

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1886.

over the appropriation bills. Congress can put as many and as few items into any bill as that body chooses to put into it. You would confer that power upon the President. We would keep it just where the fathers of the republic put it. And if it should ever become necessary for Congress to combine two or more appropriation bills in one, that body has the right and the power to do it. They not only have that power but they ought to have it. We quote our Charleston contemporary again: "It will be difficult to secure the ratification of the proposed amendment, we have no doubt, because there are so many States and so many different interests that it has become almost an impossibility to amend the Constitution in any respect, however salutary and necessary."

Not only difficult, but we trust impossible. It is to be presumed that but few congressmen will be "silly" enough to agree to confer upon the President a power which would make it necessary for them to dance attendance upon him and beg him to allow their constituents to have a custom-house or a post-office. What Virginia congressman would like to beg him to allow James river to be improved between Rocketts and City Point, or Staunton river to be made navigable, or the Kanawha river to have dams erected upon it? Congressmen are not in the habit of "crooking the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift may follow fawning" upon the President, and we hope and believe that they have too much self-respect ever to recommend an amendment to the Constitution which would or even might compel them to fall from their present high estate. We quote once more: "We see no force whatever in the objections to the proposed amendment. As the law is, the President must approve the appropriation bills as passed, or reject them altogether, and it is well known that Presidents have frequently allowed objectionable appropriations to pass on account of the inconvenience of losing the money that would attend the rejection of the bill and the failure of the whole of the appropriations. The knowledge of this has caused appropriation bills to be loaded down with propositions which could not pass if standing alone."

If the President were to veto a hundred items of ten thousand dollars each, he would save to the Treasury only one million of dollars. And if it be replied that he would veto not only those little appropriations but appropriations amounting to as much as a hundred thousand dollars, then we ask the people, would you be willing to put so vast a power into the hands of any living man? No, indeed. Far better let Congress expend ten or twenty millions of dollars a year in the most inaccessible regions of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, or any other State.

The Weather. The New York Herald has a philosophical contributor who philosophizes on the subject of the very recent widespread fall of snow. We are surprised that he did not mention it as the most general cold spell and fall of snow ever known up to this time, extending as both the cold weather and the snow do from England on the north side of the Atlantic to the northwestern and southwestern and southern and Gulf and New England States, on this side of the same ocean. The Herald man says that this great storm has finished the task of throwing a winter mantle of snow over most of the continent east of the Rocky Mountains and south of the fiftieth parallel, thereby exercising much influence on this year's crops. The snow will afford ample protection to wheat fields which a cold spell without snow might have seriously damaged. Snow is not needed unless the weather be cold.

The following we believe to be sound teaching. The Herald says: "The climatic influence of the late extended snowfall will also be marked. If the recent 'cold waves' had traversed the continent leaving no solid precipitation, the season might soon have relapsed into a state of semi-vernal mildness. The effect of a heavy snow mantle upon the permanency of cold weather is, however, perfectly demonstrated by the Russian climatologist, has recently shown that 'the melting of snow does not only prevent high maxima of temperature, but for a long time after it has begun keeping the temperature near the freezing point--i. e., snow gives a permanency to cold and prevents a rapid increase of temperature.' This, no doubt, is the reason, as he suggests, why April is so much colder than October--the heat in the former month being converted into the work of melting the winter's accumulations of snow."

"For this reason, if the recent snow-falls over the country are correctly reported, we may quite safely predict that the melting of the snow of the next thirty days in all the Atlantic States will be rather below than above the average mark. The late precipitation will also go far in the spring toward keeping up the supply of our inland watercourses. After the exceptional snow-fall over Russia, in the winter of 1867-8, the following May was, in the north of the country, the coldest recorded in one hundred and forty years, while the rivers belonging to the Volga and Neva basins were remarkably high. "Our present winter has not yet developed very great intensity. It is even possible that the 'January thaw' may greatly reduce its frigid force. But so far we have reason to be grateful for the course it has taken. After the cold 'cold waves' have done its work, a fair ice harvest may be secured in this section, while prospects for the agricultural interests will remain much brighter than they were at this time last year."

With ten representatives on the River-and-Harbor Committee, and nine additional representatives on the Mississippi-River Committee proper, they doubtless flatter themselves that they will have things their own way. But no appropriations are made by Congress, no committees--Charleston News and Courier.

Whose voice is that? Who is it that boasts that appropriations are made by Congress? It is the voice of the same party that wishes to give the President the power to veto appropriations made by Congress! We, too, would sooner trust Congress than even the President to do justice to the Atlantic cities.

We add that we are glad that the Mississippi and Ohio rivers have their attention on the River-and-Harbor Committee. We would be willing to see fifty millions of the surplus in the Treasury devoted to the improvement of those rivers. In fact, if we could have our way the James river, short as it is, would soon receive an appropriation of several millions.

"The Negro Exodus." The Philadelphia Telegraph, commenting upon the "exodus" of negroes from North Carolina and other southern States, says: "These poor people have not seldom been played upon by heartless speculators, who have desired to increase the laboring material of certain districts for the sale of their plantations, and to purposes more or less selfish, and to representations to the fairly-satisfied negroes of the cotton States. No 'exodus' of that nature is to be depended on for an instant."

As usual, the Telegraph tells the cold truth. And in the long run none will suffer but the negroes who listen to the fairy stories of the immigration agents. In certain sections of North Carolina temporary inconvenience may result; but the farmers have the consolation of knowing that it is generally the ne'er-do-wells that emigrate, and that there are plenty of negroes left from whom to supply their places.

"Who Got the Money?" In August, 1861, FRANK PIERCEPOINT pretended to be Governor of Virginia, and the false pretence was recognized as a fact by the Administration then at Washington. It was, therefore, no doubt, an agent of his bogus State government who drew the \$41,000 due to Virginia under the act providing for the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. Mr. JOHN R. MORAN need not look any further into the matter.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PROCEEDINGS YESTERDAY. Soldiers-Soldiers Bill Passed--Joint Committee on Debt Raised--New Business, &c., &c.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock M., Hon. John L. Hunt, President pro tem., in the chair. No prayer.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED. By Mr. Williams: A bill to amend the charter of the town of Jefferson, in the county of Tazewell.

By Mr. Stubbs: A bill for the relief of George W. Ellis and Robert Ellis. By Mr. Meredith: A bill to authorize the sale of the Moffett registers belonging to the State.

By Mr. Blackstone: A bill to amend section 3 of chapter 107 of the Code of 1873, relating to who are disabled to be sureties.

By Mr. Lovenstein: A bill to incorporate the St. Mary's Beneficial and Social Union.

SENATE BILLS PASSED. To amend section 1 of chapter 241 of Acts of 1876-7, in relation to the basis of municipal taxation.

To amend and re-enact section 1 of an act for the protection of fish in New river and its tributaries, approved December 1st, 1884.

To amend, &c., Acts of Assembly in relation to salaries of certain officers of the Government and their emoluments, compensation of members and officers of the General Assembly, mileage and other allowances; to define the salaries of certain officers, and to repeal, &c., all acts or parts of acts in conflict therewith, approved March 12, 1878.

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HOUSE BILLS PASSED. For the relief of T. A. Graves, of Madison county.

To amend and re-enact an act, approved March 3, 1882, entitled an act to authorize the corporation of Fredericksburg to establish a poor-house and grounds outside of its corporation limits.

Coupon suits. Mr. Rhea introduced the following, which was referred to the Finance Committee: Resolved, That the Second Auditor be requested to inform the Senate as to the number of coupon cases now being prosecuted in the various counties of this State, and to report thereon to the next session of the General Assembly.

THE FIVE-PERCENT PENALTY. Mr. Pettit's bill amending the law "prescribing the duties, powers, liabilities and compensation of certain county officers, providing for the collection of taxes, &c.," which provides for the repeal of the 5-per-cent. penalty on all taxes not paid prior to the 1st day of December of each year, came up upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee "that the bill do not pass." Mr. Pettit hoped the report of the committee would be a recommendation of the bill, but he thought the committee had thought of a ferry across the James river at Columbia from the depot of the Richmond and Alleghany railroad to a convenient point on the opposite side of the river.

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HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE.

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The following Milk and Butter Records have all been made by animals now in our herd: MILK RECORDS. Three cows have averaged over 20,000 pounds each in a year; ten cows have averaged over 18,000 pounds in a year.

BUTTER RECORDS. Five cows have averaged 20 pounds a week; one cow has averaged 18 pounds a week; six three-year-olds have averaged 14 pounds a week; seven two-year-olds have averaged 12 pounds a week; eight one-year-olds have averaged 10 pounds a week; nine six-month-olds have averaged 8 pounds a week; ten three-month-olds have averaged 6 pounds a week; eleven one-month-olds have averaged 4 pounds a week.

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