National Republican.

VOL. XVI. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1876. NO. 154.

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SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION CASE

Appointment.

David E. Gordon was yesterday appointed internal revenue gauger for the Fourth district of California.

Democratic Caucus.

It is understood that the Democratic members of the House will meet in caucus this evening to select a new Doorkeeper, who will not be a "bigger man than old Grant."

Acting House Doorkeeper.

Mr. John H. Patterson, of New Jersey, has been designated by the Sergeant-at-Arms as acting Doorkeeper *ad interim* of the House, vice Fitzhugh, vacated by resolution.

The South Carolina Election Case.

Messrs. Harris, Thompson and Wells, the subcommittee on the South Carolina contested election case, have agreed to report in favor of Mr. Rainey retaining his seat in the House of Representatives.

Financial.

The receipts from internal revenue yesterday were $236,544.94, and from customs, $468,848.63. The following were the balances in the Treasury at the close of business yesterday: Currency, $10,159,969; special deposit of legal-tenders for redemption of certificates of deposit, $57,595,000; coin, $71,454,498; including coin certificates, $27,024,600; outstanding legal-tenders, $370,527,876.

Proposed Testimonial to Sir Edward Thornton.

Sir Edward Thornton, British Minister at Washington, who has acted as president of the United States and Mexican Commission, having formally declined to receive any compensation for his services, Secretary Fish suggests, by the consent of the United States and British Governments, that the time fixed may be given to him, and the Commission will take action toward carrying out the suggestion.

Southern Republicans.

The executive committee of the Southern Republican Association organized last night, by the election of Mr. George N. Hill, of N. C., vice chairman and J. H. Merriweather, of Ky., secretary. Steps were taken to procure at once a complete list of all the officers, clerks and employees in the different departments in this city, with the view of ascertaining their political standing, whether they were incorrectly charged to the different States.

The Cabinet.

There was no change in the representation of the Department of Justice and War Department at the Cabinet meeting yesterday. Judge Pierrepont will remain in charge of his Department until he formally accepts his new office, which he probably will not do until about the 1st of June. It is thought nothing will be done by our Government in relation to the misunderstanding upon the provisions of the extradition treaty until the arrival of Judge Pierrepont at the Court of St. James. Upon his arrival in England correspondence will be opened on the subject of the formation of a new treaty.

A Candidate for Doorkeeper.

We republish, from the Kansas City *Journal of Commerce*, on account of the reliability of its source, the following commendatory notice of a gentleman who is understood to be one of the strongest candidates for the position of Doorkeeper of the House: "There is a very decided feeling in Washington to replace Doorkeeper Fitzhugh with Col. John W. Polk, of this city. If the members of Congress knew him as well as he is known here at home, he would be elected unanimously. We wish him all the good luck possible in the premises."

The Insane Asylum Investigation.

The Committee on the Expenditures of the Interior Department resumed their investigation of the management of the United States Insane Asylum yesterday morning.

Mr. Mutchler, chairman of the committee, announced that the committee would hear a few more witnesses against the asylum upon some entirely new and material fact had just come to the knowledge of the committee, coupled with the fact that a colored man whose legs were badly frozen while an inmate of the asylum.

Several witnesses were examined, who related some tales of woe similar to those given by a majority of the witnesses of the prosecution.

Military Medical Statistics.

The report of the medical statistics of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, by Dr. J. H. Baxter, chief medical purveyor, U. S. A., is now ready for distribution by Congress. This report consists of two volumes, quarto, of 750 pages each, and is illustrated by lithographic charts and maps, showing as the result of the examination of over a million of men, the relation of disease to age, condition, complexion, age, height, nativity, occupation and locality, and will be of great interest to the medical profession throughout the country. Early application by those desiring this report should be made to their member or delegate, as the number to be distributed is comparatively limited.

The Perjurer Selye.

We understand that the Louisiana committee have not discharged this witness, but have "furloughed" him. This can be for but one purpose, namely, to protect him from arrest by process from the United States courts or by the State authorities of Louisiana. He is under indictment in the State courts for offenses against the State laws, and the term of the court at which he would be tried is about to commence, when Selye will be wanted. This is another instance of the manner in which the authority of a committee can be used to shield criminals. It will be recollected that Perrault asked for immunity against arrest for crimes for which he is indicted in the State courts, and it is well known that this application was written for him by a member of Congress.

The Indian Question.

The present unsatisfactory condition of affairs at the Great Sioux reservation is greatly exaggerated by the reports received from the Black Hills. Every exertion is making by the agents of the Indians to peacably relinquish their right to the last territory and accept a much preferable reservation farther south. Spotted Tail and his band have already expressed a willingness to go south to the Indian Territory, and if the Great Sioux nation could be brought to follow in the footsteps of Spotted Tail, the most disturbing Indian question in the Northwest would be found. The moral force of the presence of the army has to a great extent brought about quiet in the north, and if the peaceably powerful band of Teton Sioux, but the influences of Christianity have had a more peaceable effect than the bayonet has shown.

"That Bad Man Fergy."

Some years ago there was a popular minstrel play wherein the hero was known as "that bad man Fergy." He was known to some as Mr. Ferguson, and he was always lost, but always turned up when he wasn't wanted. Yesterday he went to the Treasury Department with a subcommittee of the Committee on Louisiana Affairs to examine about a thousand vouchers, and see whether he could identify the names of men who were paid salaries in the New Orleans customhouse without performing service. The point was to identify such vouchers as he swore he signed for ex-Congressman J. H. Sypher. He failed to identify any. The sub-committee was also instructed to ascertain whether anybody had applied to withdraw any of these vouchers, and were informed that no such application had ever been made, or could have been entertained if made, as such vouchers must necessarily represent money paid out by the collector, and were original papers that could not be withdrawn.

Mr. Orth on the Venezuelan Claims.

Hon. Godlove S. Orth was before the Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday in relation to his alleged connection with Venezuela claims. He testified that his first knowledge of the Venezuela claims occurred when in 1870 the Venezuelan Government protested against their validity, alleging fraud in the Caracas commission of 1866. The Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which he (Mr. Orth) was then a member, investigated the charges, and unanimously reported in favor of the validity of the awards. Afterwards, when Mr. Orth was out of Congress, and when he had no idea of again being in Congress, he accepted employment, as an attorney for Mr. Stillwell and General Talmadge, to assist them in receiving their percentage paid on the claims by the Venezuelan Government. There was a certain amount paid by Venezuela to the United States at the time as part of an installment, and the money was in the State Department of the United States. Subsequently he was employed in procuring the passage of the bill by Congress confirming the award. In this matter he acted and was paid as the attorney for Stillman and Talmadge. His services were rendered while he was not a member of Congress, and terminated before he again took his seat in Congress in 1873.

Letter of Secretary Robeson to the Naval Committee—He Demands a Hearing.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1876.

Hon. W. C. Whitthorne, Chairman Committee on Naval Affairs, House of Representatives:

SIR: For more than three months the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives has been investigating the Navy Department and naval establishment. To this investigation, conducted in various and distant parts of the country, and extending over the whole time of the present administration, and into the details of all its transactions, every person supposed to have any complaint against the Department has been publicly invited. The examinations have been conducted in secret session, without notice to, and, of course, without opportunity for cross-examination, explanation or suggestion by any person complained of.

During all this time, in the absence of any specific charge made against either myself or any officer of the Department, I have remained quiet, with the idea that the testimony when finished would be published as a whole, and that when it was complete in all its parts each false charge would be accompanied by its refutation, confident that where no wrong really existed none could be made finally to appear. But the publication of portions of the unfinished testimony in detached parts has, as was to be expected, afforded the opportunity for charges and insinuations made in the public newspapers, utterly false in fact and founded upon false inferences from the testimony as published, which will fall at once to the ground when the whole facts are known.

Under these circumstances I demand, as a matter of public right, not only for myself, but for any officer of my Department against whom anything is supposed to appear, a full and speedy opportunity to be heard in justification of every matter charged, and in refutation of every false inference that can possibly be made; and I also demand that this hearing be had in open session of the committee, to the end that public justification may follow as speedily as possible the charges and insinuations made.

Awaiting the action of the committee, I remain, your obedient servant,

GEO. M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

District Investigation.

Judge Buckner has prepared and submitted to House Committee on the District of Columbia, of which he is the chairman, a long report on the result of the investigation which that committee has been making into the affairs of the District. This report has, by some means or other, been printed and circulated, although it does not appear to have been adopted by the committee or submitted to the House. It is a very badly-conceited campaign stump speech, consisting of a rehash of all the misstatements and false allegations that have been fulminated since 1873 through the columns of the Detective Press against the District authorities, with numerous additions and embellishments, abounding in figures of speech of the kind generally used for lying.

After reciting the resolution authorizing the investigation by the committee, defining and defining the powers of the District government, the document says:

"By the third section of the act 'the control and charge of the work of repair and improvement of all streets, avenues, alleys, sewers, roads and bridges of the District of Columbia' was given to an officer of the engineer corps of the army, to be appointed by the President, subject to the general supervision and direction of the said Board of Commissioners.' The power and authority thus given, and thus limited, constitute all the power and authority given by law to the Commissioners, touching the subjects with which your committee has been charged."

And now the proposed report goes on with a petifogging argument to show that this "engineer, under the supervision and direction of the Commissioners," had no power to "improve the streets," &c. This is simply ridiculous, and does not deserve reproduction.

The report says: "And we think we can say with almost absolute certainty that under the limitations imposed upon the Commissioners they had no power or authority to make any new contract, whereby they could bind the District to pay therefor in 3.65 bonds or in any other form of security. They are expressly prohibited from making any contract or incurring any obligation, except such as may be necessary to the execution of legal obligations and contracts existing at the passage of the act, and to the preservation and protection of improvements previously finished or commenced and not completed.'" And then follows a good bit of sophistical pettifogging to show that the Commissioners had no power in the execution of existing contracts to make new ones, and enlarge their provisions when necessary to the preservation and protection of improvements then finished or commenced and not completed. Judge Buckner certainly quoted too much of the act of June 20, 1874, for his purpose, or else greatly overrated his own argumentative powers.

He says the Commissioners had no power to issue bonds for these contracts. Who said they had? or who said they did? People generally here have supposed that the Commissioners directed necessary bonds to be issued to pay for contracts and supervised the same; that the board of audit, a distinct and independent body, created by Congress for the especial purpose, then determined whether the bonds were properly vouched and entitled to be paid, and that upon the certificates of this board of audit the law made it the duty of the commissioners of the sinking fund to issue 3.65 bonds in satisfaction for them. Here were three independent ministers, whose duties were clearly defined by the law, neither one of whom could give mandatory instruction to the other, but each being invested with certain powers and duties, for which they alone were answerable. Judge Buckner quotes largely from the Commissioners' answers and the Congressional debater, then comments as follows:

"The intention of Congress cannot be mistaken. All claims then existing against the Board of Public Works and of the District government were to be adjusted, audited and funded into the 3.65 bonds; and as to the future, cash was to be paid and no more debt incurred.

"To the board of audit was confided the adjustment and auditing of the then existing indebtedness, and the Commissioners of the District were intrusted with the executive authority under limitations that left them without power to add to the indebtedness of the District a single dollar. They had power to execute existing legal obligations and contracts, and to preserve and protect improvements, whether finished or unfinished, but they could not increase the pecuniary obligations of the District, or agree to do so; but in this regard, they were limited to the use of the revenues of the District, and to such appropriations as Congress might make for such purpose. It has been by exercising a power nowhere given or necessarily implied, but in direct contravention of the whole scope and meaning of this act—that of making new contracts on the part of the District, and agreeing to pay for new work in 3.65 bonds, that has increased the debt of the District so much beyond the amount estimated by the joint committee of 1874.

"There can be no dispute or controversy that Congress intended that the valid contracts of the Board of Public Works should be completed, and that provision was made for ascertaining and funding the claims growing out of the completion of this work according to the terms of these contracts. The estimates for the completion of these contracts were made by the deposed Governor, and the sum believed to be sufficient to cover this anticipated expenditure was put down at $1,825,000. But this sum was only an estimate, and may have been purposely underestimated by the Governor, both as to the number of the incomplete contracts and the amount necessary for their completion. Neither the Commissioners nor the engineer can be held responsible for the needful to finish these contracts required a larger expenditure than the sum estimated by the joint committee.

"Your committee made no exception to the increase of the debt of the District, growing out of this expenditure. Whether more or less than estimated, the claims growing out of the completion of these incomplete contracts were provide for and paid, they were to be settled by board of audit. It was not a matter over which the Commissioners had any jurisdiction, except to see, by their engineer, that the work was done according to original contract, and that the measurements were honestly and fairly made. It is the new contracts, the 'extensions' and modifications of old contracts, the authorizing and the contracting for work to be performed, which the Board of Public Works had not contracted to do or authorized to be done, that we condemn. And in looking over the two reports of 1874 and 1875, made to the President, we cannot but come to the conclusion that this 'extension' of contracts never occurred to the Commissioners until after their first report was made, and they had not until after the adjournment of the last Congress and its failure to provide a permanent, in place of the provisional government of 1874.

"In twenty-eight days from this time in the first report of the Commissioners of the District there are but three 'extensions' mentioned as having been made by the Commissioners; and in each case the extension was a substitution of another party in place of the original contractor, because of his failure to comply with his contract. So far as we have been able to discover from this report, there was no change or addition to the old contract of the Board of Public Works, and this power of substitution was exercised under the terms of the contract, and in one case, probably in all, by advertising the work required to be done."

The report says that it also appears from the report of the Commissioners in 1874 that they passed a resolution to the effect that all contracts thereafter given out shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder "after due notice by advertisement, and the right reserved to reject any and all bids," and claims that the year 1874 they faithfully maintained this resolution by advertising for proposals for all new work to be done under their authority. The system in vogue under the Board of Public Works had been condemned in strong terms by the joint committee, and this resolution was carrying out the recommendation of that committee. During 1874 they also declined to furnish any materials, such as curbstone, brick, sewer-pipe, &c., to the contractors, another reform of the vicious system of the defunct Board of Public Works.

With such favorable showing and salutary reforms it is not a matter of surprise that Congress did not make haste to change the reforms of temporary government instituted by the act of 1874. But sooner had Congress adjourned, after having made the liberal appropriation of over a million of dollars for the general purposes of the District, and provided for the semi-annual interest due on the 3.65 bonds on the 1st of August, 1870, than an entirely different policy began to be developed. Old contracts, that had been completed, as appears from the report of the auditor of public works, for two or three years, were "extended." New work was contracted for to be paid for in 3.65 bonds; sewer pipe and curbstone was bought and paid for in the same security, and contracts were given out without advertisement, on the same vicious, expensive and corrupting system that had prevailed under the Board of Public Works.

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There is no doubt that they had authority, and it was their duty to preserve and and protect the improvements of the District; but we deny that it results from this admitted power that they had authority to contract for the payment of the labor expended in the preservation and protection of these improvements in the bonds of the District. On the contrary, the absence of any such power in the act of 1874 is conclusive of the intention of Congress. They could only use the revenues of the District and such appropriations as Congress might make for this purpose. Nor do we see any reason or propriety in the attempt of the Commissioners to throw any part of the responsibility attaching to these contract extensions upon the engineer of the District. He seems to have acted in all this matter under their control and supervision. It is the Commissioners, and not the engineer, who make and sign these contracts. It is they who contract as to the character and kind of work and the place where it is to be done. The engineer is responsible for the measurement of the work, and determines whether the contractor complies with the contract made by the Commissioners, but the responsibility of authorising the work and fixing the terms and mode of payment belong to the Commissioners. The engineer may have failed to see that proper and suitable materials were used, and his measurements and estimates may have been incorrect, but this does not meet the objection that the Commissioners had no authority to contract for these extensions, and to pay for the work specified in these extensions in the 3.65 bonds of the District.

Your committee are of the opinion that these facts afford convincing evidence that, as late as February, 1875, the Commissioners construed their powers, as to repairs of these pavements, as the committee do, and that they could only be paid for in cash and out of their own funds. Instead of using the money thus appropriated on their own estimate and at their instance, they seem to have discovered that they contract for the payment of these repairs in 3.65 bonds, and, instead of expending $419,217.53—the amount estimated and demanded—they have made repairs exceeding $800,000 in amount, and paid for these repairs in 3.65 bonds. Your committee are at a loss to comprehend where they have found authority for this large expenditure for this purpose in bonds.

We repeat that we do not question their power and duty to make these repairs, under the authority "to protect and preserve improvements, complete and incomplete," but the work of repair must be paid for in cash, and not in bonds. But it is said by the Commissioners that the ninth section of the contract, as quoted above, remained the obligation of the contractor to keep his work in repair for a term of years, and on failure and notice they had the power to make the repairs and charge the cost thereof to the contractor, inasmuch as the second section of the act of June 23, 1874, gave them the power to execute existing legal obligations, they could do this work for the contractor, pay for it in 3.65 bonds and charge the contractor for indemnification. Conceding for the moment the correctness of this construction of the law, where do they obtain the authority to issue the bonds of the District in payment for these repairs? But obviously there is no ground for this construction.

BOARD OF AUDIT.

But it seems to your committee that the Commissioners are not alone responsible for the large and unexpected increase of the debt of the District. The board of audit, if not equally guilty of a violation of the law defining their duties, are certainly participants with the Commissioners in the wrong perpetrated on the people of the District. It would be a waste of time to attempt to show that they only had authority to examine and certify the unfunded and floating debt of the District and of the Board of Public Works.

* * *

The extensions of contracts, or the contracts for new work made by the Commissioners, as well as the contracts for repairs on wood and concrete pavements, were, therefore, clearly not subjects to be audited, and certified and converted into bonds. It appears that the board of audit knew that the Commissioners were making these extensions and contracting for new work, and for repairs of old work, and still they audited claims arising out of this new work, and thus became accessory with the Commissioners in increasing the debt of the District in violation of the law. They also refused to allow all claims arising out of contracts entered into by the Commissioners subsequent to the act defining their powers and duties, the District debt would be less by twice than it now is by from three to five millions.

Judge Buckner indulges in a long argument to show that the board of audit, as well as the Commissioners have exceeded their authority, and concludes by recommending the passage of

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

Resolved, &c., (the Senate concurring therein,) That the Attorney General of the United States be, and he is hereby, directed to cause proceedings at law to be instituted against William Dennison, John H. Ketcham and Seth L. Phillips, late one of the several boards as Commissioners of the District of Columbia, for malfeasance and unfaithfulness in the discharge of their duties as said Commissioners, and for the purpose of fixing the time and appoint such special counsel as he may deem advisable, who shall take charge of the conduct and management of said suits, and also of all actions, whether civil or criminal, against the parties mentioned or referred to in the report of the Committee of the District of Columbia, made to the House of Representatives on the —— day of May, 1876, as having obtained illegal and improper allowances against the District of Columbia, or of having been guilty of a violation of the criminal laws of the United States, and that the Clerk of the House certify to the Attorney General and to the grand jury of the District of Columbia a copy of the said report and accompanying evidence, for such action in the premises as they may deem proper.

2. That the Committee on the District of Columbia of the House of Representatives, by such expert as they may appoint, shall continue the investigation of the demands and claims against the Board of Public Works, audited and certified by the board of audit against the District of Columbia, with the view of ascertaining whether any further illegal allowances have been made or illegal or improper measurements made, and to that end such experts shall have free access to any papers, documents, or books in any department of the District government, and shall be entitled to copies thereof; and said committee shall make a report thereof to the next session of Congress.

The design is to keep this investigation alive for the purpose of employing a body of clerks and experts in the compilation of campaign documents during the recess, and this report is in course of preparation, which will give quite a different view of this pretended investigation.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., May 23.—Five fishing vessels and forty-seven lives have been lost in the Gloucester fisheries this year.

GALVESTON, TEX., May 23.—A fire to-day destroyed the Southwick building; also, two frame buildings adjoining. *Loss* estimated at $100,000.

CLEVELAND, O., May 23.—A mass meeting of the striking miners is to be held at Massillon tomorrow, when it is thought the strike will be ended.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 23.—The Ohio Sabbath School union will hold its seventeenth annual convention at Dayton, commencing Tuesday evening, June 6, and ending Thursday evening, June 8.

EASTON, PA., May 23.—John D. Sigman, the hardware merchant who shot himself this morning, has since died. His body has been removed to his late residence, where the inquest will be held this afternoon.

NEW YORK, May 23.—Jay Gould and Sydney Dillon have been ordered to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt, in not appearing to be examined before trial in the suit of Rufus Hatch, in accordance with the order granted last week.

FREMONT, NEB., May 23.—The Republican convention convened here this afternoon. On account of two counties having contested delegations the committee on credentials were unable to report, and the convention adjourned until to-morrow.

ATLANTA, GA., May 23.—Yesterday the grand jury of this county found a true bill against late State Treasurer Jones, for illegally withholding money from the credit of the State treasury. Mr. Jones was arrested this morning and required to give bonds for the sum of $10,000. Bond has not yet been given.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—The delegates are gathering for the Democratic State convention, which meets here to-morrow. The general sentiment seems to be decided that the action of St. Louis convention uninstructed. Hendricks and Tilden are the favorites. The latter especially so among San Francisco delegates, as being known as a hard-money man.

LOUISVILLE, May 23.—The Right Worthy Grand Lodge of Templars of the World convened its session here to-day. The attendance was large and the proceedings begun amidst unusual interest. Delegates from Alaska, England, Australia, Africa and all parts of the globe are present. J. J. Hickonon, of Louisville, presided.

NEW YORK, May 23.—The absence of suitable provision for the due ventilation of the court-rooms in the new court-house is entailing very serious consequences on the small court judges. Four of the judges are now sick and unable to come to the court, and to-day Judge Donohoe had an attack of vertigo and had to be carried home. The whole building was inspected yesterday by the Board of Health officers.

Virginians and England's Queen.

PETERSBURG, VA., May 23.—The grand celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday commenced to-night with an enthusiastic welcome meeting. Addresses by the mayor, prominent citizens and clergy, and responses by British settlers, were delivered. The banquet to-morrow will be on a magnificent scale. A congratulatory cable telegram was sent to Lord Derby for presentation to Queen Victoria. British flags are flying, and there is general enthusiasm.

Base Ball.

HARTFORD, CT., May 23.—Chicagos, 6; Hartfords, 4

NEW YORK, May 23.—St. Louis, 12; Mutuals, 3

PHILADELPHIA, May 23.—Louisville, 3; Athletic, 1.

Miss Anderson.

The beautiful French play of "Berthe, the Daughter of Roland," was brought out with *eclat* at the National last night, and before a splendid house. In "Berthe" Miss Anderson met with a veritable triumph; and, as in "Evadne," she appears rather to create and live the part than act it, and evinces talent which entitles her to a higher place in the dramatic Olympus. Miss Anderson has been more than successful in her two performances in this city, and undoubtedly she will be greeted with an overflowing house tonight in "Romeo and Juliet."

Professor Perrey, of Toulouse, has reported to the Academie des Sciences at Paris that there are more shocks of earthquake at new and full moon than at the quadratures. Of the quakings noted between 1845 and 1872 as many as 3,250 occurred when the moon was nearest to, and 3,015 when she was farthest from the earth.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

THE WORK OF THE SENATE

AN ACTIVE DAY IN THE HOUSE

THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL

Reorganization of the Marine Corps

MUSIC OF THE MARINE BAND

PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS AND MARTIAL STRAINS

SENATE.

TUESDAY, May 23, 1876.

Mr. OGLESBY, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably House bill for the relief of the legal representatives of Zachariah Washburn, deceased.

Also, from the same committee, favorably on the bill to confirm to the State of Missouri the swamp and overflowed lands selected therein.

Mr. PADDOCK, from the same committee, favorably reported the bill to aid in the construction of a military bridge across the North Platte river.

Mr. BOOTH, from the same committee, reported favorably House bill to establish a new land district in the Territory of Wyoming.

Mr BURNSIDE presented the petition of citizens of Washington, asking an appropriation to widen and deepen the Washington channel of the Potomac river from the Long Bridge to Arsenal Point. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. HAMLIN presented a memorial of citizens of Penobscot, Maine, remonstrating against the repeal of the bankrupt law. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. ROBERTSON presented resolutions of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, remonstrating against that part of the Hawaiian treaty which admits rice free of duty. Finance.

LIMITATION OF PATENTS.

Mr. ALLISON introduced a bill, which provides that the term of patents granted in the United States for inventions previously patented abroad shall not expire at the date of lapse, forfeiture or annulment of the patents granted for the same inventions in any foreign country, but shall remain valid for the shortest term for which the foreign patent was granted unless the latter shall be extended. The bill provides, however, that no United States patent shall remain in force more than seventeen years.

Mr. DORSEY, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported favorably bill to establish a reformatory for the District of Columbia, and the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington, D. C., and asked for its present consideration, but objection was made by Mr. EDMUNDS.

CONTINENTAL RECORDS.

Mr. MERRIMON submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of collecting and printing the resolves, ordinances and acts of the Continental and Confederated Congresses. He said he had information that many of the acts and resolves had never been printed. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. CONKLING presented a memorial of workingmen of Rochester, New York, protesting against any change in the existing tariff laws. Finance.

Mr. CONKLING, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported favorably, with one verbal amendment, the joint resolution of the House requesting the President to intercede in behalf of E. O'M. Condon, and asked its present consideration, but objection was made and it went over.

PENSION ARREARS.

Mr. SHERMAN submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit a detailed statement of the amount of money that would be required in case of the passage of House bill No. 2484 amending the laws relating to pensions as reported by the Senate Committee on Pensions. Adopted.

Mr. CLAYTON, was, at his own request, excused from service as a member of the board of visitors to West Point.

The President announced the appointment of Mr. HITCHCOCK as a member of the board of directors of the Reform School of the District of Columbia for four years.

WASHINGTON HARBOR.

Mr. CONKLING, from the Committee on Commerce, reported adversely Senate bill 801, to improve the harbor of Washington city and the navigation of the Potomac river, and it was indefinitely postponed.

Also, from the same committee, favorably on the bill to confirm to the State of Missouri the swamp and overflowed lands selected therein.

Mr. PADDOCK