

National Republican.

Washington City, D. C. W. J. MURTAGH & CO., PUBLISHERS. S. P. HANSBOM, EDITOR.

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1866.

APPOINTMENT OF COLLECTOR FOR NEW YORK.

H. A. SMYTH, Esq., president of the National Central Bank of New York, was nominated yesterday by the President to be collector of that port. The nomination was sent to the Senate, and referred, according to practice, to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. SMYTH was born in a small town on the western slopes of the Catskill mountains in 1819, was educated for mercantile pursuits, and was reared as a merchant. By his own energies he established the great banking-house of which he is now president, and which enjoys the confidence and commands the support of the largest and most influential commercial men of New York.

Mr. SMYTH has been in the city for several days, was warmly greeted yesterday by several of his competitors, and their many friends, who congratulated him that he had won, notwithstanding they had lost, the prize.

We think it can safely be said that this is not a political but a business appointment, and one eminently fit to be made. The place is one of such vast mercantile importance, not only to the greatest commercial metropolis in the nation, but to a considerable extent on account of the other great interests which centre there, that a man should always be selected to preside over it who has had thorough experience in the business world, and possesses the confidence of the whole community for honesty and capability.

THE UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION AT PARIS.

Upon the first page of our paper to-day will be found an exposition of matters relating to the Grand Paris Exposition of 1867. It is a subject of vast importance to our country, and one which we cannot ignore if we would. A universal exposition of the world's industry could not be held without a representation of American products.

Now, America is unrivaled in many things she will send there and will compete closely with all comers in many other things than those in which she is unmistakably and confessedly pre-eminant. On the other hand the Exposition will present to our inventors, mechanics and manufacturers specimens of skill that will stimulate them to new improvements at home, or at least will point us to the means of procuring the best articles abroad.

And it is especially desirable that our industry should be fully and adequately represented at this time. Europe has seen our Government suppress a gigantic rebellion, in which she hardly knew whether to take sides with the insurgents or the Government, and it is important we should show them what we have done during the war and are now doing in an industrial way, in spite of the war. They have learned to respect our fighting, and a proper representation of our industry will be a clincher.

Applications have been made already from every section of our country, embracing some two thousand representative articles, and in the immense preparations of the French Government and people generous space and accommodations have been provided for America. It is to be hoped that every facility may be afforded our citizens to contribute toward filling worthily the space assigned us.

The speech of Gen. Banks upon this subject, published by us immediately after its delivery in the House of Representatives, sets forth with great force and ability the design of the Exposition and the advantages we may reap from it. That speech will bear a second perusal by those who have a newly-acquired interest in this great enterprise.

ARKANSAS.

The following is the testimony, before the Committee on Reconstruction, of Lieutenant Colonel G. A. HENRY, late chief quartermaster, Seventh army corps, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Q. What opportunity have you had since the rebellion of ascertaining the condition of the people of Arkansas, and their opinions upon political matters? A. Familiar communication and personal acquaintance with nearly all the prominent men of the State, both of Union and rebel antecedents—official communication growing out of my position as chief quartermaster of the army with the people of all sections of the State and identification with the Union State organization of 1863 and 64.

Q. How do you estimate the present condition of the people of Arkansas? A. I do not think a proposition of that kind, if submitted to the people, would be agreed to now, although I think ultimately it will be advocated by the Union party. It requires time, even with unqualified loyalty, to overcome the prejudices of education, so far as civil rights are concerned. I do not think I have found half a dozen men in the State since July last, who did not admit that it was equitable that the negro should be protected against the law.

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