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WASHINGTON.

Congress--Retrenchment--Income Tax--Railroad Lands--Female Suffrage--Ben Butler.

[Special Correspondence Union and American.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan'y 29th, 1876.

The last week has been one of great importance to the democratic party. Its chosen representatives in Congress have proven that they intend to redeem the pledges made to the people in the canvass, that all unnecessary expenses should be reduced. The consular and diplomatic, and the West Point Academy appropriation bills have been reported. In these two small bills the committee have made a saving of over one million of dollars, showing that when the larger bills are reached at least twenty millions can be saved to the people.

HOWLING.

The radicals are howling like the spirits of the damned over the attempts of Randall and his associates, on the committee, to reduce the pay of our diplomatists and consular agents. It is well known that they are the best paid class of our public officials, the salaries of ministers range from \$7,500 to \$17,000, whilst a great many consuls receive from \$1,500 to \$3,000 in gold for doing nothing. Many of the useless consulates are abolished or consolidated, and the same course was pursued with the ministers of the minor states. The professors at West Point, who have the finest quarters and the easiest times of any officers of the army, have been receiving allowances which about doubled their pay. This favoritism has been stopped, and nothing but the regular pay due to officers of their rank is allowed to these professors. The amount paid to the cadets is reduced to the sum necessary to maintain them properly.

THE RICH TO PAY TAXES.

Mr. Morrison will, on Monday, introduce a bill restoring the tax on incomes of over \$2,500. This is a most just measure, and one that should meet the approbation of every man in the country. It reaches directly those most able to pay taxes, and who are most apt to escape the ordinary levies. There is hardly a doubt about its passage, as the republicans dare not oppose it on the eve of a campaign, where they go in claiming to be the especial friends of the poor.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

The Committee on Appropriations have determined on the reduction of all salaries over \$1,200 per year. The general rate is ten per cent., but the salary of the President is put at the old figures, \$25,000 per annum. This cannot take effect until after the expiration of Grant's term, so that he is safe to receive his \$50,000; as the appropriations made this year extend to the 30th of June, 1877, from the 4th of March, 1877, till that day the sum appropriated to pay the President is only one-half that in the last bill. The enormous sums for executive expenses have also been reduced. The pay of Congressmen is placed at \$3,600. The military and naval committees are hard at work, stopping off the excesses that have gradually grown into these services.

The number of clerks in the executive departments will be reduced about twenty per cent.

The House Committee on Public Buildings and grounds are agreed in the proposition to advocate the continuation of necessary work of public buildings, but to oppose all appropriations for new buildings.

THE SENATE.

Senator Morton has reported, as was expected, against the claim of Mr. Eustis to a seat in the Senate from Louisiana. The democratic members of the Senate Committee

on Privileges and Elections, Senators Saulsbury, Cooper and Merrimon, dissented from the report. The bill defining the time when lands, granted to railroads, are withdrawn from market, passed the Senate. It provides that they are not to withdraw until notice of the location is filed in the local land office where the land is subject to entry. The caucus of Democratic Senators determined that Morton should have the pleasure of waving "the bloody shirt" alone, as none of them will reply to his Mississippi speech.

THE FEMALE SUFFRAGISTS

are holding a convention here and urging the adoption of female suffrage in the District. If Congress should pass their bill and not, at the same time, restore suffrage to the males here, the experiment would be tested of how the women could run the District government. It is hardly probable, however, that they will succeed yet awhile, though numbers of people who, a short while ago, opposed the idea of woman's voting, are now favoring it.

TILDEN AND HENDRICKS

are the men most talked of for the democratic nomination, with the chances for the latter predominating, because of the finance question, which will unquestionably cut a "big figure" in the selection of a candidate. While Hendricks does not altogether suit either hard or soft money men, he will be taken by either wing as preferable to any of the avowed and outspoken men, like Tilden and Thurman on the one side, or Pendleton and Allen upon the other. New England asks for the second place on the tickets and presents Gaston, of Massachusetts, and English and Ingersoll, of Connecticut.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S LETTER.

nominating Governor Hayes, is the subject of much comment. It is looked upon as a blow at Grant's third term aspirations and Morton's hopes of the successorship, and by some is thought to be a shrewd movement in favor of Blaine, with Hayes as second on the ticket. At any rate it created quite a stir among the radical aspirants, and Sherman has been the recipient of curses, both loud and deep, from some of them.

THE FOREIGN NEWS

is of little interest, cantinuous accounts of battles in Spain, where each side claims the victory, and dispatches from Turkey about the fighting with the Herzegovinians are the burden of the story. There are signs of war between San Salvador and Guatemala, and of a revolution in Mexico, but these are to be expected periodically and create no emotion. The elections in France, it is now understood, will require the reconstruction of President MacMahon's cabinet with Buffet left out.

BEN. BUTLER.

As a delicate morceau, and to leave a good impression in closing, I will mention that Ben. Butler is laying the wires to return to the next Congress.

BABCOCK'S CASE.

St. Louis, Feb. 1.—Upon the opening of the United States Circuit Court the attorneys for the Western Union Telegraph Company appeared with a motion to issue writ of subpoena duces tecum from the Government upon Wm. Orton, President of the Company, requiring him to produce all telegrams between Gen. Orville E. Babcock at Long Branch, and John McDonald, John Joyce, A. Joyce, or Mrs. Joyce, at St. Louis, or at Ripon, Wisconsin, over different signatures during several months of last year. The Telegraph Company set up an answer that the demand was too general and would require an immense amount of labor. Any intention to impeach the trial is disclaimed, but it was asked that dates and descriptions of messages be given with particularity. The point was argued during the morning and taken under advisement until the afternoon.

Gold closed yesterday in New York at 113.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.

Bills were introduced by McMillan, to exempt vessels engaged in navigating the Mississippi river and its tributaries above the port of New Orleans from entry and clearance for commerce.

West presented a petition from citizens of Louisiana, favoring aid for the Texas and Pacific Road. Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

The discussion of the payment of interest on the district bonds was resumed and without conclusion, adjourned. The interest which the bill proposes to pay is due to-morrow.

HOUSE.

On the call of States—Mills offered an act for the return of the net proceeds of cotton seized after 1856.

Gibson—for rebuilding the levees and reclaiming the alluvial lands of the Mississippi river.

Levy—to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims.

Riddle—to abolish the restrictions on the sale of leaf tobacco.

Morrison, of Illinois—to revise and simplify existing laws imposing duties on imports and to reduce taxation; also to simplify the appraisement of goods, wares and merchandise imported and subject to ad valorem duties.

Slemmons—bridging the Mississippi at Memphis.

A resolution was adopted directing the Committee of the District of Columbia to inquire into frauds and circumstances against the government of the District.

Hallan offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to inquire whether the commercial and industrial interests do not require that the retirement and cancellation of legal tender notes shall cease, and whether common and equal justice to the whole people do not require that United States notes shall be substituted for national bank paper by the issue of national bank paper being substituted for United States notes—adopted.

The military academy appropriation bill passes.

ADJOURNED.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.

The citizens of Illinois petition for the repeal of the resumption act, to substitute legal tenders for National bank notes.

Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, presented a concurrent resolution for a common unit of money, for the United States and Great Britain, with the reasons why it should pass.

A House bill extending the time for unstamped instruments, passed.

The district interest bill was discussed without action.

ADJOURNED.

HOUSE.

Senate bill removing the disabilities of Geo. S. Hawkins, of Florida, and the bill giving an American register to the Hawaiian bark "Arctik," passed. She changed her flag during the war to save capture, for which there was some disposition to punish her. During the discussion, Wood said he was not specially opposed to the passage of this bill, but that his remarks were intended to be general in their application. As to the ship-yards of this country being silent, that fact was attributable to the gentleman's (Kasson's) political friends, who imposed such a protective tariff on everything entering into the construction of vessels that it was impossible to build vessels in this country and run them in competition with the cheaply built vessels of other countries. He (Wood) was an advocate of free ships, and had always been in favor of free trade, believing that American industry, American enterprise, American capital and American progressiveness, enabled this country to compete with all other countries.

The House took up as a special order, the proposed amendment to the Constitution, reported from the Judiciary Committee, which is, "That no person who has held or may hereafter hold, the office of President, shall ever again be eligible to said office." To this proposition Frye, of Maine, a member of the Judiciary Committee, offered as a substitute: "From and after the fourth day of March, in the year 1885, the term of office of President and Vice-President of the United States, shall be six years and any person having been elected to and held the office of President, or who for two years has held such office shall be in-

eligible to a re-election." The bill was discussed by Knott, New, Frye, McCrary, Caulfield, Lawrence and Harrison. Knott gave notice he would call the previous question on Wednesday at the expiration of the morning hour.

ADJOURNED.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.

Sherman presented a petition for the virtual repeal of the resumption act. He said he did not agree with the petitioners, but he knew many of them to be men of the highest character, and therefore presented their petition.

Clayton called up the bill repealing the restrictions in disposing of public lands in certain Southern States.

Jones also urged its passage. Edmunds was afraid speculators would get hold of the lands. The bill was postponed till to-morrow.

The District interest bill was discussed to the adjournment.

HOUSE.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs was directed to inquire into the expediency of requesting the President to negotiate a treaty of commerce with the Republic of France.

The bill authorizing the sale of Kansas Indian lands in Kansas to actual settlers, passed.

The Judiciary Committee reported a bill reorganizing the Judiciary of the United States. It was made the special order for the 10th of February. The bill provides for a circuit in each judicial district, and establishes in each circuit a court of appeals, which is to have appellate jurisdiction of cases arising in the courts within such circuits. The terms of this court of appeals are to be held in Boston, Albany, Philadelphia, Richmond, New Orleans, Louisville, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco. Decisions of these courts of appeals are to be final and exclusive, but a review upon the law may be had on writ of error or appeal to the United States Supreme Court, where the matter of controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$10,000, or where the adjudication involves a constitutional question or any treaty or law of the United States, or where the court shall certify that it involves a legal question of sufficient importance to require a final decision by the Supreme Court.

Knott, from the same committee, reported a bill regulating the practice in the United States Circuit and District Courts, as to the time and manner of instructing juries and arguing cases, it requiring them to conform to the practice of the States in which they are held. The bill was discussed until the close of the morning hour, when it went over without action.

The consideration of the amendment to the constitution requiring the length of the Presidential term, was resumed. Knott closed the debate. On quoting the maximum in regard to office holders, "that few die and none resign," he pictured the ailments of the Presidential office as follows: A salary of \$50,000; a mansion sustained in a style of luxury that few persons dreamed of; furnished, repaired and heated at an annual expense of \$25,000, with the very air besotted there, perfumed by rare exotics, propagated in a \$50,000 garden house—maintained at an annual expense of \$5,000; a private secretary at \$3,000 a year to do the President's writing; two associated secretaries at \$2,500 each, to do the work of the private secretary; two clerks at \$2,250 to do the work of the associated secretaries; a steward at \$2,000 to supply the President's table with the choicest wines and the richest viands that could tempt or satiate the appetite, with \$6,000 a year for books, periodicals, stationery, telegrams and—a comical pause—other contingencies. What it was that he meant, he did not know, but he thanked God for the contingencies. [Laughter.] If the children of Israel sighed for the flesh-pots of Egypt, what must be the anguish of a sensitive soul when taking a last long farewell of such salary and luxuries! He asked the gentlemen to go home to their honest, hard-worked, over-taxed constituents and tell them why four years was not a sufficient length of time for any American citizen to enjoy such an office.

The vote to recommend the bill was lost by 127 to 127, a tie and the Speaker voted in the negative. The vote was then taken on the passage of the bill and it was lost. Yeas, 144; Nays, 106; a strict party vote, except Randall, who voted "No" in order to move a reconsideration, which was pending at the adjournment.

BANK ROBBERY.

Over Half a Million in Money, Stocks, and Bonds Made Away With.

Boston, Jan. 27.—Later details of the robbery of the Northampton Bank Tuesday night, by masked robbers, state that the result is something appalling. The table of securities taken shows a total of \$670,000. Of course not much of this is negotiable, so that it is difficult to estimate the real loss to the bank and depositors. The bank officers offer a reward of \$25,000 for the return of the property and the conviction of the burglars.—The loss falls comparatively light upon the bank, the greater part of the securities belonging to special depositors.

DETAILS OF THE ROBBERY.

The robbers entered the house of Cashier Whittlesay and bound, gagged and guarded for hours seven people. They compelled him to give them the combinations of the safe vault, and waited until they knew the night watchman had gone home, and then getting into the vault and safe with only one of four keys needed, they took a large amount of securities. An expert had to be summoned from New York, and the lock was not opened until an early hour this a. m.—Cashier Whittlesay, when asked to give the three combinations to the vault, outer, inner and the chest doors, gave them wrong twice, but the burglars wrote them down and made him repeat them. Of course they caught him in the attempt to mislead them, and the exhibition of a pistol compelled him to tell the truth, though he told them four keys were necessary to open the patent lock, three of which were at another house. At 4 a. m. Whittlesay was taken to a down stairs bedroom. The whole family were gagged and four of the burglars withdrew to operate on the bank. Three hours after Mrs. Whittlesay succeeded in freeing herself and

GIVING THE ALARM

from a window. The whole party were liberated and the cashier, still wearing the handcuffs, went to the bank. At the house a workman soon afterward fitted a key and all the persons were released. An examination of the bank showed that the cracksmen had unlocked the outer door, but were apparently baffled by the safe lock, lacking the three requisite keys. They tried to get off the door with bars, and wrenched off the dial which served as an index for working the combination. They were

ENTIRELY UNMOLESTED,

the watch having gone home.—There is every indication that six and perhaps all of them left on the 6 o'clock train. Five of them had tickets previously bought, and one paid his fare. Many of the appliances, it was remarked, were homemade. The gags were children's rubber balls pierced with a stiff wire. The masks were drawers legs, some with one hole and some two for the eyes. When the robbers saw Whittlesay was watching them carefully for some marks of identification, they blindfolded him, but he observed that one was of very commanding stature. Two of the robbers left to guard, caught the train for Springfield.

Of the stolen amount a loss of only \$12,000 falls on the bank.—The heaviest individual sufferers are as follows: Judge C. E. Forbes, a hundred thousand United States 6 per cent. bonds registered; twenty-eight thousand 5 per cents registered, and seventy thousand national stocks; Henry Hanckley, \$600,000 United States bonds, Henry Bright, a large amount of negotiable bonds; J. S. Lathrop, thirty thousand dollars in Georgia bonds; Jas. Warner, fourteen thousand dollars negotiable bonds; O. J. Spellman, three thousand dollars negotiable bonds; William Gaylord fifteen thousand dollars United States bonds. Mrs. L. M. Lerner, Dr. S. A. Fike, Richard Knightan and Horace O. Collins are also among the principal sufferers. A small safe in the vault which the burglars considered too insignificant to touch contained \$30,000 deposited by Harvey Kirkland and \$2,500 in bonds belonging to the Hopkins Academy and much other valuable property. By locking the doors of the vault, the burglars got twenty-four hours start of the detectives, besides having time to negotiate much of the stolen property before the fact of the burglary was known.

New York, Feb. 2.—Plymouth Church has called the Advisory Council on Feb. 15th. Twenty ministers without charges and one hundred and seventy-one Churches are invited.

THE INVESTIGATIONS.

The Work Fully Organized by the House of Representatives.

[Special despatch to the N. Y. World.] WASHINGTON, January 30.—The work of investigation into the abuses, corrupt practices, extravagance and frauds existing in the various bureaus and departments of the Government has at last been fully organized by the House of Representatives, and developments of an interesting, if not a startling character may be shortly expected. The investigations are summarized as follows:

First—The Post-Office Department generally and the "straw bids" in particular, by the regular House Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads and the Committee on Expenditures of the Post-Office Department.

Second—The control of the Alaska-Commercial Company, the manner in which it was obtained, the revenue derived from it by the Government, &c., by the Ways and Means Committee.

Third—The conclusion of the former Pacific Mail investigation, and the relations of Messrs. King and Schumaker, members of the present House, thereto, by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Fourth—The Indian contracts and the Indian ring generally, by the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Fifth—The Freedmen's Bank and branches, by a special committee.

Sixth—The real estate pool of the District of Columbia ring, by a special committee.

Seventh—General inquiry into the alleged fraudulent practices in the Navy Department, with sub-committees on various abuses, by the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Eighth—An investigation of the alleged corrupt practices by which the charter of the Texas Pacific Railroad was obtained, by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ninth—An investigation into the expenditures of the Treasury Department, by the regular committee.

Tenth—An inquiry into the abuses of the Civil Service, by the regular committee.

Eleventh—An investigation of the corrupt practices of the Department of Justice in the South and West, by the regular committee.

Twelfth—An inquiry into the cause and means of prevention of the depredations on the Texan border by Mexican raiders, by a special committee.

Thirteenth—An investigation of the public expenditures of the State Department, by the regular committee.

Fourteenth—An inquiry for the orders, names of military officers, &c., who hold positions in the civil service.

Fifteenth—An inquiry into the extravagance of the Government printing office.

These fifteen investigations have been ordered by special resolutions of the House. In addition to these, the general resolution reported by the Ways and Means and adopted by the House requires all of the standing committees to inquire into the various branches of the public service covered by the rules of the House, and to report from time to time what reform and retrenchment can be carried out. It will thus be seen that the range of inquiry in the interest of good government is most complete, covering as it does the army and navy, the executive, the judicial and legislative departments of the Government.

THE WHISKY CONVICTIONS.

St. Louis, Feb. 1.—The verdict in the McKee case was, Guilty. The public expected a different result.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 1.—In the United States Court the following named parties were sentenced as follows by Judge Gritnam:

Philip C. Ehermine, Geo. T. Sirnonson, David M. Lewis, Harrison Miller, Wm. Mumford, Hiram B. Snyder, Alfred M. McGuff, John E. Phillips, each two years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$1,000. Jos. K. Hill, three years and \$1,000. Thos. Rubb, one year in jail and \$1,000. Henry Jacques, Christopher Coconour, John E. Crish and Dennis Rully, each six months in jail and \$500 fine. Geo. Hogan, six months in jail and \$500 fine.

The sentence of J. W. Bingham is postponed.

Last week a passenger train passed over the Indiana section of the Panhandle railroad carrying "red flag for special" and at every station the intelligent republican population turned out and yelled, "Morton! Morton! Speech! speech!"