Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

TUESDAY : : : : : : MARCH 1, 1859.

Largest Circulation in the City.

Reading Matter on Every Page.

The Official Journal of the City.

Democratic County Convention. The Democratic County Convention will be held at RALEIGH on MONDAY the 7th day of March.

Democratic Meeting in Haywood. We are requested to state that the Democracy of Haywood will meet in Convention at Brownsville, on MONDAY, the 7th day of March, to appoint delegates to the State Convention at Nashville on the 17th of March, also delegates to the Congressional Convention to convene at Somerville, and to fix some definite time to hold a Convention to nominate candidates to represent them in the State Legislature. All who are interested for the success of the principles of the Democratic party are requested to attend. We are assured that proper organization will secure to the triumph of Democratic principles in the good old county of Haywood.

State Convention. In accordance with usage, and as a necessary means of perfecting the organization and securing the success of our party at the next August election, the undersigned, as members of the Democratic State Central Committee, would urge upon the Democracy of every county of the State, the necessity of holding primary meetings in their respective districts, and appointing delegates to the Convention, to be held at Nashville, to nominate a candidate for Governor, and to act on such other questions connected with our federal policy, as also with our State legislation, that may probably be brought before the Convention. It is important that every county should be represented, and it is suggested that such meeting appoint proxies to cast their votes, in case of inability or failure on the part of their delegates to attend.

We suggest the 17th day of March, 1859, as a suitable time for the sitting of the Convention, and would respectfully request the Democratic papers of the State to give publicity to this notice.

A. B. CROZIER,
P. C. DUNNINGTON,
S. L. PINKERT,
State Central Committee.

FIRST PAGE.—Arkansas Swamp Land Confirmation; Mexico; The Continental War Question in England; Spirit of the Washington Letters; The Laws of Progress Applied to the United States.

FOURTH PAGE.—Poetical—Spring is Coming; Kossuth, the Hungarian Exile, in London.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION. The Democratic County Convention will meet at Raleigh next Monday, 7th inst. It is highly important that the Democratic party should have a fair and full conference on that occasion, and we therefore trust to see a large meeting of the Democratic masses on that occasion.

THE DEMOCRATIC MASSES. The Washington *Union* has made the discovery that the Democratic party no longer has an abiding place in Washington City, and that it behooves all "who expect a resuscitation of the Democratic party" to "look away from Washington, to the fountain source of all honest principle, to the home of patriotism, honesty and all fidelity—among the people—in the States."

We accept the omen as an auspicious and promising one. The people—in their confiding natures—are prone sometimes to intrust too much to those whom they have selected as their public agents, and to repose an undue confidence in their acts. But the recoil comes—the day of scrutiny and discussion—and it is one of the greatest blessings of our Government that a periodical appeal is made to their wisdom, virtue and intelligence. The present time seems to be pregnant with political commotion, and it remains for the Democratic masses to take the helm into their own hands, since the politicians have brought affairs into such a hodge-podge. Order will thus again reign in the pitiful scene of misrule.

THE PEOPLE IN THE STATES—THE DEMOCRACY OF MICHIGAN.—We turn from the theorists to men of practical sense and plain speaking, downright Democrats. The resolutions and sayings of this sort of men may be found in the copious proceedings of the Michigan Democratic State Convention, which we publish to-day. We rejoice to find in these proceedings the true ring of the genuine Democratic coin of the olden time. The enthusiasm, straightforwardness, hopefulness and earnestness of the Democrats of Michigan is refreshing in these vicious, gloomy times, when individual selfishness, pretentious humbug and recklessness of the common welfare, are disintegrating and destroying the greatest and best party that ever ruled a country's destiny in the world. It is when all else seems lost, that it becomes apparent that there is no Democratic party in Washington or among the politicians, it is gratifying to see it springing up again in the States, among the people, like another phœnix from its ashes.

Like the foliage and vegetation of nature, great political parties lapse into their winter and their spring seasons. The frost of selfishness, the folly and venality of politicians, may blast them till they fall, decay and rot; but the spring season comes on again, the sap ascends, and the green grass springs up and flourishes anew around the homes of the honest yeomen. Those who expect a resuscitation of the Democratic party from the halls of Congress, like Lot's wife, to the Capitol; they must look away from Washington, to the fountain source of all honest principle, to the home of patriotism, honesty, and all fidelity—among the people—in the States.

The heartsome zeal, sincerity and unity which actuated the Democracy of Michigan, the other day, in convention assembled, was a stinging rebuke to the anarchy and demoralization which reign supreme among the Democracy here; and the enthusiastic proceedings and spontaneous harmony of the Democrats of Michigan, come as scorching plaster of pepper and salt after the Connecticut rebuke. We shall continue to publish these proceedings of the people in the States; for there is in them a handwriting on the wall for backsliding politicians—they roll their Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin.

It is it that these disorders should sometimes occur, for they refer the Government of the country and the management of affairs back to the governing power—the masses; and they call into action the authority of first principles. The Democratic masses have not forgotten, nor will they forget, the principles which have upheld the country, and which has made them a unit, moving on to the consummation as a people, and giving prosperity and tranquillity and prosperity to the land. They have generally, nay, uniformly, been able, by means of the convention system, to harmonize conflicting opinions, to settle differences, and to ascertain the true sense of sentiment and sympathy concerning great public measures and public men. Their officers they regard as their agents to carry out their will and to execute their fiat. Those who aspire to serve them, upon any other terms, they are apt to discard or ignore. The ignominious dissensions which become chronic and threaten to affect the integrity of the party, they are shrewd enough to know, arise from rival aspirations, rather than from a sincere desire to serve the true interests and lasting welfare of the country. Hence they regard such dissensions as an evil that might be easily cured by their own wise counsels and discriminating justice—by taking private ambition, and by taking into their own hands the adjustment of political questions. To the people, then—to the Democratic masses—an appeal may confidently be made, and from that tribunal there is no appeal.

THE GALLED JADE WINCES. In its hot haste to make a point on the APPEAL, the *Avalanche* has gotten itself into rather an awkward predicament on the convention question. Our neighbors had it necessary to explain and define, but in so doing they really get themselves more deeply involved. In the outset of their explanatory article of a column yesterday, they say:

> A few weeks since the APPEAL made an unjustifiable onslaught upon Senator Johnson, on account of his just and merited expose of the abuses of the convention system. We defended our able and talented champion, not that we approved of his remarks, but because we did not believe that his offense justified such a manifestation of displeasure on the part of the APPEAL.

Now, if the *Avalanche* has stated the case correctly in the paragraph, we shall have to set it down as the friend of the abuses of the convention system, which, however, we are not inclined to do. In attempting to escape from one difficulty, our neighbor has only jumped into another. If, as the *Avalanche* says, the expose of the abuses of the convention system by Senator Johnson were just and merited," it is a little singular that it should withhold its approval. We should appreciate justice and merit in all things, wherever found.

But we are rather inclined to think that in stating the case, the *Avalanche* has, to use its own words, been a little "economical in the use of truth." Senator Johnson's speech was not confined to an expose of the abuse of the convention system, but its arguments were directed against the system itself, which our neighbors certainly will not, now if they have ever read his speech, and if they are disposed to go Senator Johnson be his own organ, they will yet publish his remarks in this question. But he confined himself to a denunciation of those abuses, and to practical reform, we should have gone with our heart and hand. As it was, had any other Democratic member of the Senate made the same speech, we should have felt it our duty, as independent journalists, to have endorsed it.

ENGINEERING LEVEES.

> *Our correspondent "X." lays emphasis, in his communication to Sunday's APPEAL, on the difference between railroad engineering and levee engineering. The interests of the hour at which his communication was handed us, excluded any editorial remark on the subject, and we think, in fact, even now, very little is left us to hope that showing the distinctions of these two arts of engineering to our article of indefinitely. We, may, however, be this communication in the success of our levees, and a few further observations.*
>
> *"The only part in which there is any resemblance between railroad engineering and levee engineering, is in the more mechanical operation of instruments, all the land-work (the engineering proper) being in the one case, as compared with the other, as different as any two things can possibly be. Even the mechanical duties of the surveyor on the railroad or on the levee, though similar in some respects, are, in fact, dissimilar in all those particulars in which field surveying runs into science. The trigonometrical survey required for the levee is not at all within the practice of a railroad man, and in confirmation of the fact, we may observe that, in his Principles and Practice of Leveling, WILLIAM HUMBER observes, very justly, that "a trigonometrical survey is a duty from which (let surveyors be ever so ready to undertake it,) even the regular engineer, who has never directed his mind or his practice to such a system of surveying, will be found, in hours and self-consideration, to decline." Let every fact of our levees, on both sides of the river, be placed under the direction of regular hydraulic engineers; for, wherever they are to come from, or whatever it may cost to obtain them, on this one condition depends all the real hope of thinking men for a new and successful system of leveeing.*

ARKANSAS NEWS. THE DEMAND FOR LANDS.—Besides the unusual activity at the different State and Federal land offices, the rush at the annual sale by the sheriff of lands delinquent for non-payment of taxes, was unusual. The principal part was sold for sums from one to a hundred dollars excess over the taxes due, and for the rest, there was an average of a half dozen demotion claimants to each tract. Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, and, in fact, most of the southern States are pouring in their negroes, and their owners opening plantations. In the northern and western portions of the State, thousands are selecting homes. When fine lands can be entered, by actual settlers, for from twelve and a half cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, it is no wonder that there is such a rush to secure them. The next census of this State will show a population largely over half a million.—*Little Rock Democrat, Feb. 23.*

The same paper has the following:

SCIENTIFIC MURDER.—On Saturday night, the 19th instant, a young man named Lester, from Georgia, was seen in the lower part of the city, with an Irishman named Charles Cosgrove. About eight o'clock in the evening, they were met by one of our citizens, and shortly after, cries of murder were heard in that direction. Next morning, upon examining the place where the cries had been heard the night before, evidences of a foul murder were visible. There were puddles of blood, indicating a severe struggle, and of a body having been dragged and thrown into the river. A portion of a coat, with letters, papers and other things, proved that the victim was young Lester. On the next day, Cosgrove sent to be washed, a parcel of bloody clothing. On Sunday, he was arrested. A slung-shot in Cosgrove's possession confirmed the impression that he had first struck Lester with that, and failing to kill him, or render him senseless, had then stabbed him in silence his cries.

On Sunday, great excitement prevailed; a large meeting was held in front of the market house, and strong demonstrations were made in favor of lynching the accused, but after several addresses, wiser and better counsels prevailed, and Cosgrove was lodged in jail.

This is the first instance in the history of our city, and the second or third in the State, of a murder being committed for money. In this case, the expectation of the booty was less than a thousand dollars. The body of young Lester has not been found, though diligent search is being made for it, and a reward of $200 offered by the mayor for its recovery.

In this instance, both the parties, the supposed murderer and his victim, were not citizens of Arkansas. So of a late murder case at Fort Smith—the parties were strangers. Our State has an ill-deserved name abroad for violence, and as being the theater of bloody deeds, which, in truth, we are less guilty in that respect than others. Hence it is with regret that we chronicle such a foul and bloody murder as the one alluded to above, where the murdered man was lured to his fate by a fellow-boarder to take a walk and then coolly slaughtered for a pitiful sum of money.

GOV. CONWAY'S RAILROAD MESSAGE.—The following message addressed by Gov. Conway to the Arkansas Legislature, sufficiently indicates his downright Democracy. The friends of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad. Through malice or ignorance, he has in derision been called the "*Railroad Governor*;" but this message places him in a proper attitude before the country, and will ever be a matter of regret that his reasonable recommendation was not accepted and carried into effect by their legislature. Tolls body having declined to give the much needed assistance, this great work must necessarily look to other sources for "aid and comfort." The road can and must be built, but in the absence of any legislative aid it must look to the people of the counties through which it will pass, and we have every confidence that they will not be called upon in vain:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LITTLE ROCK, ARK., 18th February, 1859.

To the President of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas:

If the General Assembly will provide by law for the subscription by the State of sixty-seven thousand and eight hundred dollars of stock in the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad Company, and appropriate that amount of the five per cent. fund out of the State treasury, the money will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the act of Congress, the State and the United States; and the completion of the road from White river to Little Rock, during the next eighteen or twenty months will be insured. I have this assurance from the President of the company, and my confidence in his energy and ability, and good faith, is unshaken. The road is of the utmost importance, and I most respectfully recommend the adoption of the measure suggested. Then each member of the General Assembly who votes for this measure will have the gratification of knowing that a fund which the State has derived from the United States has been, in good faith, applied to the direct benefit of the people in a work granted to the State. If this shall be done the expectations of the people of our State, with regard to internal improvements, will, to some extent, be realized.

This $67,000, added to the forty thousand dollars already appropriated to the road, will enable the company to buy the iron; for the security of Pulaski and city of Little Rock each takes one hundred thousand dollars stock, for which bonds will be issued; and with the proceeds of $200,000 in bonds, the $107,800, in stock, and the lands granted by Congress, the forty-five miles of road from White river to Little Rock can be completed, and placed in operation at anytime in two years. It is in the power of the General Assembly to have this done by making the appropriation of the fund granted by the United States to the State. Shall it be used to build a road in this State? This opportunity pass without an effort to aid in accomplishing this great work that will add wealth and prosperity to the State, and it is doubtful if it will come to the General Assembly that will insure its completion.

ELIAS N. CONWAY.

WELL DONE, PULASKI!—The County Court of this county, at a recent meeting, subscribed $100,000 of stock in the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad. The Little Rock *Democrat* calls upon that city to take prompt action, and thus insure the commencement of the road at that point.

MISSISSIPPI NEWS. THE WEATHER AND BAD ROADS.—The weather has been quite warm and wet this week, our water courses, however, have not been much out of their banks. The Big Black, which is more in our way than any other stream, is yet within its Banks.

Our public roads are entirely bad. The old Natchez Trace above town, and the road to Goodman, from this place, are in a worse condition, perhaps, than ever before known. *Kosciusko Chronicle, Feb. 26.*

The same paper gives an account of a storm which passed over the plantation of Capt. Sanders and Dr. Scarborough, near Kosciusko last week.

We learn that it blew down the overseer's house, and some of the negro houses, on Capt. Sanders' plantation, killing Dr. Scarborough's East, the Captain's overseer, and one of his negroes.

TORCHING DEMOCRACY.—At the suggestion of many prominent Democrats, and, in accordance with former usage, there will be a meeting of the Democracy of Tippah on the court house on the 3d Monday in March, to appoint delegates to the State and district conventions.

HOMICIDE.—The Gallatin *Argus* learns that on Tuesday, the 15th inst., Mr. Henry Barlow and Mr. Houston Price were engaged on a farm rolling logs, when, for some offense, the former attacked Mr. Price with a handspike, inflicting wounds from which Houston died on the night of the 18th inst.

DAMAGES.—Portsfield Perry, Esq., of Jefferson county, has instituted a suit against the steamer *Eclipse*, to collect damages for injury received by the explosion that occurred to her boilers some four months since. He is suing for $30,000.

LEVEE ENGINEER. EDITOR APPEAL: While we notice the remarks of some of the papers, appertaining to different engineers applicable to the position of Chief Engineer of the Levees of the Mississippi river, we would call attention to the name of one gentleman well known in the State and in this section of country, Mr. J. T. Chappey, now of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad, as one peculiarly fitted for this post, not only from his intimate acquaintance with, and long experience upon railroads in the West and Southwest, but also from his knowledge upon the subject, he having recently engaged under the Government upon a hydrographic survey of the Mississippi river between the points proposed being levees. His knowledge, from these investigations, will be highly beneficial to the Board of Levee Commissioners, when it is known that it was for the ultimate success of the levees that the survey was ordered. DE SOTO.

MARCH 1, 1859.

EDITORIAL VISITS.—We had the pleasure of a call yesterday from our old friend, R. W. PHIPPS, Esq., of Oxford, Miss., late one of the editors of the *Mercury*, one of the ablest Democratic papers in that State; and also a visit from JOHN H. MILLER, Esq., editor of the *Chronicle*, published at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The *Chronicle* is an independent paper, and its editor an agreeable gentleman. Our sanctum is always open to our brethren of the "press gang."

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, February 24.—*House.*—Mr. Bocock, from the select committee to examine into the alleged naval contracts and frauds, presented a report from the majority, with resolutions appended, which say that the testimony shows the existence of glaring abuses at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, requiring the interposition of legislative reform. They have been growing for a long series of years.

2. That the coal agency is in the hands of incompetent persons, and that reform is needed in the regulation employment. There is no evidence to show that this incompetency came to the knowledge of the authorities at Washington.

3. That in all the Secretary of the Navy did in regard to contracts for live oak, he kept in view the good of the public and the interest of the service.

4. That on letting the contracts for machinery for the seven sloops of war, the Secretary has displayed laudable zeal to secure the greatest amount of speed and efficiency.

Minority Report.—The minority report signed by Messrs. Swanson, of Ohio, and Ritchie, of Penn., refers to the general organization of the Bureaus in the Navy Department, and the various abuses in each Bureau since 1852, and states that the inquiry of the committee was mainly confined to four branches of the expenditures.

1st. The purchase of fuel in the navy.
2d. The purchase of live oak timber.
3d. Management of the navy yards.
4th. The contracts for steam machinery.

The coal agency was established in 1850, and the amount of coal purchased in 1858, was 93,000 tons. The commission allowed was five per cent, on the cost of the fuel, and freight to island posts. In May, 1858, some of the applicants met at Washington with their friends to secure the agency, and Mr. Hunter, of Philadelphia, was appointed coal agent, and that the profits should be divided between Mr. Hunter, Mr. Gerstenlauer, of the Reading Gazette, and Mr. Scott, of Philadelphia. This arrangement was made known to the President, and Dr. Hunter was appointed.

Dr. Hunter is a practising physician, and knew nothing about coal, and did not buy any, but turned the whole business over to Tyler, Stone & Co., a firm in Philadelphia, of which C. Nicholas Beach, a nephew of Mr. Toucey, is a member. This firm bought all the coal for the navy, charging about fifty cents a ton more than it cost them, and more than the market price, and Dr. Hunter got $7,475 as his profits as coal agent, and did nothing.

In 1854, Swift & Wheeler, of Massachusetts, made a contract with George Plitt, of Philadelphia, an intimate friend of Mr. Buchanan, that Plitt should aid in getting the live oak contract with the Government, and should have ten per cent. on the gross amount of the contract.

Mr. Plitt was to put Swift on familiar relations with the Department. In the campaign of 1856, Swift contributed to the election in Pennsylvania, $10,000, paying it to Plitt as the treasurer of the Democratic State Committee. Plitt did all he could to aid Swift. In frequent interviews with the President and Secretary Toucey. In 1857, Swift got the live oak contract to the amount of $250,000. In executing the contract, Swift cut the navy yards for large amount of timber which was rejected, more because it was not the size required by the contract, and some for defects.

In June, 1853, advertisements were issued by the Secretary for 1,500,000 feet of live oak timber, mostly of the sizes and kinds then in the navy yards belonging to Swift and Bigler, the time fixed for the delivery of one-half was September 1st, 1858, that the time always before allowed was one and two years, and that the agent of the Navy Department, who lived from the live oak region within the time; that the advertisement prevented all competition if its terms were enforced, and that such was the intention of the Secretary. The brother of Swift and Bigler, then at the navy yard, was all the time on the ground in the market, as it was not kept in Washington in large quantities, but on account of Swift and Bigler attempting to induce the agent by which Swift was to put in a bid at $1.30 a cubic foot, and Bigler was to bid higher, if the contract was awarded to Swift was to take Bigler's timber and allow him the contract price.

Regular dealers in live oak put in bids, upon the expectation that time would be given them, till the 1st of January, 1859, the usual time being one and two years. The bids were $29,000 less than Swift's. The contracts were made with them in August, 1858, and they promptly went to work to get lumber. In September, their contracts were canceled by the Secretary, and all of them were given to Swift; that the navy yards have been turned into a political machine. In April, 1857, Mr. Toucey and the Democratic members of Congress from New York city, entered into an agreement that the patronage of the navy yard should be divided among the members. The master workman and the workmen were apportioned out, and in some cases new officers made.

The correspondence of the members of Congress is given in a detailed statement of the expenditures at the different navy yards, and the number of men in the yard was increased over 11,000 from May to November last. A week before the election, Commander Rodgers, the active officer of the yard, was detached without notice, and ordered to Washington. Upon the navy yard at Brooklyn the statement substantially agrees. The contracts for machinery for the vessels built under the act of June, 1858, were improperly let. While the proposals were pending, Col. Patterson wrote a letter to the President, urging that none of the contracts should be given to Merrick & Son; that they employ a large number of men, and are all old Whigs, and in favor of the reelection of Col. L. S. Florence, and that the result would place his election beyond a doubt, by an increment of his letter in the hand writing of the President. It was delivered to the Secretary of the Navy, and the award was made to Merrick & Sons.

The awards were generally determined by the vote of D. P. Martin, Chief Engineer, and he was interested largely in the awards.

A diluted statement of each award and improvement is given. They find that the Hon. J. Glancy Jones, while a member of Congress, agreed with Reading, Korge & Co., to get government contracts, and work for it, and he did so, for which he was to receive five per cent. In so doing he violated law. They recommend the passage of a bill in order to guard against abuses, and the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy has, with the sanction of the President, abused the discretionary power in the selection of a coal agent, and in the purchase of fuel for the government.

Resolved, That the contract made by the Secretary of the Navy under date of September 28, 1858, with W. N. Swift, for the delivery of live oak timber, was in violation of law, and in a manner unusual and improper, and injurious to the public service.

Resolved, That the distribution by the Secretary of the Navy of patronage in the navy yards among members of Congress, is destructive of discipline, corrupting in its influences, and highly injurious to the public service.

Resolved, That the President and Secretary of the Navy, by making special meetings for party relations of bidders for contracts with the United States, and the effect of awarding contracts upon pending elections, have set an example dangerous to the Republic, and deserving of the reproof of this House.

Resolved, That the appointment by the Secretary of the Navy of Daniel B. Martin, Chief Engineer, a member of the Board of Engineers, to report upon proposals for constructing machinery for the United States, the said Martin being at the time pecuniarily interested in said proposals, is hereby censured by this House.

Mr. Sherman also reported a bill to regulate the navy docks, and for other purposes.

The special resolution of the report was postponed till Monday.

The Naval Appropriation bill was then taken up in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Wilson, of Virginia, argued against the doctrine of protection, and said there was no necessity of any alteration of the tariff, and defended the Appropriation bill for the navy.

Mr. Howard, of Michigan, contended that it was impossible to raise fifty-six millions from the present tariff, and supported a discriminating tariff for the protection of American industry.

Mr. Curry, of Alabama, insisted that we must equalize the revenue and the expenditure. There were retrenchment and economy on one side, and money in boxes on the other, and no American statesman should hesitate to select the former.

Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, avowed himself in favor of free trade and direct taxation. The present evils arise, not from tariff legislation, from legislations here stimulating speculation.

Senate, February 25.—Mr. Green, of Mo., in the Senate yet in session discussing Post routes bill. The Senate is not of a nature requiring a detailed sketch.

On February 11, Mr. Yulee, from the Post Office Committee, introduced a bill which was moved as an amendment to abolish the franking privilege. It has twelve sections, and is complicated in character. Various amendments and questions equally complicated have been discussed as substitutes for this amendment, but at this hour no action has been taken. Messrs. Yulee, Davis, Iverson, Cameron, Collamer, Simmons, Bigler, Rice, Clark, Wilson, Toombs, Pearce, Dixon, Smith, Houston and others participated.

Messrs. Mason, Toombs, Cameron, Hale, Rice, Fessenden, Smith and others, were in favor of a total abolition of the franking privilege.

Mr. Davis moved that franking, except in specially privileged cases, be abolished, and the laws which require postage be repealed. Lost—ayes, 18; nays 26.

Mr. Trumbull moved to strike out the clause which revises the franking privilege to ex-Presidents. Lost.

Mr. Hale moved to strike out the franking privilege from the Post Office Department. Carried—ayes, 18; nays, 16.

Mr. Collamer moved to insert a clause repealing so much of the acts of March, 1847, and March, 1851, as make appropriations to defray the expense of the franking privilege. Agreed to.

Mr. Fitzpatrick's motion to strike out the clause which restricts the Postmaster-General in contracting for the conveyance of the mail and passengers. Lost—ayes, 15; nays, 25.

Mr. Pearce's motion, that no new routes be established unless they will pay expenses, carried—ayes, 18; nays, 14.

Mr. Gwin's motion to strike out the clause that limits the pay of Postmasters to boxes, was lost. Ayes, 17; nays, 22.

Mr. Wilson's motion, that letter postage be three cents under and five cents over 300 miles, was lost. Ayes, 16; nays, 22.

Mr. King's motion, that letter postage for all distances within the United States be uniform rate of three cents, was lost. Ayes, 18; nays, 21.

The committee's amendments were then carried without taking the vote. The bill was reported to the Senate, but on the yeas and nays being called, on its passage, there was found to be no quorum present. The following was the vote:

AYES—Benjamin, Broderick, Brown, Clay, Fitch, Hunter, Trescott, Johnson, of Arkansas, Johnson, of Tennessee, Mason, Reed, Sebastian, Shields, Stidell, Toombs, Yulee and Ward—17.

NAYS—Chandler, Clark, Doolittle, Douglas, Foote, Foster, Gwin, Hale, Harlan, King, Lane, Seward, Smith, Trumbull and Nelson—15.

After considerable delay in coming to an agreement to adjourn, Mr. Brown, of Miss., moved a call of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, February 25.—*House.*—Mr. Hughes, of Indiana, asked leave to introduce a bill repealing the tariff of 1857, and reviving the act of 1846.

Objections were made from both sides of the House.

Amid much confusion, Mr. Hughes moved a suspension of the rules, and gave notice that he would offer his bill as a substitute.

Mr. Jones, of Tenn., supposed if the rules were suspended, the bill must have its first consideration in the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, when any members could offer amendments.

Mr. Hughes said:—"Suspend the rules first, and have a debate afterward."

Mr. Vallandingham, of Ohio, gave notice of a substitute to suspend the tariff of 1857, and revive the act of 1846, for two years, from the first of July next. The question, on motion of Mr. Hughes, to suspend the rules, was taken, when it was negatived—yeas 85; nays 91—not two-thirds.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, appealed to the House to reconsider the vote by which the Post Office Appropriation Bill was rejected. If this is not done, a new bill will have to be introduced.

Mr. Bisir of Missouri, moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table. Negatived—yeas 84; nays 104. A reconsideration of the bill was carried.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, referred to the course of his colleague, Mr. Phillips of Penn., on the Committee of Ways and Means, saying that this vote against the bill came with a bad grace, considering that he was placed thereon at the instance of the friends of the Administration, and had proposed no amendment to the bill. If he considered the features objectionable—Mr. Owen Jones, of Penn., asked whether he understood Mr. Phelps to say that the executive influence had been exerted to place members upon any committee of this House.

Mr. Phelps replied that he had made no such charge. He asked, "Do you regard me as a friend of the Administration?"

Mr. Jones—"I do, and am prepared to carry out the recommendations of the President. Can you say as much?"

Mr. Phelps—"If you ask me whether I am prepared to carry out all that is recommended I say no, I will not."

Mr. Montgomery—"What right have you to set up and arraign the friends of the Administration?" (Laughter.)

Mr. Phelps—"It is not for the gentleman to complain, considering where he stands. He stands elsewhere than with the friends of the Administration."

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, rose on the Opposition side of the hall to say something, but his words were lost in the general confusion prevailing.

Mr. Phillips, replying to Mr. Phelps, said that the remarks of the latter could not have come from a worse quarter. Was he (Phillips) to be schooled, and vote as the gentleman from Missouri wished?

Did not Mr. Phelps, as a friend par-excellence of the Administration, charge that an attempt was made to lay the bill on the table, to the Administration, about the success of which he was so anxious? If Mr. Phelps had an agency in placing him on the Committee of Ways and Means, this was the first time he had heard of it. If he was so placed that he might follow his (Phelps') or the Executive directions, the gentleman from Missouri was mistaken his general ability. He would rather resign his place on the committee than to resign his manhood. He had voted in the committee to report the bill.

Mr. Phelps. "I ask the gentleman to point out any objectionable appropriation in the bill."

Mr. Phelps. "You have no right to ask me to do that."

Mr. Phelps. "Can you put your finger on a single one?"

Mr. Phillips, "I can."

Mr. Phelps. "Specify it."

Mr. Phillips, (emphatically.) "I will not. You have got to take my word for it. I voted against the bill because I thought it ought not to pass, and I will vote against it again. The gentleman has alluded to me as having once belonged to his party. What did he mean by the insinuation?"

Mr. Phelps. "I referred to the gentleman sitting near you."

Mr. Montgomery. "What does the gentleman mean by that?" (Laughter.)

The Speaker was here obliged to restrain the prevailing disorder.

Mr. Phillips wanted Mr. Phelps to understand, and every one else forthwith, that he would vote as he thought right.

Mr. Phillips explained that he did not say that he had any agency in placing Mr. Phillips on the Committee of Ways and Means, but that he was placed there by the wishes and earnest solicitations of the friends of the Administration.

(Voices). "Who are they?"

Mr. Phelps (continued) did not mean to intimate that the Executive had any hand in appointing the committee, but as usual, he listened to suggestions when the session commenced, and before the committees were appointed, he had received intimations that Mr. Phillips had been strongly urged as a member of the Committee of Ways and Means. It has been said that fifteen Democrats from Pennsylvania would put themselves on record in favor of a total abolition of the franking privilege.

Mr. Reilly, of Pennsylvania, replied that so far as the last remark was concerned, it was untrue.

Mr. Phillips—"It was never agreed to."

Mr. Ritchie, of Pennsylvania, suggested that perhaps the gentleman from Missouri was not knowing what is to be considered the Administration views.

After further debate, the vote by which the bill was rejected, was reconsidered by a large majority, and the subject was passed over.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Naval Appropriation bill.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, moved to reduce the appropriation to $3,100,000 for repairs, armament and equipment of steamers, to $1,900,000 to be expended as follows:

For hemp and other materials, $600,000; and for repairs, etc., $1,300,000, with the proviso that no more than $1,000 shall be expended in any navy yard, unless the necessity of such repairs be demonstrated by the report of a board, composed of officers of the regular naval service. He referred to the fact that both branches of the Select Committee on Investigation, admit the existence of gross frauds which ought to be abolished, and such was the object of his amendment.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, replied, saying that in the prosecution of the war against Africa, the navy ought not to be curtailed, as there may be use for it in the gulf.

Mr. Garnett, of Virginia, spoke on the subject of extraordinary expenditures, and he wanted the Administration to feel, which was the only way of making it economical.

Mr. Florence, of Pennsylvania, advocated the appropriations as reported in the bill, showing that the large additions which have been made to the navy required it.

Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, stated that instead of being reduced, the amount of coal should be increased, owing to the number of steamers afloat, including those of the Paraguay expedition.

The coal agents may have been useless and incompetent, but there was no evidence before the Special Committee to show there were frauds in the purchase of anthracite coal. He had heard of it. If he was so placed that he might follow his (Phelps') or the Executive directions, the gentleman from Missouri was mistaken his general ability. He would rather resign his place on the committee than to resign his manhood. He had voted in the committee to report the bill.

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