National Republican.

MONDAY MORNING ..... JUNE 13, 1870.

THE FEMALE CLERKS.

THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

Interesting Discussion in Congress.

When the House took up the legislative appropriation bill on Saturday the pending question was on the amendment of the Senate to insert the following as a new section:

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the compensation of the female clerks, copyists, and messengers now employed in the several Departments and bureaus, whose appointments are made by the several heads of Departments under the provisions of law, shall, from and after the 30th day of June, 1870, be the same as that paid to male clerks in the like or similar services, and it shall be the duty of the several heads of Departments so to classify said female employees as to carry out the provisions of this section; and the amount necessary for the increased compensation herein provided, for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the salaries of female clerks appointed after the passage of this act, and all other employees herein mentioned, shall be at the rate herein provided; and the services of female clerks shall be equal to that of male clerks in the several Departments and bureaus to which they may be found to be competent and qualified and working in any of the Executive Departments, with the exception of those to which they may be assigned, but they may be assigned, if the heads of the respective Departments, with the exception aforesaid, to the class to which they may be assigned; but the number of first, second, third, and fourth class clerks shall not be increased by this section.

The Committee on Appropriations recommended that the Senate amendment be concurred in, with an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"That hereafter, in the appointment and employment of clerks, copyists and messengers, or other employees in the several Departments of the Government, there shall be no discrimination between women and females, and it shall be lawful to appoint and employ any competent and worthy person in such positions, without regard to sex; but the number of clerks shall not be increased by this section."

Mr. Rogers, of Arkansas, who is opposed to the bill, addressing the House upon the subject, said:

I am opposed to the system of employing female clerks in the Departments for the reason which I gave in addressing the House when the question was formerly under consideration. I believe that the system is totally and radically wrong. I believe that it is in direction upon the established usages of the country. I believe that it was a war measure, and that at the conclusion of the war it ought to have been abolished. I believe, sir, that it has been productive of much mischief in the country. It is, in my judgment, demoralizing and calculated to reflect no credit upon the Government. I did unanimously by do our good to the class which is intended to benefit.

Now, sir, apart from this I object to it because the labor which is performed in the Departments with the salaries which we pay to these female clerks. I believe that the salaries of employees of the Government generally have been much more than the value of the labor performed in many cases what they should be. There are employees of the United States, Senate, House, and office in the United States, who are not receiving as much as these female clerks are receiving, and who are not paid for their services in proportion to the compensation which we pay to these female clerks. I believe that the salaries of employees of the Government generally have been much more than