CLOSE OF THE FORTIETH CONGRESS

EXCITING SESSION LAST NIGHT.

RESIGNATION OF SPEAKER COLFAX.

HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS.

Mr. Pomeroy, of New York, Elected Speaker for the Rest of the Session.

Final Passage of the Public Credit Bill.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 3, 1869.

The Senate, having passed the Deficiency Appropriation bill, at two o'clock this morning, adjourned until noon.

At twelve o'clock the Senate again met.

THE CORCORAN CLAIM.

Mr. HARLAN, (rep.) of Iowa, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a joint resolution in relation to the lands and other property of W. W. Corcoran in the District of Columbia, used by the government during and since the rebellion. It instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to withhold all payment from Mr. Corcoran until he shall have taken the test oath.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., understood that Mr. Corcoran had abandoned his property here and gone away to stay during the war. He also understood that Mr. Corcoran had been a rebel sympathizer, and he wanted to know why such a man should be paid at all.

On motion of Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., the yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., said that Mr. Corcoran was entitled to compensation for his property without being required to take such oath, and therefore he would not vote to impose the oath upon him.

Pending the vote Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, made a report from the committee of conference on

THE BILL TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC CREDIT.

Mr. BAYARD addressed the Senate in opposition to concurring in the report of the committee, and also in opposition to the general principle of the bill, denying that Congress had a right to declare the effect of previous legislation.

Mr. SHERMAN briefly explained the action of the committee of conference.

Mr. SPRAGUE, (rep.) of R. I., in behalf of the suffering industries of the country, earnestly protested against the passage of this bill—a measure better calculated than any yet proposed, to bring about the repudiation of the national debt.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Ind., did not think the bill improved by the action of the conference committee, and again urged the view that Congress has no right now to change the contract originally made between the people and the bondholders.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, (dem.) of Wis., thought it exceedingly unwise to attempt to press this bill to a vote now, when less than twenty-four hours of the session remained, and when there was so much urgent business to be done. The report of the committee of conference presented really a new bill, and it could not be properly considered in a hurry; and even if passed the President would not have time to examine it and give it his approval. The bill itself he regarded as a measure for the benefit of foreign holders of our bonds.

Mr. CORBETT, (rep.) of Oregon, said there were two classes of foreign holders of American bonds—those who held Confederate bonds and those who held United States bonds—and he thought it but right that the legislation of Congress should protect the interests of the latter class.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., said that, although he was a member of the committee of conference, he had not signed the report and could not vote for it, because it proposed to make a new contract, for which there was neither necessity nor excuse.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, defended the bill as reported by the committee, and insisted that even if it were admitted that the five-twenty bonds might legally be paid in paper, yet this bill, as a measure of good policy, ought to be passed.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., opposed the bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS asked whether the Senator from California, the land of gold, where the people paid all their debts in coin, was in favor of paying the public debt of the United States in depreciated paper?

Mr. COLE replied that he was in favor of paying the public debt according to the terms of the contract under which it was incurred. If by the time the bonds should become due the United States should have resumed coin payments the bonds would be paid in coin; but if they fell due before that time they would not and should not be so paid.

Mr. NORTON, (dem.) of Minn., regarded this as a measure in the interest of the bondholders, and calculated to put the control of the public debt entirely in their hands instead of leaving it in the hands of the people, where it should rest. This being the character of the bill he thought the remainder of this session could not be spent more profitably than in discussing it. Better all the appropriation bills should fail than that this bill should pass.

Mr. THAYER, (rep.) of Neb., urged the Senate to vote without further discussion.

Mr. SPRAGUE again expressed his opposition to the bill. It was a measure which would make capital higher, when it was already so high that no American industry within his knowledge could afford to employ it.

Mr. BUCKALEW, (dem.) of Pa., said that without having the report of the Committee of Conference before them Senators could not discuss its merits or judge of them intelligently, and thought it unwise to attempt to force the bill through under the circumstances.

The report of the committee was then agreed to by a vote of yeas 31, nays 24.

The following is the bill as agreed to in the Committee of Conference:—

Be it enacted, &c., That, in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the government to discharge all just obligations to the public creditors and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the laws by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest, known as United States notes, and of the interest bearing obligations of the United States, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligation has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money, or other currency than gold and silver; but none of said interest bearing obligations not already due shall be paid or redeemed before maturity unless at such time United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holder, or unless at such time bonds of the United States, bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed, can be sold at par in coin; and the United States also solemnly pledges its faith to make provision, at the earliest practicable period, for redemption of United States notes in coin.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That any contract hereafter made especially payable in coin, and the consideration of which may be a loan of coin or sale of property, or the rendering of labor or service of any kind, the price of which, as carried into the contract, may have been adjusted on the basis of the coin value thereof at the time of such sale or the rendering of such service or labor, shall be legal and valid and may be enforced according to its terms, and in the trial of a suit brought for the enforcement of any such contract proof of the real consideration may be given.

SYMPATHY WITH SPAIN.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the joint resolution expressing sympathy with Spain, with the recommendation that the Senate should non-concur in the amendments of the House. The Senate refused to concur.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The morning hour having expired, the Army Appropriation bill came up as unfinished business.

Mr. HARLAN asked the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to yield the floor long enough to let the vote be taken on the joint resolution relative to the payment of W. W. Corcoran.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., objected to the consideration of any business other than the Army Appropriation bill.

Upon this bill the pending amendment was that offered by Mr. Sumner providing for payment of the interest claim of Massachusetts and Maine for advances made for the United States during the war of 1812 and 1814.

Mr. SUMNER had already modified his amendment so as to provide that the claim should be computed and paid according to the same rules and limitations applied in the case of the similar claim of Maryland.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, said that the proposition as modified was no less objectionable than before, and he would vote against it in every form, and would even vote against the Army Appropriation bill rather than see this amendment passed.

Messrs. DRAKE, (rep.) of Mo., and CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., appealed to Mr. Sumner to withdraw the amendment and let the Appropriation bill be passed.

Mr. SUMNER said he had no desire to delay the bill. All he asked was that the opponents of his amendment would let the Senate vote on it.

Mr. CHANDLER was determined that the proposition should be thoroughly discussed before it should be voted upon, and proceeded to reviewed its history. He regarded the claim as wholly unreasonable and unjust, and if the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) should carry out his intent to press it at every session until it should be allowed, he (Mr. Chandler) would resist it at every session and do all he could to defeat it.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., had hoped the brief remaining time of Congress during the session would not be occupied in the consideration of schemes, open or covert, for subsidizing railroad companies; but here, at the very end of the session, the Senator from Massachusetts had, in defiance of the rules of the Senate, presented the boldest and most preposterous proposition of that kind that he (Mr. Conkling) had ever seen in either House. He then made a long argument against the validity of the claim, and came to the conclusion that even if it were admitted the claim of Massachusetts for the principal already paid her was well founded, it did not necessarily follow that she was entitled to interest upon it; but, on the contrary, upon general principles of the law, the presumption was strongly against it, and he cited legal authorities to show that in such a case as this there could not be a legitimate claim for interest, because by the acceptance of the principal the claim for interest, in the absence of an express stipulation that it should be allowed, was barred.

Mr. SPRAGUE said that his own judgment, aided by the speech of the Senator from New York (Mr. Conkling), had convinced him that he should vote for the claim of Massachusetts. He defended New England against the aspersions upon her conduct in the war of 1812. New England had suffered and done more in that war than any other section, and the offence of Massachusetts was simply that she kept her soldiers at home, where there was danger, and refused to let them go where there there was none.

The amendment was then rejected. Yeas 16, nays 25.

The Army Appropriation bill was then passed.

On motion of Mr. HARLAN the joint resolution relating to the claim of W. W. Corcoran was then taken up and passed. Yeas 34, nays 3.

Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nev., proposed to call up the bill for the relief of Norman Wiard, but

Mr. GRIMES objected, and said that the bill could not be properly considered before recess.

Mr. NYE said he thought the bill would not give rise to debate.

Mr. GRIMES said he was entirely familiar with the claim.

Mr. NYE was unable to see how that altered the nature of the claim.

At a quarter past four o'clock, on motion of Mr. CONKLING, the Senate went into executive session.

Evening Session.

DECREES OF UNITED STATES COURTS.

Mr. SUMNER called up the joint resolution to carry into effect the decree of the United States Court of New York in relation to a British steamer. Passed.

Mr. SUMNER moved to take up a joint resolution to carry into effect the decrees of the United States District Court of Louisiana in relation to a certain other British steamer; but

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Nev., objected and said he was opposed to compensating British subjects for losses incurred, no matter under what circumstances, during the late war, until Great Britain shall take some positive action for the payment of the Alabama claims.

The Civil and Miscellaneous Appropriation bill was then taken up.

SITE FOR THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

Mr. CONKLING offered an amendment, which was agreed to, to enable the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General to exchange the land bought by the United States for the site of the new post office in New York city for the same or a greater quantity of land further up in the City Hall Park.

THE CHARLESTON, S. C., SISTERS OF MERCY.

The amendment reported by the Committee on Appropriations, giving the Sisters of Mercy of Charleston, S. C., twenty thousand dollars, in recognition of their services to Union prisoners during the late rebellion, gave rise to some discussion.

Mr. DRAKE opposed it, because it was the professed business of these ladies to be charitable, and they ought not to be paid for it.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., opposed it, because he did not think it right to single out any particular class of benevolent ladies to be specially rewarded for their service to the Union soldiers, and if he were to discriminate in favor of any class it would not be in favor of members of the Catholic Church. He remembered, and the people remembered, the circular letter addressed by the Pope to Catholic bishops of the United States, urging them to bring about peace, meaning that it should be brought about by the recognition of the independence of the Southern confederacy. He remembered, too, that after that letter there were few enlistments of Catholics in the army, so that large bounties had to be offered to recruit the armies. With a few brilliant and honorable exceptions, the influence of the Roman Catholic clergy had been against the Union, not to say in favor of the rebellion.

Mr. HENDRICKS was surprised that the Senator from Michigan (Howard) should make such an attack upon one of the Churches of the country; and, to the best of his knowledge, the statements of the Senator as to the few enlistments of Catholics in the army were incorrect in point of fact. He knew that in Indiana the number of Catholics who had enlisted in the United States army was very large. Neither was it true that the Catholic clergy had cast their influence against the Union. Every one remembered that the most distinguished prelate of the Catholic Church—Archbishop Hughes—had gone to Europe to use his influence in behalf of the Union, at the call of President Lincoln, and had there, with another distinguished Bishop of another church—Bishop McIlvaine—done much for the cause of the Union.

Mr. SAWYER, (rep.) of S. C., advocated the appropriation, and called attention to the testimony of Generals Sherman, Sickles and Gillmore in regard to the great services of the Sisters of Charity of Charleston to the suffering Union soldiers.

Mr. BUCKALEW, (dem.) of Pa., said that the Pope, in the letter criticised by the Senator from Michigan (Howard), had expressed no opinion on either side of our civil war, but had, in accordance with his ecclesiastical character, urged the clergy of his Church to seek the restoration of peace.

Mr. CONKLING, from the committee on conference on the Post Office Appropriation bill, at this point made a report, which was concurred in.

Mr. SHERMAN said that this was not a legal claim, but an appeal to the generosity of Congress. If the case were not an extraordinary one he would not advocate it; but he believed that every Senator who would read the letters from Union officers in regard to the services of these ladies would feel it his duty to vote for the appropriation. He then read several of the letters testifying to the extraordinary kindness and benevolence of the Sisters of Charity—services which were none the less assiduous after the letter of the Pope spoken of by the Senator from Michigan (Howard).

Mr. DRAKE objected to giving the sisters any aid to rebuild their institution, because they were bound by their vows to do charitable works, and also because there was no proof of their loyalty.

After further discussion the amendment was rejected—yeas 2, nays 22.

RESOLUTION COMPLIMENTARY TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER.

Mr. DAVIS—The present Congress will close tomorrow at noon. Before we separate I feel that I personally and the Senate, have a debt to pay to our presiding officer. I therefore ask leave to present with much real satisfaction the following resolution, which I hope the Senate will receive with the same feeling that prompted me to offer it:—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are due, and they are hereby tendered to the Hon. Benjamin F. Wade for the ability, impartiality and justice with which he has discharged the duties of presiding officer of the Senate during the time he has occupied the chair.

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The amendment reported by the committee to the Civil Appropriation bill providing for the purchase of a portrait of President Lincoln, to be placed in the White House, was agreed to.

Mr. HARLAN offered an amendment to reimburse Iowa for expenses in the war of the rebellion $229,848.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., raised the point of order that the amendment had not been reported from any committee.

The PRESIDENT overruled the point of order.

The amendment was agreed to.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

Mr. CHANDLER offered an amendment appropriating $50,000 for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi. Agreed to.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., offered an amendment repealing the charter of the Washington Gas Light Company. Adopted.

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee on Conference on the Army Appropriation bill, made a report, which was concurred in.

The Civil appropriation bill was then reported to the Senate and passed.

At half-past twelve A. M., on motion of Mr. CONKLING, the Senate went into executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1869.

The House met at ten o'clock, with an unusually large attendance of members and with the galleries crowded to their utmost capacity.

After prayer a message was received from the Senate stating that that body had passed the Legislative and the Post Office Appropriation bills.

On motion of Mr. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, the amendments were non-concurred in and a committee of conference asked for.

FAREWELL ADDRESS OF SPEAKER COLFAX.

The SPEAKER then, in the midst of profound silence, rose and delivered his farewell address to the House, prefacing his remarks with the announcement that he had asked the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Wilson) to preside as Speaker *pro tem.* until the election of his successor. He said:—

GENTLEMEN—The opening of the legislative day at the close of which I must enter upon another sphere of duty requires me to tender to you this resignation of the office, which, by your kindness and confidence, I have held, to take effect on the election of a Speaker for the brief remainder of this session. The parting word among friends about to separate is always a regretful one; but the farewell which takes me from this hall, in which so many years have been spent, excites in me emotions which it would be useless to attempt to conceal. The fourteen years during which I have been associated with the representatives of the people here have been full of eventful legislation, of exciting issues and of grave decisions, vitally affecting the entire republic. All these, with the accompanying scenes, which so often reproduced in this arena of debate the warmth of feeling of our antagonizing constituencies, have passed into the domain of history, and I but refer to them to express the joy, which apparently is shared by the mass of our countrymen, that the storm cloud of war which has so long darkened our national horizon has at last passed away, leaving our imperiled Union saved; and that by the decree of the people, more powerful than presidents, or congresses, or armies, liberty was proclaimed throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. But I cannot leave you without one word of rejoicing over the present condition of our republic among the nations of the earth. With our military power and almost illimitable resources, exemplified by the war that developed them; with our rapidly augmenting population and the welcome at our gates to the oppressed of all other climes; with our vast and increasing agricultural, mechanical, manufacturing and mineral capacities; with our vantage on the two great oceans of the globe and our almost completed Pacific Railroad, uniting these opposite shores and becoming the national highway, the United States of America commands that respect among the Powers of the world which insures the maintenance of all its national rights and the security of all its citizens from oppression or injustice abroad. Nor is this all. The triumphal progress of free institutions here has had its potential influence beyond the sea. The right of the people to govern, based on the sacred principle of our Revolution, that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, is everywhere advancing, not with slow and measured steps, but with a rapidity that within a few years has been so signally illustrated in Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Prussia, Hungary and other lands. May we not hope that by the moral but powerful force of our example fetters may everywhere be broken, and that some of us may live to see that happy era when slavery and tyranny shall no more be known throughout the world, from the rivers to the ends of the earth?

I cannot claim that in the share I have had in the deliberations and the legislation of this House, as a member and an officer, I have always done that which was wisest and best in word and in act; for none of us are infallible. But that I have striven to perform faithfully every duty, and that, devoted, as all know, to principles that I have deemed correct, the honor and glory of our country have always been paramount and above all party ties, I can conscientiously assert; and that I have sought to mitigate rather than to intensify the asperities which the collision of opposing parties so often evoke must be left to my fellow members to verify. In the responsible duties of the last six years I have endeavored to administer the rules you have enacted for your guidance, both in letter and in spirit, with impartiality, uninfluenced by political associations or antagonisms; and I may be pardoned for the expression of gratification that, while no decision has been reversed, there has been no appeal—sometimes taken as they are by a minority as a protest against the power under the rules of a majority—which has ever been decided by a strictly party vote. If, in the quickness with which a presiding officer here is often compelled to rule, hour after hour on parliamentary points, and in the performance of his duty to protect all members in their rights, to advance the progress of public business and to preserve order, any word has fallen from my lips that has justly wounded any one, I desire to withdraw it unreservedly. I leave this hall with no feeling of unkindness to any member with whom I have been associated in all the years of the past, having earnestly tried to practice that lesson of life which commands us to write our enmities on the sand, but to engrave our friendships on the granite. But the last word cannot longer be delayed. I bid farewell to the faithful and confiding constituency whose affectionate regard has sustained and encompassed me through all the years of my public life; farewell to the hall which, in its excitements and restless activities, so often seemed to represent the throbbings and the intense feelings of the national heart; and, finally, fellow members and friends, with sincere gratitude for the generous support you have always given me in the difficult and often complex duties of the chair, and with the warmest wishes for your health, happiness and prosperity, one and all, I bid you farewell.

As the Speaker closed his address and retired from the chair there was a hearty outburst of applause, commencing in the galleries and extending to the members on the floor.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Iowa, having taken the chair as Speaker *pro tem.*,

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR THE RETIRING SPEAKER.

Mr. WOODWARD, (dem.) of Pa., rose and said that at the instance of his political friends, and as expressive of his own feelings, he offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the retirement of the Hon. Schuyler Colfax from the Speaker's chair after a long and faithful discharge of its duties is an event in our current history which would cause general regret were it not that the country is to have the benefit of his matured talents and experience in the higher sphere of duty to which he has been called by a majority of his countrymen. In parting from our distinguished Speaker the House records with becoming sensibility its high appreciation of his skill in parliamentary law, of his promptness in administering the rules and facilitating the business of the body, of his urbane manners, and of the dignity and impartiality with which he has presided over the deliberations of the House; he will carry with him into his new field of duty and throughout life the kind regards of every member of this Congress.

The resolution was put and adopted unanimously, and an engrossed copy of it, to be signed by the officers of the House, was ordered to be communicated to Mr Colfax.

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., then, by unanimous consent, moved that Mr. POMEROY, of New York, be declared duly elected Speaker of the House, in place of Mr. Colfax, resigned.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously, and Mr. Pomeroy was, amid general applause, conducted to the chair by Messrs. Dawes and Woodward. The oath of office was then administered to him by Mr. Dawes, the senior member of the House, in the absence of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, who is still detained from the House by sickness.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of N. Y., in assuming the office of Speaker, after thanking the House for the high compliment conferred upon him said:—It has been my pleasure for eight years to mingle humbly in the labors of the House, and in retiring, as I expect to do within a brief period, forever from all official connection with the American Congress, I carry with me at least this gratification, that in all those years on this floor I have never received from a member of the House one word of unkindness or one act of disrespect. The unanimity with which I have been chosen to preside over the House for this brief period is evidence of itself that it carries with it no political significance. I could most cheerfully forego all the power and influence that is attached to the position of Speaker of the House, but there is a significance beyond that which I can never forget, and that is the personal consideration and great kindness manifested towards me in my selection for even this brief period. (Renewed applause.)

On motion of Mr. DAWES a message was sent to the Senate informing that body of the election of Mr. Pomeroy to the Speakership of the House, and a committee of three was appointed to wait on the President for the like purpose.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE REBELLION.

The joint resolution, which was before the House last night at the hour of adjournment, for printing the medical and surgical history of the rebellion, came up as unfinished business and was passed.

NEW YORK ELECTION FRAUDS.

Mr. LAFLIN, rep.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution for printing 2,000 copies of the report of the select committee on the New York election frauds, with the testimony, and 10,000 copies without the testimony. Adopted, 112 to 52.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL

was sent over from the Senate with amendments, and Mr. SPALDING moved to non-concur in the amendments and to refer them to a committee of conference.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., demanded the reading of the amendments before the House was called on to vote on that motion.

Mr. SPALDING withdrew the motion, remarking that the gentleman from Illinois would have to take the responsibility of retarding the public business.

TREATMENT OF UNION PRISONERS.

Mr. SHANKS, (rep.) of Ind., from the select committee on the treatment of Union prisoners, made a report, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Various resolutions for extra printing were reported by Mr. LAFLIN, from the Committee on Printing, and gave rise to considerable discussion. Some of them were adopted and others rejected.

Mr. BROOMALL, (rep.) of Pa., chairman of the Committee of Accounts, called up the report made by him last Saturday in reference to the

DISBURSEMENT OF THE CONTINGENT FUND.

Messrs. ECKLEY, (rep.) of Ohio, and MCCULLOUGH, (dem.) of Md., members of the committee, denied that the committee had ordered such report to be made, and the latter denied that there was any evidence to justify the statement that the employes in the executive departments had been employed by the democratic party during the last Presidential campaign.

Mr. BROOMALL said that he had personal knowledge of that fact, and asserted that he had been authorized by the committee to make the report.

Messrs. ARNELL, (rep.) of Tenn., and FIELD, (rep.) of N. Y., members of the committee, verified the statement of the chairman.

CARPETING THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BROOMALL then reported a resolution directing that no expense shall be incurred for furnishing or carpeting the hall of the House, committee rooms, &c., unless the work be previously authorized by the Committee on Buildings and Grounds. Also, a joint resolution directing that the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, in lieu of fees, mileage &c. for summoning witnesses and compelling the attendance of absent members, be reimbursed for actual expenses.

After explanation by Mr. Bromall both resolutions were agreed to

AMENDMENT OF THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

Mr. GRISWOLD, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a memorial of the German Republican General Committee in relation to the change of the naturalization laws.

PAYMENT OF CLERKS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. BROOMALL, from the Committee on Accounts, reported a resolution to allow compensation to clerks of committees at the rate of six dollars per day for the time actually spent in official duties.

Mr. MCCULLOUGH opposed the resolution, stating that there had been evidence taken before the Committees on Accounts showing that some clerks to committees had not rendered one hour's service during the Congress.

Mr. BROOMALL argued that the resolution would only authorize the Committee on Accounts to discriminate between clerks who did nothing and clerks who had had much business to perform.

After considerable discussion the resolution was adopted—yeas 83, nays 33.

THE PAYMENT OF THE LOUISIANA CONTESTANTS.

Mr. BROOMALL moved to suspend the rules and to rescind the resolution adopted some days since to pay to each of the three contestants from the Second district of Louisiana $2,500.

The resolution gave rise to much discussion. Mr. BROOMALL, explaining that the House having put into an appropriation bill, the other day, an item to pay contestants $1,500, omitting the name of Mr. Menard, it was desired that all of them should be put on the same footing; and he said that as the Comptroller would not pay, under the resolution, Mr. Menard was willing to take the $1,500.

Finally the resolution was laid on the table.

TAXES ON DISTILLED SPIRITS AND TOBACCO.

Mr. HOOPER, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill to amend the act of July 20, 1868, imposing taxes on distilled spirits and tobacco. The bill contains some of the sections passed by the House on the subject of whiskey, tobacco and cigars in the general bill on which the Senate has not taken action. It extends the time for the withdrawal of whiskey from the bonded warehouses until the 20th of April, 1870.

Mr. HOOPER made a brief explanation and moved the previous question

The previous question was seconded and the bill passed.

The bill amends section eight of the present law so as to allow a bond to be given for the value of the property in the case of a distillery erected before the 24th of July, 1868, on land leased, or mortgaged, or owned by a minor or other persons incapable of giving the assent required by that section. It amends section twenty so that in small distilleries of less capacity than one hundred gallons of mash or beer, shall represent one bushel of grain instead of forty-five gallons. It amends section fifty-six so as to extend the time for the withdrawal of the distilled spirits from bonded warehouses until the 20th of April, 1870, on payment of one per cent per gallon for each month. It amends section seven by requiring special stamps for the tax on tobacco in packages of one pound or more, to be numbered and registered. The other sections provide for stamping tobacco on hand on which the duty has been paid and for its being repacked, in accordance with the law of the 20th of July last.

COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH THE BRITISH PROVINCES.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, offered a resolution, that while the House did not admit any right in the executive and treaty-making power of the United States to conclude treaties or conventions with foreign governments, by which import duties shall be mutually regulated, it is, however, of opinion and so recommends to the President that negotiations with the government of Great Britain should be renewed and pressed as soon as possible to a definite conclusion regarding commercial intercourse, and the securing to American citizens the rights claimed by them in the fisheries on the coast of the British American provinces, and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence from its source to the sea.

In response to a question from Mr. Pike, Mr. SCHENCK stated his opinion that this government ought not to enter into any reciprocity with the British provinces, but that the people of these provinces ought to be treated as all other foreigners, and made to pay the same duties.

Mr. PIKE, (rep.) of Me., said he had asked the question because it had been given out that the Committee on Ways and Means was in favor of a reciprocity treaty.

Mr. SCHENCK said he was not aware of any difference of opinion between himself and the committee on that point.

The resolution was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

REMITTING DUTIES ON SUBMARINE CABLES.

Mr. SCHENCK, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a joint resolution remitting the duty on the submarine cable imported by the Western Union Extension Telegraph Company for the proposed, but abandoned, Russian American line of telegraph.

After explanation by Mr. Schenck and opposition by Mr. Moorhead, the bill was passed—yeas 89, nays 62.

SUPREME COURT JURISDICTION.

Mr. SCHENCK, from the same committee, reported a bill repealing the law which gave the Supreme Court jurisdiction over the revenue cases where the sum involved is less than $2,000, and leaving the final decisions in such cases to the circuit courts.

After explanation and discussion the bill was passed.

ASYLUM FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a bill appointing Thomas O. Osborn, of Illinois, manager of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Oglesby, of Illinois. Passed.

THE BILL TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC CREDIT.

Mr. SCHENCK, from the committee of conference on the bill to strengthen the public credit, made a report and explained it briefly.

Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio, asked Mr. Schenck to yield to a motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to strike out all of the second section except so much as legalizes coin contracts on a coin consideration.

Mr. SCHENCK said he could not agree to that.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of N. Y., spoke briefly in advocacy of the report.

Mr. NIBLACK, (dem.) of Ind., opposed it. He declared himself opposed to the whole policy of the bill. It added but another patch to existing patchwork of our financial legislation. The effect of the bill would be not only to contract the currency, but would lead rapidly in the direction of resumption, for which he believed the country was not prepared. He thought this bill was unpolitic. The fact that doubt existed as to the money in which the bonds are payable gave the government great leverage in any funding system that might hereafter be adopted. This bill proposed to surrender unconditionally and without any consideration the right of the government to redeem the bonds in legal tender notes. He thought it better to leave the whole subject to the next Congress, which would commence to-morrow.

Mr. HIGBY, (rep.) of Cal., inquired how the greenbacks were to be paid.

Mr. NIBLACK replied that it would be time enough to talk about that whenever it was proposed to withdraw that currency.

Mr. SHANKS declared himself opposed to the second section of the bill, as it would place the debtor class of the country in the power of the creditor class.

Mr. GARFIELD, in reply to the argument of Mr. Niblack, said that the only power which the bill surrendered was the power to threaten repudiation. He had no sympathy with gentlemen who were unwilling to surrender that power.

Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Minn., agreed with Mr. Shanks, and argued that the second section would do great injustice in placing the debtor class in the power of the creditor class.

Mr. PILE, (rep.) of Mo., supported the bill, heartily.

Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn., replied to the arguments of Messrs. Donnelly and Shanks.

Mr. MILLER, (rep.) of Pa., thought that the second section was susceptible of great frauds, and opposed the bill on that account.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., said he knew nothing better calculated to add to the force of the bill than the manner of its being discussed—only one, two, or three minutes being allowed to members. It had started out as a bill to strengthen the public credit—something like a poor man's plaster to be put on the credit of the United States. That title had been struck out in the Senate, and now it was a bill relating to the public debt. The moral of the thing was simply a stock-jobbing bill—a brokering, banking, speculating concern—and from ten to fifteen millions had been made out of the discussion already.

Mr. LOGAN, (rep.) of Ill., supported the bill, which, he said, was simply a pledge on the part of the United States that the national debt was payable in that which the whole civilized world recognized as money.

Mr. BROMWELL, (rep.) of Ill., was opposed to the bill on the ground of multifariousness.

Mr. GRISWOLD supported the bill, and mentioned the fact that General Grant had stated that he would not accept the Chicago nomination unless the Convention decide clearly and unmistakably for paying the debt in gold.

Mr. BURR, (dem.) of Ill., desired to know to whom General Grant had made that utterance, but he did not get the information.

Mr. MCCARTHY stated the conclusions at which he had arrived in regard to the operation of the bill on the finances as being to keep the currency where it is; to have no expansion or contraction of it; to have no accumulation of money in the Treasury, and to strengthen the public credit.

Mr. SCHENCK replied to Mr. Butler, who was not, however, present at the time. He declared that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it," and that the very prospect of the passage of the bill had strengthened the public credit by making the people in this country and abroad believe that the United States were coming to subscribe to the doctrine that "honesty is the best policy." That was the whole of it. The gentleman from Massachusetts could not put down the proposition by sneers, by vituperation, by calling it a broker's bill or a swindling bill. It was an honest bill, and if there were any swindling, repudiation, or playing into the hands of those who make a football of the public credit, it was on the part of those who opposed such honest recognition of the obligations of the country. Just such speeches as that of the gentleman from Massachusetts, just such demagogical appeals to the soft side of the people had cost the government millions upon millions. The country could better afford to give such gentlemen a million dollars a-piece to induce them to stay out of Congress, than it could to have them here, injuring the public credit by such language. (Laughter on all sides of the chamber.)

Mr. SHANKS moved to lay the report of the conference committee on the table.

Negatived—yeas 52, nays 119.

The conference report was then agreed to—yeas 118, nays 51.

The House then, at half-past four, took a recess until half-past seven.

Evening Session.

The House met again at half-past seven, Mr. Speaker Pomeroy in the chair.

Mr. DAWES asked leave to introduce a joint resolution to pay to Messrs. Menard and Hunt, claiming to represent the Second Congressional district of Louisiana, $2,500 each for time and expenses.

Mr. WARD, (rep.) of N. Y., objected.

Mr. DAWES moved to suspend the rules. The rules were suspended.

Mr. WARD made a five minutes speech against the joint resolution, asking the House to guard the Treasury against needy adventurers claiming seats to which they had no apparent claim.

Mr. DAWES made an appeal to the House against the partiality of the Committee on Accounts, which had paid two thousand five hundred dollars to one of the Louisiana claimants and had refused to pay more than one thousand five hundred dollars to the other two. He intimated that this was unfair towards the poor colored man (Mr. Menard), who was entitled to the same treatment as a whiter man. (Laughter on the democratic side of the House). He appealed to the House not to be carried away by prejudice against color and race, but to do justice to the first black man who had ever come to the House with a certificate of election. (Laughter and exhibitions of great enjoyment of the scene, particularly on the democratic side.) He appealed to those who had passed the constitutional amendment to do justice to the black man. This treatment of Mr. Menard was unconstitutional. (Laughter.)

Mr. BROOMALL, chairman of the Committee on Accounts, said that the gentleman from Massachusetts ought to know that the Committee on Accounts made no distinction on account of race or color. That committee had rejected the claims of two men from Louisiana, one of them a little whiter and one a little darker than the gentleman from Massachusetts—(laughter)—one of them a democrat and the other a republican.

A member inquired which was the democrat.

Mr. BROOMALL was really not prepared to say, but he supposed that the gentleman nearest the color of the gentleman from Massachusetts was. (Renewed laughter.) He desired to move an amendment reducing the amount to $1,500.

After some further discussion in the same temper, Mr. Dawes replying in turn to his "eloquent and economical friend from New York" (Mr. Ward), and to his "emaciated friend from Missouri" (Mr. Stoner), and Mr. Eldridge objecting, for the honor of the House, to have such a description applied to Mr. Stover, while Mr. Stover returned the compliment by saying he was sorry that the honor of the House had not an abler champion, the joint resolution was passed by a vote of yeas 73, nays 72.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. Garfield the Senate amendments to the Army Appropriation bill were non-concurred in, and referred to a committee of conference. Messrs. Garfield, Beaman and Dodge were appointed such committee on the part of the House.

REMOVING POLITICAL DISABILITIES.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, from the conference committee on the bill removing political disabilities, made a report, which he explained at some length, particularly in reference to the cases of Judge Parker, of Winchester, Va., whose name is included in the bill.

Mr. SHANKS inquired whether Judge Parker was not the judge before whom John Brown had been tried and hanged.

Mr. MULLINS, (rep.) of Tenn., declared that he had not a doubt of it, and that he would hang the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Farnsworth) to-morrow.

Mr. FARNSWORTH suggested his ignorance of the fact that there was any constitutional amendment disqualifying those who had anything to do with the trying or hanging of John Brown.

Finally the vote was taken and the conference report was now concurred in yeas 61, nays 77. Another committee of conference was asked.

PRINTING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES.

Mr. ELD, (rep.) of N. H., from the Committee on Printing, reported that the joint committee on printing had been unable to agree to a contract with Messrs. Rives & Bailey, of the *Globe*, for reporting and publishing the debates of Congress, and he reported a concurrent resolution that the public printer be directed to have the debates reported and published from the 5th of March until definite action can be had.

Mr. BROOKS moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. ROSS moved that the House adjourn. Negatived—yeas 16, nays 126.

Pending the disposition of the question the conference report on the Post Office Appropriation bill was made by Mr. Beaman.

Mr. KERR, (dem.) of Ind., moved to lay the conference report on the table. Negatived—yeas 4, nays 24.

Dilatory motions were terminated at a quarter past eleven by the adoption of a resolution suspending the rules and directing an immediate vote on the conference report on the Post Office Appropriation bill. The report was then agreed to.

Mr. ELA then moved that the rules be suspended and that the House proceed to a direct vote without delatory motion, on the passage of the concurrent resolution providing for the reporting and publishing of the debates and proceedings of Congress by the congressional printer.

Mr. KNOTT, (dem.) of Ky., moved an adjournment. Negatived.

Finally, at half-past twelve the concurrent resolution was agreed to—yeas 82, nays 51, giving the publishing and reporting of the debates to the public printer.

Mr. INGERSOLL moved to reconsider the vote.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

Pending the motion Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., from the conference committee on the Guardian Appropriation bill, reported that the committee had agreed not to consider the subject any further at present, on account of want of time, and had agreed to report a resolution for the appointment of a joint select committee to take into consideration the whole subject of Indian affairs.

The point of order was made and sustained that such a report was not privileged.