

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Regular Session.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, February 21, 1878.

After the introduction of a number of petitions and memorials, which were appropriately referred.

Mr. SPENCER introduced a bill for the erection of a military post in the Black Hills region. Referred.

Mr. MATTHEWS introduced a bill to authorize the payment of a balance due to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Referred.

On motion of Mr. WHYTE, the Senate took up and passed the bill for the relief of the Alabamian and Chesapeake Canal Company.

Mr. GORDON offered a resolution directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the efficiency of the Merzimon life-preserver and its value to the Life-Saving Service. Adopted.

Mr. GORDON, from the Committee on Commerce, reported the bill for the relief of the Woodruff scientific expedition, with amendments. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. McMillan said Mr. SPENCER and himself dissented from the report of the committee.

On motion of Mr. SARGENT, it was ordered that the Senate adjourn to-day to be met on Monday.

The CHAIR called before the Senate a message from the President, in answer to a resolution of the Senate, relative to the coat of the Louisiana war.

Also a similar communication transmitting a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In accordance with a previous order, the Senate went into executive session, and after a protracted session, at the expiration of which the bills adversely reported were disposed of, adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The regular order was demanded by several gentlemen as soon as the Journal had been read, while there were a score of gentlemen on the floor to offer bills and resolutions. One or two bills of minor importance were introduced, and then

Mr. MILLIS offered a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interests, to transmit to the House copies of all correspondence between the Government of the United States and Spain in relation to the seizure of the steamer Virginia. Adopted.

The regular order was demanded, and at twenty-five minutes past twelve the Speaker called the committees for reports of a public nature.

Mr. KNOTT, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to amend the Revised Statutes in relation to the division of Missouri into two judicial districts. Passed.

Also reported a bill to change the time of holding the terms of the district court for the District of West Virginia. Passed.

Mr. BUTLER, from the committee, reported a bill authorizing the payment of the creditors of the late Republic of Texas, under the acts of 1855 and 1856. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Also from same committee, reported bill for relief of Hon. WILLIAM M. SPRINGER. Referred to Committee of the Whole.

From same committee, reported a bill to relieve certain legal disabilities of women, to provide that any woman who shall be a member of the bar of the higher courts of the State, or of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for ten years, and who shall be of good moral character, shall be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, upon presentation of the record of the case in which she was a member. Passed by a vote of 169 yeas to 87 nays.

Mr. LYNDIE, from the same committee, reported a bill providing for the appearance of the United States in certain cases of foreclosure. Passed.

Mr. LAPHAM, from same committee, reported a bill to fix exceptions on judgments in favor of the United States. It exempts from seizure in such judgments the same character and amount of property that is exempt from levy in the respective States in which the judgment is obtained under the State laws. Passed.

Mr. HARTWIG, from same committee, reported a bill fixing the number of members of the Council and House of Representatives of the respective States. Passed.

The morning hour having expired, the House proceeded to the consideration of business on the Speaker's table.

After several executive communications had been presented, the bill was read, and the Senate amendments were read at length.

Mr. SPRINGER made the point of order on the bill that it was an appropriation bill, and that it must have its first consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. FORT hoped his colleague would not press the motion.

Mr. EDEN asked his colleague whether he made this point because he wanted to defeat the silver bill at this session.

Mr. SPRINGER said he made this point of order because he had a right to do so, and because the bill in its present form did not carry out the purpose it was intended to do.

The SPEAKER reminded the gentleman that the merits of the bill could not be discussed.

Mr. PATTERSON moved to go into Committee of the Whole.

The point of order was discussed by Messrs. COX (Ohio), GARFIELD, STEPHENS, BUTLER, COX (N. Y.), CONGER, SAYLER, WHITEHOUSE, and others, those who opposed the Senate amendments favoring the point of order, and those who favored them advocating it. Precedents were quoted on both sides, and the question came to whether one member could by a technical objection send Senate amendments to the Committee of the Whole in defiance of the majority.

After listening to remarks on all sides, the Speaker overruled the point of order. He said he had not reached that decision either by public bias or party feeling. The rule referred to was a House rule, and was intended to govern House proceedings. But there was no rule which could give to any one member the right to enforce a technical point against a Senate amendment. He could not recollect any instance when a single technical objection would cause the bill in its present form not to carry out the purpose it was intended to do.

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THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate's executive session yesterday lasted four and a half hours. The first report considered was that of the Committee on Commerce on the nomination of George E. Williamson for the New Orleans collectorship. An animated debate took place, during which the President's civil-service policy came in for its usual share of condemnation, and the nomination was finally rejected by a vote of 37 to 16. The next case taken up was that of Lorain C. Northrop, nominated for the United States District-Attorney's place for South Carolina. In his case an adverse report was made by the Committee on the Judiciary, and the opposition against his confirmation was pronounced. Senator Davis, of Illinois, making quite a lengthy speech in favor of the committee's report. After a protracted debate, however, the nomination was confirmed—yeas 31, nays 28.

Next in order was the nomination of Frank T. Smith for the Mobile collectorship, which, after an excited discussion of nearly an hour's duration, was confirmed by a vote of 29 yeas to 23 nays.

The nomination of Reed for the Alabama marshaling was recommended to the Committee on the Judiciary for further report, and that committee authorized to send for persons and papers.

The case of Richard Parsons, who has been nominated for the position of United States Attorney for Alabama, was not reached.

Confirmations.

THURSDAY, February 21, 1878.

Robert T. Smith, to be collector of customs at Mobile, Ala.

Lorain C. Northrop, to be United States Attorney for the district of South Carolina.

William G. Pollock, to be superintendent of Indian affairs, Dakota.

Postmasters—Joseph L. Cooper, at Manchester, N. H.; Daniel E. Stever, at Westport, Iowa; Henry J. Johnson, at Chambersburg, Md.

The Senate rejected the nomination of George E. Williamson, to be collector of customs at New Orleans, La.

Cholera in Arabia.

The Department of State is informed that there is great mortality from cholera among the pilgrims to Mecca. At that place in eight days there were 787 deaths, and at Jeddah, the port of Mecca, there were 1,124 deaths in the same time. It was feared that with the return of the pilgrims homeward the disease would reach Constantinople. Masters of ships passing through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus were ordered to keep a close watch for the return of cholera, and to report to the nearest customs officials and quarantine officers, or they will be subjected to heavy penalties.

More Home-Loans.

Some months ago the citizens of New Mexico, through Mr. Romero, their delegate in Congress, urged the appointment of two persons to fill the office of register of lands and receiver of public moneys at Santa Fe. These offices are worth perhaps \$500 each per year. Assurances were not wanting that the wishes of the people would be met, and that the bill would be passed on Tuesday. To the surprise of almost everybody, the President sent to the Senate for confirmation the names of two entire strangers in the Territory. Home-ruled, while applied at the South, seems to be ignored at the White House in the Territories.

Indian Lands.

In response to a resolution of the Senate, the President has transmitted to that body a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, showing that 25,948,022 acres of land in the Indian Territory have been surveyed into sections and quarter-sections, to carry out treaty stipulations and to enable the Department to properly settle the Indians. The area surveyed comprises 15,149,700 acres; unsurveyed previous to the treaty of 1866, 10,798,328 acres.

Storm Signals.

The cautionary signals of the Signal Service were displayed all along the Atlantic coast, from Charleston, S. C., to Eastport, Me., and the lakes at Milwaukee, Lexington, and Grand Haven.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The following horses were sold at auction this morning: Springfield, \$2,500; Wade Hampton, \$800; Danforth, \$1,100; Dan Sparlie, \$1,400; Monticome, \$700. Several other horses were sold. A large number of trunks were present and the bidding was spirited.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 21.—During a wind storm last night ten barges of a coal fleet lying in the harbor, behind the levee, were carried away and swamped. Fences in the city were blown down and trees uprooted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—George W. Abbott, of Messrs. Abbott & Co., money-brokers, has disappeared, taking with him property of the firm to the amount of \$50,000. It is supposed to have taken passage on the steamer Georgia for Panama.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—This morning a solemn requiem mass was celebrated at the cathedral for the repose of the soul of Pope Pius IX. The interior of the building was densely crowded, and a number were unable to obtain admittance.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Washington's Birthday will be generally observed as a holiday in this city to-morrow. Most places of public and private business will be closed, and the day will be devoted to military and other ceremonies.

HARTFORD, CONN., Feb. 21.—Edward L. Goodwin, city clerk of New Britain, and formerly Police Court clerk, was arrested last night on the charge of misappropriating \$1,500 while police clerk. He took poison to-day and died.

PORTLAND, ME., Feb. 21.—The British steamship B. Amherst, on her way to Liverpool for this port, is long overdue that fears are entertained for her safety. She is an iron screw steamer, of 1,435 tons, and owned in North Shields.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 21.—The Lynchburg Home Guard arrived this afternoon. They are guards of the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, and will participate to-morrow in a military parade in honor of the day.

NORFOLK, Feb. 21.—The members of the Grand Lodge and uniformed corps of the Knights of Pythias turned out to-day in a grand parade.

RICHLAND, VA., Feb. 21.—Hon. A. B. Wiggin, Judge of the Hustings Court, this city, died suddenly tonight of apoplexy, aged forty-seven years.

AUGUSTA, ME., Feb. 21.—In the Senate, this afternoon, the bill to allow women the right to vote at municipal elections was indefinitely postponed.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 21.—The races announced for to-day have been postponed until to-morrow on account of a heavy rain.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—Charles Francois Danby, the French painter and engraver, is dead.

PLANTS sleep night, as is well known, and their sleeping hours are a matter of habit, and can easily be disturbed. A French chemist has recently exposed a sensitive plant to a bright light at night and placed it in a dark room during the day. The plant at first appeared much perturbed. It opened and closed its leaves irregularly, in spite of the artificial sun beaming upon it at night, and in the daytime it sometimes awoke. It finally submitted to the change, unfolding itself regularly at night, and closing in the morning.

SOME anatomy of the widow Stauff, in Louisa, Ga., set fire to her house. She and her three children perished.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

DOINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

Information Gathered at the Capitol, in the Departments, and About Town by the Reporters of the National Republic.

Congressional Committee Work Yesterday.

The House Committee, on Commerce, yesterday considered the bill to create a department of commerce, and heard argument by a delegation from the Export Convention, consisting of Elliot C. Cowdin, Ambrose, Snow and A. B. Miller, of New York, J. D. Hays, of Detroit; E. Doerr, of Buffalo; H. M. Hooker and J. E. Washburn, of Philadelphia, and J. H. Walker, of Worcester, Mass. The last named gentleman is chairman of the committee on reciprocity of trade and commerce of the National Hide and Leather Association, will address the committee on Saturday. The committee agreed to report back to the House on Monday, and the bill will be reported to the Senate on Wednesday. The committee also agreed to an item in the river and harbor bill, for the improvement of the great Kanawha River.

It is understood that the committee will reconsider the appropriation of \$400,000 for removing the obstructions near Hell Gate, in the East River, New York, with a view of reducing the same to \$250,000.

The House Committee on Elections agreed to report in favor of Dean, the Democratic contestant from the Third Missouri District, the sitting member. The vote was as follows: Ayer—Harris, Springer, Turney, Cobb, Williams (Ala.), Ellis, all Democrats—6. Noye—Candler, Democrat—Thompson, Wait, Price, Hancock, Republicans—5. The case will be called up in the House on Wednesday next. The committee also refused to grant further time to the Democratic contestant from the Third Missouri District.

The House Committee on Military Affairs, after discussing the bill for the reorganization of the army, brought up the bill for the pay and allowances of officers of the army, and Dibrell's bill fixing the pay of non-commissioned officers, recommitted the bills to the several sub-committees who had reported them.

The Senate Committee on Patents heard argument by Dr. William Whyte, of Philadelphia, in favor of the bill permitting him to apply for patent for an improvement in fire-arms. Mr. W. C. Dodge, of this city, for the Smith & Wesson Manufacturing Company, and the Hon. Charles C. Smith, of Massachusetts, of Hartford, Conn., and Mr. Hollis White, of Massachusetts, in his own behalf, argued against the bill.

The Senate Committee on Commerce heard argument by C. P. Huntington in behalf of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and by Governor Brown, of Texas, in behalf of the Texas Pacific.

Cost of the Sioux War.

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of December 7, 1877, the President has transmitted to that body reports of the General of the Army, the Quartermaster-General, the Commissary-General of Subsistence, and the Chief of Ordnance, showing the cost of the late war with the Sioux Indians and the casualties in the army during the same. The Quartermaster-General reports that from General Terry, commanding the department of Dakota, it is learned that the cost of war in that department was \$692,908, of which \$460,470 were expended for the purchase of supplies, and \$232,438 for the cost of stores purchased in the Black Hills after the cost of the war was terminated. The Chief of Ordnance reports that the value of ordnance stores lost on the battlefield, abandoned and destroyed for want of transportation, amounted to \$7,490,723. The Commissary-General of Subsistence reports that the value of stores lost was \$17,483,12, and the excess of the cost of stores purchased in the Black Hills after the cost of the war was terminated was \$6,311,245. The Adjutant-General reports sixteen commissioned officers and 267 men killed, and several other officers and men wounded. Total killed and wounded, 283.

Capacity of the Mints.

Dr. Underman, Director of the Mint, returned from Philadelphia yesterday morning, whether he had been to attend the session of the assay commission, and, after the adjournment of that body, to inquire into the capacity of the mint at that place, in the event of the silver bill becoming a law. In two weeks from the bill becoming a law, silver will be coined and ready to be stamped. The four presses used in San Francisco capable of coining a similar amount—\$1,500,000 per month—exclusive of all other coinage, save the trade-dollars.

At Carson City, Nev., the capacity of the mint will be \$500,000 monthly, making \$6,000,000 annually. The mint at Philadelphia should be utilized for coinage purposes. It would take over \$75,000 and four months' time for it to be got ready for such purpose. But the mint at Philadelphia is a unique condition for heavy coinage, having perfected machinery and workmen skilled in the manufacture of silver, there being now on hand a quantity of bullion wherewith to commence operations.

Women Before the Supreme Court.

The bill to give equal rights and disabilities to women, which passed the House yesterday by a vote of 160 yeas to 87 nays, is the one prepared by Mrs. Lockwood and argued by her before the House Judiciary Committee early during the present session. This bill in a modified form has been presented to the House every session for the past four years, or ever since Judge Drake refused Mrs. Lockwood admission to the court of Chancery in the case of *Lockwood vs. Lockwood*, the only tenable ground that the court could find for refusing her. The highest vote ever recorded in favor of her admission was 15 yeas and 10 nays, recorded by the House on Benjamin F. Butler, in 1874, when there was a spirited debate in the House and the yeas reached 91.

Capital and Department Notes.

A committee of Boston publishers have prepared a bill, and which they have submitted to the House, for the relief of the publishers of the rubber calendar, newspaper, and other printed matter.

The Assistant Postmaster at New York City has addressed a letter to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, complaining of the delay in the delivery of mail matter, as they do not use ink having oil, and that which they do use being ink that will wash out—thus causing delay in the delivery of mail matter.

The conference fund was increased yesterday by a contribution of \$10 from a Philadelphia.

The ship-of-war Wyoming arrived at Norfolk yesterday.

THE AGR