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Chicago Tribune.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1863.

THE NEWS.

Loyal men, who are watching carefully the great national measures now in the hands of Congress, for procuring men and means to carry on, to a triumphant issue, the war with the rebels, will be encouraged by the aspects set forth in our Washington special dispatches. The friends of Freedom and Loyalty in Congress, know the men with whom they are dealing, and will disarm and defeat them. The Conscription bill will speedily become a law, and without being returned to the Senate with amendments.

Apparently, the work of reducing Vicksburg has begun, and our mortar boats are bellowing in front. We may expect stirring news, in the week that has now opened.

The dispatches from Cairo state that Gen. Grant has revoked the salutary and patriotic order of Gen. Hurlbut, excluding the secesh *Times* from his Department. Not long since, Gen. Grant issued a sweeping order, expelling all Jews from his Department, and now he issues another order, patronizing an organ of treason, and, in effect, commending it to his soldiers. If he desires them to follow its instructions, and they comply with them, he will not have a soldier in a week.

☞ In saying on Saturday that Arizona had been admitted into the Union, we were in error. The bill that passed provides for a Territorial, not a State organization. Heretofore Arizona has been attached to New Mexico, and occupied a rather anamalous civil status. It was not considered a part of New Mexico, nor yet did it possess a government. The bill that passed Congress remedies this defect and provides it with a complete Territorial Government.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The dispatches from Washington mix the Currency and Financial bills badly. The Congressional proceedings indicate that the Senate's Currency or Bank bill passed the House on Friday without amendment; which we think is true. Another dispatch says a Committee of Conference has been appointed by both Houses, on the "Currency" bill. And still another dispatch says the Conference Committee was appointed for the Financial bill, which we think is true. Our impression now is that the House has passed the Senate's Currency bill without material amendment. Our next advices will probably settle the question.

CHASE'S BANK BILL.

It is said that Morrill and Vallandigham, of the House Conference Committee on Chase's Banking bill, that has passed the Senate, will insist on striking out the two per cent. tax clause. If this be done, the bill will be inoperative and worthless. Instead of removing the tax on the circulation of the 1,600 shinplaster shops that are in full blast bloating and depreciating the currency, it should be doubled. Morrill, it is said, owns some stock in a wild cat bank in Maine, and that influences his action. Vallandigham is opposed to giving the bill any vitality, because that would help Secretary Chase to furnish money to carry on the war. He wants to break down the credit and resources of the Government and force it to make a disunion peace, and one of the surest means of accomplishing that end is, to destroy the value of the currency by promoting inordinate expansion. Thus, we have the spectacle of a Unionist and a secessionist acting together to break down the credit of the Government—one from mercenary and the other from treasonable motives.

THE ILLINOIS SHIP CANAL.

Grand Rally at Metropolitan Hall, Tuesday Night.

There will be a meeting at Metropolitan Hall, on Tuesday evening, February 24th, at 7 1-2 o'clock p. m., consisting of the Board of Trade, the Mercantile Association, and all others engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits in the city of Chicago, to hear the report of the delegation sent to Washington, on the combination by which the Great Ship Canal Bill was defeated; to hear the report of the Committee on the Trade and Commerce of the Northwest, and the necessity of creating for it additional outlets, and to ratify the recent action of the Legislature in authorizing the Governor to send a commission to the Canadian authorities, and respectfully requesting them to afford us such outlets.

Many of our most prominent citizens will participate in the proceedings. Let there be a full attendance upon this occasion, so vital to the prosperity of the Northwest.

By order of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1863.

SENATE.

Mr. LANE of Kansas, introduced a bill to grant the right of way through the military reserves of Kansas.

Mr. WILSON of Mass. introduced a bill to incorate a National Academy.

Mr. HOWARD of Mich. called up the bill to divide Michigan into two judicial districts.

After discussion by Foster, Trumbull, Fessenden and others, the bill passed. Yeas 25, nays 11.

Mr. FESSENDEN presented the credentials of Hon. L. M. Morrell, re-elected U. S. Senator from Maine for six years.

Mr. POWELL offered a resolution that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the facts in reference to the arrest, imprisonment and release of D. A. Mahony, J. A. Mullen and Andrew J. Duff. Laid over.

Mr. POWELL also gave notice that he should, at an early day, offer a resolution for a committee to investigate the conduct of Col. Gilbert in dispersing a convention in Kentucky.

Mr. LANE called up the bill to grant lands to Kansas for the construction of railroads and telegraphs. Passed.

The bill for the discharge of State prisoners was then taken up, the question being on the amendment of Mr. Carlile, offered as a substitute for the substitute proposed by Mr. Trumbull.

Mr. POWELL spoke at some length in favor of Carlisle's amendment.

Mr. POWELL defended the recent meeting in Frankfort, Ky., and denounced Col. Gilbert for breaking it up.

Mr. WILSON of Mass. replied.

After executive session the House adjourned.

HOUSE.

A committee of conference was asked of the Senate on the disagreeing amendments of the bill to provide ways and means to support the Government.

The House resumed the consideration of the Postoffice reform bill.

Mr. LAZEAR of Ohio, offered an amendment, which passed, providing that all soldiers in camp and hospitals shall receive and transmit letters free.

The Hutchins and Maynard amendments, making a uniform rate of postage, were rejected. Mr. HUTCHINS ineffectually moved to table the post office reform bill. The bill passed, 72 against 56.

Mr. MORRILL reported from the Committee on Ways and Means, amendments to the tax bill, the consideration of which was postponed until Friday next.

The House passed the Senate bill to prevent correspondence with the rebels.

The Senate bill for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes, is to be considered on Monday.

The Senate bill to amend the act preventing members of Congress from taking considerations for procuring contracts, office or place, was amended so as to embrace any agent of the Government of the United States, and passed.

The Senate bill authorizing the President, in all domestic or foreign wars, to issue letters of marque and reprisal, such power to continue two years, was taken up.

Mr. COX of Ohio wanted the bill referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Messrs. P. A. CONKLING of New York, WASHBURNE of Illinois and McKNIGHT of Pennsylvania, wanted the bill to pass now. It was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. House adjourned.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

HALIFAX, February 21.—The Canada, from Liverpool, 7th, and Queenstown, 8th, has arrived.

Her dates are one week later.

She brings 159 Lancashire operatives, sent by Miss Coutts.

The Polish insurrection was spreading. Wengrow had been taken by the Russians after a sanguinary battle.

The *Times* states that it is reported that an offer was made some months ago, by certain parties in Paris, to negotiate a loan for the Confederate Government of five millions sterling, on the basis of cotton at five pence per pound, the holder having the option, after a certain period, of exchanging his cotton for Confederate bonds at 70c, bearing eight per cent. interest, and that it has been partially accepted.

The Queen's speech contains very little of importance, excepting the following: "Her Majesty has abstained from taking any step with a view to induce a cessation of the conflict between the contending parties of the North American States, because it has not yet seemed to her that any such overtures could be attended with a probability of success. Her Majesty has viewed with the deepest concern the desolating warfare which still rages in those regions, and she has witnessed with heartfelt grief the severe distress and suffering which that war has inflicted on a large class of her subjects, but which has been borne by them with great fortitude and exemplary resignation. It is some consolation to Her Majesty to be led to hope that this suffering and distress is rather diminishing than increasing, and that some renewal of employment is beginning to take place in the manufacturing districts."

In the House of Lords, the question being on an address in reply to the Queen's speech, Earl Derby said he had no objection to make to the course of the Government in regard to the American war, but regretted they had not joined with France in the attempt, however hopless, to effect such an armistice and cessation of hostilities as would lead the two parties to reflect on the miseries and hopelessness of the war in which they were engaged. He ended by approving the course of the Government on the American question.

There is news of an insurrection in Cochin China, and desperate attacks on the French forces.

Fighting had taken place, but the Cochin Chinese were repulsed with heavy loss.

FROM THE SOUTH.

What the Rebels say of Mediation

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 21.—The flag of truce boat brought down last evening about 300 exchanged Union prisoners.

The Richmond *Enquirer* says there are rumors of an advance of the Yankees upon Middle Tennessee. Cannonading was heard on Wednesday last in front, also in the direction of Beech Grove, where Gen. Buford, with his Brigade of Kentucky cavalry, is stationed.

Gen. Forrest has crossed Duck River, north of Columbia, with cavalry and artillery.

The Texas *Flag* of the 2d inst., has accounts of an invasion of our (rebel) soil by Mexican banditti, who are stealing horses, cattle, etc. Capt. Belcridis's company was attacked in Laliata county, and all their horses slaughtered. They also captured and hung the Chief Justice of Lahata county. About 500 Mexicans have been organized for the purpose of plundering our frontier, and their acts are approved by the Mexican authorities. The banditti, at last accounts, were on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, and some of them are under the United States flag.

The flag of truce brought from City Point eighty or ninety of the crew of the United States gunboat Isaac S. Smith, recently captured at Stono Inlet, also nineteen United States officers, being the remainder of those captured previous to Jeff. Davis' proclamation.

The following United States prisoners have died in the hospital at Richmond since the last report: J. B. Corey, private, company A, 1st Wisconsin, February 3d, pneumonia; F. H. Caswell, private, Co. E, 74th Illinois, February 4th, fever.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 18th expresses great indignation against Dronyn de L'Huys' peace plan, scorns all ideas of mediation and says the only Commissioners they have are Lee, Beauregard, Longstreet, Jackson and Johnston. In reference to a proposed conference, it says it is well the Washington Government refuses the suggestion; conferences are good, and battle is good, but both together would be too much.

The French Emperior was snubbed by England and lectured by the United States. Will he end as he ought to have begun, by recognizing the Confederacy and sending a Minister to Richmond? Until he brings himself to that point, the Confederates will no more thank him for his interference than the Yankees.

The *Enquirer* pretends to have an account of a successful attack by Forrest upon Gen. Jeff. C. Davis' Union force at Franklin on the 17th, dispersing the Yankees in every direction. They retreated towards Nashville.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Army Movements in Louisiana.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—New Orleans advices state that Col. Paine, acting Brigadier General, left Baton Rouge on Saturday, the 7th, with three transports, conveying the 4th Wisconsin and three other regiments. These troops disembarked at Plaquemine, twenty-nine miles below, on the west bank of the Missisippi, and marched inland to Indian Village, seven miles distance, comprising about a half dozen miserable cabins. Arriving there at sunset, the troops bivouacked for the night, the Iberville following with the stores and tents and a guard of cavalry, by way of Plaquemine bayou. There our troops are temporarily encamped, and at no great distance from a crevasse, which has already submerged some of the adjacent woods. Two weeks ago this Indian village was occupied by a band of guerillas, who were driven off by a company of United States cavalry. The Iberville took on board, in lieu of her military stores, upwards of $4,000 worth of sugar and molasses from the neighboring planters, who professed themselves rejoiced at the opportunity of transmitting their produce to New Orleans. It lies now at the levee of New Orleans.

Gen. Amory left for Carrollton on the 6th, to proceed with several regiments to reinforce Col. Paine. The entire force will push for Bute La Rose, there to affect a junction with Gen. Weitzel.

The War in Virginia.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—A Washington special to the Philadelphia *Inquirer* says:

Scouts report Col. Fitz-Hugh Lee at Culpepper Court House, with 2,000 cavalry. Lee's pickets extend nine miles, to Hazel River and the road to Warrenton and the Rappahannock, on the Orange and Alexandria Road. No rebel force is now north of these two points, except White's farmer guerillas, near Leesburg.

Colonel Baker's detectives have captured twelve persons engaged in smuggling goods to Richmond. Upon them were found $9,000 in bills on Southern banks, and $3,000 in gold. They had passes from Gen. Winder to go beyond the lines, but not through Lee's army nor south of James River.

A Great Snow Storm.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 22.—A great snow storm commenced before daylight this morning.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.—About ten inches of snow has fallen here. The railroads will probably be blockaded.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—It has been snowing all day. About ten inches have fallen.

Sanders Again.

HALIFAX, Feb. 21.—George N. Sanders, who sailed for Europe on Friday evening, had been staying here for the last few days previously. He is bearer of dispatches for the Confederate Government.

Gen. Shields gone to California.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Among the passengers sailed in the Champion to-day, is Gen. Shields.

Matters in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The Chamber of Commerce to-day adopted a strong protest against the wrongs that the British Government had allowed to be inflicted on our commerce in her home and colonial ports in the matter of the Alabama.

The Chamber also adopted a resolution in favor of letters of marque against the Alabama, Florida, and other piratical cruisers. Also a memorial to the Secretary of the Navy asking further defenses in New York harbor.

The rebel Colonel Hicks has been sent to Fort Lafayette. It seems almost certain that he is a spy.

The *Herald* says arrangements are nearly completed for building a third line of telegraph between Washington and Boston. All the funds are subscribed, and the contracts are executed.

☞ We understand that a misapprehension exists as to the presumed issuing of an order by Gen. Boyle excluding citizens of the Jewish persuasion from his headquarters and refusing them passes for ordinary travel. There has been no such distinction made or intended by Gen. Boyle, and every loyal and law-abiding citizen is regarded in the same light, allowed equal facilities for access to the General in command, and entitled to travel under the same proper restraints which have been tendered necessary to prevent contraband trade and evil communication with the rebels on the part of unworthy and disloyal people. —*Louisville Journal, 19th.*

FROM VICKSBURG.

THE BOMBARDMENT ACTUALLY BEGUN.

Our Mortar Boats have Opened the Game.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MEMPHIS, Feb. 21, 1863.

Advices from the fleet off Vicksburg, to the evening of the 8th, furnish the agreeable information that the initial step inaugurating active hostilities commenced that day, and it is presumed that the grand attack was soon to follow. Our mortar boats were towed down to positions above the city, and opened the ball by firing briskly—with what effect upon the enemy is unknown. Three rounds were delivered by the mortar boats, which were briskly responded to by three batteries of the Confederates, which were in decent range. Our position was soon found to be too much exposed for effective operation upon the rebel force, and was finally changed, when the bombardment was again renewed on both sides. It is thought that the next advices from that quarter must prove of absorbing interest. Events cannot now be long in culminating in something important. All the transports are to be retained below until the danger from overflowing and crevasse shall have passed.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MEMPHIS, Feb. 19, via CAIRO, Feb. 21.

The latest Vicksburg advices are to the 17th. Matters about the fleet and camps remain quiet. The gunboat Indianola, which ran past Vicksburg, did not receive a single shot. She had on board 17,000 bushels of coal, besides ammunition and provisions. The Indianola has gone to the Red River, where the rebels receive their supplies from Texas. Brilliant results are expected.

The last boats up report no difficulty from batteries on the river banks.

FROM MEMPHIS.

HOPEFIELD, OPPOSITE MEMPHIS, DESTROYED.

Reported Death of the Guerilla Gen. Forrest.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MEMPHIS, Feb. 19, via CAIRO, Feb. 21, 1863.

The city, always on the alert for a sensation, was thrilled into an excitement yesterday by the sound of cannon off the city, and rushing to the bluff saw a steamer floating down in flames, apparently with no one on board. She grounded just above Hopefield, directly across from this city. It would appear that some men from the steamboat Sovereign and gunboat Crockett had gone on an excursion on shore. Among them was E. H. Gulich of the Sovereign. The weather was very foggy. On nearing the opposite shore, they were hailed by a man on the bank who said a steamboat had been lately fired above by guerillas. The tug landed at the point indicated, near the Little Rock Railroad Landing, and there saw a boat in flames. She had several barges of coal in tow. Her lines were cut and the coal saved, and the steamer came down and grounded as described. Previous to this the gunboat Mary Miller came up and threw shell into the woods near where the burning took place.

The rebels seem to be near Lagrange. At Lafayette some teamsters and others were captured on Tuesday.

The Confederates, estimated at 4,000, made a dash on the Charleston road. The anticipated Federal force is supposed to be strong enough to keep them at bay.

The news from Vicksburg is anticipated. There are no further particulars of the running of the blockade by the Indianola.

An entire block of buildings on the west side of the public square was destroyed by fire, at Trenton, night before last. The fire broke out about 10 p. m., and is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The block contained a hotel, several stores and business houses, among them some of the best brick buildings in the place. We have no estimate of the loss.

The steamer Chippenay Valley arrived today from Island No. 63, where she was arrested under a charge of contraband trading.

Gen. Hurlbut has issued the following order dated Memphis, Feb. 17:

By direction of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding this Department, general order No. 4, from headquarters, is revoked. All restrictions heretofore imposed on the circulation of the Chicago *Times* are hereby rescinded, the order prohibiting the circulation of this paper having been revoked by superior military authority. The General commanding this corps directs that all proceedings and arrests for violation of said order be overruled.

Parties from Trenton state that on Thursday night of the present week, a fire broke out in that place, in the principal business block in the town, opposite the Court House, and, notwithstanding the efforts of the 122d Illinois and 22d Ohio regiments, nearly the whole block, consisting of one first-class hotel and a number of stores, of brick and wood, and other business houses, was entirely destroyed. But for the exertions of the soldiers, the entire place must have been burned. As it was, the loss was considerable. It is thought that the fire originated with secession sympathizers in Trenton, or skulking members of guerilla bands.

After the middle of next week railroad communication will be perfect between Columbus and Memphis, and a daily line of packets will be run from this place to connect with it. This will materially accelerate the movements of travelers to the South, and unless guerillas interfere, the railroad will again become a regular thoroughfare. The line, at present, is well guarded, and it is understood that it will continue to be thus guarded as long as there is any danger.

The steamer John Warner, Capt. Roone, was fired into on her way up to Memphis at Bend Arkansas.

Gen. Hurlbut has issued a stringent order against speculation or extortion, by officers or soldiers, from citizens of Memphis. It is also reported that Gen. Grant has revoked the order prohibiting the sale of the Chicago *Times* in his district.

No boats, or merchandise on boats, is hereafter to be allowed to go south of Helena, excepting such as are in the employ of the Government. Such boats are only allowed to touch at such points as are occupied by United States troops, or covered by the United States gunboats. Violations of this order subject the violating boats to seizure. This order is from Gen. Hurlbut, by instructions from Gen. Grant, issued Feb. 16th, and to remain in force until revoked.

During last night, the rebels on the Arkansas side managed to scuttle and sink two barges filled with coal, lying at the landing opposite Memphis.

The tow boat Hercules had been previously burned and sunk. This determined the authorities to destroy the village of Hopefield, opposite Memphis, which it is known is constantly filled with guerillas. The work of destruction commenced at noon. The steamer Mill Boy was sent over to bring away the families and children. The gunboat Crickett shelled the woods beyond the town, and shortly after a house was set on fire; then house after house, till the destruction was complete. Hopefield is among the things that were.

A brother of the rebel General Forrest informs the *Bulletin* that he is dead. His relatives place reliance on the information.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MEMPHIS, Feb. 21, 1863.

Since the burning of the town of Hopefield matters in Memphis have been rather quiet. Strict watch is kept over the guerillas. Movements of parties in the edge of the woods opposite, on the Arkansas shore, are occasionally the signal for throwing a few shells in that direction, by the gunboats, but thus far no considerable force has been discovered there.

FROM FRANKFORT.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 21, 1863.

In the Legislature, yesterday, the House tabled a resolution offered by Mr. Draffin, nominating General McClellan for the next President.

The House passed a joint resolution to adjourn *sine die* on the 2d of March. Also a resolution to close the debate on Federal Relations and vote on Wednesday.

Mr. Finnel offered a resolution thanking the brave Kentucky boys for defending the State and fighting for the national flag and expressing the unreserved homage of gratitude of the Legislature and their sympathies with the relatives of the fallen brave. This was adopted by 66 votes—only five voting in the negative.

The debate on Federal Relations was continued in the Senate.

The Committee on Federal Relations will report to-morrow. The report will be calm, dignified, patriotic and conservative.

FROM CINCINNATI.

A NEW INVASION OF KENTUCKY

THE REBELS NEARING RICHMOND.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22, 1863.

Gen. Wright, commanding this Department, was suddenly called to Louisville to-day.

A dispatch just received from Lexington states that a messenger arrived in that city at 4 p. m., with the intelligence that Forrest, with a large cavalry force, was within two miles of Richmond, Ky., when he left. There certainly is another invasion afoot, for our troops are gone on some expedition, but in what direction I am not at liberty to state.

The preparations for the grand Union meeting, in response to the address of the Ohio soldiers in the army of the Cumberland, to-morrow evening, are completed. It is expected the demonstration will be the largest ever held here.

Governor Morton and Governor Wright, who are to speak, have already arrived. Large delegations from the Ohio and Indiana Legislatures will be here to-morrow. Prominent Democrats have been invited to participate, but have declined.

FROM CAIRO.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

CAIRO, Feb. 21, 1863.

The steamer White Cloud, which, with officers and crew, was arrested at Island No. 10, with a rebel mail on board, has arrived in charge of executive officer W. C. Hanford, of the gunboat New Era.

Senator Green, of this district, held a public meeting at Cairo, on Thursday night, in pursuance of a printed notice circulated by himself. Senator Green made a speech an hour and a half long, and vented the whole of the venom he had collected during the late session of the Legislature upon President Lincoln, the currency, the Government, and the Union. He announced that the programme of the Copperheads had been framed, and would be carried out, and the only cause of adjournment till June was to lay the matter of peace and armistice before the people. He said the Democratic party would fix its platform upon the demand to the President to withdraw his Proclamation of Emancipation, and upon an armistice during which the peace measures would be arranged.

D. T. Linegar, Esq., ably answered Mr. Green, and Green responded until after midnight when his audience deserted him. Had Mr. Green as plainly avowed his principles before election as he has here and in the halls of the Senate, he could never have carried votes enough to have elected him even in this land of Egypt.

FROM MADISON.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

MADISON, Feb. 21, 1863.

The Legislature has adjourned to Monday evening, and most of the members have gone home, doubtless in honor of Washington's Birthday.

The Senate did not meet this morning.

In the Assembly, forty-seven members were absent at the opening of the session, which lasted only one hour.

Several more anti-negro petitions were presented and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Jones, Caswell and Rountree.

Several political resolutions, including one from Mr. Walworth, was offered yesterday, relative to negroes coming North, and was postponed to Thursday.

Mr. Pope offered, as a substitute for the resolution asking for the release of the Ozaukee rioters, one strongly condemning their insurrectionary and brutal violence and disloyal conduct as disgraceful to Wisconsin, and an attempt to incite a spirit of rebellion and hinder the prosecution of the war. The motion to table was lost, and the resolution postponed to Thursday.

The resolution for distribution, with the school fund, of gold in the Treasury, was tabled.

The new and well arranged military hospital, 440 feet long, lately finished at Camp Randall, has now 145 patients; ninety from the 30th, and fifty from the 25th regiment.

Thirty-three recruits for old regiments have been examined here within eighteen days.

The 27th regiment, at Milwaukee, is now full to 850 men, having had accessions from Manitowoc, drafted.

Major E. D. Murray of the 22d regiment, has resigned, and Capt. C. W. Smith commissioned in his place.

Major Stansbury, the excellent United States Military Superintendent for this State, is quite ill.

A Union meeting is called here for Monday evening.

FROM LANSING.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

LANSING, Mich., Feb. 21, 1863.

The Joint Committee of the two Houses, who visited the Insane Asylum at Kalamazoo, made a report yesterday. The condition of the institution is highly encouraging. It is estimated that $58,000 are required to finish and properly furnish the institution. The Committee recommended an appropriation of that amount.

The Senate passed the bill increasing the war loan of the State to $1,250,000.

The joint resolution providing for a Roll of Honor in memory of Michigan soldiers who have fallen in the war, also passed.

The Agricultural College question and government land grant was discussed in the House without final action. Also, the granting of swamp lands in aid of certain colleges. By a test question it was evident that such a proposition will not pass.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 21, 1863.

An imposing military display took place today, in honor of Washington's birth-day. The 8th, 12th, 14th, 34th and 37th Iowa regiments were in the procession.

Amendments have been offered to the State Militia bill in the Legislature, forbidding the militia from returning fugitive slaves belonging to rebels; also, to forbid license collectors issuing licenses to rebels; also, to prevent rebels from sueing in State Courts, or getting judgments—allowing the opposite party to introduce proof of sympathy with the rebels by plaintiffs.

Descertions from Camp Benton are numerous, on account of a report that soldiers captured by Morgan and Forrest will be ordered into active service, on the ground that their paroles are invalid. Sixty-seven left in one night.

Orders have been given to expedite the completion of the Monitor gun boats as rapidly as possible.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Conscription Bill in the House.

Amendments to the Tax Law.

Col. Mason Demands a Court of Inquiry.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1863.

The Conscription bill was taken up in the House on Saturday and the previous question at once clapped on. The Peace Democrats threaten to filibuster, but that can result in nothing, as it is impossible for them to resist the will of the majority continuously day and night from now till the 4th of March, which they would have to do to defeat the bill. Republicans will offer no amendments, but will correct some defects by subsequent legislation.

The House also put the Senate Letters of Marque bill in a safe way for passage by referring it to the Naval Committee, with leave to report at any time.

Most of the important measures for this Congress are either thus worked off or are in a way of being speedily reached, and business is further ahead than is customary at this stage of the session, and the Republicans are hurrying it up for fear of Democratic attempts to filibuster towards the close of the session.

The Joint Conference Committee of the two Houses on the Finance bill, is in informal session to-night at the Capitol. Mr. Chase is with them urging the House concurrence in the Senate amendment. Conclusions will probably be reached to-night, if agreement at all shall prove possible. Outside conjectures are that the House Committee stands one for and one against the Senate amendments, with Thad. Stevens doubtful. Should he incline to Chase's views, that would insure their triumph, but his antecedents are the other way.

The Postal bill was amended in important particulars by the House before its passage. The section giving postmasters salaries instead of commissions, was stricken out after the presentation of the case by Mr. Colfax, who was overruled in his committee on this point. The compensation stands as at present. The franking privilege which was unconditionally abolished by the Senate, whose bill fixed rates on all postal matter, was modified as follows: Letters to persons entitled to the franking privilege, except the members of Congress and the subordinates of Government on official business, are no longer free. Postmasters receiving less than $200 annually are not entitled to franking. Drop letters remain at present rates, where there is no carrier system. Where there is a carrier scheme the rate is two cents and free delivery. The House, by sixteen majority, voted soldiers letters free, a provision which the Senate will probably strike out. The uniform newspaper and letter rates were retained.

The Senate confirmed all the naval nominations, except Sherwood, yesterday, without reading, on the faith of Grimes' report from the committee.

Breeze was confirmed as Rear Admiral, and Lenthall as Chief of the Bureau of Construction.

Some members of the House are maneuvering for a third mileage for this Congress.

The following is a careful synopsis of all the important provisions in the bill amendatory of the internal revenue laws reported by Mr. Morrill from the Committee on Ways and Means:

SECTION 1.—Whenever any instrument in writing is required, it shall be lawful, whether written or partly written and partly printed. Assistant Assessors may perform the duties imposed in section 11 on Assessors, and deputy collectors the duties imposed in section 19 on collectors.

Notices required by such section may be left at the dwellings or places of business of persons neglecting to pay their taxes. A person licensed as hotel keeper is not to be licensed as retail dealer of spirituous liquors, but required first to obtain a liquor license in accordance with the laws of his State. Apothecaries need not be licensed as retail dealers in liquors in consequence of selling alcohol.

SEC. 64 is amended by adding the following parties of whom licenses are required.

Architects and civil engineers, ten dollars.

Builders and manufacturers, twenty-five dollars.

Two-horse carmen and wagoners, and hack and coachmen, three dollars.

Billiard tables, ten dollars.

Lottery ticket dealers, one hundred dollars.

Insurance agents or brokers, ten dollars.

Butchers, ten dollars.

Retail dealers, ten dollars.

Wholesale dealers from $25 to $250. Wholesale dealers are defined as those whose annual sales exceed $25,000 at wholesale, and retail dealers include those in liquors.

Section 75, after "provided that white lead," &c., the words "and paint and painters' colors," are added. After tanned calf skins, a proviso is added, stating that "and "deacon" skins to a duty of three cents each. The following additions are made:

Marine engines, three per cent.

Wheels, axles, railroad chairs, bolts and horse shoes, $2.00 a ton.

Rolled copper and yellow sheeting one per cent.

Sails, tents, shades, awnings, and bags, three per cent.

Tobacco manufactured, of all descriptions, save those hereafter mentioned, fifteen cents per pound.

Smoking tobacco, prepared with stems, or made exclusively of stems, five cents per pound.

Snuff twenty cents per pound.

Mineral water, one cent a quart bottle, and two cents for larger bottles.

Ready made clothing: exclusive of hats caps or bonnets, three per cent.

Umbrellas and parasols, three per cent.

Confectionery from two cents per pound, and five per cent.

Gold leaf, fifteen cents a pack.

Castings of iron not otherwise provided for, $1.50 per ton.

Clocks and time pieces, three per cent.

SEC. 77 is amended by requiring persons owning or keeping a carriage, plate or billiard table to pay the tax provided for, and by inserting after "kept for use" the words "for hire or for passengers, and plate belonging to religious societies."

SEC. 78. The duty on slaughtered horned cattle reduced from thirty to twenty cents; on hogs exceeding 100 pounds in weight without regard to age, six instead of ten cents, and no duty on those of less weight. The number that may be slaughtered for home consumption is limited to six of each exempt from duty.

SEC. 2 imposes a penalty of $100 on any person offering for sale a lottery ticket without a stamp. No prize can be recovered without such stamp, and any purchaser of such ticket may recover the full amount paid, with the costs.

Lottery tickets, under Schedule B, where sold at retail for one dollar, ten cents additional, under costs for each dollar or fraction of a dollar: *Provided*, That no stamp duty shall be construed as an authorization of a lottery, or as preventing a State from taxing the sale of tickets.

SEC. 3 taxes persons insuring against injury to travelers, one per cent. on gross receipts, and subjects to existing laws touching insurance companies.

SEC. 4 provides that all contracts for the purchase or sale of coin or bullion, and for the loan of money or currency upon the collateral security of said coin for the repayment of any such loan, shall be in writing or printed, and signed by the parties, their agents or attorneys; and if said contract is to be performed within three days from its date, it shall bear one or more stamps, as presented in the act to which this is an amendment equal to one-fourth of one per centum of the contract amount, which shall be estimated by the lawful currency of the United States, or if said contract is not performed within three days, or shall not be performed in three days, it shall bear stamp or stamps equal to one per centum; *Provided*, however, that nothing herein contained shall apply to any transaction by or with the Government.

SEC. 5 Provides that all contracts, loans, or sales of bullion or coin not thus made, are wholly and absolutely void, and in addition to the penalties provided in this act any time within one year from the date of the contract, being sued before any court of competent jurisdiction, may recover for his own use and benefit the money paid on any contract not made in accordance with this act.

SEC. 6. Imposes a stamp duty on certificates other than those specified in schedule, after former act of five cents, but no stamp is required on applications for bounties, arrearages of pay, or pensions, certificate of measurement, of weight, deposit, notes to Mutual Insurance Companies. The following stamp duties are imposed:

On passage tickets to foreign ports costing thirty dollars or less, fifty cents.

An assignment of mortgages lease or policy of insurance, same as original instrument.

Power of attorney on any document made in foreign countries, the same as if made in the United States.

All sales of vessels, from twenty-five cents upwards.

Any paper promising to repay money borrowed, to be stamped as promissory notes, on power of attorney, if for a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, for sale or transfer of scrip, certificate of profit, 10 cents.

Policy or renewal of insurance of any bond on which premiums do not exceed ten dollars, ten cents.

No conveyance of lands to pay a stamp duty of more than $1,000.

SEC. 7. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is authorized to prescribe methods for cancelling stamps.

SEC. 8. The interest on bonds of companies, or dividends of canal companies, three per cent.

SEC. 9. In lieu of the present duties, one and a half per cent on the gross receipts of ferry boats.

SEC. 10. Express companies, three per cent on the gross amount of receipts.

SEC. 11. Rent of residences to be deducted from income taxed.

SEC. 12. No duty to be imposed on malt liquors or coal oil for illuminating purposes, proven to have been manufactured before Sept. 1, 1862. A duty on malt liquors, until April 1, 1864, of only sixty cents per barrel containing not more than thirty-one gallons, and, in proportion, larger ones.

SEC. 13. Brewers of malt liquors and distillers of spirituous liquors, to make returns on the 1st day of each month.

SEC. 14. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is authorized, where necessity requires, to supply collectors with parchment and stamps without prepayment, such collector to give a bond of an amount equal to the value of the articles supplied.

SEC. 15. Collectors, in addition to the present compensation, are to receive a further commission of one-tenth of one per cent. upon all collections over $400,000, and their postage.

SEC. 16. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is required to pay into the Treasury monthly or oftener, in the decision of the Secretary, all public monies received by him, to render an account with proper vouchers, which shall be received and examined by the Fifth Auditor, who shall transmit them to the First Comptroller. The Commissioner is required to execute a bond in a sum not less than $100,000 before entering upon the duties of his office.

SECS. 17, 18 and 19 authorizes the appointment of deputy commissioners of internal revenue on salaries of $3,000; an assistant solicitor on a salary of $2,500; a cashier of internal revenue on a salary of $2,500, all to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 20. Assessors to be paid in lieu of the pay now allowed, from the date of their appointment, a salary of $1,500, and in addition one percent. of the excess of receipts over two hundred thousand dollars, besides seven hundred and fifty dollars for clerk hire and office rent, and their postage. Assistant Assessors are allowed postage.

SEC. 21. In cases where there is suspicion of fraud in a list or return, the Assistant Assessor is authorized to make a further examination, and a Special Inspector may be appointed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue whenever the public interest demands.

SEC. 22. Assistant Assessors are required to make out monthly accounts to be presented to the Assessor for approval.

SEC. 23. Whoever comes on any business for which a license is required, without taking out that license is made subject to imprisonment for not exceeding two years.

SEC. 24. Forbids any auctioneer from selling in any other district than that in which his license has been granted.

SEC. 25. Whoever offers for sale after June 30th, any articles named in schedule C, in the original package, whether imported or of foreign or domestic manufacture shall be deemed a manufacturer of them.

SEC. 26 exempts spokes, hubbs, felloes, grind stones, silver bullion rolled or prepared for platers' use exclusively, materials for the manufacture of hoop skirts exclusively, and intended for their use, materials exclusively for articles upon which duties are paid, and articles manufactured from materials already taxed, where the increased value does not exceed five per cent.

SEC. 27. The three per cent. tax to be assessed only on increased value, where cloths were removed from the place of manufacture prior to September, 1862.

SEC. 28. Authorizes the Commissioner to refund duties erroneously assessed and judgments recovered for duties paid under protest.

SEC. 29. Subjects manufacturers of lard and linseed oil, to the provision relating to distillers of spirituous liquors, for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity produced.

SEC. 30. Requires each Collector to designate, where necessary, in inspections of manufactured tobacco, to recover fees, as prescribed by the Constitution.

SEC. 31. Contains provisions relating to drawbacks.

SEC. 32. Repeals all inconsistent acts, and extends existing laws respecting punishments of offences and recovery of forfeitures.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1863.

Col. Rodney Mason, who was disgracefully dismissed from the service on the heels of his surrender of Clarksville, on vague and general charges of cowardice and imbecility, though without any trial, is here, demanding a Court of Inquiry. He is fortified with depositions from eye witnesses, touching all points of his conduct in the field. The entire Ohio delegation, without distinction of party, both Senators and Representatives, have taken united action in the following representation to the President:

To His Excellency Abraham Lincoln:

We have heard read the testimony taken by Col. Rodney Mason, late