WASHINGTON

The Fight Over the New York Appointments at an End.

Murphy and Grinnell Confirmed Almost Unanimously.

The Naturalization Bill Passed Both Houses.

Kentucky and Virginia Election Cases Disposed of.

to Prohibit Coolie Immigration.

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1870.

The New York Appointments—Exciting Debate in Executive Session on the Collectorship—Mr. Murphy Confirmed—Mr. Grinnell as Naval Officer and Mr. Hillhouse as Assistant Treasurer.

The Senate went into executive session at two o'clock this afternoon. As the New York appointments were the special order the name of Mr. Murphy was taken up at once. Mr. Fenton, who is opposed to the confirmation, took the floor and began his remarks, which lasted for very nearly three hours. When the case of Mr. Murphy was under consideration in committee Mr. Fenton declined to present his case of opposition, preferring to make his fight in the Senate. This was mainly owing to the fact that Mr. Conkling, his opponent in the fight, was a member of the committee. Mr. Fenton's remarks were embraced under three heads:—First, Mr. Murphy's army contracts; second, his political record, and, third, various newspaper comments opposed to Mr. Murphy. In the first part of his remarks Mr. Fenton repeated in a more elaborate form the statements made by General Foster before the committee on last Saturday. The substance of these was that in a contract for caps Mr. Murphy had not complied with the terms of his agreement and had defrauded the government by furnishing an inferior article. The point of the second ground of opposition taken was that Mr. Murphy had sold out the republican party to the Tammany faction. The newspaper articles constituted the burden of Mr. Fenton's remarks. It is stated that he read from thirty-seven newspaper paragraphs and editorials against the confirmation, in order to show that the press was in opposition. A few minutes before five the Senate, entirely exhausted, took a recess until half-past seven o'clock, when it was understood that the question would be resumed. Just before taking the recess Mr. Conkling got the floor with a view to replying to Mr. Fenton.

Referring to the *Tribune*, Senator Conkling said that the course of that journal towards Mr. Murphy in itself was one of the most cowardly, malignant and bitter assaults that could be made upon any citizen—was only in keeping with the whole course of that journal to every member of the republican party who did not bow down to his will or follow his whimsical, absurd policy, or had in any way crossed his ambition. Mr. Greeley had never ceased to preach sedition, disloyalty and party infidelity whenever it suited his own purposes. He had bolted whenever he could gratify his revenge or his anger by bolting. He had disobeyed the will of the party whenever he could gratify a selfish instinct by doing so, and he had in the course of his long life contributed more to destroy the integrity of the party than all the Murphys on the face of the earth. Mr. Fenton pretended to support the integrity of the party, and yet he himself, for personal purposes, to punish a man who claimed to exercise his conscientious duties as Senator, had in a republican district, at a time when the control of the State was hanging in the balance, organized a bolt which defeated a republican Senator and sent a democrat to Congress. Yet for doing what he did himself he attempted to crucify and destroy a man who had been a republican since the days when Fremont was nominated and who never hesitated to make any sacrifice for the party. It is stated that Senator Sumner pronounced Mr. Conkling's speech the very eloquence of invective.

During the early hours of the controversy in executive session the corridors by the main entrance to the Senate chamber were filled with knots of politicians, with an air of great confidence, busily engaged in talking over the situation and the prospects of Murphy's confirmation or rejection. Judge Folger, General Arthur, Hugh Hastings, Ben. Field and Charley Shaw were the principal representatives of the Murphy faction in the third house. Wagstaff, Pelhamus and Mullen led the opposition. The scene for about an hour was quite animated. Judge Folger was flying about in a most vigorous manner, bringing up the documents and organizing the backers of Murphy. The Murphyites were decidedly in the ascendancy, both in point of numbers and position. The opposition got quite wrathy at their own lack of decent show of strength. Mullen sang out very enthusiastically during the excitement that any one who said that Murphy did not sell out to Tweed was a liar, but no one paid any attention to his observation. Van Valkenburg was around offering to bet at odds in favor of Murphy, but could get no takers. Fenton's lengthy remarks were too much for the ardor of the gentlemen of the lobby. By four o'clock the corridors were deserted, and not a friend or foe in the controversy was to be seen.

At the evening executive session the scene about the Senate was quite as lively as that witnessed during the day. The corridors were filled with Murphyites and Fentonites, and the interest in the result was intense. Senator Conkling resumed the floor immediately on the reassembling of the Senate, and made a powerful speech in reply to the statements of his colleague, Senator Fenton. He denied all the statements of the latter with regard to Murphy having defrauded the government on any contracts. He exhibited official documents, copied from the records of the War Department, to show that Mr. Murphy had been honorably acquitted of the charges preferred against him. With regard to the statements that Mr. Murphy had gone to Albany as a member of the convention that nominated Governor Hoffman, Mr. Conkling said that nowhere in the records of that convention could it be shown that Mr. Murphy was a member of it, or in any way connected with it. He challenged his colleague to a proof of his assertions with regard to Mr. Murphy's participation in that convention. As to the statement that Mr. Murphy had voted against the resolution instructing the New York Senators to vote for the Civil Rights bill over President Johnson's veto, Mr. Conkling said that other republicans besides Mr. Murphy had voted against this resolution. There, for instance, was Mr. Andrews. They voted against it because they believed that the New York Senators did not need instructions, and the result showed that they were right. Senator Conkling answered the charge that Mr. Murphy had participated in a Hoffman meeting in New York and aided resolutions adopted by that meeting, saying that the records of that meeting, as reported in the public press, did not show that Mr. Murphy had anything to do with it. The truth is, he was not there at all. "It was unfortunate," said Mr. Conkling, "that my colleague could say that Tammany was in favor of Mr. Murphy's confirmation. There were a great many rumors in New York about Tammany. For instance, I (Mr. Conkling) had heard it stated that Tammany had raised one hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars to get his colleague (Mr. Fenton) to sign a certain railroad bill when he was Governor of New York. Of course he (Mr. Conkling) did not believe this; but it was one of the Tammany rumors. It was also rumored that Tammany had sent a certain number of members of the Legislature to Albany to vote for Fenton for Senator, and that they were amply rewarded for so doing. These were among the Tammany rumors, though he (Conkling) did not believe them." The following is a correct list of the vote on confirmations—

YEAS—Abbott, Ames, Bayard, Boreman, Buckingham, Cameron, Carpenter, Casserly, Chandler, Cole, Conkling, Corbett, Cragin, Davis, Edmunds, Fowler, Gilbert, Hamlin, Howe, Howell, Johnson, Kellogg, Lewis, McCreery, McDonald, Morrill of Maine, Morrill of Vermont, Nye, Osborn, Pool, Pratt, Ramsey, Rice, Robertson, Sawyer, Scott, Sherman, Spencer, Stewart, Stockton, Thayer, Thurman, Trumbull, Warner, Willey, Williams, Wilson, Yates.

NAYS—Fenton, Harris, Tipton.

Absent or not voting—Anthony, Brownlow, Cattell, Drake, Ferry, Flanagan, Hamilton, of Maryland; Hamilton, of Texas; Harlan, Morton, Norton, Patterson, Pomeroy, Revels, Ross, Saulsbury, Schurz, Sprague, Sumner, Vickers.

Morton went home this evening on account of sickness, but was paired with Pomeroy, and had he been present he would have voted for Murphy and Pomeroy against him.

NAVAL OFFICER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER.

The Senate then confirmed the nominations of Moses Grinnell to be Naval Officer and Thomas Hillhouse to be Assistant Treasurer.

The friends of Mr. Murphy are holding a celebration to-night at room No. 36, Willard's Hotel, which has been their headquarters. A large number of Senators and Congressmen were present and congratulated Mr. Murphy's friends upon their success.

The Funding Bill.

The conference committee on the Funding bill have agreed to provide for the issue of one thousand millions of thirty year bonds at four per cent, three hundred millions of fifteen year bonds at four and a half per cent and two hundred millions of ten year bonds at five per cent. The section allowing gold deposits in the Treasury limits the interest to two and a half per cent. All national bank hereafter organized are required to take the new bonds. The other main points agreed upon are as follows:—The clause authorizing foreign agencies is stricken out. All the interest is to be paid in the United States. New banks are to accept these bonds as a basis for banking, but old banks are not compelled to exchange their bonds. The interest to be paid on gold deposits is fixed at two and a half per cent instead of three, as in the House bill; one half per cent is to be paid for negotiating the new bonds.

Passage of the Naturalization Bill.

Judge Davis, of New York, under a suspension of the rules, took from the Speaker's table to-day the bill to amend the naturalization laws, and the House concurred in the Senate amendments by a two-thirds vote. It now goes to the President for his signature. This bill was introduced in the House by Judge Davis, but was amended in the Senate by having what was considered its most arbitrary features stricken out. It still retains those sections which are intended to punish election frauds committed under the cover of naturalization papers. The State courts are allowed to issue naturalization papers as heretofore, but the United States courts are authorized to appoint special agents who are to supervise all votes cast upon the strength of naturalization papers and to overhaul the papers themselves. Where these agents decide that the papers are fraudulent, or have been obtained under false pretences, the votes cast by those holding them are to be thrown out. The bill is to apply to all cities of 20,000 inhabitants and upwards, though it is specially intended for New York city. This is regarded by the republicans as the climax of a series of measures, beginning with the fifteenth amendment, which are to cripple the democrats and augment the power of the republican party. The bill to enforce the fifteenth amendment was a part of this legislation. The measure which passed to-day is to take effect at once, and will be applied to the fall elections.

The War Cloud in Europe and Cuba—Excitement in Diplomatic Circles—John Quincy Adams' Views in 1823.

Diplomatic circles in this city appear to be pretty well shaken up by the war rumors from Europe. It is the subject of conversation hourly among them, and it is easy to perceive that the general belief is that hostilities will speedily follow the threatening attitude of France and Prussia. Many of the foreign representatives who were off rusticating have returned here in no little agitation. Baron Lederer, the Austrian Minister, and Baron Gerolt, the Prussian Minister, had interviews with Secretary Fish to-day, and encountered each other in an amicable way in the anteroom of the State Department. M. Berthemy, the present French Minister, shrugs his shoulders and says very little on the subject.

In this threatened clash of arms in Europe Cuba's fate is considered to be involved in the result. In 1823, when a war was about to occur between France and Spain, John Quincy Adams, our then Secretary of State, wrote as follows to Mr. Nelson, our Minister to Spain:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, April 28, 1823.

In the war between France and Spain now commencing other interests, particularly ours, will, in all probability, be deeply involved. Whatever may be the issue of this war, as between those two European Powers, it may be taken for granted that the dominion of Spain upon the American continents, North and South, is irrevocably gone. But the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico still remain nominally, and so far really, dependent upon her, that she yet possesses the power of transferring her own dominion over them, together with the possession of them, to others.

These islands, from their local position, are natural appendages to the North American continent, and one of them, Cuba, almost in sight of our shores, from a multitude of considerations, has become an object of transcendent importance to the commercial and political interests of our Union. Its commanding position with reference to the Gulf of Mexico and the West India seas; the character of its population; its situation midway between our southern coast and the island of St. Domingo; its safe and capacious harbor of the Havana, fronting a long line of our shores destitute of the same advantage; the nature of its productions and of its wants, furnishing the supplies and needing the returns of a commerce immensely profitable and mutually beneficial—give it an importance in the sum of our national interests with which that of no other foreign territory can be compared, and little inferior to that which binds the different members of this Union together.

Such, indeed, are between the interests of that island and of this country, the geographical, commercial, moral and political relations, formed by nature, gathering in the process of time, and even now verging to maturity, that, in looking forward to the probable course of events, for the short period of half a century, it is scarcely possible to resist the conviction that the annexation of Cuba to our federal republic will be indispensable to the continuance and integrity of the Union itself.

It is obvious, however, that for this event we are not yet prepared. Numerous and formidable objections to the extension of our territorial dominions beyond the sea present themselves to the first contemplation of the subject; obstacles to the system of policy, by which alone that result can be compassed and maintained, are to be foreseen and surmounted, both from at home and abroad; but there are laws of political as well as physical gravitation, and if an apple, severed by the tempest from its native tree, cannot choose but fall to the ground, Cuba, forcibly disjoined from its own unnatural connection with Spain and incapable of self-support, can gravitate only towards the North American Union, which, by the same law of nature, cannot cast her off from its bosom.—*Executive Documents House Representatives, 32d Congress, 1st Session, Vol. 12, Doc. No. 121, page 6.*

The President's Summer Movements—Saratoga Not to be Visited.

A statement having been made in certain newspapers that the President would attend the races at Saratoga, soon to take place, it is proper to state that there is not a word of truth in it. The President has no intention of leaving Washington at all until after the adjournment, and then will proceed with his family to his seaside cottage. He expects to remain there for some time, and has made no arrangements to go elsewhere. He will privately visit his estate in Missouri, near St. Louis, some time during the summer, but the time has not been fixed.

The Amicable Adjustment of the Fishery Question.

It is well known that before the reciprocity treaty was concluded there was a disagreement between the United States and Great Britain in regard to the extent of the British maritime jurisdiction in the waters of the North American provinces, under the treaty of 1818 and international law. Without abandoning the claim which they have heretofore made to jurisdiction within three marine miles of the coast and a line drawn from headland to headland, the British home government have adopted instructions to the naval officers employed in protecting the fisheries which are practically in harmony with the claim which the United States have heretofore made—that is, they have ordered that United States fishing vessels shall not be seized unless it can be proved that they have been engaged in fishing within three miles of land, and unless they are at the time of seizure within three miles of land. The home government have advised the authorities of the Dominion of Canada that they have issued such instructions to the naval authorities and counselled them to give similar instructions to the officers of the Dominion maritime police.

Of course no United States vessel will be interfered with for fishing within the three mile limit on those parts of the coast opened to them in common with the British fisherman by the first article of the treaty of 1818. So long as the British authorities pursue the liberal and friendly course above indicated no trouble need be apprehended from the fishery question.

Nominations Confirmed.

The Senate in executive session to-night confirmed the following nominations:—

Postmasters—Edgar L. Hapgood, Claremont, N. H.; James Scofield, Addison, N. Y.; Wm. R. Rennington, Canton, N. Y.; Benjamin Badeau, New Rochelle, N. Y.; Charles B. Myers, Treasure City, Nev.; Daniel S. Carswell, Edwards, N. Y.; B. F. Wright, Charles City, Iowa; Robert Allen, Austin, Nev.; John Fogle, Cadiz, Ohio; Hester A. Birdsong, Bellair, Ohio; John W. Bays, Barnesville, Ohio; S. Brady Stocce, Ironton, Ohio; Moses Messer, Hudson, Ohio; David A. Cook, Mendota, Ill.; Adam N. Keser, Newberry, S. C.; John H. Brinkerhoff, Wampun, Wis.; John Taylor, Richmond, Ky.; E. Dillman, Toledo, Iowa; George Weller, Booneville, Mo.; William C. Wiley, Washington, Pa.; Frederick K. Renner, Nebraska City, Neb.; John H. Kellom, Omaha City, Neb.; William A. Stanford, Little Falls, N. Y.; O. B. Mitchell, Hamilton, Mo.; John J. Abrigg, Brunswick, Mo.; John Gibson, Carrollton, Mo.; E. K. Scott, McKeesport, Pa.; John Roberts, Hastings, Mich.; Geo. W. Brown, Marion, Ala.; Royal Eastman, Great Falls, N. H.; Henry C. Adams, Hyde Park, Mass.; Lewis Merriam, Greenfield, Mass.; J. L. Skinner, Amherst, Mass.; John McDuffie, Cambridgeport, Mass.

Samuel A. Duncan to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents; John M. Thatcher, of Virginia, to be Examiner-in-Chief in the Patent Office, vice Fessenden, resigned; Marsh Giddings to be Consul General at Calcutta, vice N. P. Jacobs, recalled; F. Davila Garcia, of Santa Martha, Colombia, now Consular Agent, to be Consul at that place; Charles L. Fisher to be Consular Agent at Nagasaki; Dulce Atwater, of Connecticut, to be Consul at Tahiti; C. B. Webster, of Connecticut, to be Consul at Sheffield; Enoch G. Adams to be Register of the Land Office at Vancouver, Washington Territory. Samuel M. Brown to be Receiver of Public Moneys at Vancouver; Dexter C. Bloomer to be Receiver of Public Moneys at Council Bluffs, Iowa; George W. Kingsbury to be Assessor of Internal Revenue for Dacotah.

Nominations by the President.

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

Consuls—C. B. Webster, of Connecticut, at Sheffield, England; F. Davela Garcia, at Santa Martha; Charles A. Brayton, of Rhode Island, at Cork; Dorrence Atwater, at Tahiti; Henry W. Dernon, of Rhode Island, at Lisbon.

Charles L. Fisher, to be Marshal of the Consular Court at Nagasaki, Japan.

Vernon H. Vaughan, of Alabama, to be Secretary of Utah.

Collectors of Customs—Charles A. Waldron, at Bristol and Warren, R. I.; James Shaw, Jr., at Providence, R. I.; L. W. Macey, at Newport, R. I.

Contested Election Cases Disposed of.

The House spent most of the day in considering contested election cases, and decided those of Rice of Kentucky and Segar of Virginia. Rice, who is a democrat, was contested on the ground that he had, during the war, given aid and comfort to the rebellion. It was shown, however, that he had been offered and declined prominent appointments in the Confederate service, and that he had generally been a Union man. Under these circumstances only seven votes were cast against him. Segar was elected to represent the State of Virginia at large, but the House ruled that that State is not entitled to an additional representative. About seven contested election cases are still on the docket, among which there are five, at least, which will go over till the next session, partly for want of time and partly because the contestants prefer them to go over.

The Case of Colonel Belger.

The report in the case of Colonel Belger has been printed. It appears that he applied for a court of inquiry, and asked for a full investigation of the business of his office—that of quartermaster in the City of Baltimore in the early part of the war. The court was ordered, and after a full and impartial trial by officers of the highest character, General Hitchcock being president, Colonel Belger was honorably acquitted of all the specifications and the charge. The Secretary of War disapproved of the verdict of the court, and instead of directing them to reconsider the proceedings, dissolved the court and dishonorably dismissed Colonel Belger. It is due both to Mr. Stanton and Colonel Belger to say that Mr. Stanton afterwards regretted the severity of his action and said he would be glad to see Colonel Belger restored to the army. Colonel Belger made no effort, until his accounts were all settled at the Treasury, through eminent counsel, for reinstatement. The President, after a careful examination, revoked the order of dismissal, but the passage of certain laws in reference to the Quartermasters' Department rendered the revocation ineffectual. Colonel Belger applied to Congress, and the Committee on Military Affairs, by a vote of five against four, decided that the appointing power lay with the President alone. These facts have been laid before President Grant, and there is no doubt that he will accord ample justice in the case when empowered to do so by Congress.

A Faithful Officer Rewarded.

One of the joint committees of Congress have allowed $1,000 additional to the salary of the Chief Clerk, so long as the office shall be held by the present incumbent. Major W. J. McDonald, who has been in the employ of the Senate thirty-five years—from boyhood—is the gentleman thus complimented.

The Washington Police Court.

The Police Court of the District of Columbia met for the first time this morning, Judge Snell presiding. There were a number of prominent lawyers present, who watched the proceedings with interest. A large number of cases are to be tried, as they have been accumulating some time, owing to the commissions of the police magistrates having expired several weeks ago.

Resources and Liabilities of National Banks.

The following is an abstract of the reports made to the Comptroller of the Currency, showing the condition of the national banks in the United States at the close of business on the 9th of June, the aggregates of resources and liabilities being $1,564,918,231.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	$719,048,630
United States bonds	382,619,300
Due from banks	121,073,416
Checks and other cash items	11,366,747
Exchanges for clearing house	86,336,515
Cash	140,307,343
Including specie	31,067,070
Clearing house certificates	21,405,000
Three per cent certificates	25,825,000

LIABILITIES.

Capital	$427,135,701
Profits	134,508,375
Bank notes outstanding	293,446,009
Deposits	554,798,044
Due to banks	148,468,054

Novel Report on a Novel Claim—Rewards for Heroes in Casemates.

A report of a novel character was recently made by Senator Pratt, of Indiana, from the Committee on Claims. The memorialist sets forth that he enlisted in 1862, in a Massachusetts regiment, and served eleven months as a private and sergeant. Again, in the year 1863, he entered the Sixteenth light battery of that State as a private, and was subsequently commissioned second lieutenant in the same. The battery was stationed for the most part in and about the defences of Washington. While so engaged he devised a plan of monuments to be erected on the Bull Run battle fields in memory of those who had there fallen, and after stating all he had done in that business he prays Congress to award him a reasonable compensation "in accordance with the benefits received for his services, which would be a help and afford him means of support by his profession."

What the particular services were may be judged by the comments of the committee, who say it has been a matter of curious speculation with them what style of monuments could have been erected, useful and ornamental, with the materials furnished by the government—cement, lime, axes, picks, shovels and sledge hammers. And then again the committee have marvelled that the memorialist should have been able to have wrought with a jackknife an inscription, ornamental and durable, bearing with it honor the memory of the fallen heroes to the distant future. The memorialist admits that he wrought out these designs of beauty while nestling in the safe intrenchments that girdled Washington while his hardier brethren were performing deeds of immortal valor upon the great battle field of Virginia. The mighty roar of far off battles, softened by distance, did not interrupt his pleasing, artistic occupations, and while thousands of his comrades in arms were doing battle and dying for their country he was planning memorials for them and connecting his name forever with their glory, through a pyramid of cobble stones ornamented by his ingenious jackknife. The committee, without wasting more time over such a frivolous claim, recommended its indefinite postponement.

Services of a Tennessee Guide and Scout.

Senator Abbott recently made a favorable report on the claim of Elkan A. Sawyer, of Jefferson county, Tenn., asking compensation for services as guide, scout and recruiting officer, and for property taken and used by the federal army, and for services in destroying the rebel railroad communication and securing a large quantity of rolling stock to the Union army in 1863. Among other things, the committee say:—

Mr. Sawyer was directed to go to a bridge near New Market, and to destroy it at a given hour of the night. He proceeded on his journey at great personal peril, and it is on proof that if he had been captured he would have been hung. He went through the lines of the enemy and at a designated hour burned a bridge on the railroad, and destroyed the telegraph wires, and thereby prevented the enemy from running off into Virginia five locomotives, a large amount of rolling stock, as well as a large amount of machinery, supplies, &c., which were thereby saved to the army of General Burnside, and which, he says, secured the use and occupation of the road through East Tennessee at a time when the same was a matter of vital importance. The claimant undertook a long and perilous journey, penetrating the lines of the enemy for more than a hundred miles, and says he was compelled to go on foot in the night time, and through the woods to avoid capture. The committee recommend that Mr. Sawyer be paid for his property used by the enemy and for all of his services aforesaid the sum of $15,000.

Resolution Before the House to Repeal the Cuban Telegraph Monopoly.

The following was to-day introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Sandford and referred to the Committee on Commerce:—

A joint resolution to alter an act to encourage telegraphic communication between the United States and the island of Cuba, and other West India islands and the Bahamas:—

Be it resolved, &c., That so much of the act approved May 5, 1866, entitled "An act to encourage telegraphic communication between the United States and the island of Cuba, and other West India islands and the Bahamas" as provides that the International Ocean Telegraph Company, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, their successors and assigns, shall have the sole privilege for a period of fourteen years from approval of the act to lay, construct, land, maintain and operate telegraphic or magnetic lines or cables in and over the waters, reefs, islands shores and lands over which the United States have jurisdiction from the shores of the State of Florida, in the United States, to the island of Cuba and the Bahamas, either or both, and other West India islands, be and the same hereby is repealed, and that nothing in said act contained shall deprive Congress of the right to grant to any other company or companies, person or persons, the privilege, for any period of time, of laying, constructing, landing, maintaining and operating telegraphic or magnetic lines or cables in and over the waters, reefs, islands, shores and lands over which the United States have jurisdiction from the shores of the State of Florida, in the United States, to the island of Cuba and the Bahamas, either or both, and other West India islands; provided that said International Ocean Telegraph Company, their successors and assigns, may have, exercise and enjoy the privilege for the unexpired term of the period of fourteen years, mentioned in said act, approved May 5, 1866, of laying, landing, maintaining and operating any of its submarine cables now in operation or that it may hereafter lay between the shores of the State of Florida, in the United States, and the island of Cuba and other West India islands.

The New Army Bill—Who Oppose It.

It is pretty fully understood that General Sherman and the staff of the army are opposed to the new Army bill at present before Congress. Some idea of the reasons for this opposition may be gained by the public from the following facts:—During the administration of President Johnson Congress deemed it advisable to curtail the powers of the President in such manner that all orders and instructions from him to the army must pass through the hands and receive the approval of the General of the Army before they can be obeyed or have any valid effect with the army. In other words, the General of the Army is invested with almost absolute control of the regular forces of the country. His order to the army is supreme, from which there is no appeal in military law. The passage and approval of the present bill, whereby it will become the law of the land, will remove this authority from the hands of the General and reinstate it upon its proper head, the President. Again, the present bill proposes to reduce the pay of the General of the Army from $1,321 per month to $1,000 per month; as also to repeal all laws whereby he is allowed commutation for fuel and quarters. Then, again, the system of longevity rations will be abolished, whereby he will incur a further decrease in his income, at the rate of nine dollars per month for every additional term of five years he may have served his country in the capacity of an officer of the army. These are the more potent reasons why General Sherman manifests so much antipathy to the present bill, and threatens to resign if it becomes a law.

The primary and only reason the staff has for its opposition to this bill is based upon the loss of revenue which will accrue to every officer composing it if it is passed. Under existing laws every officer not serving in the field or garrison, with troops, but on duty otherwise, and who is not furnished, "in kind," with public quarters at government expense, is allowed, beyond his regular pay, so much commutation money for fuel and quarters, to reimburse him for his private expense in house rent. This of course varies with the grade of the officer, and with the season of the year for which it is computed, it being, however, at a uniform rate for that portion of the year between the 1st of May and the 1st of October, and at a uniform, yet higher rate, from the 1st of October to the 1st of May. This is exclusive of and in addition to the regular pay of the grade in which he ranks.

Now, if the present bill becomes a law the regular pay of all grades will not only be reduced, but this system of commutation of fuel and quarters will be abolished, thereby causing a loss of hundreds of dollars annually to each officer of the staff on detached service. There is a large number of this class of officers, of necessity, on duty in Washington, and as no public quarters are furnished "in kind" to them they are entitled to and all draw commutation therefor. Hence the opposition of the staff—each member of which serving in Washington feels himself aggrieved, and resolves himself into a working committee to buttonhole and argue in opposition to the bill with the members of that body of Congress where the bill is supposed to hang fire.

The following table will show the pay of each grade of the staff per year under the old law, including commutation of fuel and quarters, and what it will be if we have the new law as at present framed. It will be readily observed that the difference on the side of the government is largely in favor of the new bill:—

PAY PER YEAR.

	Old Law.	*New Bill.*	*Difference.*
Major General	$8,910	$7,500	$1,410
Brigadier General	6,662	5,500	1,108
Colonel	4,072	3,500	572
Lieutenant Colonel	3,646	3,000	646
Major	3,257	2,500	757
Captain	2,503	2,000	503
Lieutenant	2,021	1,600	421

The pay and commutation received by the General and Lieutenant General are not contained in the above table. Nor is any note taken in this table of the additional amounts paid to each officer, at the rate of nine dollars per month, for every additional term of five years he may have served as an officer of the army. From the above facts the public may obtain some explanation of the cause of army opposition to the new Army bill.

The Mexican Claims Commission.

The United States and Mexican Claims Commission to-day dismissed the cases of Baca vs. Mexico, and Armigio et al. vs. Mexico.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1870.

CREDENTIALS PRESENTED.

The credentials of Senators Anthony and Cragin, re-elected for six years from the 4th of March next, were presented.

AMERICANS IN BRITISH PRISONS.

Mr. CASSERLY, (dem.) of Cal., presented a petition from citizens of California praying the interposition of Congress in behalf of American citizens imprisoned by the British government for political offences. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

BILLS PASSED.

On motion of Mr. BUCKINGHAM, (rep.) of Conn.—Directing the Secretary of War to place at the disposal of the President certain ordnance to be used in the erection of an equestrian statue of General Rawlins, late Secretary of War.

On motion of Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt.—For the removal of causes in certain cases from State courts to United States courts, and for other purposes.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill.—To confirm the title of purchasers of lands sold for taxes in the late insurrectionary States.

The latter bill was objected to by Mr. CASSERLY and Mr. BAYARD because it proposed to enforce the payment of all costs and penalties incurred in invalid sales of land for taxes as a condition precedent for the lawful owner to recover.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., argued that the owner did not lose his property by due process of law, but in disregard of due process, and yet he was to be saddled with all these costs unlawfully incurred; that in the Southern States the proceedings to sell lands under the direct tax law had been notoriously irregular and fraudulent, the owners, never having had notice of these proceedings, had no means of avoiding costs and penalties incurred for non-payment of taxes.

Several amendments by Mr. BAYARD were rejected and the bill passed.

The Land Grant bill, in aid of a railroad from Sioux City, Iowa, to Columbus, Dacotah Territory, was discussed, amended and passed.

THE BREAKWATER AT CAPE COD.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., called up the joint resolution for a breakwater at Cape Cod harbor. Objection being made it went over.

THE SUNDRY CIVIL APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Senate, in Committee of the Whole, adopted the amendments to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, reported from the Committee on Appropriations, appropriating to the National Association of Destitute Colored Women, of Washington, D. C., $10,000; for repairs of the old Custom House at Charleston, S. C., to fit the same for a Post Office, $20,000; increasing the aggregate of appropriations for work on the Appraisers' Stores in Philadelphia from $69,000 to $126,000; increasing the appropriations for completing the Court House buildings at Portland, Me., and Madison, Wis., each $20,000; making a new appropriation of $50,000 for public buildings at Omaha, Neb., and $100,000 for a Barge Office at New York.

The committee reported to add to the appropriation for the New York Post Office and Court House building the following, which was agreed to:—

Resolved, That no provision heretofore enacted shall be construed to prevent the payment of amounts due or to become due under existing contracts; and provided further, that the total cost of the building shall not exceed the amount of the estimates of the plans approved by the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury.

The committee also reported an appropriation of $300,000 for a fireproof extension of Winder's building in the city of Washington for the use of offices of the War Department.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., stated that the War Department was subjected to an annual rental of over $61,000 for some thirty or forty buildings occupied as offices. These buildings contained records of the greatest value, but were liable to destruction by fire and to access by burglars. It was now proposed to consolidate these offices in one building.

Mr. THURMAN, (dem.) of Ohio, thought these offices could be dispensed with if Congress would reduce the army and send into the field many of the staff officers now lounging around Washington.

The amendment was agreed to—yes 32, nays 22.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Without finishing the bill the Senate, at two o'clock, went into executive session, and after several hours took a recess till evening.

Evening Session.

The Senate continued in executive session from half-past seven o'clock till twenty minutes to ten o'clock P. M. The consideration of legislative business was then resumed.

Messrs. Morrill, of Me., Drake and Stockton were appointed a committee of conference on the Naval Appropriation bill.

The Sundry Civil Appropriation bill was then proceeded with, and the remaining amendments reported from the Committee on Appropriations were adopted.

The bill amendatory of the act declaring the bridges of the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Railroad Company post roads was passed, and the Senate at half-past ten adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1870.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. STARKWEATHER, (rep.) of Conn.—To amend the act limiting the liability of shipowners.

By Mr. MYERS, (rep.) of Pa.—Granting an outfit of clothing to men enlisted for three years in the navy.

By Mr. SANFORD, (rep.) of N. Y.—To alter the act to encourage telegraphic communication between the United States and Cuba and other West India islands and the Bahamas.

By Mr. STONE, (dem.) of Mo.—To amend the act of 1810, incorporating the Turnpike Road companies in the District of Columbia.

By Mr. BARRY—Granting lands for railroad purposes to Mississippi.

By Mr. MUNGEN, (dem.) of Ohio—In relation to the protection of the laboring and producing classes against Chinese immigration.

It provides for a joint committee to inquire into the danger threatening the country from Chinese immigration and to report the proper means for guarding against or averting it, whether by specific legislation, by a change of the constitution, by limitation of the time of sojourn or by the number of Chinese arriving in the United States, by permitting each State to prohibit the residence of Chinese within its limits, or to place such restrictions thereupon as it may think proper, or by a total exclusion of the Chinese from the States and territories of the Union, except as travellers and merchants.

By Mr. STEVENSON, (rep.) of Ohio—To preserve the public faith and protect rights under the laws and treaties of the United States.

By Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio—To incorporate the Loomis Aerial Telegraph Company.

Also reorganizing the Court of Claims.

By Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn.—For the relief of purchasers of land sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary States.

By Mr. MCCORMICK, (dem.) of Mo.—To refund the interest on money paid by the State of Missouri for war purposes.

By Mr. HAMILTON, (rep.) of Fla.—Granting lands to the Suwanee and Inland Railroad Company at Florida.

By Mr. PLATTE, (rep.) of Va.—Ordering the survey of Norfolk harbor, Va.

By Mr. FITCH, (rep.) of Nev.—Granting lands for a railroad from the Central Pacific Railroad in Nevada to Hamilton, Nev.

By Mr. CLARKE, (rep.) of Kan.—To enable soldiers and others to perfect titles to land under the Homestead act in certain cases.

Various bills were introduced and referred for the removal of political disabilities, and donating condemned cannon for soldiers' monuments.

CAPE COD BREAKWATER.

Mr. KELSEY, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a joint resolution relative to the harbor of refuge and breakwater at the entrance of the Cape Cod Ship Canal and moved the previous question on its passage.

The previous question was not seconded and the joint resolution went over under the rule.

Mr. KNAPP, (rep.) of N. Y., offered a preamble and resolution reciting alleged frauds in the distribution of stock for the Washington city market house and directing the Committee on Appropriations to inquire into the same. Adopted.

Mr. FERRISS, (rep.) of N. Y., offered a resolution declaring that the fourteenth and fifteenth articles of amendment to the constitution, having been duly ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, are valid to all intents and purposes as part of the constitution, and as such are binding and obligatory on the Executive, the Congress, the judiciary of the several States and Territories and all the citizens of the United States. Adopted—yeas 138, nays 32; a party vote.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., offered a resolution declaring that the resolution just adopted undertaking to limit the decisions and actions of the judiciary in relation to the validity of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution is foreign to the duty of legislators and mischievous in its tendency and effect.

His previous question was not seconded, and the resolution went over under the rules. Mr. Cox remarking that the resolution embodied the sentiment of the democratic side of the House.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL.

Mr. DAVIS, (rep.) of N. Y., moved to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the Naturalization bill. Agreed to—yeas 133, nays 53.

The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., rising to a personal explanation, sent to the Clerk's desk and had read a paragraph from the New York *World* charging him with having ejected several hundred negroes from his estates near Hampton, Va. He stated that the facts were that these negro families had been turned off from the estate of a rebel, where they had been placed in 1864, and that the representative of that district (Mr. Platt) having spoken to him on the subject, he told him that as he then happened to have, by the foreclosure of a mortgage, a piece of land near Hampton, it was at the service of the negroes if they chose to move on it. The negroes did move on to his property and were there now, so that this newspaper paragraph came as near being true as newspaper paragraphs about him usually did.

Mr. Platt verified the statement made by Mr. Butler.

TAX ON PROVISION DEALERS.

Mr. ALLISON, (rep.) of Iowa, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported back the bill providing that pork packers, lard renderers and those engaged in smoking hams, curing meats, and others known as provision dealers shall not be liable to the internal tax levied on manufacturers, and remitting any such tax assessed but not collected. Passed.

THE KENTUCKY ELECTION CASE.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Tenn., called up the Kentucky contested election case of Stegler against Rice, the conclusion of the majority being that Mr. Rice, the sitting member, is disqualified, under the fourteenth amendment, from holding the seat, and the seat should be declared vacant, and that Mr. Stegler should be paid the expenses of the contest, and the conclusion of the minority (Mr. Burr) being that Mr. Rice is justly entitled to the seat.

The resolution reported by the minority was adopted without a division, so Mr. Rice retained his seat.

THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. WASHBURN, (rep.) of Wis., from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the Senate amendments to the Naval Appropriation bill, recommending concurrence in some and non concurrence in others. The recommendation was agreed to and a conference committee was ordered.

The SPEAKER appointed as such committee Messrs. Washburn of Wis., Scofield and Niblack.

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