CONGRESS.

The Financial Struggle Fairly Begun in the Senate.

SPECIE OR NO SPECIE?

The West Gathering Full Strength for the "Tug of War."

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CURRENCY.

Passage of the Army Appropriation Bill.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1874.

PETITIONS.

Mr. FENTON, (lib.) of N. Y., presented a petition from citizens of that State, asking pensions for those who served in the Mexican war. Referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., presented a petition from soldiers of that State, asking the same pension for the loss of an arm above the elbow as for the loss of a leg above the knee.

THE BILL FOR DEVELOPING MINERAL WEALTH.

Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal., presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of that State, instructing their Senators and Representatives in Congress to oppose the bill recently introduced in the House by Mr. Ward, of Illinois, to develop the mining resources of the United States. The resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. SARGENT said the bill had been credited to him by some mistake and he took this opportunity to state that he was opposed to the bill, believing it to be subversive of the mining interests of all the States and Territories. In consequence of the bill having been credited to him, a meeting had been held among the miners and he had been denounced. He did not introduce the bill, was opposed to its passage, and the criticisms against him were unjust.

Mr. HAGER, (dem.) of Cal., presented memorials for the improvement of the Harbor of San Francisco and Santiago River. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM, (rep.) of Conn., from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported adversely on the bill for the relief of the Chickasaw Indians. Indefinitely postponed.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

On motion of Mr. THURMAN, (dem.) of Ohio, the memorial presented by him a few days ago, in regard to the government of the District of Columbia, and the memorial of the Governor of the District, were taken from the table and referred to the joint select committee to investigate the District affairs.

Mr. KELLEY, (dem.) of Oregon, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported adversely on the bill for the relief of Colonel Daniel McClure, Assistant Paymaster General. Placed on the calendar.

GRUDGING THE REWARD OF WELLDOING.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., asked that the resolution offered by him yesterday calling upon the President to inform the Senate whether any officer of the United States Army on duty in South Carolina had been instrumental in procuring legislation in that State to compensate him for services rendered in the discharge of his duty, &c., be passed. He said the matter was brought to his attention last March, and he had no doubt a great wrong had been perpetrated upon the people of South Carolina and the fair name of officers been dishonored. Hence it was in the interest of all that the matter be exposed and promptly corrected. South Carolina had been deprived of $35,000 given as rewards for the conviction of persons under the Ku Klux act. Major Lewis Merrill, of the United States Army, it was charged, had received $21,400 of that amount, and had been busy in obtaining the passage of the act authorizing the reward by the South Carolina Legislature. He sent to the Clerk's desk and had read the report of a commission for the distribution of rewards, in which the name of Major Merrill appears as having received the above amount.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Bayard said convictions were secured by paying those who had committed murders to testify against others. Such things were shocking in the history of the country's administration of justice. Many of the men thus convicted were now languishing in a New York prison.

Mr. HOWES, (rep.) of Wis., said a few years ago the Congress of the United States distributed $100,000 among officers of the army for arresting one criminal, and not such a bad one either as these miscreants.

Mr. BAYARD said he wanted to know if the action of this officer in lobbying through the bill to obtain a reward would be approved. He thought it an outrageous piece of business.

THE PUTTING DOWN OF THE KU-KLUX.

Mr. SCOTT (rep.) of Pa., said it had been his good fortune to meet Major Merrill, and he thought if the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Bayard) knew him personally he would not think he was the man to be guilty of any bad conduct. If there was any one man living to-day to whom the people of South Carolina were indebted for enforcing peace and order and putting down these Ku-klux organizations that man was Major Merrill. He (Mr. Scott) did not oppose the passage of the resolution, as he was not afraid of the record of Major Merrill. He suggested to the Senator from Delaware, however, that the President could not obtain from the records of the War Department information as to the money paid by the State of South Carolina.

EQUALIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENCY.

The morning hour having expired the Chair announced as the regular order the unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill for the withdrawal of $25,000,000 national bank currency from those States having an excess, and the reissue of it to the States not having their *pro rata* of currency.

Mr. BAYARD moved that the bill be laid aside informally, and that a vote be taken on his resolution without further debate.

Mr. PATTERSON, (rep.) of S. C., objected.

Mr. Bayard's motion was lost, and the resolution went over.

SILVER FOR THE FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to a resolution of the Senate yesterday, in regard to the coinage of silver to take the place of the present fractional currency. The Secretary says the capacity of the mints for coinage of silver other than trade dollars is about $10,000,000 per annum, and as the issue of fractional currency is about $40,000,000, it will take four years to coin enough silver to replace the fractional currency. Referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., said his object in introducing the resolution was for the purpose of taking some steps to have the mints coin this silver by the time specie payment should be resumed.

The regular order, the bill to withdraw $26,000,000 of national bank currency, was proceeded with.

SHIFTING THE BULK OF THE CURRENCY.

The amendment offered by Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, to the section authorizing the Comptroller of the Currency to issue the $25,000,000 to those States having less than their proportion, declaring that the Comptroller might do so without waiting for the return of the circulating notes of other banks, was agreed to.

Mr. MERRIMON, (dem.) of N. C., moved to strike out the words "twenty-five," relating to the amount to be withdrawn and reissued, and insert in place thereof "seventy-five."

Mr. LOGAN, (rep.) of Ill., opposed the passage of the bill, and said it would interfere with an increase in the currency, which he desired. He was willing to let the New England States have the $80,000,000 excess, but he wanted the currency increased so that the people of the West could have the same opportunity as those of New England.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., said his State had $21,000,000 capital before the war and has the same now.

Mr. LOGAN—And you have not got enough now?

Mr. ANTHONY—No, sir.

Mr. LOGAN—Then in Heaven's name why do you stand here obstructing the way of the Northwest and other sections which want more currency? Rhode Island is a great State—a rich State. She should have twice as much currency as she has now and Illinois should have none. Then we could come and borrow from you and pay you a high rate of interest.

Mr. ANTHONY said Rhode Island gave to the country her wealth and what men she had to put down the rebellion. When the national banking system was organized the West and South would not take advantage of it.

Mr. LOGAN said Rhode Island was a finished State. It had been completed while Illinois was growing and needed more capital every day, instead of standing still at one measured sum. He could take the whole capital and whole State of Rhode Island and set it down in one county of Illinois. (Laughter.)

Mr. ANTHONY said the county in which he lived during the year when the largest internal revenue was rendered returned $4,000,000. Such return must imply a large productive interest. The people of Rhode Island did not want the national banking system, but were forced into it.

Mr. LOGAN said no one doubted the energy or capacity of the people of Rhode Island, but they should not object to other sections enjoying equal facilities with themselves.

Mr. MORTON said this bill did not go far enough—not one-third of the way. If it was right that the currency should be equalized at all it was right that it should be fully equalized. The bill would give no relief to Illinois, Michigan and other States in that section, because other States in the South had a greater deficiency than those. It was not very pleasant for the people of the West to come here and have to beg for simple justice. This unequal distribution of the currency was a manifest injustice, and bitterly complained of by the people of his section. When they asked to have the injustice remedied, they had been answered by New England, "You would not take it when we offered it to you, and it is not good for you to have."

Mr. ANTHONY—Who said so?

THE NEEDS OF THE WEST.

Mr. MORTON—It has been said on this floor scores of times. His friend, Mr. Anthony, opposed any withdrawal of currency from Rhode Island, and in that he was right. The population of the country in the last few years had increased at least 5,000,000, three-fourths of which was in the West. Rhode Island had not increased in population at all. It had been said that the West would not take the money when it was offered her. Suppose she could not? Would the gentleman recognize the fact that the West was growing, and the question was not what she was able to do in 1866, but what is she able to do—wh does she want now? Lord Bacon had said that the great curse of philosophy was theory, and he (Mr. Morton) thought the great curse of our finances was theory. There was a period in the history of every country when specie payments could not be maintained. This country could not maintain specie payments during the war, and had to resort to a paper currency. It would get away from that currency as it got away from the results of the war. There was no more sense in a scarcity of money than there was in a scarcity of food. As an abundance of food stimulates the body so an abundance of money stimulates business. There had been a cry that to increase the currency would only aid speculation. He believed in speculation. The man who went to Colorado, laid out a town, and built houses and stores, was a speculator, but he was a public benefactor. Speculation had given us 35,000 miles of railroad. He believed that to take the money away from the East would disorganize business there, and he was opposed to it; but if there could be no increase of currency he favored the passage of this bill and a redistribution. He argued that an increase of national bank notes would place no obstacles in the way of a return to specie payment, and, if forty, fifty or sixty millions should be added to the national bank circulation greenbacks would not be cheapened in the least, nor would there be any increase in the premium on gold. In 1870, after the distribution of the $54,000,000, the Comptroller of the Currency said it still required $40,000,000 to equalize the currency. Four years of unprecedented growth have passed away since then, and if $40,000,000 were required at that time to make equalization at least $80,000,000 would be required now. If the principle be settled that there is to be no increase in the volume of the currency he would urge a redistribution; otherwise there would be no excuse for taking a dollar from New England. To his friends from the South he would say:—When the war was over they had no money, but they were rapidly recuperating now, and, as they wanted banks, they should have the privilege of establishing them. If those sections of the country did not need the increased circulation they need not take it, and no harm would be done; but they certainly should be put in a position where they could get it if they wanted it.

CALIFORNIA'S SOLID MONEY.

Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal., said that fortunately for his State during the past ten years it had a currency peculiarly its own. It had been charged that the action of his State in not establishing national banks and taking currency was unpatriotic; but he did not think so. They had no inflation, no panic and scarcely a notable failure there. He had, therefore, reason to believe he was on an independent footing on this question, and had listened to the discussion attentively and impartially. He believed there was danger from an excess of money. In the body politic, the same as too much food would injure the human body, inflated currency would lead to unwholesome speculation. He admitted there was much justice in the claims of Senators that each community should have its share of circulation, and while there might be justice in the claim that more national banks should be organized he feared the theory was not a good one. He was opposed to any inflation of the currency, and would therefore favor the passage of this bill.

Senator LOGAN said, to confirm the statement he made a few minutes since as to being able to put the capital of the whole State of Rhode Island into a single county in his State, he would read from the figures of the Internal Revenue Office, and they showed that in 1868 the First district of Illinois paid $16,943,300 internal revenue, while Rhode Island paid but $324,523. Last year Rhode Island paid $1,000,000 and the First district of his State paid over $7,000,000.

Mr. ANTHONY said his statement was that in the year in which the largest internal revenue was rendered his State paid $4,000,000. He was not so green as to declare that his State paid more revenue than Illinois, when there was not a single distillery nor tobacco manufactory in it.

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Mich., said the increase in Rhode Island, as shown by the census of 1870, was but $200,000,000, while that of Michigan was $719,000,000. Yet Rhode Island had more circulation than Michigan. He argued against the unequal distribution of currency, and said the West was far below what she was entitled to. While he was opposed to increasing national bank notes, and favored the issue of the whole volume of currency by the government. He was willing to waive all other questions for the present, and have the increase of national bank currency, believing that to be the vital question to the people. The West now asks the government she helped to defend to distribute the currency in the same ratio as that which the New England States enjoy.

IF NEW ENGLAND PROTESTS THE WEST DEMANDS.

Mr. WADLEIGH, (rep.) of N. H.—We have given you men to populate the West.

Mr. FERRY—Yes, and you deny to the people you sent there the rights they would have enjoyed had they stayed at home. He (Mr. Ferry) was not here to create any division in sections on this question of finance; yet it was the great question which would divide sections, rising above all party questions. If New England continued to protest in this manner the West would demand, and that demand would be felt. The West must have money to develop her resources.

SOUND SENSE AND SOUND SPECIE.

Mr. STEWART, of Nevada, said this bill might do very well, but he could not understand the argument of Southern and Western Senators that to give them more money would better their condition. It was very evident to his mind that the more the currency was inflated the less money we would have. Money is bound to go where the surplus profits accumulate. The people who speculate in the currency live in New York and make their millions every year. The Gold Board in that city produces its millionnaires every year by speculation in our fluctuating currency. The farmer could not keep track of them, but they could easily keep track of the farmer. Issue more money and there would be a richer harvest in Wall street next year. The only way to relieve the country was to go right back to specie payment. Let everybody know what a dollar is worth. Farmers would then know how to measure the difference between the price of their wheat in Illinois and Liverpool. It would be a question of transportation only. Now our currency is all a mystery, and those who devote their attention to it make a large fortune out of this mystery. Let gold be the standard of value, and not paper money not convertible into gold at the will of the holder.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., said until New England ceases to bring forth more maple sugar and more pretty girls than any other State in the Union she would not escape reproach in this chamber. He had been in favor of this bill, and expected to see it pass without debate. The Senator from Indiana (Mr. Morton) had discarded all other theories of the past and came forth with a new one for the issue of paper currency without any metallic basis.

Mr. MORTON said he never denied that the normal condition of currency was gold, but there were periods when specie payments could not be maintained, as during our late war.

THE FINANCIAL THUMBSCREW.

Mr. MORRILL—Yes, sir; and we are eight years from the close of the war and further off than ever from specie resumption. The gentleman (Mr. Morton) proclaimed the fact that speculation had built 35,000 miles of railroad, and he said let speculation go on. Had the gentleman read the last document from Mr. Bancroft, our great historian, now Minister to Germany, wherein he says that fifty-eight of these railroads to-day do not pay their dividends? Was that the kind of speculation? What the gentleman wanted was to apply the thumbscrew to New England.

Mr. MORTON said he did not desire to apply the thumbscrew to New England. He had said on all occasions that he did not want to take a dollar from that section, but he had argued that the West and South should have more currency.

Mr. MORRILL said he regarded the idea of inflating the currency with infinite dread, and his conviction was that it would be against the interests of the country to have an increase. He believed the interests of his people would not be benefited by it, but he scorned to look to the interests of his people alone. He was here to legislate for the whole country, and not for one section.

Mr. HOWE thought there had been much complaint against the present banking system, the operations of which had been very unfair. He did not know that there was any particular demand from the West or South for this particular bill, but there was a general complaint against the general operations of the law.

Mr. SHERMAN said it was perfectly fair for the West to seek to have the law carried out and get a portion of the currency allowed that section. The bill would not diminish the banking estate of Rhode Island one cent. Up to 1862 that State never had a circulation to exceed $6,300,000; now she had more than twice that amount. Horatio Seymour, in his campaign in 1868, made the unequal distribution of the currency one of the grievances committed by republicans, and charged, in Ohio, that the republicans had made discriminations in favor of New England. That, however, did not prevent the people of the West from voting right. Yet there had always been a feeling of discontent at the manner in which the law was carried out. He always thought his friend (Mr. Morton) had little cause for complaint against New England. His own State, Ohio, had none. Both Indiana and Ohio had within a small sum of the amount due them. This bill was designed to meet the local demands of sections and give relief where it was wanted. He hoped it would be passed.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., said:—In 1864, when the government was in infinite distress, New England came forward with her capital. The United States Treasury was empty and the government was appealing to every citizen who had a dollar in his pocket to lend it to put down the rebellion. It was then the banks of New England came forward. The old State banks changed their organizations from State to national banks in order to uphold the government. The capitalists of Vermont advanced their money, and he would be glad to know now upon what system of ethics any Senator could say the people of his section were violating the law by having this currency, when they had taken it in accordance with a proposition made by the representatives of the nation.

Pending the discussion on Mr. Merrimon's amendment to insert "seventy-five" in place of "twenty-five," the Senate, at five o'clock, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1874.

BILLS PASSED OR REFERRED.

Mr. LOWE, (rep.) of Kansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill extending to the 1st of January, 1875, the time within which settlers on the Cherokee strip in Kansas may make proof of settlement and payment, deferred payments to bear five per cent interest. Passed.

Mr. GIDDINGS, (dem.) of Texas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to construct and operate a line of telegraph connecting the military posts on the line of the Rio Grande. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Also a bill for the removal of the Alabama, Ouachita and Muscatine Indians from Texas and Louisiana to the Creek Nation in the Indian Territory. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

INDIAN CONTRACTS.

Mr. SHANKS, (rep.) of Ind., from the same committee, reported a bill relative to private contracts or agreements made with Indians prior to the 21st of May, 1872. The bill makes very stringent provisions as to the examination and endorsement of all such contracts by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs before any payment be allowed to be made under them. He made an explanation of the measure, and said that a statute passed in 1847 forbade the making of executory contracts with Indians; but that, nevertheless, contracts were made and were recognized, and very large amounts of money had been collected under them. Another prohibitory law was made in 1872. The bill applied to contracts made prior to 1872, and required that they should be subjected to the scrutiny of an official examination, and should be endorsed either as not being exorbitant or fraudulent or as being exorbitant or fraudulent, and until contracts are endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs their legality must not be recognized by any government official. After this explanation the bill was passed.

REFORM IN THE INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. COMINGO, (dem.) of Mo., from the same committee, reported a bill to secure a more efficient administration of Indian affairs.

The bill makes detailed provisions in the direction of prohibiting the perpetration of frauds upon Indians.

The bill was passed.

Mr. AVERILL, (rep.) of Minn., from the same committee, reported a bill to secure to the Episcopal Board of Missions the land in the White Earth Indian Reservation, in Minnesota, on which is situated its church and other buildings. Passed.

The SPEAKER stated that he had received a communication from Mr. E. H. Roberts, of New York, stating that his time was so engrossed by his duties as a member of the Committee of Ways and Means that he could not serve on the Joint Select Committee on the Affairs of the District of Columbia. He was therefore excused and his colleague, Mr. Bass, was appointed in his stead.

THE HOWARD RESOLUTIONS CONCURRED IN.

The Senate amendments to the joint resolution for a Military Court of Inquiry in the case of General O. O. Howard were taken up and concurred in. They were merely verbal.

THE SANBORN CONTRACTS.

Mr. FOSTER, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Committee on Appropriations, asked leave to report back a substitute for the resolution offered by Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, in relation to the Sanborn contracts, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish full copies of them, and of all schedules, correspondence and orders of the Department relating to them, and a statement of the amount paid under them, by whom, &c.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., objected, and the resolution was not received.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATIONS AGAIN.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. KELLOGG, (rep.) of Conn., in the chair, on the Army Appropriation bill.

The amendment offered yesterday by Mr. COBB, (rep.), of Kansas, looking to the transfer of the government transportation from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad to the Kansas Pacific Railroad, was lost, after a brief debate, in which Mr. HOLMAN, (dem.), of Ind., claimed that, under the terms of the original grant to the former road, it was bound to transfer the troops and munitions of the government absolutely free of charge.

Mr. BROMBERG, (lib.) of Ala., moved an amendment that the two additional commissioners provided for in the bill shall be selected from the Southern States. Rejected.

Mr. BROMBERG also offered an amendment prohibiting the payment of money to secure agents or informers in the service of the Southern Claims Commission.

Excluded on a point of order as new legislation.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., offered an additional section that no money shall be paid except for the purposes for which it is specifically appropriated.

Mr. WHEELER, (rep.) of N. Y., stated that that is the law at present.

Mr. COX—But it is not enforced.

Mr. WHEELER—I know it is not.

Mr. COX's amendment was rejected.

Mr. TODD, (rep.) of Pa., moved an amendment prohibiting the payment of money to civilians for examining and inspecting work done in and about the national cemeteries, and requiring that the work shall be done by the quartermasters of the regular army. Rejected.

Mr. O'BRIEN, (dem.) of Md., moved an amendment forbidding the employment of the army in the enforcement of any act of Congress or proclamation of the President that has any tendency to interfere with the rights of the State to regulate and control the election of State officers.

Excluded on a point of order as new legislation.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS IN LOUISIANA.

Mr. COX, of New York, offered an amendment that the army shall not be used in aid of the pretended State government known as the Kellogg government in Louisiana, or so as to interfere in the election of that State or any other State.

Mr. WHEELER made the point of order that the amendment proposed new legislation and was not in order.

Mr. SYPHER, of Louisiana, hoped the amendment would be admitted, as the Kellogg government had troops enough to wash out the rebel democracy.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa.—It has rascals enough.

The point of order was sustained and the amendment was excluded.

Mr. CRUTCHFIELD, (rep.) of Tenn., offered an amendment providing that none of the claims reported by the Quartermaster General or the Commissary General shall be affected by the provisions of the act.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CLAIMS.

The committee then rose and reported the bill, and the House proceeded to vote on the amendments. The first vote was on the amendment offered by Mr. Young, (dem.) of Ga., extending the time for the presentation of claims to November 1, 1875. The amendment was agreed to—Yeas, 131; nays, 104.

All the other amendments were agreed to in bulk, and the bill was passed.

The House then went to the business on the Speaker's table, and referred the eleven bills thereon to their appropriate committees.

THE FORTIFICATION BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole—Mr. COX, of New York, in the chair—on the Fortification bill.

The discussion of the bill ranged through the whole question of the necessity for forts in the concrete and in detail. The testimony of General Sherman, taken before the Military Committee, was quoted on both sides of the argument, which prompted Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, to say that while he had a very high respect for General Sherman as a general, he thought him the worst witness he had ever met.

The item of $30,000 for the fort at Willett's Point, N. Y., was the point of attack by Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, who moved to reduce the amount to $5,000, resting on the statement of General Sherman that that fort would be important in the event of the widening of the channel at Hell Gate; but until then he would not spend a cent on it.

The reduction was opposed by Messrs. Starkweather and Kellogg, of Connecticut, and by Messrs. Woodford, Mellish, Potter, Whitehouse and William R. Roberts, of New York. The amendment was rejected, and the full amount ($30,000) appropriated.

After progressing through about one-half of the bill, including the harbors in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware and New Jersey, the committee rose, and the House, at twenty minutes to five o'clock P. M., took a recess till half-past seven, the evening session to be for the consideration of the bill revising and consolidating the statutes.

Evening Session.

THE CODIFICATION BILL.

From twenty to thirty members attended the session of the House this evening to give their assent to the verbal amendments offered by the gentlemen who have charge of the Codification bill. The amendments were almost exclusively mere corrections of clerical or typographical mistakes. Instead of requiring the text of the bill to be read *in extenso*, which would preclude the possibility of any final action on it, the few members present were content with having the headings of the various chapters read and a general explanation of the contents made by Mr. Poland, of Vermont, Mr. E. R. Hoar, of Massachusetts, or whoever had charge of that particular chapter. In this way considerable progress was made.

DEATH OF DR. SCHENCK.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 11, 1874.

Dr. J. H. Schenck, well known as the proprietor of several patent medicines, died this morning at his residence in this city.

RETRENCHMENT.

Congress Out Upon a Sea of Trouble—From Reckless Extravagance to Sweeping Reductions—Financial Confusion and Demoralization—A Discouraging Outlook—Specie Payment Only Hoped For.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1874.

What is the situation of things and what is the prospect in Congress? While the country is waiting patiently and hopefully for the movement of the waters on the finances, banking and currency, and on the tariff and our internal taxes; and while from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico every community interested in appropriations to rivers and harbors, fortifications and navy yards, custom houses, post offices and other public buildings and improvements in the States and Territories expects something from this session of Congress, the two Houses appear to be confused, bewildered and demoralized beyond the capacity for intelligent legislation upon any subject whatever.

A chill, a cloud, an oppressive incubus of doubts, uncertainties and discouragements have settled upon the two Houses. The popular agitation of the Crédit Mobilier scandals and the corruptness of Senatorial elections and of the "back pay grab," culminating in the significant results of the State elections of last October and November, have frightened our national law makers to an extent that is positively distressing. There is no unity, harmony or common purpose among the republicans; there is no general plan of operations among the democrats; there is no recognized leader in either House on either side; there is no happy accord between the administration and Congress; no member of the majority or minority party knows the prevailing opinion of his party upon any of the leading questions of the day; hardly a member knows his own mind upon the bank question or the currency or the tariff or internal taxation. In a word, Congress and the administration republicans and democrats—Eastern, Western and Southern men—are all adrift upon a sea of uncertainties, and in Congress the only purpose upon which there appears to be a general understanding is the purpose of retrenchment, the cutting down of appropriations in every direction, upon the preposterous idea that it is economy. From the one extreme of reckless extravagances and spoliations the two Houses have swung back to the other extreme of sweeping retrenchments.

RETRENCHMENT.

A member of the House remarked to-day, in an incidental conversation on the subject, that "the public press and popular clamor, the general Indian warwhoop against our Increased Salary bill, have driven us to repeal it; and here we are, living from hand to mouth again, upon our pitiful five thousand a year. Retrenchment is the order of the day, and we intend that the parties—North, South, East and West—who have been clamoring so lustily for it shall have as much of it as they desire. They won't have any more taxes; the Treasury is running short, and our only alternative is to cut down expenses right and left. Compelled to cut ourselves down to starvation prices our constituents must also try the same prescription of retrenchment. You may say that in leaving ships to rot on the stocks, and in reducing the army so that the Indians will have a free range from Texas to Dakota, and in permitting rivers and harbors to be filled up with drift and rubbish, and in stopping work on custom houses and post offices half built, we are saving at the spigot while wasting at the bunghole; but if the people must have retrenchment on a large scale we will give it to them."

THE BANK AND CURRENCY QUESTIONS.

On Thursday next the House, on the bill of Mr. Maynard, will proceed to a regular discussion of the bank and currency questions. The debate may be continued for many days, and it is upon the developments of the debate that the House expects to be crystallized into some compromise bill which will become a law. The South and the West have receded from their original demand for $100,000,000 more currency, and it is believed they will now be content with the present amounts of $400,000,000 in greenbacks and $300,000,000 in national bank bills, with such regulations as will secure to the West and the South something near their fair proportions of the general circulation. Some 200 diverse banking and currency schemes will have to be boiled down in this discussion. The question is not a question of parties, but of sections and conflicting sectional interests, and the compromise in the end will most probably be upon the four hundred millions of greenbacks, with free banking under certain limitations. Meantime, in the passing conversations among the members of the House on the subject, the views and recommendations of the President's Message are as completely ignored as if utterly forgotten. The House will enter upon the practical consideration of the subject without regard to the President's suggestions, and as if it had no light and no hope of any valuable assistance from the administration.

THE TARIFF—PENNSYLVANIA.

The prospect of any material reductions in the tariff from this session is not encouraging. The New England States in their common cottons have reached that point of cheapened production which renders them comparatively liberal on the question of protection; but the Pennsylvania iron masters show no sign or shadow of turning, and will maintain their right to protection against even a revenue tariff on iron to the last extremity, and against all opposing combinations. Some of the Western and Southwestern States, too, are becoming actively interested in the production of iron, and Pennsylvania, with their support, and with her political balance of power, is confident of her capacity to hold her ground. In view, however, of a liberal appropriation from Congress for the Centennial celebration (she wants $4,000,000) Pennsylvania may be inclined to a compromise in the reduction of the duties on cotton manufactures and on jute and hemp and raw wool. In any event, the iron interests of Pennsylvania, with the political strength which she possesses, will prevent any material modifications of the tariff this session.

INTERNAL TAXES—A NEW SCHEME FOR REACHING SPECIE PAYMENTS.

A leading republican, in the course of a general conversation on our political affairs last evening, brought forward a scheme whereby he believed that within the short space of twelve months specie payments may be reached and permanently established. His plan is—first, to restore or enlarge, to a small extent, certain internal and external revenue taxes; next, to accumulate a reserve of $100,000,000 of gold in the Treasury, and then, with the reduction to 360,000,000 of our greenback circulation, to proceed to the redemption of these bills in gold. He would provide at the same time a fund for the redemption within a few years of the national bank notes by securing to the banks the deposit of the interest in gold received from their national bonds. To secure this fund of $100,000,000 of gold in the Treasury within a short time, he thinks that a tax of $1 a gallon on whiskey, of twenty-four cents per pound on tobacco, the restoration of the late tax on theatres and other places of amusements, and a tax of half a cent a pound on coffee and of a penny and a half on tea would do, in giving us an increased revenue of $40,000,000. He believes that with such retrenchments as may be made in the national expenditures without prejudice to the public interests this increase of $40,000,000 in the revenue would, with the reserve on hand, enable the Treasury within twelve months to secure the proposed fund of $100,000,000 in gold. Then, as $1 in gold has always been found amply sufficient for a circulation of $3 in paper, he would begin the good work of specie payments. The experiment, without a serious pressure, would establish public confidence in our paper money, and from that moment there would be no pressure. Our greenbacks would be held as good as gold and our national banks would be encouraged to exert themselves to secure a gold basis for resumption as soon as possible. Of course, to secure these results, we must give up this foolish policy, for a time, of straining our resources to reduce the principal of the national debt. That can be safely left as it is for some years, until we shall have achieved the great end of specie payments; but from that day the debt itself, without any pressure upon the people, can be rapidly melted away.

We shall probably hear more of this scheme before the end of the session. If Congress and the administration could be brought into a consultation on the subject the project, or some such project, would doubtless soon assume the form of a legislative measure.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

This bill is now in the hands of the House Committee, to which some time ago the subject was recommitted. It is a bill which requires a great deal of nice consideration, for it is a bill upon which depends the fortunes of the republican party in the Southern States. "If they pass this bill," said a Southern member in a familiar discussion of the subject this morning—"putting negroes on the same footing with white people in our hotels, steamboats, railroad cars and so on, and placing negro children on an equality with white children in our Southern common schools—it will prove a great and lamentable mistake. We will not have these social mixtures of whites and negroes; we will not submit to this abomination of sending our children to schools where negro children are to be recognized as their equals. We will prefer to abolish the schools, and the party which passes this Civil Rights bill will lose the vote of every white man in the Southern States. Call it a foolish prejudice, a relic of slavery, or whatever you please, we will not submit to the degradations of this Civil Rights bill." Whether the republicans have become alarmed from such warnings as this or are simply awaiting an opportunity for rushing the bill through we do not know, but we suspect they are inclined to postpone the subject to a more convenient season.

THE INDIAN SERVICE AND HOW IT WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RETRENCHMENTS, IF CARRIED OUT.

An intelligent officer connected with the Indian service is clearly of the opinion that the propositions for the reduction of the army and for the general retrenchment of the expenditures for the Indian service will be saving a few millions to spend in a year or two $40,000,000. Said he, "We have the Indians now—over 200,000 of them—under good discipline—not only those in the Indian Territory and on the numerous reservations from Arizona to Dakota, but the wild bands of the mountains—under good discipline. The presence of a detachment of United States troops here, there and everwhere, keeps these red men upon their good behavior. Withdraw these troops or any considerable portion of them from any section of the wild regions of the Great West, and the Indians will be down upon the white settlers and emigrant trains by thousands, slaughtering, burning and plundering. But, again, these savages have to be fed and clothed. The buffaloes are disappearing and the game of all kinds upon which they have heretofore subsisted. On their reservations, while teaching them the arts of self-support in a civilized life, we have to feed them. Cut off their supplies and they must starve or fight; and if we attempt to starve those Sioux or Comanches or Apaches they will fight, and every Indian concerned will cost us from $1,000 to $10,000 or $20,000 to catch him or kill him. The suppression of those eighty Modoc warriors cost us $6,000,000. With the troops to hold them in subjection and with the necessary food and clothing to keep them quiet we can manage all our Indians upon $5,000,000 a year; but cut down our allowance a million or two and it may cost the government $10,000,000,000 or $20,000,000."

But the two Houses have been seized with a fit of penny wise pound foolish retrenchment, and we know not to what ridiculous excesses it may carry them. The general outlook for the season is that it will be one of pitiful tinkering and of poor results to the country on all the great questions of the day.

SLEIGHING ACCIDENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

NASHUA, Feb. 11, 1874.

Mrs. Emery Wright, of West Swanzey, was thrown from a sleigh on the 9th inst., while proceeding to the funeral of a neighbor, receiving injuries from which she died an hour later.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Married.

HARGRAVE—ESLER.—In White Plains, N. Y., on Wednesday, February 4, by the Rev. F. B. Vankleeck, WILLIAM H. C. HARGRAVE and ELLA L. ESLER.

MARSH—ACKER.—On Sunday evening, February 8, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Dr. Steele, GEORGE W. MARSH to ELIZABETH V. O. ACKER, both of this city.

MEURLING—BOYD.—In New York, on Wednesday, February 11, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, by Rev. McW. B. Noyes, Lieutenant WILLIAM MEURLING, of Karlstad, Sweden, to KATE G. BOYD, of New York.

MULLIGAN—FULLER.—On Tuesday evening, February 10, at Sts. Peter and Paul's church, by the Rev. Sylvester Malone, assisted by Rev. Fathers Fagan and Gallagher, FRANCIS J. MULLIGAN to LUCY E. FULLER, daughter of George C. Fuller, all of Brooklyn, E. D. No cards.

PEARSE—USHER.—On Wednesday, February 11, at the State street Methodist Episcopal church, Bristol, R. I., by the Rev. W. H. Harlow, CHARLES B. PEARSE, of New York, to SOPHIE G., youngest daughter of Captain A. T. Usher, of Bristol, R. I.

SULLIVAN—STOOTHOFF.—On Tuesday, February 10, at St. Paul's church, by the Rev. Father Maguire, GEORGE SULLIVAN to CATHARINE A. STOOTHOFF, all of Brooklyn.

WHITEHEAD—MAXWELL.—At Newark, N. J., on Monday, February 9, 1874, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. N. Stansbury, RICHARD J. WHITEHEAD, of Yonkers, N. Y., to MARY A. MAXWELL, of the former place.

Died.

ALLEN.—On Wednesday, February 11, CHARLES P. ALLEN, a native of Vermont, aged 59 years, 10 months and 7 days.

Relatives and friends, and also those of his brother-in-law, James W. Kelly, are invited to his funeral, on Friday, 13th inst., at half-past ten o'clock, from Twenty-first street (St. John's) church, South Brooklyn.

ANDREWS.—On Tuesday morning, February 10, 1874, JANE B. ANDREWS.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services, from her late residence, No. 32 West Thirty-second street, on Thursday morning, February 12, at eleven o'clock.

ANSBACHER.—On Tuesday, February 10, FLORENCE, infant twin daughter of Adolph B. and Frances E. Ansbacher, aged 10 months and 15 days.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, on Thursday, February 12, at nine o'clock, from the residence of her parents, No. 28 West Forty-seventh street.

BANG.—On Sunday morning, February 8, 1874 after a painful illness, HENRY BANG, aged 50 years 3 months and 6 days.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Thursday afternoon, February 12, at one o'clock, from his late residence, No. 75 Chrystie street. The remains will be taken to Lutheran Cemetery.

BECKER.—On Tuesday, February 10, after a short illness, JACOB BECKER, aged 57 years, 6 months and 15 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral on Thursday, 12th inst., at one o'clock P. M., from his late residence, No. 949 Eighth avenue, corner of Fifty-sixth street.

BELKNAP.—At his residence, Asbury, N. J., on Monday evening, February 9, after a short illness, CHAUNCEY BELKNAP.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service on Thursday, February 12, at four o'clock P. M. Train from foot of Liberty street at 12:40 o'clock; return train from Asbury at 7 o'clock P. M.

BERRIAN.—At Richmond, Va., on Monday, February 9, of diphtheria, WALTER ELWOOD, infant twin son of Charles and Lucy Hough Berrian.

BROWN.—At Deer Park, L. I., on Tuesday, February 10, ABRAM BROWN, in the 72d year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the deceased are invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, on Friday, 13th inst., at twelve o'clock. Carriages will be in waiting at West Deer Park.

CARD.—At Westchester, on Tuesday, February 10, 1874, CLARK CARD, aged 53 years, 1 month and 14 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, on Friday, February 13, at ten o'clock A. M., and St. James' church, Newtown, L. I., at half-past two P. M.

CLARK.—On Wednesday, February 11, 1874, PETER CLARK, in the 67th year of his age.

The relatives and friends are respectfully