

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

FACT, NEWS, AND GOSSIP.

The River-and-Harbor Bill.—The Mahonites and the Straight-aways.—Personal.

WASHINGTON, February 24.—Last evening when the vote was taken on the naval bill the eyes were 150, noes 6, lacking one of the requisite vote to make a quorum. Here was a dilemma, and the Appropriations Committee was in a flutter. Just then Judge Garrison, of Virginia, came in, and members flocked around him, but he persisted that he was not in the hall when his name was called. One of the friends of the bill, forgetting that it was Washington's birthday, said: "Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia did not bring his name called." Judge Garrison then remarked: "Mr. Speaker, I was not in the building when the vote was taken, and do not think I have a right to vote." A recant of the vote, however, showed that there were seven noes, instead of six, and this made a quorum. So the bill passed.

THE RIVER-AND-HARBOR BILL.

Mr. Randall moved to-day to go into Committee of the Whole on the general appropriation bills, the intention being to consider first the deficiency bill. This was antagonized by those who wanted to take up the river-and-harbor bill. The vote was 129 yeas, 129 nays. The House then, without a division, voted to go into Committee of the Whole on the river-and-harbor bill. The first question was the appeal from the decision of the Chair that the Hemenep canal appropriation was subject to a point of order. General Henderson, of Illinois, advocated the appeal, taking the position that as the canal would connect the lakes with the Mississippi it should be included in the river-and-harbor bill. Mr. Springer (Democrat), of Illinois, followed on the same side. After other speeches the Chair was sustained in his decision. The Hemenep representatives looked as if they could chew ten-penny nails. Mr. White of Kentucky, offered an amendment which was ruled out of order, and under an appeal got in a rambling speech which consumed time. No one voted "Aye" but Mr. White. The appropriations contained in the bill, including that for James river, have been agreed to, and the committee to-day was engaged on general sections relating to surveys, &c.

THE MAHONITES AND STRAIGHT-OUTS.

I hear that a number of prominent Mahonites have arrived and will hold a conference to-night in regard to the situation in Virginia. Said a Washington journalist to-night: "I learn of special attention. In the mean while the Straightouts give it out that they will hold a counter conference here soon and give the names of leading Republicans who will attend it." Virginia Democrats received these reports with great serenity, and state that, with proper management, they will certainly carry the next Legislature and elect their full State ticket. The report to-night is speculative. If General Mahone is in the front office does not suit his tastes. Your correspondent thinks that a most desperate effort is to be made to defeat the Democratic party this fall.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

There is more talk just now about an extra session than I have yet heard, and the defeat of the Appropriations Committee to-day in their effort to take up the general deficiency bill increased the apprehension among those opposed to an extra session that there will be one.

PERSONAL NEWS ITEMS.

Representative Hooper has returned from Farmville, Senator Callahan from his home attending to appeals in some important criminal cases, was in his seat to-day. This accounted for his absence from the House when the Washington orations were delivered. Judge John T. Harris, counsel for Hon. Frank Hurd, who is contesting the seat in the next Congress, awarded his Republican competitor, says the evidence so far shows that Mr. Hurd was legally elected. The number of visitors to the Capitol to-day was small. Hon. Josiah W. Wise called on the bill to extend the patent of Dr. W. Leigh Burton, but before it could be considered the hour expired. It comes up, however, the first thing to-morrow as unfinished business. I consulted three New England journalists to-day as to who would be the lucky man if a Cabinet position were accorded their section. Neither knew any more than I did. In the mean while it was rumored about the Capitol that it would be either Charles Jones or Representative Patrick Collins of Boston. General Albert Ordway and General Fitz Lee will represent Virginia on the staff of General Slocum, chief marshal of the inauguration procession. North Carolinians here feel great interest in redistricting the judicial districts of their State so as to provide for twelve judges as determined on by the last Legislature. Mr. White made a slight demonstration to-day, but was quickly subdued by the Chair. Calamity Wheeler always keeps quiet when Mr. White is demonstrating. Mr. DeFord is quarrelsome in his literary and peculiar oratory. A senator said to-day that Chairman Harman when here the other day remarked that Whitney would go into the Cabinet as Secretary of the Interior and that New York would have two members in the Cabinet. This, however, is not the opinion here among those who profess to know. They say the Empire State will only have the Secretaryship of the Treasury, and that Mr. Manning will be selected for that position. They further say that he believes in the doctrine that any office that a Democrat cannot be found to fill ought to be abolished. Senator Brown, of Georgia, was on the House side to-day.

THE SENATE TO-DAY.

The Senate to-day private pension bills until adjournment. There were frequently less than a dozen senators at a time in their seats. The fact is that whatever is done by the pension committee is concurred in by the body. The few visitors in the galleries looked stupid and bored. But then the chamber is more comfortable than outdoors.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

Government receipts to-day: Internal revenue, \$985,141; customs, \$1,456,710. Senators Coke and Maxey, of Texas, were among the visitors at the White House to-day. President Arthur after the 4th of March will be the guest of Mr. Frothingham for a few days before going North. The Navy Department is informed that the United States steamer *Harron* will leave Portsmouth, N. H., to-morrow for Hampton Roads. The Cameron family receive dispatches from Florida which state that Senator Don Cameron's health is improving. The Mahone Readjusters meet in Senator Mahone's committee-room to-day in secret session. Senator Riddleberger was not present, although he was at the Senate when the conference was going on. Mr. Randall will endeavor to pass his plan for building a new navy under a suspension of the rules after Wednesday. It will be an independent measure.

THE OLD NORTH STATE.

Legislative—Railroad—School—Matters—Epidemic.

Raleigh, N. C., February 24.—In the Senate to-day bills were passed making appropriations for the three insane asylums and to complete the Western Asylum, at Morgantown. A bill was passed making an appropriation for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind. The Senate to-day in the bill to provide for the whole on the bill to pension Confederate soldiers. This bill, which passed the House three weeks since, comes up on its second reading. Pending the debate the committee rose. The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the appointments by the Governor of the officers of the new criminal circuit composed of New Hanover and Mecklenburg counties. Snow has fallen here nearly all day—the fifth snow-fall this season. The weather has had a depressing effect upon the tobacco trade all over the State, as it is impossible to handle the weed. In the House bills passed their final reading to incorporate the Mount Holly and Denver and the Wilmington, Onslow and East Carolina railways. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the school bill.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

The bill is a very carefully-drawn one, the best ever known in this State. It gives special provision to county superintendents of public instruction, increases their compensation, and greatly increases their duties. The epidemic of measles and pneumonia which prevails in many parts of the State is causing terrible mortality in some sections. In portions of this county it continues to play havoc. Out of twenty witnesses from that neighborhood who were called in the Williams murder trial here a month ago eleven old and young have died since. This has caused great distress and much wild speculation among the superstitious.

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THE VOTE OF CENSURE.

A scene in the House of Commons—An Editor and Home-Maker Suspended. (By telegraph to the Dispatch.) LONDON, February 24.—Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons this evening moved to postpone all notices of motions until after the order of the day resuming the debate on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion of censure against the Government for its Egyptian policy was disposed of. Mr. Redmond, Home-Ruler, opposed the Premier's motion, and was seconded in his opposition by several Parnellites. The opposition became so noisy that the Speaker interfered, and when silence had been restored he announced that it was, he thought, adequately discussed. At this the Parnellites nearly all joined in a prolonged howl and derisive cheers.

THE WAR IN THE SUDAN—ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES.

(By cable to the Dispatch.) KHARTOUM, February 24.—General Buller has an ample supply of food and water. The prisoners who were captured in the skirmish of the 17th state that two thousand Arabs from the vicinity of Metemeh were camped near the British front. The chiefs intended to make a night assault upon the British lines. Half of the men were eager for the attack, but the others were disinclined, and the attack therefore was postponed. It was also stated that the British had written promising reinforcements, impressing them to follow and harass the British troops while crossing the desert. General Brackenbury expects to reach Abu Hamed to-morrow.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

A London special says: The Foreign Office has received through the British Embassy at St. Petersburg a communication from M. De Giers, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs. It states that no advance of Russian troops toward the Afghan frontier has been authorized by the Government, and that the troops will be withdrawn to the positions they held before the frontier commissions were appointed. It is reported that Prince Bismarck is supporting the pacific policy of M. De Giers against the military party in Russia, who want a war with England, and that he has sent a protest to the Czar against any aggressive movement on the part of Russia. Dispatches just received from Kabul say that no influenza prevails in Government circles in that city because of the remarkable number of Russians who are pouring into the Afghan capital ostensibly as travellers. It is the belief of the natives that the alleged Russian travellers are military men, and that their visits are connected with the rumored scheme of Russia for the annexation of Afghanistan.

GREAT AND GREATER BRITAIN.

The British Empire covers one sixth of the land surface of the globe, and of course, all the water. England has sixty-five square miles of colony to the square mile of her own area. The area of the British colonies is 8,000,000 square miles—rather less than the area of the Russian Empire, including Siberia and Central Asia; but if the area of the native districts of States in India, amounting to 500,284 square miles, be added, over which England exercises as good a control as Russia does over most of the territory under its sway, together with that of the United Kingdom itself, 120,757 miles, the area of the British Empire exceeds that of Russia by about 200,000 square miles.

NO RESULT YET.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.) SPRINGFIELD, Ill., February 24.—One ballot was taken for United States senator to-day, as follows: Logan, 101; Washburn, 1. The Democrats did not vote.

FATAL HOTEL EXPLOSION.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.) PINKSBURG, Mo., February 24.—The boiler in the saw-mill of Hein & Fifths, at this place, exploded this

A THEIVING BOOK-KEEPER.

The Butler has been Book-keeper of a Large Bank as a Trustee Employee.

A Pittsburgh special says: Edward Voghtley, book-keeper of the Butler (Pennsylvania) Savings Bank (a young man, a member of the Presbyterian Church and a Sunday-school teacher, is a defaulter to an amount estimated anywhere from forty to thirty thousand dollars. The shortage in the accounts was discovered one day last week, and Voghtley was forced to confess. He said he deceived the cashier with false entries, and promised to straighten up the books on Sunday. In the mean while, however, he disappeared, and it is supposed that he is on his way to Canada. Cashier Campbell this afternoon said: "Voghtley has been book-keeper of the bank for more than six years. He was a trustee in the church and a Sabbath-school teacher, possessed every one's confidence, and was the last one we should have suspected. About the 1st of January we heard he had been dabbling in oil a little. We were about to let him go, but told him if he would promise to stop it he might continue. Then we never suspected that he had been taking bank funds to the bank and to the land one night about 10 o'clock and told me he was short in his accounts. A meeting of the Board was called, and he was to go on with his books and show us how much he was short. It seems he commenced to dabble with bank funds about two years ago, but never largely until recently. His plan was to wait until the closing hour of the day, then make a draft for some amount. The cash would show this. Then he would add to the draft, either making it \$250 or \$2,500. He would enter it correctly on the ledger—that is, for \$25—and then falsify his footings in the individual ledger. In this way he carried on the deception. "His bondsmen was his father, and the old gentleman has turned over everything he had in the world, amounting to about \$10,000. The stockholders will make up the balance of the deficiency. The bank is well able to stand the loss and is ready to pay every depositor in full. The total amount of the defalcation is about \$43,000. Voghtley has run away. We do not know where he has gone. It was the intention to arrest him as soon as he got through with the books, but I suppose some one gave him the hint, and he of course was on the National Bank of Commerce of this city."

A CRAB WITH AN EDUCATION.

At Least One Member of the Malignant Family of Crustaceans that Knows Something.

(San Francisco Call.) A number of the passengers on the 2 o'clock Oakland boat yesterday witnessed an interesting and curious exhibition. A man, having every appearance of being a sailor, stood on the lower forward deck beside a large pail, which was filled with sea water. In this pail was a crab of enormous size, and, to judge by the bunches of harness upon its back, of considerable age. The sailor was a genial fellow, and appeared to be proud of his pet. He first informed the surrounding passengers that the crab was the humble possessor of the name of "Ned," and that in addition to owning a name he would answer to that name. This was received with incredulous smiles on the part of the on-lookers. The crab could be observed lying motionless at the bottom of the pail, as if apparently contented with his position, although he was delving in the mud at the bottom of the bay. The sailor knelt beside the pail and gave a subdued whistle and then muttered "Ned, Ned," twice. Instantly there was a commotion in the water, as the crab wriggled its joints and bobbed around like a spider impaled on the point of a needle. This motion was kept up until it succeeded in getting two claws over the edge of the pail. Then he tried to draw it up. The sailor suddenly ceased whistling, whereupon "Ned" dropped into his motionless attitude, only to rouse up again upon repetition of the whistle and the calling of his name. At last he got a grip upon the pail with one of his claws and drew himself up almost clear of the water. His master came to his relief and laid him out upon the deck. Here he strutted around in his awkward fashion to the infinite amusement of every one. He was apparently delighted when he saw his captor stretched out on the ground, and he stroked it with his claws and even pretended to "nip" it a few times "play bite," but it was noticeable that he did not close on it. When any of the passengers approached it appeared sensible of the difference between them and his master, and drawing up his extremities lay sullenly in one place. Upon being asked whether "Ned" could do any more wonderful things the sailor replied that he could. He dropped "Ned" into his pail to his captor's satisfaction. Then the pleased owner drew from his pocket a piece of rope. This he stretched between two of the deck-posts, about three feet from the deck. The crowd of spectators, which was now swelled by many from the upper deck, who had heard that something extraordinary was going on, pressed around, eager to see what the next act was on the programme. The sailor stepped on the rope, and hung him in the rope, his crabbing-clutching line tightly with one of his nippers. His master then began a low, monotonous whistle, and "Ned" put himself in motion. He evidently knew just what was expected of him, and scratching out his spare nipper he got hold of the rope a short space along. 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