Weekly National Intelligencer.

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Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON.

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NARROWNESS OF VIEW.

Among the societies which celebrated their anniversary during the last week in the city of Boston was one called the "Emancipation League."

At the opening of the celebration it was stated that "the League had no report to make of the doings of the past year, for the reason that a year ago its members, in common with all earnest anti-slavery men and women of the country, had come to the conclusion that a policy of emancipation was at last adopted at Washington." But it was added that, after the experience and observations of the last year, most of its members had come to doubt whether they were quite right in that conclusion. They had had, it was admitted, proclamations of emancipation, but as yet no "policy" of emancipation—"no act coming from the authorities at Washington which justified the belief that they mean that the slave shall be free as white men are free." Therefore, for a few months past, those who had been specially interested in this League had been thinking that it was time to renew their work; but as it was near the season for the anniversaries of the benevolent and philanthropic societies of Massachusetts, they concluded to postpone it until this time. They intend now to revive the organization, "believing that the great work of emancipation in this country is yet to be accomplished; that a policy of emancipation is yet to be inaugurated by the Government, and it never will be inaugurated until the authorities at Washington are satisfied that the people are in earnest in demanding it."

Among the speakers on the occasion was Wendell Phillips, who, as is his wont, held towards the Administration a style of language which, for gross crimination of the President's motives and official integrity, would have been deemed highly treasonable in the State of Ohio during the military administration of Gen. Burnside. Certain it is that Mr. Vallandigham was exiled for uttering words much less derogatory to the constituted authorities than those which Mr. Phillips habitually utters with impunity—a fact that sufficiently shows how true it is that in some respects we are now living under a Government of men and not of law; for the law is no respecter of persons. It is not our purpose to reproduce any of these injurious imputations on the official conduct of Mr. Lincoln, except the one to which the speaker gives expression in the following paragraphs:

"I am willing to accord to Abraham Lincoln all the credit that belongs to him for the proclamation of the 1st of January, 1863; but I want all of you, old men and young men, women, Americans, and foreigners, white men and negroes, who are here to-day, to understand me when I say, that, in my opinion, no negro owes any thing to Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] No negro on this Continent owes him the first shadow of gratitude. [Applause and hisses.] Well, I hear the hisses; and let me prove to you what I say. On the 4th day of April, 1864, Abraham Lincoln says to Mr. Hodges, of Kentucky, 'Understand me: I never did any thing for the negro on his own account. I never tried to help him. Don't accuse me of principle. Don't accuse me of love for the negro. I never did any thing for him till I was forced to, and then I only used him.' That is his own letter. If he does not know his own heart, do not find fault with me. [Applause.] The first day of January, 1863, he issued a proclamation, and the only reference to justice and God in it was grafted into it by the Secretary of the Treasury; and on the 4th of April, 1864, the President of the United States says to Kentucky, 'Understand me: I never did any thing for the negro on his account. I never went near him while there was any other aid left; and when I went near him, it was only to use him.' That is his own picture. If you do not like it, go and find fault with him. [Applause.] If he does not know himself, if he puts on a low motive, which he really did not feel, in order to conciliate Kentucky, do not blame me. I recite his record—he writes it. The writer of the letter of April 4th, 1864, to Hodges, allows that there is not a negro who owes him any thing; and I do not believe there is, for he never touched a negro that he did not break the promise he made to him."

The rude and criminative tone of this reflection on the candor of the President is the least among the points of exception that should be taken to it. The ground on which the charge is brought reveals a total misconception of the obligations imposed on the incumbents of office by the trust they hold. Mr. Phillips rails at the President because he does not make the moral law, as expounded by the Anti-Slavery Society of Boston, the rule of his official conduct in all that pertains to the welfare of the negro. In opposition to this view it is enough to say that the line of demarcation between the moral and political world is clearly marked. It is very true that no State can afford to have any political rule or regulation which comes into conflict with the precepts of morality or religion, but it is equally true that all sound morality and all true religion warn the magistrate against doing evil in the sphere of his political duties that good may come in the sphere of ethics. He may not regulate his official conduct under the laws of the land by his abstract notions of right or wrong; for in doing so he would remit society to the most helpless confusion, and justly bring on himself the pains and penalties of moral perjury. And yet it is from a failure rightly to apply this principle in their judgments that many men criminate the motives of their political opponents with as little of reason in the grounds on which their censure is based as of candor or moderation in the terms in which it is couched. The President is not the only person who is subject to such invidious imputations from the misjudging petulance of party spirit in our country at the present time.

The motion for arrest of judgment in the case of Solomon Kohnstamm, convicted before the U. S. Circuit Court at New York of having presented false vouchers to the Government, was denied on Monday, and Judge Nelson then sentenced the prisoner to ten years in the State prison.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1864.

In the SENATE a bill was reported by Mr. ANTHONY to increase the compensation for reporting and printing the official debates of Congress. Mr. A. spoke at some length in regard to the publication and expense of the debates. Mr. COLLAMER said, in reference to their cost, that it could be much lessened by excluding many long speeches that were not even delivered, especially in the other House. The subject was laid over.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill for the revision of the laws of the District.

Mr. HALE, from the Naval Committee, reported back the bill providing for the efficiency of the navy, with amendments.

Mr. JOHNSON submitted a resolution requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, to inform the Senate whether he has authorized any person to be delivered up to the Spanish authorities, and, if so, under what law it was done. The resolution was ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENDERSON, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back the bill to incorporate the "home for friendless women and children," with amendments.

Mr. POWELL submitted the following resolution, which was also ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That the conduct of the Executive authority of the Government in recently closing the offices and suppressing the publication of the World and Journal of Commerce newspapers in the city of New York under circumstances which have been placed before the public was an act unwarrantable in itself, dangerous to the cause of the Union, in violation of the Constitution, and subversive of the principles of civil liberty, and as such is hereby censured by the Senate.

Mr. WADE called up the joint resolution to amend the charter of the city of Washington.

Mr. SUMNER said this was a very important subject—amending the charter of Washington. The language of the resolution was very broad, covering the whole question of the political franchise. The person desiring to vote is to swear that he has been a resident for a certain period, and to certain other things in regard to registration; and then, if he has complied with the requirements of the present laws, and possesses the qualifications therein prescribed, he may vote. This is that tail of slavery remaining here of which he had before spoken—still preserving that disqualification of color left to us unhappily by the former slavery in the national capital. Did the committee who reported the measure intend to keep alive that odious distinction? The language of the resolution ought to be made clear and leave no doubt on that subject. He therefore moved to amend the resolution by adding the following: "Provided there shall be no exclusion of any person from the register on account of color."

Mr. WADE said that the committee had only designed, in accordance with the wish of the whole people, to do that which was necessary to get a fair election. It was not designed either to widen or narrow the elective franchise, but simply to provide that the mere technicality of the old law should not prevent persons having all the substantial qualifications from voting. The old law as to registration having been differently construed at different times, this was the more necessary. He did not consider it necessary to define his position on the subject of excluding men from voting on account of color; but he did not see why that matter should be in every bill. This bill was simply for the purpose which he stated.

Mr. SUMNER was about to reply, when Mr. FESSENDEN said as the bill was to excite debate, he should object to its further consideration, to the exclusion of the tax bill.

Mr. HENDRICKS did not see the use of any discussion. He presumed the Senate knew what judgment to give on the subject of negro voting, without further elaboration.

Mr. SUMNER still desiring to reply to Mr. WADE, on motion, the subject was laid over.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, the Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the House bill providing for an increase of the internal revenue. The amendments proposed thereto by the Senate's Finance Committee were generally agreed to as the reading of the bill progressed. It was not concluded when the Senate, between nine and ten o'clock, adjourned—(a recess having been taken from 4½ to 7 o'clock.)

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES leave was asked by Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, from the Committee on Commerce, to introduce a bill appropriating $250,000 for the preservation and repair of public works on the lakes, and $100,000 for similar works on the seaboard. He remarked that in the present condition of the country the committee do not propose to report any general river and harbor bill, but the appropriation proposed was actually necessary to preserve the public works from destruction. Mr. STEVENS objected to the introduction of the bill, unless it should be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for consideration. Mr. WASHBURNE gave notice that next Monday he would ask a suspension of the rules for the purpose of introducing the resolution.

The House resumed the consideration of the reciprocity question. Mr. BAXTER of Vermont, Mr. DAVIS of Maryland, and Mr. MORRILL of Vermont opposed the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty with the British North American Provinces. Mr SWEAT of Maine and Mr. LITTLEJOHN of New York opposed abrogation, but favored the appointment of commissioners on both sides, in order to form a more perfect reciprocity.

The House then proceeded to vote on the pending propositions, and rejected two of them, including one merely to give the notice for the abrogation of the treaty without conditions. The vote was: yeas 74, nays 82.

Mr. STEVENS moved to lay the original joint resolution on the table. It provides for the appointment of commissioners to form a more perfect system of reciprocity. The question was determined in the negative by two majority, and finally the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until the second Tuesday of December next.

The House passed the Senate bill making an appropriation to pay Peruvian citizens under the recent convention between the United States and Peru; and then adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1864.

In the SENATE a favorable report was made by Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Committee on Finance, on the joint resolution from the House amendatory of the joint resolution to increase temporarily the duties on imports.

Mr. DAVIS moved to take up a resolution, heretofore offered by him, directing an inquiry into the case of Wm. Yokum, in order to ascertain whether he is confined in the penitentiary at Albany or elsewhere, and whether or not he has been pardoned, after trial by a military court. The resolution proposes to instruct the Judiciary Committee to obtain all the facts in the case, and report the same to the Senate. Mr. DAVIS remarked that he had introduced this resolution as far back as March last, Mr. Yokum being a citizen of Kentucky, but no action had yet been taken. The motion to take up the resolution was rejected—yeas 16, nays 19.

Mr. WADE called up the joint resolution to amend the charter of the city of Washington in regard to registration of voters—the pending question being on Mr. SUMNER'S amendment proposing that no person shall be excluded from the register on account of color.

Mr. SUMNER urged the necessity of his amendment, saying that the effect of this bill would be to sanction the inhumanities heretofore practised upon colored people by treating them as inferiors. He could not sanction this injustice or deny the rights which he believed to belong to an oppressed race. He was sorry to differ from his friends, but, in the words of the Lieutenant General, he proposed to fight it out on this line, if it took all summer.

Mr. MORRILL said it was known that the Committee on the District of Columbia had heretofore reported a bill which put the colored man on an equality with the white man; and the Senator should have every assurance (said Mr. M.) that we intend to put that bill before the Senate at the earliest moment. But, as the Senator knows from practical experience, some things can be and some things can't be. This is one of the things that is not practicable at this time.

Mr. HARLAN moved to amend Mr. SUMNER'S amendment by adding thereto the words "who have borne arms in the military or naval service of the United States, and have been honorably discharged therefrom;" which was agreed to—yeas 26, nays 12.

Mr. WILLEY moved further to amend by adding, "provided, however, that no such resident who is entitled to vote elsewhere shall be entitled or allowed to vote under or by virtue of this resolution." Mr. W. remarked that the resolution, as it then stood, changed the whole character of the qualifications of voters in Washington. Under its provisions many persons who are but temporary residents here would vote and still claim also a vote elsewhere. This bill not only struck at negro suffrage, but embraced objectionable provisions in reference to registration which his amendment was designed to remedy.

Mr. GRIMES suggested that the words "entitled to vote," in Mr. Willey's proposition, were too indefinite, and asked who was to decide upon the question?

Mr. WILLEY said other words could be substituted.

The morning hour having expired, the further consideration of the bill was postponed.

The consideration of the bill providing for an increase of the internal revenue was then resumed, and occupied the Senate during the remainder of the sitting, which (a recess having been taken in the afternoon) continued until after nine o'clock at night. The reading of the bill was concluded, and the amendments proposed by the Senate's Committee on Finance were voted upon and adopted—the Senate acting as in Committee of the Whole—as the reading progressed.

Prior to resuming the consideration of the above bill at the evening session, the bill to amend the act to enable the people of Colorado to form a Constitution and State Government was passed. It changes the time fixed in the said act for holding the election.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, on motion of Mr. ALLEY, the House took up and passed the Senate bill modifying the present law so that officers of the Government may receive letters and documents without the prepayment of postage. Some private bills were then considered.

Mr. SMITHERS called up the contested election case from the second Congressional district of Kentucky, the committee having reported a resolution that George H. Yeaman is entitled to retain his seat as a representative from that State, and that, as a consequence, Mr. McHenry is not entitled to it. Mr. SMITHERS defended the report. Mr. McHENRY, the contestant, advocated his claim. Mr. VOORHEES, of the Committee of Elections, advocated the admission of Mr. McHenry. Mr. SMITH, of Kentucky, spoke in favor of the military orders of Gen. Burnside, which, he said, protected Union men at the polls in that State. Mr. WADSWORTH, of Kentucky, condemned the orders as interfering with the freedom of elections.

Without concluding the subject, the House adjourned till Monday.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1864.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses to the House diplomatic appropriation bill, reported a concurrence in the amendment reducing the consular pupils, and substituting the word clerks for pupils, at a salary not to exceed one thousand dollars. It proposes to raise the Minister to Brussels to an Envoy Extraordinary, with a corresponding increase of salary; and to allow the President to advance a Minister Resident at any Court to that rank when he shall deem it proper, without the increased pay. The report was agreed to.

Mr. WADE called up the bill to amend the charter of the city of Washington in regard to the registration of voters—to which bill Mr. SUMNER had moved an amendment conferring the right of voting upon negroes.

Mr. WILLEY proposed to amend by providing that no resident, who is entitled to vote elsewhere, shall be allowed to vote under or by virtue of this resolution. This amendment was rejected.

The question then recurred on Mr. Sumner's amendment as previously amended by Mr. HARLAN, limiting the negro suffrage, or permission to register, to those who have borne arms in the United States service and have been honorably discharged. In this form it was agreed to.

Mr. CARLILE then suggested to amend by substituting the word "citizen" instead of resident in the bill, so as to prevent temporary residents who hold citizenship in other States from voting here.

Mr. WILLEY thought the amendment would not accomplish the object.

Mr. TEN EYCK moved to insert the words "who is a qualified voter in other respects" in the first line of the bill after the word "person;" and the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SUMNER then moved another proviso, giving all persons, without distinction of color, a vote, who had during the previous year paid a tax on any estate, or during the previous year have been assessed for part of the revenue of the city. After debate it was rejected—yeas 8, nays 27.

Some further modifications of the first amended proviso of Mr. SUMNER were then made, and it was put in the following form:

"*Provided*, That no distinction shall be made between persons who have borne arms in the military service of the United States."

It was then rejected by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Chandler, Clark, Dixon, Foot, Hale, Harlan, Howard, Howe, Lane of Kansas, Morgan, Pomeroy, Powell, Ramsey, Sherman, Sumner, Wilkinson, and Wilson—18.

NAYS—Messrs. Buckalew, Carlile, Conness, Cowan, Davis, Grimes, Harris, Hendricks, Hicks, Johnson, Lane of Indiana, McDougall, Morrill, Nesmith, Richardson, Saulsbury, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Van Winkle, and Willey—20.

Mr. DOOLITTLE offered a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Lieut. Colonel Joseph Bailey for distinguished genius, skill, energy, and success as acting engineer of the Nineteenth Army Corps, in his late operations upon Red River, by which he saved the fleet under Admiral Porter; and that the President of the United States cause a gold medal to be struck, with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be presented in the name of the people of the United States, with a copy of the resolution engrossed on parchment.

Mr. MORRILL reported a bill concerning intercourse between loyal and insurrectionary States, with amendments, which provides that all officers or privates in the military or naval forces are prohibited from buying or selling products of such districts under penalties of the act and a fine of four thousand dollars. The clause of the bill of July, 1861, authorizing the President to issue permits for commercial relations in districts in insurrection is stricken out. All property is to be regarded as abandoned when its lawful owner is voluntarily absent therefrom engaged in arms or otherwise aiding the rebellion.

The consideration of the revenue bill was resumed. The Finance committee's amendment, striking out the clause taxing domestic spirits on hand, was considered.

Mr. SHERMAN advocated the retention of the House clause retaining such a tax.

Mr. POWELL opposed such a tax as unjust, upon the principle that it was a duplication of taxes on an article which had heretofore been taxed. He thought a dollar a gallon on whiskey was enough; that fifty cents a gallon on the article would bring more revenue than an increased rate.

After further debate, on motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, the committee's amendment was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Buckalew, Carlile, Clark, Collamer, Conness, Cowan, Davis, Fessenden, Foster, Hendricks, Hicks, Howe, Johnson, Lane of Indiana, Lane of Kansas, McDougall, Morgan, Nesmith, Pomeroy, Powell, Richardson, Saulsbury, Ten Eyck, Van Winkle, and Willey—25.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Chandler, Dixon, Foot, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Ramsey, Sherman, Sumner, Trumbull, Wilkinson, and Wilson—15.

The following is the section which was stricken out:

"All spirits of domestic production, and held for sale on the first day of May, 1864, and upon which no tax shall have been paid, shall be subject to a duty of fifty cents per gallon; and all such spirits on hand for sale, upon which a prior duty shall have been paid, shall be subject to a duty of thirty cents per gallon; *Provided*, that bona fide retail dealers in spirits, duly licensed, shall not be taxed on their stock on hand whose quantity does not exceed two barrels."

The Senate went into Executive session, and soon afterwards adjourned.

MONDAY, MAY 30, 1864.

In the Senate, after the presentation of several reports from committees, Mr. CONNESS called up the bill to expedite the settlement of titles to land in California, and it was discussed till the close of the morning hour. Mr. BUCKALEW submitted a resolution setting apart Friday next, after the morning hour, for the consideration of private business; but, Mr. SUMNER objecting, the resolution was laid over.

The consideration of the internal revenue bill was resumed. Mr FESSENDEN proposed an amendment to the end of the 93d section imposing a duty of one per cent. on gold bullion, in ingot, bars, or otherwise, to be paid by exporters, provided it shall not extend to miners or original producers.

Mr CONNESS desired, before acting on this amendment to strike out from another part of the bill the following words:

"On gold and silver produced from quartz mines, from beds of rivers, from the earth, or in any other way or manner, a duty of five per cent."

After debate by Messrs. FESSENDEN, CONNESS, McDOUGALL, NESMITH, and others, the amendment of Mr. C. was agreed to, and the rate of tax on bullion fixed at one half of one per cent.

Mr SHERMAN offered an amendment as a substitute fixing a tax of one twenty-fourth per centum per month on bank capital and deposits, and one-fifth of one per cent per month on the circulation of banks not organized under the national currency bill.

Mr. HENDRICKS opposed the amendment, and Mr. SHERMAN spoke at some length in its support. He afterwards modified his proposition so as to make the tax on circulation one sixth of one per cent. a month instead of one-fifth.

Mr. HENDRICKS opposed the amendment. He considered it improper in a revenue bill to strike at any peculiar interest of the States. The currency of the West had heretofore been so good that there was but little difference in exchange. He was opposed to driving from the channels of trade a currency in which the people of the West had confidence, and substituting a currency in which they had less confidence. This was arbitrary legislation. The value of the Government bonds, though now above par, depends upon its ability to pay the interest upon them. When there was no demand for bonds and hard times came, what would be the value of the currency?

Mr. POWELL said that what he had at first predicted in regard to this system of paper currency had been fulfilled, and none of the financial tinkering of Secretary Chase would relieve us from the effects of his odious system of paper currency. It was rotten at the very core, and would result in injury to any Government that adopted it. Secretary Chase, in his financial measures, seemed determined on adopting exploded notions and discarding all sound and recognised principles of currency. He denounced the system as the very worst species of "wild-cat banking."

Without taking a vote on the amendment, the Senate at 10 o'clock adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a resolution moved by Mr MORRIS, of Ohio, was adopted, instructing the Committee on the District of Columbia to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill providing that all juvenile offenders convicted of crime in this District be sentenced to some house of correction outside of the District at the least expense to the Government. The same committee was also instructed, on motion of Mr. DAVIS, of New York, to investigate and inquire generally into the financial condition of the Washington National Monument Association.

The House took up a resolution heretofore offered by Mr. ROLLINS, which proposes to declare:

That, prompted by a just patriotism, we are in favor of an earnest and successful prosecution of the war, and that we will give a warm and hearty support to all those measures which will be most effective in speedily overcoming the rebellion and in securing a restoration of peace, and which may not substantially infringe the Constitution and tend to subvert the true theory and character of the Government; and we hereby reiterate that the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists now in revolt against the constitutional Government; that in the progress of this war Congress, banishing all feeling of mere passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not waged on our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that, as soon as these objects are accomplished, the war ought to cease.

Mr. ROLLINS advocated the resolution. While holding that there was no punishment too severe for the leaders of the rebellion, he argued that we ought to open the way for the misled people to return to their allegiance. After the war is over there *must* be negotiation and reconciliation. While he was in favor of carrying on the war for the purpose mentioned in the resolution, he nevertheless expressed the opinion that if the war had been carried on upon the principles of the Crittenden resolution it would probably before now have been terminated.

Mr. F. WOOD desired to offer an amendment to the resolution, and, failing to obtain an opportunity to do so, he moved to lay it upon the table. This motion was disagreed to—yeas 17, nays 114. The resolution was then referred to the Committee on the Rebellious States—yeas 81, nays 67.

The House resumed the consideration of the Kentucky contested election case, and, after debate, agreed to a resolution declaring Mr Yeaman entitled to his seat.

On motion of Mr. COLE, a resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire whether rebel wounded are distributed in the various hospitals and whether disloyal persons are employed in any of the Departments, &c.

Mr. LAZEAR offered a resolution proposing an armistice between the North and the South, and a National Convention of all the States to arrange terms of peace. Its reception was objected to, and could not then be considered.

The House adjourned.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1864.

In the SENATE the credentials of another Senator from Arkansas were presented—being those of Mr. Baxter, which were presented by Mr. FOOT. They were received, and laid on the table for the present.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL the joint resolution to provide for the revision of the laws of the District of Columbia was taken up and passed. The bill to incorporate the "newsboys' home" was also passed. Mr. RICHARDSON, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, made an adverse report on the bill to prohibit the running at large of horses, cattle, hogs, &c in the District, and the committee was discharged from the further consideration of the said bill. Mr. GRIMES made a favorable report on the bill to enable the Superannuated Fund Society of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church to hold property in the District of Columbia and accept a devise under the will of the late Wm. Doughty.

Mr. CARLILE, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill to grant lands to Wisconsin to aid in the construction of a ship canal from Green Bay to Lake Michigan, with amendments.

Mr. DAVIS submitted a resolution concerning Gen. Butler; which was laid over.

Mr. DOOLITTLE called up his joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress and awarding a medal to Lieut. Col. Bailey, and had it referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. D. stated that Col. Bailey was an engineer on the La Crosse railroad before the war, and came out with the 4th Wisconsin regiment, and was now an acting engineer of the Nineteenth Army Corps, and had built the great dam across the Red river which saved Com. Porter's fleet from destruction or being left in the hands of the rebels. Soon after coming East he had built Fort Dix, in Maryland, and subsequently took charge of one of the most important fortifications at Washington. He had also, on being transferred with his regiment to New Orleans, built there one of the largest fortifications erected during the war. But the crowning act was that by which he had rescued Com. Porter's valuable fleet. The great dams across Red river had been built in from eight to ten days, after others had declared such a thing impracticable. With the fleet lying in the shallow waters above, with the army short of provisions and forage, it was decided if this thing could not be done in ten days the army would have to leave. Then it was that this thing was undertaken and accomplished by Lieut. Col. Bailey, some three thousand men being placed at his disposal and hundreds of teams.

The consideration of the internal revenue bill was then resumed, and occupied the Senate during most of the remainder of the day's sitting.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a bill was passed to carry out existing commercial conventions, so as to give consuls-general, consuls, and commercial agents exclusive jurisdiction over affairs pertaining to the vessels of their respective countries while in foreign ports.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, called up the bill passed by the Senate two or three days ago, amendatory of the law requiring the registration of the voters of the city of Washington. Under the present law the tax assessors of the several wards are required to make up the poll-lists, embracing all persons who were liable to the payment of school taxes at the close of December, and after having published the same they are further required to afford an opportunity to persons whose names have been omitted to insert them on the poll-lists. Under this law no person who was not liable to the payment of the school tax on the 31st of December last is a legal voter.

The bill of the Senate provides that the commissioners of elections may on the day of election require the name and receive the vote of any person, "who is a qualified voter in other respects," on the following conditions:

"If in his answers, on oath, he shall state positively that he has resided in the city one year next preceding the day of said election, designating particularly the place of his residence, and that he possesses the other qualifications, and if, furthermore, some qualified elector of the city, not a candidate for any office at that election, shall take an oath before said commissioners, which any one of them may administer, that he is well acquainted with such applicant, that he is in fact a resident in the city, and has been one year next previous to such election, that he (qualified elector) has good reason to believe, and does believe, that all the statements of such applicant are true, the commissioner shall cause his name to be registered by the clerk, and shall then receive the vote of said applicant; or if said applicant shall present the affidavit of himself and qualified elector, duly certified by a justice of the peace in and for the county of Washington, which shall satisfy the commissioners that the applicant has been a resident of the city one year next preceding the day of such election, and that he is otherwise a qualified elector, the commissioners may cause the applicant's name to be registered as heretofore provided, and they shall then receive his vote."

Mr. DAWES said that unless this bill was immediately passed many persons would be deprived of their right to vote on Monday next. Mr. STEELE, of New York, thought that to consider the bill now instead of first referring the subject to the Committee for the District of Columbia, would be to usurp the business of that committee. The people, he said, would not suffer by waiting till next Friday. Mr. COX, of Ohio, said the committee should be treated with respect. Why this haste? Was it to manufacture voters from members of the Loyal League and newly appointed clerks, in order to control a doubtful election? Mr. BEAMAN, of Michigan, saw no disrespect to the committee. He could conceive of no necessity for referring the bill to that committee. It should be passed now. Mr. DAWES explained his reasons for moving the consideration of the bill at that time. It certainly was not out of disrespect to the committee.

The bill having been taken up and put upon its passage, Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN moved that it be laid upon the table. This was disagreed to—yeas 47, nays 42. And the bill was then passed.

A bill authorizing the President to construct a military railroad from the valley of the Ohio to East Tennessee, in such a manner as will best serve the interests of the Government, and insure a speedy completion of the same, was then taken up; and, after some remarks in support of it by Messrs. SCHENCK, MALLORY, and SMITH, of Kentucky, it was passed.

The joint resolution from the Senate providing for an amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery everywhere within the United States was then taken up,

Mr HOLMAN, of Indiana, objected to the second reading. This objection raised the question, "Shall the resolution be rejected?" And the question being taken, it was determined in the negative. The question then recurred on the passage of the resolution, when Mr. MORRIS, of New York, made a speech in its support. Several other speeches were made during the evening.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1864.

The National Bank bill was disposed of in both Houses by the adoption in each of the reports of the committee of conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes on amendments made thereto.

In the SENATE the report of the committee was presented by Mr. SHERMAN, who explained that there were only six points of difference between the Senate and House, the latter having generally agreed to the former's amendments. The most material amendment is to require all banks East and West to redeem their currency at par in New York instead of allowing the Western banks one quarter of one per cent. discount on their notes redeemed in New York.

Mr. HALE asked what was the difference as to taxation between the National and State Banks in this bill.

Mr. SHERMAN explained that in this bill the whole tax relates to the National Banks, the State Bank subject being left to the tax bill. The rates imposed by this bill are one per cent. on circulation, one half per cent. on deposits, and one per cent. on capital not invested in the bonds of the United States, and State taxation of the shares of the banks is permitted; in the hands of holders, to be paid at the place where a bank is located.

After these explanations the report was agreed to; and it was subsequently agreed to in the House.

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, a resolution was adopted that the Secretary of War, as soon as he receives information from the armies in the field, communicate it to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest.

Mr. ANTHONY reported from the Committee on Printing the House bill to amend the act relative to printing; and it was passed. It permits the assistant secretaries of Departments to give orders for printing.

Mr. HOWARD, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the bill extending the jurisdiction of District Courts, with a recommendation that it do not pass.

Mr. HARLAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported several bills, asking to be discharged therefrom, including one to exclude disloyal persons from the lands of the United States, and that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The request was agreed to.

The consideration of the Internal Revenue bill was resumed.

Mr. WILSON offered an amendment imposing a tax of one-half of one per cent. upon the gross amount of all sales of goods, wares, merchandise, produce, live stock, sailing and steam vessels of all descriptions, and other articles of commerce or trade, whether foreign or domestic, excluding coin and gold and silver unmanufactured, and including real estate, whether such sales be judicial, public or private, excepting sales of personal property less than one hundred dollars.

Mr. WILSON said it was absolutely necessary to have more money than the bill would give us. It would give no more than from $200,000,000 to $225,000,000, when we needed $350,000,000. His amendment would accomplish the purpose.

The amendment was rejected, and after discussing and voting upon various other amendments, the Senate adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a bill was reported by Mr. JENCKES, from the select committee on the subject, to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States.

Mr. JENCKES entered into an explanation of the provisions of the bill. It dealt with bankruptcy, he said, as a thoroughly practical question, and provided for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. It brought the failing debtor and creditor to a settlement on terms mutually beneficial to each. It discharged the honest debtor on the surrender of his property, and afforded protection to the creditor against the fraudulent practices and reckless conduct of the debtor. Besides, it would secure complete uniformity in the mode of proceeding.

Mr. SPALDING said the select committee challenged a critical examination of this bill.

Mr. HOLMAN moved to postpone the bill till the second Tuesday of December. This was disagreed to—yeas 53, nays 74—and the bill was then laid over until to-day.

The House then took up the contested election case of Birch against King, with which it was occupied for several hours. The result was that the Committee of Elections was discharged from the further consideration of the subject. This decision retains Mr. King in the seat.

PEACE QUESTION IN THE REBEL CONGRESS.

In the Confederate House of Representatives, on the 23d instant, Mr. J. T. LEACH, of North Carolina, submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were read by the Clerk, creating quite a sensation on the floor, as well as on the privileged seats and in the galleries:

Whereas the unconstitutional enactment of laws by the Congress of the United States, upon subjects of vital importance to the harmony and independence of the States, the happiness and prosperity of the people, the preservation and perpetuation of the Union against the demands of justice, the appeals and admonitions of her best and wisest statesmen, made it our painful duty to fall back upon the rights for which the colonies maintained the war of the Revolution, and which our forefathers asserted and maintained to be clear and inalienable:

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States, That the delegates from each State, acting in its sovereign and independent character, for the purpose of adding moral to our physical force, and placing ourselves properly before the civilized world, do most earnestly appeal to the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint commissioners, whose duty it shall be to propose an armistice of ninety days to the proper authorities of the Federal Government, preliminary to negotiation upon State sovereignty and independence; and the said commissioners shall report in writing to the President the answer received from the Federal Government upon the subject.

Resolved, That should the peace-making power of the Federal Government accede to the proposition for an armistice of ninety days, the President be requested to convene the Congress of the Confederate States for the purpose of appointing commissioners, by and with the consent and advice of the Senate; and that he be also requested to notify the Executive of the several States of the fact, and ask their co-operation by appointing commissioners, either by the Legislature or by convention, to co-operate with the commissioners appointed by the Federal Government, upon such terms of peace as will be consistent with the honor, dignity, and independence of the States, and compatible with the safety of our social and political rights.

Resolved, That in maintaining the right guaranteed to us by the blood and treasure of our revolutionary fathers, and dear at all times to freemen, we desire to be let alone. We take no man's property, we fight not for conquest, but for our rights, the independence of the States, our equality, our civil and religious liberties.

Resolved, That such terms of peace as agreed to by the commissioners ought to be endorsed by the President and Senate, and submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection.

Mr FOOTE, of Tennessee, moved the reference of the preamble and resolutions to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. McMULLEN inquired whether the subject of the resolutions was not a proper one for the secret session?

Mr. LEACH said he desired it to be discussed in open session.

Mr. CONRAD rose to a point of order. A rule was adopted at the last session which is still in force, requiring that all such resolutions be received and discussed in secret session.

The SPEAKER said such a rule had been adopted, but it had special reference to the last session.

Mr. LEACH insisted that the importance of the question involved in the resolutions should commend them to the gravest considerations of the body. They were not his views only, but the views of his constituents, and a good portion of the people of North Carolina.

Mr. FOOTE renewed his motion to refer the resolutions to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. McMULLEN moved to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. LEACH said the presentment of the resolutions was a duty he owed to himself and his constituents. If the House don't like the resolutions it can dispose of them in any manner that it sees proper. All he asked was a full and impartial hearing; that accorded him and his resolutions, he would be satisfied.

Mr. McMULLEN withdrew his motion, and Mr. HEISKELL, of Tennessee, renewed his—the call for the yeas and nays upon laying the resolutions upon the table.

The yeas and nays were taken and the resolutions tabled.

After a short interval Mr. CONRAD, of Louisiana, rose to a personal explanation. He had read over the peace resolutions submitted by the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. Leach,) and he found that they look to separate State action in the prosecution of peace. Taking that view of them, he could not give them his countenance nor support. He asked leave to change his vote on the motion to lay them upon the table. He had voted "aye;" he would now vote "no."

Mr. J. T. LEACH said he held in his hand the address of the last Congress to the people of the Confederate States. The principles there enunciated were embodied almost wholly in these resolutions.

Mr. READ, of Kentucky, moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolutions were disposed of, so that all the members might exercise their discretion in voting.

Mr. MARSHALL, of Kentucky, was for treating the resolutions of the gentleman from North Carolina with becoming respect. They did not represent his own views more than the views of his Congressional district. He thinks they are proper and right, and so think his constituents.

The debate soon began to be somewhat stormy and personal, and, after much wrangling, the resolutions were tabled by 62 yeas and 22 nays.

FROM THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

A published order from Gen. Hunter, commanding in the Shenandoah Valley, speaks of his forces as being on the eve of a forward movement. It is stated that Gen. Sigel has been appointed by Gen. Hunter to the command of the Reserve Division, which will comprise all of the troops on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.