WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1870.

Mr. Thornton's Views on Annexation.

A contemporary publishes a despatch to the effect that my statement in regard to certain remarks of the British Minister regarding England's willingness to give us British Columbia in liquidation of the Alabama claims was not founded on reliable information. The contradictor says:—

It is learned that there is no truth in the statement that the British Minister recently declared in a conversation that England would probably be willing to cede British Columbia to the United States to liquidate the Alabama claims.

It will be a sufficient answer to the above to state that I did not state that the British Minister said anything of the kind. What I did say is found reiterated under my despatches in to-day's HERALD,' namely, that Mr. Thornton, on being asked what he thought of Senator Corbett's proposition, replied that he would be glad to have our government agree upon some particular plan of settlement and present a bill of items which could be taken into consideration by her Majesty's government. This was said by Mr. Thornton in answer to an inquiry as to giving us British Columbia or the whole of British North America in liquidation of our claims, and from that fact and the additional fact that Mr. Thornton expressed no unwillingness to have that kind of settlement I naturally inferred that he had some intimation from his government that it would not be altogether averse to treating on that basis. I still hold the same opinion, and, what is more important, I have ascertained that the administration regards the present time as most favorable for such negotiations. Secretary Fish considers that Great Britain was never in a better condition to part with her provinces than at the present time. Sumner and Butler are both in favor of that plan, and you can judge from the remarks of old Jake Howard and Corbett in the Senate the other day what the feeling in other parts of the country is.

Staving Off the Senate Vote on the Virginia Bill—Eloquent Speech from Senator Saulsbury—Butler Intriguing to Defeat the Bill—Bingham and Butler on the Floor of the Senate—Butler After Bingham's Scalp.

Poor old Virginia is not yet out of the woods. The sanguine friends of the Old Dominion, who expected that to-day she would be let into the Union again, were disappointed. When the question came up in the Senate before crowded galleries a system of staving off was commenced by the opponents of Virginia, which led to a series of parliamentary quirks and quibbles, smart and exciting discussions between Senators and almost personal unpleasantnesses. Stewart, Trumbull and Conkling, who have been the firm, consistent and eloquent friends of Virginia, seemed to be in something of a doubt as to what was the best course to be pursued in order to bring the question to a final vote the most speedily. Notwithstanding all the attempts to delay, however, the Senate bill was finally laid on the table and the House bill taken up. Before this point was reached several speeches were made and old Saulsbury, rising like a giant, delivered a very effective speech on the spur of the moment, denouncing the practice of Senators on the republican side taking advantage of every opportunity to accuse the democratic party of disloyalty. Saulsbury spoke with a vigor and eloquence that recalled the old days when really great men guided the deliberations of Congress and petty issues were never noticed. During the discussion Ben Butler made himself a very prominent figure on the floor of the Senate. Butler, who had been absent since the close of the recess, practising law in Massachusetts, arrived here this morning. He had been eagerly watching the battle over the admission of Virginia at a distance, and though his soul was in arms and eager for the fray, he could not abandon the law suit in which he was engaged as counsel, until, fortunately for him, some near relative of the judge before whom the cause was being tried died and the court was adjourned. Butler lost no time after this event until he was in the Capitol. The Virginia bill, to be sure, had passed the House and was likely to pass the Senate to-day, but Butler saw, or thought he saw, a chance to turn Bingham's victory into defeat to get the bill back into the House and there to mould it to suit himself. He was early on the floor of the Senate, buttonholing Senators, whispering mysteriously in their ears, drawing his arm kindly through theirs and conducting them into the cloak-rooms, where he could talk to them more freely. He lobbied all day to beat the Virginia bill or to have it sent back to the House loaded down with amendments. Somebody told Bingham about Butler's operations. "I'll go over there at once," said the excited Bingham; and over he went. The two B.'s were now on the floor of the Senate together. Butler was in the cloakroom with some Senator when Bingham entered. The latter commenced undoing the former's work, beginning with Trumbull, who laughed heartily at some suggestion from Bingham. The two B.'s continued for some time, the one working to get Virginia in, the other lobbying to keep her out of Congress. Butler says he has got Bingham in a tight place and he will have his scalp before he is through with him. Butler's object is to get the bill over to the House, where he will have a chance not only to remodel it but to get even with Bingham for taking advantage of his absence to run the reconstruction committee. If Edmunds' amendment is adopted of course the bill will have to go back to the House, and then the fight will commence. The friends of the bill, including Governor Walker, are not averse to amending it in the manner proposed by Senator Edmunds. It is nothing more than an enforcement of the fourteenth article of amendment to the constitution. What the friends of the bill fear is the delay which will result from sending it back to the House.

Sensation Among Diplomats—Excitement Among the Female Gossips.

There is a social excitement here again. Don Emiliano Lopez went to one of Fish's receptions, it seems, in company with General McMahon, our late Minister to Paraguay, and to this, Garcia, the Argentine Minister, or rather his accomplished lady, has entered a protest. It is understood that Señor Garcia, through his lady, has complained to Secretary Fish that Lopez's presence was an insult to a recognized Minister of the Argentine confederation. What Mr. Fish answered to this is not known, but the fact of such a complaint having been made has occasioned a regular sensation in social circles. The ladies are talking about the matter very energetically, discussing both sides of the question with an animation that only female gossips can develop. Your correspondent has not heard that there is a prospect of a duel resulting.

The Gold Panic Investigation—Hunt After New York Operators.

The Banking and Currency Committee resumed their investigation of the gold speculation this morning. Mr. Bonner and Mr. Speyers, of New York, were the only witnesses before the committee. The former was before the committee on Saturday, and then stated that he would write out a full account of all he knew about it and submit it to the committee. Mr. Bonner accordingly brought his manuscript to the committee room this morning. When he commenced to read he had not gone far before he was informed that his testimony was not exactly what they wanted, not being relevant to the investigation. Mr. Bonner was therefore allowed to withdraw. The testimony of Mr. Speyers was not important. He stated that he was buying on a commission for other parties and knew nothing of the origin of the movement to "bull" gold except what he heard from other parties. The committee expect to have Fisk, Gould, Lane, Corbin and the other prominent actors in the speculation before them this week. A deputy sergeant-at-arms has been sent to New York to hunt them up and bring them on here. Should they refuse to come a warrant will be issued to bring them before the bar of the House for contempt.

The Chinese Indemnity Fund.

Secretary Fish, in a communication to-day, deemed it to be his duty to call the attention of Congress to the indemnity fund received from the government of China, and amounting now in the aggregate to $1,163,000, with accrued interest or premium amounting to the further sum of $125,000. A claim against the fund was allowed and passed by Congress, and paid by the Secretary of State to Nott & Company, amounting to $38,248.

The St. Domingo Treaty.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will hold a meeting to-morrow to consider the St. Domingo and other business.

The Funding Question Before the Senate Finance Committee.

The Senate Committee on Finances met to-day. The funding question was considered, but nothing definite was accomplished. The committee will meet again to-morrow.

Nominations Sent to the Senate.

The President to-day sent to the Senate the following nominations:—

United States Attorneys—Darius H. Starbuck, for the district of North Carolina; Henry B. Swoope, for the Western district of Pennsylvania, and Nathan Webb, for the district of Maine.

Sebastian T. Marble, United States Marshal for the district of Maine: Milton Kelly, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Idaho; Edmund S. Kearney, United States Marshal, and Orange Jacobs, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory.

Collectors of Customs—Cornelius B. Merchant, at Edgartown, Mass., and Edward S. J. Neally, at Bath, Me.

Assessors of Internal Revenue—David F. White, Second district of New Hampshire; Decatur Wilder, Twentieth district of New York; Henry McArthur, Third district of Missouri; L. B. Church, for the District of Montana.

Postmasters—William Forbes, Macon City, Mo., and Joseph L. Stevens, Manchester, N. H.

The Nomination of Judge Emmons Confirmed.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed H. H. Emmons to be Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial district, in place of Wethey, declined.

The New State Department Building.

The Commission appointed to select a site for the erection of a building for a new State Department, subject to the approval of Congress, and also as to the propriety of making some arrangement for a new War Department, have made their report to Congress. They are of the opinion that Lafayette square, from its approximation to the Executive Mansion and other public edifices, the near neighborhood of which is important for the State Department, presents the most eligible site for a building, but all agreeing that in case Congress shall not approve of the site then that Scott square shall be selected. They have caused plans to be made of such a building, but such plans are necessarily subject to modification in detail. It is not easy to make an estimate of the cost of such building, but the architects agree that the cost would be about $1,000,000. They do not deem it expedient at present to make any arrangement for the War Department. The report is signed by Secretaries Fish, Boutwell and Belknap, Edward Clark, architect of the Capitol extension; A. B. Mullet, superintending architect of the Treasury Department, and M. Michler, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

Meeting of the Evangelical Alliance.

A meeting of the Washington Branch of the Evangelical Alliance took place to-night at the Methodist Metropolitan church. Dr. Peter Parker presided, and explained the principal object to be promotion of Christian unity without regard to denomination or country. Rev. Dr. Sharpe, who has recently returned from Europe, said there were encouraging prospects of securing a large attendance of ministers of the gospel and other leading Christians of England, France, Switzerland, Prussia and other countries, together with those of the United States, at the Evangelical Conference to be held at the city of New York between September 23 and October 3 next. He spoke of the importance of such a meeting, both in an international and Christian point of view. Other gentlemen delivered addresses on the occasion.

United States Supreme Court—Eulogy on the Character of the Late Edwin M. Stanton.

The Supreme Court of the United States resumed its session to-day. Attorney General Hoar announced the death of Hon. E. M. Stanton, recently confirmed an associate justice, and pronounced a eulogy on the character of the deceased. He then presented the resolutions adopted by the bar last week in reference to that event. The Chief Justice remarked that the bench concurred fully in what had been said concerning Mr. Stanton, and therefore the court would adjourn till to-morrow.

Georgetown and Harper's Ferry Railroad.

Mr. Getz, of Pennsylvania, introduced to-day a joint resolution asking for $4,000, to have a survey and examination of the west bank of the Potomac river, from Georgetown to Harper's Ferry, with a view to constructing a new railroad for military purposes. The object of this is to bring the rich trade of the Shenandoah Valley direct to Washington.

Convention of Letter Carriers—Thirteen Cities Represented.

A delegation of the letter carriers of the principal cities of the United States assembled in this city to-day for the transaction of such business as will tend to promote their interests as a body. A committee on credentials was appointed and reported the following cities as represented:—St. Louis, Louisville, Pittsburg, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Washington, Wilmington, Cleveland and Erie. A letter was read from the carriers of Memphis, Tenn., to the Hon. W. J. Smith, their Representative in Congress (who was present), asking him to represent them in convention. Remarks were then made by the officers elect returning thanks for the honor conferred, and pledging themselves to use their utmost endeavors to secure the objects for which they had met. The delegates were instructed to wait upon their representative members in Congress and confer upon the subject of their grievances.

In the afternoon session of the Convention a statement was made showing that several Senators and Representatives had been seen with reference to the desired increase of salaries, nearly all of whom gave assurance that they would render the required assistance. A committee of one from each city was appointed to wait on the Postmaster General and secure his co-operation if possible. Each member was instructed to act as a committee in calling on and soliciting the aid of Senators and Representatives in Congress in their endeavors to secure increased compensation. It having been decided to wait upon the President of the United States for the purpose of laying their case before him and to pay their respects, a delegate was chosen to wait on the President and ascertain when it will please him to receive the delegates.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1870.

THE TAX ON ORGAN GRINDERS.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a memorial of the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York, for the modification of the revenue laws in favor of maimed and disabled soldiers.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., offered a resolution from the Grand Army of the Republic, calling attention to the onerous tax upon disabled soldiers who earn their living by grinding hand organs.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. CONKLING also presented a petition for the abolition of the franking privilege. Petitions upon the latter subject were also offered by Messrs. POMEROY, VICKERS and SCOTT.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., presented a petition from the soldiers of the war of 1812, between seventy-six and eighty-six years of age, for pensions during the balance of their lives.

Messrs. WILLEY, (rep.) of W. Va., and SCHURZ, (rep.) of Mo., presented petitions for the removal of political disabilities.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, in presenting a petition for the abolition of the franking privilege, remarked that these petitions were almost always headed with names of postmasters, and appeared to have been printed at the public expense. He thought the mails should not be loaded down with these papers, though earnestly desirous for the success of the proposed reform.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition on the same subject, and said that the so-called franking privilege appeared to him a personal burden rather than a privilege; nevertheless, he believed the opposition to its continuance was liable to run to extravagance.

The above petitions were appropriately referred.

The following additional petitions were presented by Mr. FENTON, (rep.) of N. Y.:—From East Randolph, N. Y., and other localities, praying for the abolition of the franking privilege; also a petition from A. J. Richardson, of New York, relating to cause in the Court of Claims; also a memorial from Harmon E. Wentworth, late of the Fourteenth New York State Volunteer artillery.

THE FRENCH TELEGRAPH CABLE.

Mr. CONKLING offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire whether Henry Mahler, a citizen of Prussia, has any claims against the proprietors or managers of the French cable so called, which should be regarded or protected by the Congress of the United States. He explained that his object was to secure the introduction of a memorial from the person referred to, which, being upon the subject of foreign government, could not, under the usage of the Senate, be received without special provision. The memorial contained statements in support of the petitioner's claims.

ASSIGNING RETIRED OFFICERS TO DUTY.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., called up the bill prohibiting retired officers being assigned to duty, which would entitle them to full pay for their services. He said the bill was passed by the House last session, and provided that retired officers should not be assigned to duty, a necessity in time of war, which did not now exist. The President would thus be relieved of unnecessary pressure. The bill was passed.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH LINES.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a substitute for the bill relating to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries.

The substitute provides that all such communication by means of lines or cables partly within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be subject to the following conditions:—

First—The government of the United States to enjoy the same or similar privileges regarding use and control of said lines as aforesaid by any foreign government.

Second—The United States to be entitled to use the lines one hour in every twelve for transmission of government messages by its own operator. Such messages from this country to take precedence over all others.

Third—The general regulations and rates for transmission of such messages to be established by the Postmaster General if not otherwise fixed by agreement.

Fourth—The lines shall be kept open to the public for transmission of commercial intelligence for daily publication, and all messages to be forwarded in the order of reception, except as above provided.

Fifth—It shall not be lawful for two or more companies to consolidate or unite their interests without the consent of the Postmaster General of the United States, and upon such terms as he may determine. If any two or more such companies have combined or shall combine to fix the rates of compensation for messages, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General, in the absence of an international convention regulating the matter, to determine such rates and to establish such rules and regulations with regard to them as he may judge necessary; and the exercise of these powers shall be subject to the control of Congress and be applicable to existing cables as well as those hereafter established.

Sixth—A written acceptance of the foregoing conditions must be filed with the Secretary of State before extending any such line within the jurisdiction of the United States.

The second section gives the consent of Congress to the laying and maintaining of telegraph cables from foreign countries to the United States, subject to the foregoing stipulations, to the terms of such grants as have heretofore been made by Congress for these purposes, and to any and all rights of property and State jurisdiction in and over the same, provided that the privileges hereby conferred shall not be enjoyed by any company or persons whose line or cable extends to any foreign country where similar privileges are not conferred upon companies incorporated by the United States or by any State of this Union; but this proposition shall not be applicable to any already existing or authorized line or cable except that recently landed on the coast of Massachusetts.

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported without amendment the bill providing for the adjustment and satisfaction of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to July 31, 1801. The claims are to be adjusted by three commissioners to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and are to be paid to an amount not exceeding five millions of dollars by the United States.

PROPERTY DESCENTS IN UTAH.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., from the Committee on Territories, reported without amendment a bill for regulating descents in the Territory of Utah.

AMENDMENT TO THE POSTAL LAWS.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.), of Minn., introduced, as he stated by request, a bill to amend the postal laws, providing that letters on which any portion of the postage has been paid by a postage stamp, whether equal to one full rate or not, shall be forwarded to their destination and the unpaid amount be collected on delivery. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices.

THE VIRGINIA BILL.

Upon the expiration of the morning hour the Virginia bill came up in order.

Mr. MORTON said he felt constrained to vote for the admission of Virginia for two reasons—first, because she has complied with the conditions prescribed, and therefore we are in honor bound to admit her; and in the next place, because he wanted to secure her vote for the fifteenth amendment, which he deemed indispensable for the safety of the whole system of reconstruction; but he should vote with great apprehension of what would be the result of her admission at this time. If the people of Virginia should behave as the people of Georgia and Tennessee have in six months from this time Senators will encounter a storm of indignation for their action here. If Virginia is admitted it should be on the distinct understanding that the power to reconstruct implies the power to protect the reconstruction, and that that power will continue as long as protection shall be required. That if Congress simply has the power to set up State governments, and then the rebels may knock them down, reconstruction is idle; that if the rebel States are admitted upon certain conditions that are vital, then the violation of these conditions after the States come in will be a fraud, and Congress has power to redress the wrong; but the circumstances at the time will point out the measure and the character of the redress. The protection of the civil and political rights of all classes in the South was the grand object to be attained, and if that fails reconstruction is a failure. That Congress must follow out the doctrines of reconstruction to their legitimate consequences, and having undertaken the work must not cease until equal rights and substantial justice and protection are secured to all classes.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., suggested the propriety of substituting the House bill for the pending measure.

Mr. SUMNER objected to any reading of the House bill to-day which would require a suspension of the rules.

Mr. CONKLING hoped the Senate would proceed with the Senate bill, and at the proper time the House bill would be incorporated in it as an amendment.

A motion by Mr. Stewart to postpone the Senate bill and take up the House measure gave rise to discussion upon the proper measure of procedure under the rules.

The CHAIR decided that a motion to postpone the merits of the subject to be postponed was not debatable under the sixth rule of the Senate.

Further debate arising Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., in order to obviate the difficulty, moved to lay the Senate bill on the table.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., submitted the question of order, which was recognized by the Chair as well taken, that the latter motion could not take the precedure of the one pending.

Mr. STEWART finally withdrew his motion and then moved to lay the Senate bill on the table.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., said the motion opened up the whole question at issue. He desired to know upon what inducement the republican party proposed, by adopting the House bill, to commit suicide.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., interjected a remark that the republican party's inclination to commit suicide was because it felt it ought to be hung.

Mr. MORRILL continued declaring that upon financial and other questions affecting the public welfare, he would not trust late rebels any sooner than he would Northern democracy. He said the Senate proposed in hot haste to admit a State which, whenever opportunity offered, had sought to trample upon the fourteenth amendment. The action of Congress in regard to Virginia coincided with that of the girl who married a notorious reprobate as the means of getting rid of him. He hoped no republican Senator would vote for unconditional admission of Virginia, in view of facts contained in the report of General Canby concerning the rejection by the people of the most essential features of the constitution of that State.

Mr. STEWART declared his willingness to trust Virginia, and her rejection by the Senate would arouse the indignation of the whole country.

Mr. MORTON read from the second section of the third article of the new constitution of Virginia to show that persons were eligible to office under it who were ineligible under the third clause of the fourteenth amendment. In order that there may be no misunderstanding hereafter, he suggested an amendment which would render the section void, making the admission of the State conditional upon the passage by the Legislature of a joint resolution declaring that the section referred to shall never be construed to render any person eligible to office who is not eligible under the fourteenth amendment. He said that persons obnoxious to the fourteenth amendment were now holding office in the States already reconstructed, and submitted further an amendment making the offence a penal one and prescribing penalties upon its commission.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., suggested that a subsequent Legislature might construe the section of the constitution as it pleased.

Mr. MORTON replied that under the fourteenth amendment the section would be void. The importance of the amendment he proposed would consist in its declaration to Virginia of the feeling of Congress at this time.

The Senate then voted on the motion of Mr. Stewart to lay the Senate bill on the table, which was agreed to—yeas 25, nays 23.

YEAS—Messrs. Abbott, Bayard, Carpenter, Casserly, Cole, Conkling, Corbett, Davis, Ferry, Fowler, Hamlin, McCreery, Norton, Nye, Patterson, Saulsbury, Scott, Stewart, Stockton, Tipton, Trumbull, Vickers, Warner, Willey and Williams—25.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Boreman, Buckingham, Cameron, Drake, Edmunds, Fenton, Harris, Howard, Howe, McDonald, Morrill of Me, Morrill of Vt., Morton, Pomeroy, Ramsey, Rice, Robertson, Schurz, Spencer, Sumner, Thayer and Wilson—23.

Mr. PRATT, (rep.) of Ind., paired off with Mr. Thurman, who was absent on account of sickness.

On motion of Mr. STEWART the House bill was taken up and read a second time.

Mr. EDMUNDS submitted the amendment which had been incorporated in the Senate bill requiring the imposition of an oath in the case of each member of the Legislature and State officer that said persons are not ineligible to hold office under the fourteenth amendment.

Mr. BOREMAN, (rep.) of W. Va., favored the imposition upon Virginia of salutary restrictions as an assurance of compliance with the requirements of reconstruction.

Mr. FOWLER, (rep.) of Tenn., said that the disabilities of some of the most infamous leaders of the rebellion had been removed, and he claimed for the people who had been dragged into the rebellion the consideration to which their deplorable condition entitled them. He opposed the imposition of fundamental conditions upon the State as useless and pernicious.

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Conn., said that he had voted for the amendment of Mr. Edmunds when offered to the Senate bill; but now its adoption would involve a reference to the House and imperil the admission of Virginia. He was opposed to all amendments for this reason.

Mr. STEWART said that the general bill for the enforcement of the fourteenth amendment was now before the Judiciary Committee and would probably be passed so soon as notification of the amendment by a sufficient number of the States made it a part of the constitution. With the vote of Virginia its adoption was guaranteed, and then Congress would carry out by legislation the constitutional provisions of which the fourteenth amendment would be a part. Consequently the pending amendment was superfluous.

Mr. EDMUNDS read a letter from a correspondent in Virginia imploring him to be a man for once and withdraw his proposition requiring oaths which could not be taken by any honest man in the State without perjury and only by the dishonest class of carpet-baggers. He also cited, from a published letter of Governor Walker, an extract to the effect that "with a Legislature opposed to the radicals the 'county system' would never have been enforced." In view of these expressions he thought that men whose hands had already been laid upon the constitution should be compelled to swear they were not traitors to it.

Mr. THAYER, (rep.) of Neb., addressed the Senate at length in behalf of the loyal people of Virginia, who, he said, were asking in vain for security and protection. He finally yielded the floor to a motion for an executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

After a short executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1870.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REPORTED.

Under the call of States for bills for reference the following were introduced and referred:—

By Mr. TANNER, (rep.) of N. Y.—To amend the steamboat passenger act and to provide an inspector of steamboats for the district of Champlain.

By Mr. MOORE, (rep.) of N. J.—To promote American commerce by the repeal of tonnage tax on American vessels. Also amendatory of the steamboat passenger act.

By Mr. GETZ, (dem.) of Pa.—For the survey of the west bank of the Potomac river from Georgetown to Harper's Ferry for a railroad.

By Mr. STILES, (dem.) of Pa.—For the adjournment of Congress on the second Tuesday in April.

By Mr. COBB, (rep.) of N. C.—In regard to the printing of the laws of North Carolina.

By Mr. WHITTEMORE, (rep.) of S. C.—For the taking of certain oaths in the reconstructed States.

By Mr. BUCKLEY, (rep.) of Ala.—For improvement of Mobile harbor.

By Mr. DOX, of Ala.—For the disposition of public lands in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas.

By Mr. SHELDON, (rep.) of La.—Making grants of lands for the Northern Louisiana and Texas Railroad Company for a railroad from the Texas line to a point on the Mississippi, near Vicksburg.

By Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio—To pay one year's salary as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court to the family of the Hon. Edwin M. Stanton.

By Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Ohio—To cede to Ohio the unsold lands of the Virginia Military district in Ohio.

By Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Tenn.—To declare null and void all acts done by legislative, executive or judicial officers laboring under the disabilities of the third section of the fourteenth amendment of the constitution.

By Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind.—Relative to certain homestead entries.

By Mr. PACKER, (rep.) of Pa.—For improvement of the harbor of Michigan City, Ind.

By Mr. BURDETT, (rep.) of Mo.—In reference to public buildings in Jefferson City, Mo.

By Mr. WELLS, (dem.) of Mo.—Providing that newspaper manuscript and corrected proofs passing between authors and correspondents of newspapers shall be placed on the same footing as book manuscripts, and shall pass in the mails at the rate of printed matter.

By Mr. SAWYER, (rep.) of Wis.—Granting lands to Wisconsin for breakwater, harbor and ship canal at the head of Sturgeon Bay, to connect Green Bay with Lake Michigan.

By Mr. FITCH, (rep.) of Nev.—To abolish the franking privilege from the 1st of July, 1870, and authorizing the Postmaster General to contract for the construction of telegraph lines over the principal mail routes, and to establish a postal telegraph system in connection with the Post Office Department the construction account not to exceed in any year $3,000,000.

By Mr. POLAND, (rep.) of Vt.—To amend the Post Office act of July 2, 1836.

By Mr. CHAVES, (rep.) of New Mexico—Establishing reservations for Apache Indians; also to regulate salaries of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of New Mexico.

By Mr. HOLMAN, (dem.) of Ind.—In relation to inland ports of entry, Mr. Holman stating that the bill had been prepared by gentlemen interested in direct importations to Western cities, and was amendatory to certain bills now before the Committee on Commerce, and especially of one introduced by his colleague, Mr. Niblack.

By Mr. GARFIELD, of Washington Territory—Relative to the legislative fund of Washington Territory.

By Mr. BRADFORD, (rep.) of Colorado, amendatory of the organic law of Colorado Territory.

By Mr. SPINK, (rep.) of Dacotah—For the establishment of a pension agency in each Territory.

By Mr. CLARKE, (rep.) of Kansas—To incorporate the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company, Mr. Clarke stating that he introduced it at the request of others, and did not wish to be held responsible for it.

By Mr. NUCKOLLS, of Wyoming—To amend the act providing a temporary government for Wyoming Territory.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions were offered and disposed of as follows:—

By Mr. WELKER, (rep.) of Ohio—Instructing the Committee on Public Expenditures providing for the inventory and preservation of the accounts of public property in the departments and other public buildings and grounds in Washington city. Adopted.

By Mr. VAN TRUMP, (dem.) of Ohio—For an amendment of the rules so as to secure to all members the equal means of addressing the House. Objected to and not received.

By Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of N. H.—Calling on the Secretary of the Interior for the report of Special Commissioner Watson on the treaty of July 4, 1866, with the Delaware Indians. Adopted.

By Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio—For the delivery of an address on the principles of the National Labor Convention in the hall of the House some time during the present week, by a member of the Union, now in session in Washington, and for the House taking part in the ceremony. The House refused to second the previous question—yeas 52, nays 70—and the resolution went over.

By Mr. MORGAN, (dem.) of Ohio—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the amount paid to bank note companies for printing notes, bonds and fractional currency since 1862, and as to the amount paid to the Adams Express Company for transporting the same. Adopted.

By Mr. BECK, (dem.) of Ky.—Calling on the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for information as to increase or decrease in the manufacture of distilled spirits, other than high wines, during the present distilling season, as compared with the same time in 1868 and 1869. Adopted.

By Mr. TRIMBLE, (dem.) of Ky.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the increased pay and emoluments of officers of the navy. Adopted.

By Mr. ARNELL, (rep.) of Tenn.—Calling on the Commissioner of Education for information as to the existing system of public education in the District of Columbia. Adopted.

By Mr. COBURN, (rep.) of Ind.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the necessity of an addition to the United States Court House and Post Office at Indianapolis. Adopted.

By Mr. ORTH, (rep.) of Ind.—Declaring that a strict regard for public economy required that there should be no increase in the salary or emolument of any public officer of the government. Adopted.

By Mr. NIBLACK, (dem.) of Ind.—Instructing the Committee on Appropriations to inquire into the expediency of reporting an appropriation of $50,000 for the improvement of the harbor of Evansville, Ind. Adopted.

By Mr. PACKARD, (rep.) of Ind.—Calling on the Secretary of War for additional documents and reports relating to the improvement of the harbor of Michigan City, Ind. Adopted.

By Mr. JULIAN—Calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a statement of the annual cost for foreign squadrons and as to the American vessels or citizens who have received aid or protection from the navy. Adopted.

By Mr. HOLMAN—Declaring that while paper money constitutes the currency of the country, the benefits and profits of such currency ought to be secured to the whole people; that the notes issued by the national banks ought to be withdrawn and a corresponding amount of United States notes be issued therefor and applied to the liquidation of the national debt, and instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to report a bill carrying into effect those principles; also disapproving the policy of the Secretary of the Treasury in purchasing five-twenty bonds at a premium, the right of the United States to pay such bonds in United States lawful money being clear and unquestionable.

The House refused to second the previous question by a vote of 39 to 76, and the resolution went over under the rules.

By Mr. JUDD, (rep.) of Ill.—Donating cannon to be placed around a soldiers' lot in Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago. Adopted.

By Mr. INGERSOLL, (rep.) of Ill.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the amount of banking capital in the several States in December, 1868, and the aggregate amount of currency in circulation then and now. Adopted.

By Mr. COOK, (rep.) of Ill.—Instructing the Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of designating one day in each month for the business of the District of Columbia. Adopted.

By Mr. BUFFINTON, (rep.) of Mass.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a report as to the necessity of establishing lights to mark the piers of Plymouth, Duxbury and Kingston, Mass. Adopted.

By Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y.—Constituting eight hours a day's labor for all laborers, workmen and mechanics in the government employ. Referred.

By Mr. NEGLEY, (rep.) of Pa.—Calling on the Secretary of the Navy for the names of the navy paymasters who have been reported as defaulters, with the amount of the defalcations, since March, 1869. Adopted.

By Mr. ELA, (rep.) of N. H.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the claim for a compensation for the use of the Fort Craig Military Reservation, New Mexico. Adopted.

By Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Mich.—Calling on the Secretary of War for information as to the harbor of Black Lake, Michigan. Adopted.

By Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal.—Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the fur seal fisheries of Alaska. Adopted.

By Mr. MCNEELY, (dem.) of Ill.—Instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to report a bill providing for withdrawing from circulation the national bank currency and substituting greenbacks for it.

Mr. COX remarked that the committee was now considering that subject.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, said that if the committee were simply instructed to inquire into the expediency of doing this he would have no objection.

Mr. MCNEELY insisted upon a vote on his resolution as it was.

Mr. GARFIELD said—"Very well. We will give you a vote."

The House refused to suspend the rules, by 54 to 113, and the resolution was not received.

APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATION—SPEECH OF MR. JUDD, OF ILLINOIS.

The House then took up the bill introduced by Mr. JUDD to apportion the representation of the several States in the House of Representatives for the Forty-second Congress.

Mr. JUDD addressed the House on the question of the apportionment under the next census. He said that believing in the justice of that clause of the constitution which says "representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within the Union according to their respective numbers" of representative population, he was for applying this constitutional provision as soon as in a legal and constitutional mode inequality in representation shall become known to the law making power. To that end, while the Census bill was pending and under discussion, he had prepared a series of amendments to those sections of the bill relating to apportionment, the effect of which, had they been incorporated into that bill, would have been to extend the benefit of equal representation to the Forty-second Congress if by the census returns to be made before the 1st day of July such inequality should be made apparent. Section two of the constitution directed positively that representation should be apportioned according to numbers. Was this to be done only once in ten years—a decade? There was no Congressional tenure of office for ten years, nor was there any provision for a series of terms whose limit should be ten years, or a decade. The framers of the constitution were not satisfied with that general direction. They knew how poor human nature, once invested with power, dislikes to yield it, and that this feeling might pervade sections of the country, and that by one pretence or another those in possession would remain there as long as any quibble would excuse it, and hence a positive provision that there should be an enumeration within every ten years. It did not provide against any more frequent enumerations, but it said that "within" every "ten years there shall be one." This was compulsory; but there was no constitutional requirement that apportionment shall be made only once in ten years. The plain and clear intent of the law was that as soon as the census returns are made an apportionment shall follow. Nor was there any constitutional provisions which requires Congress, after it has in a legal form ascertained the number of inhabitants, to postpone for one, two, six or eight years making the apportionment. If they failed to give the people the benefit of the enumeration in the Forty-second Congress it was a postponement for two years; and why not, if it please an interested majority, postpone it for four years? Was there any doubt about their duty in the premises?

The moment that Congress shall be informed, in accordance with the forms of law, of the inequality of representation the provision of the constitution made it the duty of Congress to make the apportionment. So that if the returns were made by the 1st of July, as provided for in the Census bill, there was nothing impracticable in carrying out the spirit of the constitution and allowing the States representation in accordance with the number of inhabitants as shown by that census.

Mr. JUDD then proceeded to examine and review the usage and practice under the constitutional provision on the subject, from the first apportionment act of 1772 to the last apportionment of 1850, and he argued therefrom that the power conferred by the present bill on the Secretary of the Interior was no experiment—no new thing. It had been adopted in the law of 1850, and during all the debate that occurred on that bill there had been no member or Senator wise enough to discover that the constitutional power of Congress was being invaded by that delegation of power to the Secretary. If there was a constitutional objection to it then, of course, its proposers would abandon it, and there was no occasion for discussing any case of expediency. This was not a delegation of legislative power; it was simply a direction to an executive officer. So little had there been, not only of the constitutionality of conferring that power upon the Secretary of the Interior, but also of the expediency of having the apportionment made by the Secretary, that in the act supplementary to the Census law, passed July 30, 1852, the Secretary is directed "forthwith" to apportion among the several States two hundred and thirty-three members. The House would bear in mind that if the census bill became a law the enumeration would be completed and returned by the 1st day of July next. The bill now under consideration in its first section provided for the number of members to be elected and who shall compose the House of Representatives from and after the 3d day of March, 1871, which will constitute the Forty-second Congress. He had left a blank for the number of members, and would be satisfied with whatever the House might determine, only expressing the opinion that a less number than three hundred to represent forty million people in the popular branch of the legislative body would not bring the representative near enough to his constituent. The nearer he is so brought the greater is the feeling of responsibility and the guarantee of fidelity; the larger the number the less the danger from undue influence from without. The framers of the constitution had their fears of undue influence from the executive branch of the government. The immense growth of patronage was of all causes the most baneful in its influence upon our institutions. He feared the effect of that influence upon a small number of representatives. His theory for the security of our institutions was in the immediate responsibility of the persons entrusted with power to the people—the source of all power. The Senator had a term of six years, the President four, and the Representative stood face to face with his constituents by the termination of his office every two years. Tyranny and usurpation did not spring from such a tenure of office. Those only entrenched in a long official term did and dared evil. The second section provided that the Superintendent of the Census shall report the representative enumeration to the Secretary of the Interior on or before the 15th of August next. He believed that that time might be shortened with perfect safety. The fourth section required the Secretary of the Interior to transmit to the Governors of the respective States an official certificate of the apportionment on or before the 10th day of September. It was said that there was not time enough for the States to make the necessary regulations for the purpose of carrying out this act. That was a question for each State to determine for itself. It is sufficient for Congress, and it would have fully discharged its duty when it had passed such laws as will enable the States to act. Let Congress perform its duty and make provision for the distribution of Representatives under the provisions of the constitution and the census taken under it, and thus let it rest with each State to say whether it will avail itself of the advantages the new apportionment would give it. Those States that did exercise the right would get the full benefit. The entire enumeration of the inhabitants was to be made in thirty days. A very slow organization must exist in the Census Bureau if the columns relating to each State could not be added up and the divisor furnished by this bill applied with a result within twenty, nay, even ten days. All these arguments based upon want of time to make, cost and expense of making new districts by the Legislature, as well as the further inconvenience that might arise from a change of the boundaries of districts in the middle of a campaign, might all be obviated, and justice, by the equalization of representation, be done by providing that for the Forty-second Congress the additional members may be elected by general ticket. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Coburn) had proposed that plan in an amendment offered by him pending the Census bill. The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Allison) had adopted that mode in the bill presented by him. The bill introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Paine) also proposed the mode of choosing the additional members. He should be satisfied if the bill now pending were amended in that respect.

In conclusion Mr. Judd said:—At the last election for Congress Iowa cast 194,673 votes, and has six votes on this floor. Massachusetts, with her ten votes on this floor, cast 185,672; Kansas, with one Representative, cast 43,093, and Vermont, with three Representatives, cast 45,886. My own district cast 46,673, while Rhode Island, with its two Representatives, cast 18,250. It may be asked, as it has been before, why press this matter, it is only two years until the completion of a decade? Two years at the present time, with the questions now pending and to be acted upon during that time, may fix the fate and determine the position of the business interests of many communities having an equal representation upon this floor. We have already seen that, Mr. Speaker. We have asked for a redistribution of the banking capital, which all acknowledge is unjust and unequal, and that has been refused us. We have asked to have the mercantile interest of the West placed upon the same basis as those of their more fully represented brethren of the East, and thus far it is not granted. Tariffs and internal taxation, banking and the regulation of the currency and its paper distribution, the mode and terms for arranging and settling our great indebtedness, in fact, all the great economical questions are to be adjusted in such form that the varied interests of this country shall have their rights and privileges and bear only their just shares of the burdens of the government. To that end every portion of the land should have its equal and exact representation on this floor. Our nation owes its very existence to the assertion of the great principle that taxation without representation is a great political wrong. The West, whose business interests are as great as those of any other portion of the Union, and requires as much protection on this floor as any other, demands that this apportionment should be made at the earliest day possible, that it may be applied to the coming Forty-second Congress. How long are we to be kept in the condition of wards? Now, sir, for one, as a representative of a growing and thriving community, whose business interests require care and protection and defence—more so, even, than the old settled communities—I demand, if it is loyal and constitutional that you shall give us the representation without delay to which we are entitled under the laws and the constitution.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of Me., addressed the House in opposition to the bill, the effect of which, he said, would be to give to the last apportionment only four Congresses instead of five. He replied to the arguments of Mr. Judd, and said that after all the question of the number of Representatives was more important than the question when the apportionment should go into effect. Although by increasing the number from 243 to 300 the East might not lose its Representatives absolutely, it would lose them relatively, for the additional fifty-seven members would be gained in the West almost entirely; and it was of no practical consequence to the East whether the majority against her should be made on a vote of 300 or on a vote of 243. He believed that a body of 243 was a better legislative body to transact business than a body of 300. The British House of Commons was an illustration of the evil of a large body, for there, with 648 members, very few members were in constant attendance. The power was centralizing in the West, and that might as well be admitted in the East. They might as well submit to inevitable law.

Mr. CLARKE addressed the House in support of the bill.

Mr. MCCRARY, (rep.) of Iowa, also spoke in advocacy of the bill. The matter then went over for the day.

EXPENSES OF THE GOLD PANIC INVESTIGATION.

Mr. DAVIES, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill appropriating $3,000 to pay the expenses of the Committee on Banking and Currency in the gold investigation.

After the reading of a letter from Mr. Garfield, chairman of that committee, the bill was passed.

DARIEN CANAL SURVEY.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., offered a resolution calling on the President for a statement as to the authority by which appropriations for the navy are diverted to the survey of the Isthmus of Darien. Adopted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. JULIAN stated that if he had been present on Friday he would have voted against Mr. Bingham's substitute for the Virginia bill.

ABOLITION OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Petitions for the abolition of the franking privilege were presented by Messrs. Bird, Ketcham, Kelsy, Armstrong, Orth and Stevens.

RELIEF OF SHIPBUILDERS.

Mr. STARKWEATHER, (rep.) of Conn., presented a petition of the shipbuilders of Noank, Conn., for the repeal of the tax on shipbuilding materials.

REVENUE RECEIPTS IN ALASKA.

Mr. WILLARD, (rep.) of Vt., offered a resolution directing the Secretary to furnish a statement of revenue, customs and other receipts in Alaska, and of the disbursements for maintaining government there, which was adopted.

EXPENDITURES OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. SCHUMAKER, (dem.) of N. Y., offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a statement of the number employed in the several navy yards on the first of March, July, September and December, 1869, and whether the expenditures of the Navy Department for the last fiscal year have exceeded the appropriations, $17,356,350, which was adopted.

THE M'GARRAHAN LAND CLAIM.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Judiciary Committee, asked leave to report a joint resolution in reference the Panoche Grande Ranch in California—the McGarrahan claim. He stated that it was a unanimous report, and that it involved the question whether the order of the House should be executed.

Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal., objected.

Mr. BINGHAM moved to suspend the rules.

Pending that motion, the House, on a motion of Mr. SARGENT, at thirty minutes past four, adjourned.

THE GREAT PRIZE FIGHT.

The Mace-Allen Contest—The Articles Signed—The Fight to Take Place Near New Orleans.

The articles in the Mace-Allen prize fight were signed at the *Clipper* office in this city yesterday, by Jim Mace in person for himself, and by Frank Burns on behalf of Tom Allen. The articles stipulate that the fight shall be for $2,500 and the championship of America, and shall take place within fifty miles of New Orleans. The fight has been fixed to come off on the 10th of next May, the conditions being that in case either party fails to be on the ground between the hours of seven and twelve A. M. he shall forfeit the stakes. Arrest of either of the contestants by the police shall under no circumstances form a reason for non-forfeiture of the stakes.

ALLEN EAGER FOR A FIGHT.

On the 13th inst. Allen wrote the following letter, given literally, to Frank Burns:—

SAINT LOUIS Jan 13.

Dear freind, if Mace Signes the articles send word by talagraph. Your Humbel Servant TOM ALLEN
417. Washington Ave
TOM ALLEN Champion.

HE IS CONFIDENT OF VICTORY.

The following letter written on the previous day shows that Allen is confident of his ability to vanquish the English champion. The letter is given literally:—

SAINT LOUIS, Jan 12th 1870.

DEAR FRIEND—I received your esteemed letter hoping that you and your family are in good health I want you to go the *Clipper* office and see that Mace signs the articles that I have sent I am sure to lick the man he is ten years older than me and fourteen pounds lighter and two inches shorter and he knows no more than me and never fought a cleaver man before Joe Goss is a piece of wood if I had not have been crippled I should have won and very easy to and then I was heavy.—I am ALLEN
Champion of America
and you bet I can keep that tiket.

MACE'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Mace, since the signing of articles to-day, has been quiet and reticent, but expresses, nevertheless, his confidence in his ability to vanquish Allen. Mace feels particularly confident in his own superior science and pugilistic experience, and says that though a smaller and lighter man than Allen he will make him (Allen) regret his temerity in challenging one who came here without any intention of entering the ring.

The match was the all engrossing topic of conversation in sporting circles yesterday.

THE COLHOUN WILL CASE.

The Will Rejected by the Surrogate of Orange County—Sixty Thousand Dollars Involved.

Mr. G. O. Hulse, Surrogate of Orange county, has just rendered a decision in the case of the contested will of John Clarkson Colhoun, son of Commodore Colhoun, United States Navy. The Surrogate refuses to admit the will to probate. The amount of property involved is about $60,000, and consists principally of real estate in the city of New York.

Colhoun, Jr., came to Newburg in June, 1867, and died in the month of October following. In August of that year he went to the house of Dr. William Jones to reside, being in ill health, and remained there until the time of his death. The will which was offered for probate gave his entire estate to Dr. Jones, and utterly ignored the testator's relatives. The contestants objected to the will that it was not the last will and testament of the deceased, and that it was not executed in the manner prescribed by the statute; that the deceased was not of sound mind and memory, and did not act without restraint when he executed the alleged will; that the execution of the will was procured by fraud and undue influence.

The evidence showed that the deceased had been addicted to a secret vice which had undermined his health, impaired his mental faculties and caused him to entertain a monomaniacal hatred and aversion toward his relatives.

The Surrogate holds that the evidence is sufficient to justify the conclusion that Dr. Jones acquired and exercised complete control over his patient and induced him to execute the will subsequently offered for probate and now set aside; that a will made by a patient in favor of his physician, under the circumstances proved in this case, cannot be said to have been made without restraint. He quotes the case of Dent vs. Bennett (7 Simons 539), in which an agreement was entered into by which the testator was to leave Bennett, his physician, £25,000 at the former's decease, for medical and other services rendered during his lifetime. The Vice Chancellor, in deciding the case, held that such an agreement is a direct premium to the medical adviser to accelerate the death of the testator. The Surrogate holds that in this case Dr. Jones had such direct interest, and he therefore rejects the will on the ground that at the making thereof the testator was under restraint, as well as upon the ground of partial insanity. The case has elicited considerable feeling in this vicinity, and its progress has been watched with unabated interest. The decision of the Surrogate will probably be appealed from by Dr. Jones.

ILLNESS OF BISHOP CHASE.—Information from Claremont states that the venerable Carlton Chase, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire is now lying very low and will not probably recover. His disease seems to have taken the form of softening of the brain. He was taken on Tuesday, having had a slight touch of paralysis on Monday.