another, which will doubtless prove decisive. In reply to the letters from both committees General Badeau stated that General Grant would not attend any ball or reception on inauguration day. So the matter stands. It has been intimated by those who claim to be thoroughly informed that even had there been no contention among the projectors of the ball General Grant would not have consented to attend, for the reason that the ex-President would be present, and he is unwilling to meet him. It is also stated that important changes will need to be made in the proceedings usual at inaugurations, inasmuch as General Grant, it is stated, has intimated that he will not occupy the same carriage with Mr. Johnson in going to and from the Capitol.

A Congressional Committee Sold.

"General" A. W. Adams, of New York, was before the House Committee on Public Expenditures this morning. Mr. Hulburd, chairman of the committee, caused the "General" to be subpœnaed in the expectation that he would be able to afford very important evidence. It appears Mr. Hulburd received a letter, in which this passage occurred:—"Summon General A. W. Adams, Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York. He can make the investigation interesting." Accordingly Adams came, was sworn and asked to relate what he knew. He said he knew positively nothing about the matter except what he had seen in the newspapers. He was at a loss to know why he had been subpœnaed at all, and was then told about the letter from New York. It is suspected by certain parties here that the "General" wrote the letter himself with a view to having a pleasant trip to this city and back at the expense of the government.

Candidates for the Speakership in the Next Congress.

The various candidates for Speaker of the Forty-first Congress are busily engaged canvassing the House for support, and of course make the usual number of promises. General Butler, on being asked the other day whether he intended to support Blaine or Dawes, said he thought he would vote for Dawes, as he was from his State, and as he thought Dawes a good, reliable man, though it was to his interest to vote for Blaine, because Blaine had promised to make him chairman of the Committee on Appropriations instead of Washburne. General Butler added jocosely, with a wicked twinkle in his best eye, "That arrangement, if made, would be bad for Grant's administration, because if he (Butler) was placed at the head of that committee he would of course feel it his duty to cut down all the appropriations for Grant's administration as low as possible."

Illness of E. B. Washburne.

The severe labors incurred by Mr. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, in endeavoring to arrest the extravagance of the republican party in the House and to defeat the various schemes brought before it to bleed the Treasury and to foster monopolies, have prostrated him so much that yesterday he was unable to be in his seat in the House, and to-day he was compelled to go home at an early hour. In his absence General Butler will have charge of the appropriation bills in the House.

Another Railroad Job Defeated.

It appears that yesterday, in the Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads, the omnibus bill, carrying nearly a dozen railroads and a fabulous quantity of land and bonds along with it, came under discussion, which lasted but a few minutes, when a vote was taken on its passage in committee, resulting in the defeat of the bill by six to five, being about the same ratio as the vote defeating the Central Branch Pacific Railroad in the Senate. A good many Senators, however, who voted for the further extension of subsidies to this road have no disposition to vote for subsidies to any other; but they consider the honor of the government was more or less pledged to furnish the same assistance to this line as was given to the Union Pacific. In fact, it is claimed the Central Branch had a prior right, and is the identical route to the Pacific that Tom Benton advocated for thirty years, and to which he finally succeeded in directing practical attention. Besides, it is held the government committed itself to the assistance of this road at the start, and ought not to desert it now.

Montana Indian War Claims.

The Senate Committee on Territories had a meeting to-day to consider a claim which has been before them for some time to reimburse the Territory of Montana for expense incurred in equipping troops and supplying quartermasters' and commissary stores in the Indian war of 1866 and 1867. Governor Green Clay Smith made an argument in support of the claim, contending that the United States government was responsible for the expense to which the Territory of Montana was put by reason of the inability of the general government to meet the exigencies of the situation and ward off the predatory attacks of the hostile Indian tribes. J. M. Kavanagh, delegate from Montana, made a similar argument. Neither of these gentlemen asked that a bill appropriating the amount of expense incurred, $1,150,000, be introduced, but that a commissioner be appointed to audit the accounts of expenditure and report after the examination to Congress. The committee, however, are divided on this question of the responsibility of the general government, and the authority of the Governor of the Territory to raise and equip troops where the United States forces were in charge and deemed adequate to the emergency is a good deal doubted. A letter from General Sherman was read, in which he states that he ordered General Augur to go to Montana in answer to the representations from there regarding Indian hostilities. General Augur reported that the accounts were exaggerated, and that the United States troops were equal to the demands of the situation; but he found the Governor had already organized troops, though he was unable to see the necessity for their employment. The committee came to no conclusion, and agreed to adjourn till Monday, when the subject will be resumed again.

A New Department in the Government Proposed.

Senator Wilson is strongly of opinion that the time has arrived for erecting the Revenue Bureau into a distinct department of the government, with a secretary at its head, holding a seat in the Cabinet. He believes there is no man in the country to-day adequate to the responsibility of managing the Treasury as it ought to be managed while it is encumbered as at present. The revenue has grown to be the most important feature in the government administration, and the morality, welfare and prosperity of the nation demand that all the ability, integrity and attention that can be secured be given to its management. On the revenue depend the most vital interests of the people. If regulated and collected with honesty and energy the quick payment of the national debt, the reduction of taxation, the resumption of specie payments and the general happiness of the masses will follow, without the necessity of any legislative tinkering with the finances. Senator Wilson is very earnest in the view he takes of the overshadowing importance attaching to an efficient management of the revenue, and he hopes, under Grant, a step in the right direction will be taken. He disclaims, altogether, harboring the intention of tying Grant's hands in his bill amending the Civil Tenure act, and contends there is nothing to prevent the President elect from making a clean sweep of all the rogues in the revenue and of incompetent officials elsewhere.

The Reconstruction Question.

The Committee on Reconstruction has become thoroughly wearied with its investigation of affairs in Virginia, Mississippi and Georgia, and to-day decided to close all the testimony and argument concerning these States. In accordance with the resolution of the House the committee will submit a report embodying the result of their investigations.

Settlers Driven Off by Indians Do Not Forfeit their Claims.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office, in reply to an inquiry of Senators Ross and Pomeroy relative to the rights of pre-emption and homestead settlers on public lands in the western part of Kansas, who are compelled to abandon their residence on their claims in consequence of danger to themselves and families from hostile Indians, says:—

Under such duress there will be no forfeiture, but it will be necessary for such settlers to return to to their claims as soon as the danger is over and resume their residence upon their claims, and at the time of making proof make a proper showing, under oath, in reference to the cause of their temporary absence.

The Interior Department Stationery Contracts.

The Committee on Printing have finished their investigations of the alleged frauds in the Interior Department connected with the contracts for stationery. The testimony shows the existence of frauds far beyond anything that has yet been stated concerning this matter. The Secretary of the Interior, as well as nearly all the heads of bureaus, are to some extent implicated. The chairman of the committee has notified Secretary Browning that they have finished taking testimony, and that before proceeding to make this report to the House they will hear him in anything he has to say in extenuation of the serious charges preferred in the evidence. It is understood that Mr. Browning will appear before the committee on Monday.

The Weekly Currency Statement.

Fractional currency received from the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department for the week ending to-day, $943,000. Shipments—To the Assistant Treasurer at New York, $200,000; to the Assistant Treasurer at Boston, $100,000; to the Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans, $100,000; to the Assistant Treasurer at Charleston, S. C., $50,000; to the United States Depository at Chicago, $100,000; to the United States Depository at Baltimore, $100,000; to the United States Depository at Cincinnati, $100,000; to the United States Depository at Pittsburg, $50,000; to the United States Depository at Buffalo, $50,000; to the United States Depository at Mobile, $10,000; to national banks and others, $194,377. Total shipments, $1,054,377. The United States Treasurer holds in trust at this date for national banks as security for circulation, $342,512,100; deposits of public moneys, $35,047,350; national bank currency issued during the week, $201,200; total to date, $312,128,026; mutilated bills returned, $11,403,132; insolvent bank notes redeemed, $979,128; actual circulation at this date, $299,745,766; fractional currency redeemed and destroyed during the week, $741,600. This amount is the largest redemption of fractional currency ever made at the department in any one week.

Appointment of Assay Commissioners.

The President has appointed Professor W. P. Blake, of San Francisco, and Edward H. Tilton, of Philadelphia, Assay Commissioners of the Mint, in place of Professor A. J. Upson, of Hamilton College, and H. J. Drexel, of Philadelphia, declined.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1869.

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate resolutions of the Legislature of Wisconsin in relation to a canal between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river. Referred to the Committee on Commerce. Also a memorial, signed by citizens of Dacotah Territory, protesting against the division of that Territory. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, presented the petition of the Common Council of Georgetown for the passage of the pending act to incorporate the Industrial Home of Washington. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., presented the memorial of the Legislature of Wisconsin in regard to the improvement of the Wisconsin river. Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. DRAKE, (rep.) of Mo., presented resolutions of the Legislature of Missouri in relation to the completion of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. Referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroad.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition of merchants of Boston in favor of a new reciprocity treaty with Canada. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented the proceedings of the Republican Executive Committee of Fredericksburg, Va., protesting against the removal of political disabilities proposed by the rebel element in that State and giving their reasons for such protest. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MORGAN, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of New York recommending a plan for the settlement of the financial difficulties of the nation. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of Kan., presented, as usual, several petitions in favor of woman suffrage, which were laid on the table.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., presented the petition of citizens of California for the reorganization of the United States courts of that State. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., rose to a question of privilege, and had read by the clerk a paragraph in the Washington correspondence of the New York *World* of yesterday asserting that the McGarrahan case had been decided in favor of the claim—and by six distinct judgments—and that some of the leading opponents of the claim in the Senate had received fees of $10,000 each as attorneys for the New Idea Mining Company from other claimants. Mr. Stewart said, instead of six judgments in his favor McGarrahan had had only one, and that the Supreme Court had set even that one aside as having been fraudulently obtained. The statement about fees, so far as it was meant to refer to him, he pronounced utterly false. If he had been an attorney for the New Idea Company, or any other party adverse to McGarrahan, he would be incapable of appearing in the Senate to discuss the merits of the claim; and he would say further, that McGarrahan's opponent, the New Idea Mining Company, was incapable of employing an attorney to advocate their claim in the Senate.

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

Mr. VICKERS, (dem.) of Md., presented the petition of citizens of Washington against increasing the powers of the Metropolitan police of the District. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

THE PENSACOLA NAVY YARD.

Mr. OSBORN, (rep.) of Fla., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the Secretary of the Navy to ascertain whether the docks at Pensacola are sufficient for the accommodation of the navy in the Gulf of Mexico, and, if not, what legislation is required to make them so.

NATIONAL GOLD MINING COMPANY.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., from the Committee on Mines and Mining, reported adversely to the bill to incorporate the National Gold and Silver Mining Company, of Washington, D. C.

NEW YORK AND ANTWERP STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the memorial of the New York and Antwerp Steamship Company, and introduced a bill to promote the building of steamships in the United States and to provide for the carrying of the mails between New York and Antwerp. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Mr. Conkling's bill authorizes and directs the Postmaster General to forthwith contract with the New York and Antwerp Steamship Company, organized in 1856 under the laws of the State of New York, for the transportation of the United States mails by steamships built in the United States from New York to Antwerp, touching at Southampton, on the following terms and conditions:—The contract shall be for ten years; departures every two weeks during the first year and thereafter weekly: provided the receipts from all sources to the company shall justify the increased services; compensation, all the United States inland and ocean postages; time of voyage to Antwerp, fifteen days, with penalties for delays; all mails for Europe which are ready at the time of departure to be sent by the company's steamer. Mails for France to be delivered at Southampton and carried to Havre by subsidary steamers of the company without extra charge; and finally the company is to be exempt from the payment of all dues and taxes on such of its steamships as are built in the United States, and from the payment of income tax on its receipts or profits during the continuance of the contract.

STATE GOVERNMENT FOR MONTANA.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a bill to enable the people of Montana to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

INAUGURATION RECEPTION AT THE CAPITOL.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., called up his motion to reconsider the vote refusing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for inaugural services other than official, and had read by the Clerk a letter from the General Committee having such services in charge, stating that in defence of the views of several Senators they had decided to have no ball and no dancing, and to ask the use of the Rotunda merely for a reception.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., opposed the motion to reconsider and called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Mr. CRAGIN remarked that if the Senate refused the use of the Rotunda for this purpose there would be an inauguration ball elsewhere, perhaps under less respectable auspices.

Mr. CONKLING inquired whether it would not be under the charge of the same committee.

Mr. CRAGIN replied—Not at all.

Mr. WARNER, (rep.) of Ala., said the question now seemed to be whether General Grant should be allowed to hold a reception in the Capitol on the evening of inauguration day.

Mr. CONKLING said he could not agree with him. He had seen no indication that the President elect panted for an opportunity to hold a reception in the Capitol; on the contrary, that that gentleman seemed desirous of being inaugurated as quietly as possible. If he should express a wish to have the use of the Capitol for any purpose that would present a different question; but the question now was whether somebody else, not now elected President of the United States, should be allowed the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for some unofficial services of his own.

Mr. CRAGIN did not know the wish of General Grant in regard to the proposed reception. He understood that the General had expressed a wish that there should be no ball, and the committee had agreed to dispense with dancing, so now the question was not in relation to the ball but a reception in the Rotunda.

Mr. DRAKE took a hygienic view of the matter. He was opposed to granting the Rotunda at all, but if the Senate should decide to grant it, his sense of duty would compel him to offer an amendment providing that no lady should be admitted to the Rotunda on inauguration evening in party dress.

Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nev., asked, innocently—What is that? (Laughter.)

Mr. DRAKE—Well, sir, its a very considerable undress.

Mr. NYE—Oh! (Laughter.)

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., suggested that Mr. Drake should provide, by his amendment, that ladies be admitted without regard to color.

Mr. DRAKE said he was willing to oblige the Senator from Vermont in that way, and inexplanation of the amendment he had proposed said that it would be impossible to heat the Rotunda comfortably for an evening reception, and it would be exceedingly dangerous for ladies to go there in party dress.

Mr. CONKLING remarked that he did not wish to be set down, because he opposed the resolution, as seeking churlishly to exclude citizens from the Rotunda or any other part of the Capitol. Every citizen had a right to visit the Capitol on inauguration day, and every other day, without any special permission and without being required to pay the committee an admission fee.

The Senate then refused to reconsider, by a vote of 29 to 21.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Maine, moved to postpone consideration of the special order—the constitutional amendment—and to take up the pressing appropriation bills.

Mr. STEWART opposed the motion, because he feared if the amendment were now postponed it would not be passed upon at this session. He called for the yeas and nays on Mr. Morrill's motion, which was carried by a vote of 29 yeas to 23 nays.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MISSOURI SENATORS.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Mo., presented a concurrent resolution of the Legislature of Missouri instructing the Senators and Representatives from that State to vote for the bill to aid the Central Branch of the Pacific Railroad. In presenting them he thought it but right to state he had voted against the bill before receiving the resolutions.

HOMESTEADS FOR SOLDIERS.

Mr. POMEROY introduced a joint resolution relating to the homesteads for soldiers. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PUBLIC LAND GRANTS.

Mr. HARLAN, (rep.) of Iowa, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the Secretary of the Interior to inform the Senate what quantity of public lands have been granted to aid the construction of railroads, wagon roads and canals, and the improvement of river harbors throughout the country.

PENSION APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, of Me., the bill making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions for the year ending June 30, 1870, was then taken up and passed, with the two amendments reported by the committee. The first, reducing the appropriation for invalid pensions from $10,000,000, as provided in the original bill, to $9,000,000; and the second, reducing the appropriations for general pensions from $13,000,000, as in the original bill, to $10,000,000.

SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy was then passed, with the committee's amendments, in the following form:—

Be it enacted, &c., That the following sums are hereby appropriated for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1870:—For the additional pay of officers and for the pay of instructors, cadets and musicians, $154,570 8°; for the commutation of officers' subsistence, $6,132; for pay in lieu of clothing to officers' servants, $156; for current and ordinary expenses, $61,930; for the increases and expenses of the library, $2,000; for expenses of the Board of Visitors, $2,000; for forage for artillery and cavalry horses, $4,000; for horses for artillery and cavalry practice, $2,000; for repairs of officers' quarters, $3,000; for furniture for Cadet's Hospital, $800; for gas-pipes, gasometers and retorts, $600; for materials for quarters for sub-officers, $3,000; for purchase of fuel for Cadets' mess-hall, $2,000; for furniture for Soldiers' Hospital, $100; for refloring Academic building and barracks, $1,000; for repairing roads, $500; for contingencies for the Superintendent of the Academy, $1,000.

NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, of Me., the Naval Appropriation bill was then taken up. All the amendments reported by the committee, heretofore published, were agreed to, &c.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, offered an amendment, which was adopted, repealing the provision of the act of 1867, authorizing the annual selection of ten enlisted apprentices for appointment to the Naval Academy.

Mr. DRAKE offered two amendments, which were adopted, one raising the salary of the head of the Naval Academy from $1,250 to $1,600 per annum, and the other appropriating $5,000 to take observations of an eclipse of the sun on the 7th of August next.

Mr. NYE moved to add an appropriation of $50,000 for the improvement of the harbor of Midway Islands, in the Pacific.

Mr. NYE said the Pacific Ocean was rapidly becoming the great thoroughfare of the world. These islands seemed to have been Providentially heaved up in mid ocean to furnish a timely port of rest and refuge for weary voyagers between our Pacific coast and China, and it was the duty of our government to take means to make the harbor thus supplied available.

Mr. CONKLING thought that it might be very proper to make such an appropriation, but the Committee on Appropriations had not had an opportunity to consider the matter, and as there would be other future appropriation bills in which it might be provided for if necessary, he did not think it wise to put it in this bill.

Mr. GRIMES favored the appropriation and thought it a most important one.

Mr. CONKLING moved to amend Mr. Nye's proposition by providing that only so much of the $50,000 should be expended as should, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Navy, be necessary.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Nye's amendment so amended was then adopted.

Mr. CRAGIN moved to add a section to the bill continuing and establishing the office of solicitor and Naval Judge Advocate General and appropriating $3,000 for his salary.

Mr. MORRILL, of Me., said that the office had arisen during some of the exigencies of the war and need not now be continued.

Mr. CRAGIN insisted that it was a very important and necessary office and one which saved to the country much money.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Ind., opposed the continuance of the office, which he said was a newly invented and unnecessary one.

Mr. DRAKE feared that if the office was abolished the department would have to pay for special counsel fees a great deal more than would be required to continue the office.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., had no doubt the department would have to pay ten times the amount of this officer's salary.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., opposed the amendment, as an attempt to give permanency to an office created by the war and which should have disappeared with the war. He doubted that the office was so very important as some Senators represented, because he had observed that whenever a man got into any government office he rapidly became in his own and his friends' eyes important and indispensable; so much so that it was a matter for wonder how the places of such officers were filled—a rare occurrence, however. He was in favor of leaving the question of the importance of this office to be determined under the new administration, when there would probably be some energy and capacity at the head of the Navy Department.

Mr. GRIMES did not think that the continuance of the office would give the department so much as had been expressed, because the special judge advocates would have to be employed as now for naval courts martial, and the duties of the Judge Advocate General being to examine the records of courts martial held on board ship and elsewhere when sent to the department.

Mr. MORRILL of (Me.), moved to strike out the clause of the amendment continuing and establishing the office. Carried.

The clause appropriating $3,000 for this officer's salary was next voted upon and rejected.

Mr. BUCKALEW, (dem.) of Pa., protested against the rate of expenditure in the Navy Department, and insisted that Congress should at an early day take measures to reduce it to a rate befitting a time of peace. The bill was then passed.

EULOGIES OF CONGRESSMAN FINNEY.

The President presented a message from the House of Representatives, announcing the passage of the resolutions concerning the death of the late Mr. Finney, of Pennsylvania.

Messrs. CAMERON, (rep.) of Pa., and BUCKALEW spoke briefly of the deceased, and the former proposed the resolutions usual in such cases, which were adopted.

The Senate then, at half-past three, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1869.

MEMORIALS PRESENTED.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., presented a memorial from the New York Chamber of Commerce pointing out a way for the permanent settlement of the national finances. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. JONES, (dem.) of Ky., presented a memorial from merchants, distillers and dealers in distilled spirits in the Sixth district of Kentucky for certain changes and amendments in the Internal Revenue law. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PAYMENT OF DEPUTY REVENUE OFFICERS.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill providing, that every deputy collector or assistadt assessor of internal revenue who has performed the duties of collector or assessor on account of the suspension or illness of such collector or assessor, shall receive the compensation of collector or assessor, except in cases where the collector or assessor has already received compensation for the same period. Mr. Schenck, after a brief explanation of the bill, went on to state how Congress is systematically slandered by claim agents and prowlers around the capital, and in that connection read a circular addressed by a Washington claim agent to persons who would be benefitted by the pending bill, stating that the writer and other influential parties would undertake to obtain the passage of such a bill on an allowance being made to them of fifty per cent on the amount recovered. He said he would not mention the name of the writer. The committee had him before them, and he had admitted his wrong and volunteered to write to every one to whom he had addressed the circular confessing his wrong. The committee had found that that person was in all other respects a good citizen; that he had deserved much from the government and had received a medal of honor for his services during the war. The committee had, therefore, concluded to suppress the name; but he would remark that this was an old game. It was not unfrequently the case that claim agents, attorneys, lobbyists and prowlers around Congress found out what was likely to be done by a committee or by Congress, and then speculated on it under the pretence that it was through their influence it was done. That was the case in this instance, a call having been made by the committee for the names of persons who were entitled to this compensation. He knew an instance in a former Congress in which a man levied on a claimant the large sum of ten thousand dollars, and actually secured it, for influencing a member of the committee to obtain a favorable report, when that member never knew nor heard of the rascal. He did not assume that members of Congress were any better than the rest of the world, and he would not be expected to confess that they were any worse than the same number of respectable gentlemen anywhere; but there was a systematic fashionable abuse all through the country, stimulated by letter writers, occasion being given to it by prowling agents who bring Congress into discredit. He thought it his duty to ventilate this case, and to warn all deputy collectors and assistant assessors who might be entitled to receive anything under this bill that they were not indebted one cent to any claim agent or lobbyist, but that Congress gave to them what was justly their due, and they should give a kick rather than a penny to any lobbyist who should come to them for compensation.

The bill was then passed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND SUFFRAGE.

On motion of Mr. BOUTWELL, (rep.) of Mass., the morning hour was dispensed with for this day and the constitutional amendment came up for action.

The question was taken on Mr. Burr's motion to lay it on the table and the motion was rejected—yeas, 41; nays, 131—the republicans voting "aye" being Messrs. Coburn, Hawkins, Jenckes and Wilson of Ohio.

Mr. SHELLABARGER, (rep.) of Ohio, modified the amendment, which he offered yesterday, back to its original form, as follows:—

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall deny or abridge to any male citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years or over, and who is of sound mind, an equal vote in all elections in which he shall have such actual residence as shall be described by law, except to such as have engaged or may hereafter engage in insurrection or rebellion against the United States and to such as shall be duly convicted of treason, felony or other infamous crime.

Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio, modified his amendment so as to read:—

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall deny or abridge to any male citizen of the United States of sound mind and twenty-one years of age or upward the exercise of the elective franchise at all elections in the State wherein he shall have actually resided for a period of one year next preceding such election, subject to such registration law and laws prescribing local residence as the State may enact, except such of said citizens as shall engage in rebellion or insurrection, or who may have been, or shall be, duly convicted of treason or other infamous crime.

Mr. BOUTWELL moved the previous question.

Mr. ELDRIDGE, (dem.) of Wis., asked Mr. Boutwell to withdraw the previous question, in order that he might appeal to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Shellabarger) to modify his amendment. Every sentiment and feeling of his (Mr. Eldridge's) nature was against *ex post facto* laws and against the conviction of any person for crime by act of Congress. He therefore appealed to the gentleman to modify his amendment so as to make it apply to future offences. (Cries of "question.")

After some remarks by Messrs. Schenck and Bingham in reference to the amendments offered

Mr. BOUTWELL said—We are safe if we stand upon the resolution as reported by the committee, and, in my judgment, we are unsafe if we accept the amendment which we ourselves are unable to understand so as to agree in opinion. He insisted on the previous question.

The previous question was seconded. The question was first taken on Mr. Shellabarger's amendment and it was rejected:—

YEAS—Messrs. Ashley of Nev., Baldwin, Beaman, Beatty, Benton, Bales, Bowen, Broomall, Buckland, Cake, Clift, Cobb, Coburn, Cullom, Dawes, Delano, Eckley, Eggleston, Ela, Elliott of Ark., French, Gravely, Hamilton, Hawkins, Hooper, Hubbard of W. V., Judd, Julian, Kelley, Kelsey, Lawrence of Pa., Lawrence of Ohio, Loan, Logan, Maynard, Mullins, Newsham, Norris, Orth, Paine, Plants, Polsley, Price, Prince, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shanks, Shellabarger, Starkweather, Stokes, Sypher, Twichell, Van Horn of Mo., Ward, Washburn of Wis., Washburn of Ind., Washburn of Mass., Welker, Whittemore and Williams—61.

NAYS—Messrs. Allison, Archer, Arnell, Ashley of Ohio, Axtel, Bailey, Baker, Banks, Barnum, Beck, Benjamin, Bingham, Blaine, Blair, Boutwell, Boyden, Boyer, Bromwell, Brooks, Burr, Butler of Mass., Callis, Cary, Chanler, Churchill, Clark of Kansas, Cook, Corbin, Covode, Demerce, Dockery, Dodge, Donnelly, Driggs, Eldridge, Eliot of Mass., Ferris, Ferry, Fields, Fox, Garfield, Getz, Golladay, Goss, Gove, Griswold, Grover, Haight, Halsey, Harding, Haughey, Heaton, Higby, Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of N. Y., Humphrey, Hunter, Jencks, Johnson, Jones of N. C., Jones of Ky., Kerr, Kitchen, Knott, Koontz, Laflin, Lash, Lincoln, Loughridge, Marshall, Marvin, McCormick, McCullough, McKee, Mercur, Miller, Moore, Morrill, Mungen, Myers, Newcomb, Niblack, Nicholson, Nunn, O'Neill, Perham, Peters, Phelps, Pierce, Pike, Pile, Poland, Pruyn, Randall, Raum, Robertson, Roots, Ross, Sitgreaves, Smith, Spalding, Stewart, Stone, Stover, Taber, Taffe, Taylor, Thomas, Tift, Trimble of Tenn., Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Auken, Van Horn of N. Y., Van Trump, Van Wyck, Whittemore, Wilson of Ohio, Wilson of Pa., Windom, Woodbridge, Woodward and Young—127.

The question was then taked on Mr. Bingham's amendment, and it was rejected, the following voting in the affirmative:—

Messrs. Axtell, Baker, Bingham, Brooks, Deweese, Dockery, Eldridge, Garfield, Haight, Heaton, Hotchkiss, Jones of N. C., McCullough, Phelps, Plants, Robinson, Ross, Spalding, Stewart, Stone, Tift, Wilson of Ohio, Woodward and Young—24.

The question recurring on the original proposition,

Mr. BROOKS asked Mr. Boutwell whether he would not consent to have a vote taken on his (Mr. Brooks') amendment to give the franchise to women and children over twelve years of age.

Mr. BOUTWELL replied that he did not think Mr. Brooks was serious in that inquiry.

The yeas and nays were then taken on ordering the joint resolution to be engrossed and read the third time, and it was so ordered, the following being the negative vote:—

Messrs. Archer, Axtell, Baker, Barnum, Beck, Bingham, Boyer, Brooks, Burr, Cary, Chanler, Fox, Golladay, Getz, Grover, Haight, Hawkins, Hotchkiss, Humphrey, Johnson, Jones of Ky., Kerr, Knott, Marshall, McCormick, Mungen, Niblack, Nicholson, Phelps, Polsley, Pruyn, Randall, Robinson, Ross, Sitgreaves, Stone, Taber, Tift, Van Auken, Van Tramp, Woodward and Young—42.

The House then proceeded to vote on the joint resolution, as follows:—

Be it resolved, &c., two-thirds of both houses concurring, that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be held as part of the said constitution, namely:—

ARTICLE —, SECTION 1. The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of race or color, of previous condition of slavery, of any citizen or class of citizens of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

The resolution was passed by the necessary two-thirds—yeas 150, nays 42. The Speaker, as a member of the House, voted in the affirmative.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

The SPEAKER presented resolutions of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce against the extension of the fifty per cent clause in the Bankrupt law.

BRIDGING THE OHIO RIVER.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Ohio. Referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House then, at half-past two o'clock, went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, in the Chair, and resumed the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill. After upwards of an hour spent by the committee in the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill, that bill was laid aside.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BILL.

Mr. WOODWARD, (dem.) of Pa., proceeded to address the Committee in opposition to Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service bill.

NEBRASKA LAND TITLES.

The committee rose and on motion of Mr. TAFFE, (rep.) of Neb., the Senate bill supplementary to an act to confirm titles to lands in Nebraska was taken from the Speaker's table and passed.

THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

Mr. ROSS, (dem.) of Ill., introduced a resolution amending the naturalization laws so as to enable foreigners to be naturalized in one year, which was referred to the Committee on Revision of the Laws.

The House then, at fifteen minutes to five o'clock, o'clock adjourned.

MILITARY NOTES.

They have a number of velocipedes in the gymnasium of the Twenty-second regiment, the acquirement of the art of riding those machines being considered a "military necessity." What a pity that velocipedes were not used in the late war! They would have been of priceless value at Bull run—especially on the evening of that eventful day.

Apropos of the Twenty-second, we are glad