Daily Appeal

MEMPHIS.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1859.

Largest Circulation in the City.

Reading Matter on Every Page.

The Official Journal of the City.

☞ We publish this morning a portion of the speech of Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, on the past and present position of parties. The subject is one of much interest, and is well handled by our Representative. The remainder will appear in our issue of to-morrow. On our fourth page will be found an interesting article on the method pursued by Prescott in his historical composition.

OREGON ADMITTED.—The admission of Oregon into the confederacy of States will be hailed with gratification throughout the Republic. The Washington Union prospectively comments on the great fact in the following remarks:

The debate on the admission of Oregon, says the Union, was ably opened yesterday in the House by Mr. Stephens, of Oregon, and Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, on the bill which came down from the Senate last session providing for that object; and it is confidently hoped that a final vote will be reached in the House by the end of the present week.

There are few subjects that have come before the present Congress of greater national importance than this of the admission of a new State to the Union upon the Pacific ocean. There are few measures which could awaken in a livelier degree, or enlist more actively, the patriotic sympathies and pride of the country, than one of this sort. Nor is there any policy of more urgent importance to the present interests of the country, or more replete with influence upon the future destinies of the Union, than the consolidation of our empire and the early development of our political system on that side of the continent. All the occurrences that are happening in Eastern Asia, all the tendencies of Europe and American policy, conspire to give unusual importance to the early building up of our power on the western shores of our continent. Such are the marvelous capacities of our race and institutions for expansion, that, to create a State replete with life, population, wealth and energy, in a locality like that of Oregon, we have but little more to do than to mark off its metes and bounds and call it a State, to realize at once, and as if by magic, the actual existence of a commonwealth instinct with all the activities and resources of a great political organization.

The creation of a new State upon the Pacific cannot fail to make a splendid impression, in favor of our national prestige, not only upon the public mind at home, but in Europe and the rest of the world. At present it is considered abroad, that we have no other hold upon our Pacific frontier than such as a sparsely settled and feeble population of emigrants can secure to a mother country in a distant region. As yet, it is understood that the single State which we boast on that remote and inaccessible coast, is the hot bed product of the fever for gold—a State only in name, of premature growth, of precocious development, of crude and unorganized institutions, of frail and distracted social organization. The establishment, in a region removed from the influences of the mining mania, which the world supposes to be yet a wilderness, of a new State, composed of agriculturists, mechanics and merchants, will awaken the public mind both at home and abroad, from this dream of listless incredulity, to a realization of the rapid growth and prodigious magnitude of overtures to expansion. The measure will exert a great local influence also on the Pacific slope, and contribute much towards inspiring our people in that quarter with that sectional pride, zeal and confidence in their destiny, which often contribute as much to the development of States as actual accessions of material power.

For once we are disposed to indulge a sentiment of gratification at the absence of party feeling, and the obliteration of party lines upon a question before the present Congress. We have constantly regretted, during its debates, that no traces of a Democratic party could be discovered on any question that arose before the body. But, on the present question, we accept the fact of the non-existence of such a party with lively gratification; for, on the proposition to annex a new Pacific State to the Union, there should be no Democratic, no Republican party; no North, East, South or West; but only a national sentiment, a continental party.

We are glad to accept the support given to this important measure by Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, as a demonstration of such a sentiment from the Republican side of the House; and we are sure that it will be responded to from southern, and from the northern Democratic members, with the same cordiality and enlightened zeal which has characterized their leader's (Mr. Stephens') whole advocacy of the Oregon bill.

MONEY AND THE TARIFF.—We find Congress, says the Baltimore Sun, exercised about the tariff. The Government wants money, and it is generally supposed that a "modification" of the tariff will prove the best means of supply.

But the "modification" proposed as a means and source of revenue, is exceedingly questionable as a measure of necessity or consistency. The odd notions which ought to have been long since abandoned, and have not, seem to be reviving again at the suggestion of partial interests here and there in the country. Something or other wants help, seeks the aid of the Government, ought to be encouraged, etc.; the old story, done up in the most plausible style, is put afloat again in the newspapers, is refreshered in the capitol, is thrust upon the attention of the Cabinet, and "protection" becomes the theme of your "political economists" of whatsoever hue, for the nonce—that is, with one for protection and the other for revenue.

If we are disposed to look for the sterling and substantial principles of our system of government, we may easily overcome the temporary embarrassment of our financial condition and lay a sound and enduring basis for the future. The generous proceeds of the existing tariff, at a time of swimming prosperity, betrayed the Government, as it did the people, into unhealthy extravagance, and the expenses of the Administration were carried to an enormous figure. Congress was nothing loth to venture appropriations for all sorts of projects, and the expenditures were evidently to keep pace with the income, no matter how high and unreal it should become, nominally, through the inflation which characterized the whole business of the country. Had the revenue reached one hundred millions, it was apparent that the ingenuity of men would have found a plausible demand for it, and the "liberality" of Congress would have voted the supplies. But does it follow, that because the expenses of Government, under such circumstances, can be carried up with culpable facility to one hundred millions, that we are to keep the expenses at that figure in the day of our adversity and wholesome experience? By no means.

Let us then take rather the other remedy which an intelligent estimate of cause and effect proposes. Instead of tinkering at the tariff to accomplish a doubtful result at the expense of a sound principle of action, the most proper thing to do, is to go to work steadily to the reduction of the expenses of Government within the probable revenue of the present tariff. All needless expenditures should be put a stop to, and that with a determined hand. The practice which will thus be required must prove of the utmost benefit to the general administration of public affairs, and exert a wholesome influence throughout the country. It is in fact the true process of sound economy, and the only effectual plan that can be adopted for the support and maintenance of our system of government in a manner consistent with the theory on which it is based and the experience of intelligent and practical men all over the world.

MEMPHIS AND LITTLE ROCK RAILROAD.—The stockholders of this company met at Hopefield, Arkansas, yesterday, for the purpose of electing five Directors for the ensuing twelve months. In the absence of Secretary Rootwine, B. F. Dill was requested to act as Secretary. Upwards of 7000 shares of the stock were represented including the city interest. D. H. Townsend, John Tenor, R. C. Brinkley, H. R. Edmonson and John Robertson were elected Directors. Mr. Jno. Robertson was re-elected President, Fernando L. Swann, Esq., Secretary, and Montgomery Lynch, Esq., Engineer. The Board, President and Engineer are already known to the public as competent and efficient men. Mr. Swann, the newly elected Secretary and Treasurer, being comparatively a stranger here, it may not be improper to say that we have known his long and well in an adjoining commonwealth, where he filled some of the most important public positions with the highest credit to himself and advantage to the State; and we are much pleased that the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, which has become to Memphis in every conceivable point of view the most important public work in which she is interested, is hereafter to have the benefit of his ability and experience.

R. G. PAYNE, ESQ.

The Nashville Union and American announces that Col. R. G. Payne, of this city, has resigned the office of Railroad Commissioner, and that Gov. Harris has appointed H. F. Cummings, of Paris, in his place.

We cannot publish this announcement without acknowledgment of the ability, energy and fidelity, which have been displayed by Col. Payne in the important position which he has resigned. He has held the office during the progress of all the great Tennessee railroad lines to completion, and has never failed to attend to every call, and to discharge every duty promptly and satisfactorily. It is no disparagement to his successor, to say that the office can never be better filled, and that all who are connected with our railroad system, will deeply regret his retirement.

WEEKLY APPEAL.—This edition of the Appeal is mailed to the numerous and constantly increasing subscribers this morning. Besides the usual amount and variety of news and miscellaneous matter, it contains the recent speech of the Hon. Andrew Johnson, filling nearly two columns of our MAMMOTH WEEKLY. Although this speech occupies a large space, the Appeal is still complete in all its departments, including the most perfect and reliable financial and commercial reports, local items, editorials, etc., which go out from the press of this city. Copies of the WEEKLY are sold at our counting-room as usual, at ten cents each.

ARKANSAS NEWS.—Fire at Lewisville.—We regret to learn that the residence of Judge Fort, in Lewisville, Lafayette county, was entirely consumed by fire on Tuesday last. The fire originated in one of the rooms while the family were at dinner, and soon overcame all efforts to arrest it. The building was entirely destroyed, but most of the furniture, etc., was saved.—Washington Democrat.

The same paper has the following:

The Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas Navigation Charter.—By reference to our legislative proceedings it will be seen that the charter of the Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas navigation company has finally passed that body. Col. Hervey, one of the directory, will, we understand, immediately proceed to Baton Rouge to obtain the approval of the Louisiana Legislature, which body is now in session, and will go from thence directly to Washington city, to get the sanction of Congress during the present session, so that the work of clearing our noble river may be at once commenced. We hope that he may be in time, but greatly fear that Congress will be little disposed to consider any new matter so near the close of the session.

New Post Office in Desha County.—A new Post Office, having the name of Cypress Creek, has recently been established in Desha county, and Mr. Thomas Scott appointed Postmaster.

Proposition to Remove the Capital.—The Des Arc Citizen continues to urge the removal of the State capital from Little Rock to Des Arc. The editor says: "We propose that the Legislature now in session, pass a law submitting the question to the qualified voters of the State, at the August election."

Railroad Consolidation.—Senate bill to permit the Memphis and Little Rock railroad company and the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad company to consolidate said companies into one company, to be known and called the Central Pacific railroad company, was passed by 14 to 8.

Desha Circuit Court.—The sessions of this court will hereafter be held on the fourth Monday of May and December.

AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

(Correspondence of the Memphis Daily Appeal.)

The Democratic Caucus—No Increase of the Tariff Probable—A further attempt for Retrenchment—Reduction of Expenditures, etc.

WASHINGTON, February 10.—No inferences in favor of a revision of the present tariff, at this session, can be drawn from the proceedings and votes of the caucus of Democratic members of the House, held last night. On the contrary, so far as the sentiment of the body was expressed on the subject, it was adverse to any change. One of those who took a prominent part in this and in the preceding caucuses, declares that there is no more chance of increasing the tariff at this session than there is of overturning the capitol.

From the reports which I have seen of the proceedings of the caucus, there is an important omission—the resolutions of Mr. Kunkel and the vote thereon. Mr. Kunkel's resolution declared that the tariff of 1856 ought to be modified so to provide a revenue of sixty millions of dollars, in this the opinion not more than half a dozen voted in the affirmative. There were so few votes for it that letters were not ordered. But the resolution offered by Mr. Crawford, of Georgia, declaring that it is inexpedient to alter the tariff law of 1857, received twenty-eight votes, the negative vote being thirty-three. This shows there is a majority of only three against this declaration.

It is true that the action of the caucus determines nothing, and that an attempt will be made for its revision. The general impression is, that if any project of revision can be carried, it must be the simply one of a return to the tariff of 1846. For a discriminating and judicious revision of the tariff, there is no time and no preparation at this session. It is well said by Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, that "there is too short to adjust the tariff during the present session, and that the temporary wants of the Government should be relieved by a loan.

The caucus did express its opinion in favor of a reduction of the expenditures as low as possible, consistent with the interests of the public service. The reduction to be less than may be supposed, because it is to be presumed that no estimates are sent to Congress for appropriations not necessary for the public service. The excess of expenditures grows out of the careless and extravagant legislation of Congress. If the estimates are cut down, it may be in a manner very detrimental to the public service.

ION.

From the New York Herald.]

WASHINGTON, February 11.

Mr. Benjamin's speech to-day in the Senate on Cuba was able, instructive and conclusive. As opposed to the Democrats of the Republicans, its effect on the crowded audience was marked. Several Cubans were present. It should be read by all who desire to understand the question. The bill is gaining ground rapidly here, and there is no doubt that it will pass both Houses. The admission of Senator Hale, in the debate, that his friends in New Hampshire write him that it is demoralizing the Republican party there, has caused a marked impression among all political cliques