

SUMMARY OF NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, October 13.—The Democratic caucus made the following nominations: Randall for speaker; Adams for Clerk; Thompson for Sergeant-at-Arms; Polk for Doorkeeper. The Republicans made nominations for the above offices respectively as follows: Gen'l. Garfield, Rush, Ordway, and Harrison.

October 15, 2 p. m.—Vice President Wheeler called the Senate to order exactly at 12 o'clock m. The proclamation of the President calling the extra session was read. Thurman presented the credentials of Stanley Matthews, Senator from Ohio to fill the unexpired term of Sherman. Mr. Wallace presented the credentials of Donald Cameron as Senator from Pennsylvania for the unexpired term of Simon Cameron. Mr. Cockrell presented the credentials of David H. Armstrong to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Senator Boyer of Missouri. Adjourned until 12 m. 13th.

The House was called to order by Clerk Adams. After reading the President's proclamation calling the extra session, he proceeded to call the roll by States, commencing with Maine. When Louisiana was reached, Clerk Adams made a statement setting forth that he had received three sets of credentials from this State; one set signed by John McEary, another by Wm. Pitt, Kellogg, and still another by Francis T. Nicholls. The latter being the only credentials that reached him through the channel prescribed by law, and that fully comply with the law of Louisiana, he had placed the name of the persons they give on the roll.

After the roll was called the House proceeded to the election of a Speaker. Mr. Clymer nominated Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania. Mr. Hale, of Maine, nominated Mr. Garfield of Ohio. Mr. Randall was elected on the first ballot as were, subsequently, all the officers nominated by the Democratic caucus.

Oct. 15, 8 p. m.—There are 37 Republicans and 34 Democrats in their seats in the Senate. Sharon is absent and will be during the extra session. It is possible and even regarded as probable that the Democrats will take immediate control of the Senate. The credentials of Spofford and Butler have not been presented.

Democratic Senators will be guided in their action on Louisiana appointments by the President, by the advice of Spofford and Eustice. The President's nominations cannot be confirmed without Democratic votes, hence Republicans will favor the admission of Messrs. Eustice and Spofford. The situation is singularly complicated.

Oct. 16.—The credentials of J. H. Acklen of Louisiana arrived too late to put his name on the roll. When the Louisiana case was reached in the House, Gen'l. Gibson, on behalf of Mr. Acklen offered a resolution declaring that Mr. Darrah be sworn, and that the credentials of both gentlemen be referred to the committee on elections, to report forthwith. The cases of Elam & Robertson of Louisiana are to be acted on to-morrow.

It is believed that the army bill, fixing the number of men at twenty-five thousand and having in it no special restrictions on the Executive will pass. The Democratic caucus of Senators resolved to wait indication of what Republicans intend to do regarding Senators from South Carolina and Louisiana before adopting a line of action.

Oct. 17.—The cases of Eustice and Spofford will be acted on to-morrow. It is most probable that they will be referred to the committee and subjected to contest. J. B. Elam and E. W. Robertson of Louisiana were sworn in the House under a resolution reserving the right to contest to their respective opponents, Smith and Nash.

Oct. 18, 2 p. m.—Spofford's credentials referred to the Committee on Elections. This disposes of his case until the regular session.

STEAM FERRY.

By the proceedings of the Police Jury of Pointe Coupee at their meeting on the 8th instant, published in the PELICAN, we see that the report of the joint Committee of the two parishes together with the Mayor of Bayou Sara was received, and that the same Committee was authorized to take such further steps as may be deemed necessary to secure the object in view. This action makes it the duty of the President of our Police Jury, in compliance with a resolution passed by that body at its late session, to advertise for bids for the right of the ferry between Bayou Sara and Pointe Coupee, the same no doubt to be awarded to the best bidder.

Neither of the Juries have taken any action specifically denoting what requirements are necessary to be expressed in the bids, or in other words, to determine what constitutes a bid. They seem to have left it, so far at least as the Jury of West Feliciana is concerned, optional with the President, except in the matter of tolls, the rates of which were fully specified in the report of the Committee and endorsed by the Jury in its reception of that report.

If we are not in error, the Committee made no recommendation as to whether the bids were to be for STEAM ferry alone, or whether bids for two classes of ferry, steam and hand, were open for competitive consideration. This point seems to be left entirely to the discretion of the President, and no doubt it will receive that intelligent consideration of which the object is so worthy and which he is so capable of bestowing.

Another important point for consideration is the protection against outside and clandestine ferriage and the extent of the safeguards the corporation of Bayou Sara and the two parishes are prepared to offer. Again, there should be certain regulations under which the ferry should be required to be operated, for upon its REGULARITY depends the advantages and conveniences to accrue to the public as well as the success of the enterprise to the lessee.

All these requirements should be distinctly stated in the advertisement for proposals, in order that parties who are disposed to compete for the privilege may be apprised of just what requirements will be exacted of them.

That a regular and well managed ferry boat at this point would at once be an advantage to our towns as well as remunerative to its proprietor there can be no doubt. The sole objection in the way seems to be the Morganza crevasse, which at a high stage of the river offers formidable interruption to travel, but we have been informed that Mr. Eugene Oubre, an enterprising citizen of Pointe Coupee, has guaranteed to obviate this difficulty by placing a ferry across the waters of the interruption occurs.

A safe, substantial, and reliable ferry boat, between Bayou Sara and Pointe Coupee would prove of inestimable advantage and convenience to the people of both sides of the river, nor is it necessary so that her trips should be FREQUENT as it is that they should be PROMPT and REGULAR.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16, 1877.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The adjournment of the last Congress without making appropriations for the support of the army for the present fiscal year, has rendered necessary a suspension of payments to the officers and men of the sums due them for services rendered after the 30th of June last.

The army exists by virtue of statutes which prescribe its numbers, regulate its organization and employment, and which fix the pay of its officers and men, and declare their right to receive the same at stated periods. These statutes, however, do not authorize the payment of troops in the absence of specific appropriations; therefore the Treasury has wisely provided that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law;" and it has also been declared by statute that "no department of the Government shall expend, in any one fiscal year, a sum in excess of the appropriations made by Congress for that fiscal year." We have, therefore, an army in service, authorized by law, and entitled to be paid, but no funds available for that purpose. It may also be said, as an additional incentive to prompt action by Congress, that since the commencement of the fiscal year, the army, though without pay, has been constantly and actively employed in arduous and dangerous services, in the performance of which both officers and men have discharged their duty with fidelity and courage, and without complaint. These circumstances, in my judgment, constitute an extraordinary occasion, requiring that Congress be convened in advance of the time prescribed by law for your meeting in regular session. The importance of speedy action upon this subject on the part of Congress is so manifest that I venture to suggest the propriety of making the necessary appropriations for the support of the army for the current year at its present maximum numerical strength of 25,000 men, leaving for the future the consideration of all questions relative to an increase or decrease of the number of enlisted men. In the event of a reduction of the army by subsequent legislation during the fiscal year, the excess of the appropriation could not be expended, and in the event of its enlargement, the additional sum required for the payment of the extra pay could be provided in due time. It would be unjust if the troops now in service, and whose pay is already largely in arrears, if payment to them should be further postponed until after Congress shall have considered all the questions likely to arise in the effort to fix the proper limit to the strength of the army.

Estimates of appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year ending June 30, 1878, were transmitted to Congress by the former Secretary of the Treasury at the opening of its session in December last. These estimates, modified by the present Secretary so as to conform to present requirements, are now renewed, amounting to \$32,426,756 98, and having been transmitted to both Houses of Congress, are submitted for your consideration.

There is also required by the Navy Department \$2,003,861 27. This sum is made up of \$1,448,688 26 due to the officers and enlisted men for the last quarter of the last fiscal year; \$311,953 50 due for advances made by the Fiscal Agent of the Government, in London, for the support of the foreign service; \$500,000 due to the naval hospital fund; \$150,000 due for arrears of pay to officers; and \$45,219 58 for the support of the marine corps.

There will also be needed an appropriation of \$262,535 22 to defray the unsettled expenses of the United States courts for the fiscal year ending June 30 last, now due to attorneys, clerks, commissioners and marshals, and for rent of court rooms, the support of prisoners and other deficiencies.

A part of the building of the Interior Department was destroyed by fire on the 24th of last month. Some immediate repairs and temporary structures have in consequence become necessary, estimates for which will be transmitted to Congress immediately, and an appropriation of the requisite funds is respectfully recommended.

The Secretary of the Treasury will communicate to Congress in connection with the estimates for the appropriations for the support of the army for the current fiscal year, estimates for such other deficiencies in the different branches of the public service as require immediate action, and cannot without inconvenience be postponed until the regular session.

I take this opportunity, also, to invite your attention to the propriety of adopting at your present session necessary legislation to enable the people of the United States to participate in the advantages of the International Exhibition of Agriculture, Manufactures and Arts, which is to be held at Paris in 1878, and in which the Government has been invited by the Government of France to take part. This invitation was communicated to this Government in May, 1876, by the Minister of France at this Capital, and a copy thereof was submitted to the proper committee of Congress at its last session, but no action was taken upon the subject. The Department has received many letters from various parts of the country expressing a desire to participate in the exhibition, and numerous applications of a similar nature have also been made at the United States Legation, Paris. The Department of State has also received official advice of a strong desire on the part of the French Government that the United States should participate in this enterprise, and space has hitherto been, and still is reserved in the exhibition buildings, for the use of exhibitors from the United States to the exclusion of other parties, who have been applicants therefor.

In order that our industries may be properly represented at the exhibition, an appropriation will be needed for the payment of salaries, and the expenses of the commissioners, of transportation of goods and for other purposes in connection with the object in view; and as May next is the time fixed for opening the exhibition, if our citizens are to share the advantages of this international competition for the trade of other nations, the necessity of immediate action is apparent to enable the United States to cooperate.

In the International Exhibition which was held at Vienna in 1873, Congress then passed a joint resolution making an appropriation of \$200,000, and authorizing the President to appoint a certain number of practical artisans and scientific men, who should attend the exhibition and report their proceedings and observations to him. Provision was also made for the appointment of a number of honorary commissioners. I have thought that prompt action by Congress in accepting the invitation of the Government of France is of so much interest to the people of this country, and so conducive to cordial relations between the Govern-

ments of the two countries, that the subject might properly be presented for attention at your present session.

The Government of Sweden and Norway had addressed an official invitation to the Government to take part in an international Prison Congress, to be held at Stockholm next year. The problem which the congress proposes to study, how to diminish crime—is one in which all civilized nations have an interest in common, and the Congress of Stockholm seems likely to prove the most important convention ever held for the study of this grave question. Under authority of a joint resolution of Congress, approved February 16, 1875, a commissioner was appointed by my predecessor to represent the United States upon that occasion, and the Prison Congress having been, at the earnest desire of the Swedish Government, postponed to 1878, the commissioner was renewed by me. An appropriation of eight thousand dollars was made in the sundry civil service act of 1875 to meet the expenses of the commissioner. I recommend a reappropriation of that sum for the same purpose; the former appropriation having been conveyed into the Treasury, and being no longer available for the purpose without further action by Congress. The subject is brought to your attention at this time in view of the circumstances which render it highly desirable that the commissioner should proceed to the discharge of his important duties immediately.

As the several acts of Congress providing for detailed reports from the different departments of the Government require their submission at the beginning of the regular annual session, I defer until that time any further reference to subjects of public interest.

R. B. HAYES.

RATHER STRINGENT.

It seems that the traffic in seed-cotton had assumed such proportions and was working such loss to the planters of Pointe Coupee that there was a serious disposition being manifested by the staid people of that republican parish, toward taking the remedy into their own hands. To check any and all such tendencies as might result in the dreaded system commonly known as Bulldozing, the Police Jury, seeking to avert the effect by removing the cause, passed the following stringent ordinance which, if enforced, will effectually prevent the planter from disposing of his cotton, though his title be undisputed, unless he first has it ginned or is fortunate enough to strike upon some one who has been able to take out the required license, and which tends in some measure to do away with publicans in the parish, and to encourage the shipment of cotton in the seed to the gins of New Orleans. Laws of a similar character, adopted generally throughout the country, would soon effect the general shipment of cotton in the seed to New Orleans, there to be ginned and finally disposed of.

Would not the end in view be fully covered by a law requiring merchants and others to purchase cotton in seed only with the joint consent of the laborer and owner or lessee of the plantation upon which it was grown?

The following is the full text of the Pointe Coupee ordinance:

Be it resolved, That from and after the passage of this resolution it shall be unlawful for any merchant or other person in this parish to buy cotton in the seed, or trade or traffic for cotton in the seed without first having taken out a license for so doing, which license is hereby fixed at five hundred dollars.

Be it further resolved, That any person violating this ordinance shall pay a penalty of four hundred dollars; said penalty to be sued for by the parish attorney and recovered before any court of competent jurisdiction, one-fourth to go to the informer and the balance to go into the parish treasury.

Be it further resolved, That the store, other building or property used by the person violating this ordinance for the purpose of carrying on said trade or traffic in cotton in the seed, shall be seized and sold to pay said penalty, where said store; other building or property belongs to the person violating this ordinance, or if it belongs to a third person, when said third person knows of the use to which said property was put.

Be it further resolved, That the payment of this penalty of four hundred dollars shall not exempt any person violating this ordinance from paying the license of five hundred dollars herein provided for.

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