

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The morning hour having expired the Senate resumed the consideration of the unfinished business, being the bill to provide for the appointment of a commission on the subject of the alcoholic and fermented liquor traffic and manufacture.

Christianity submitted an amendment declaring that the commission shall be appointed for the purpose of obtaining information which may serve as a guide to a system of legislation best fitted for the District of Columbia, the several territories of the U. S. and other places subject to the legislation of Congress, in reference to the question of revenue from the manufacture and sale of alcoholic and fermented liquors, and the effect of the use of such liquors upon the morals or welfare of the people of such district, territories and places.

The amendment was agreed to. The amendments proposed by the Senate committee on finance, on the 21st of January, were also concurred in, and the bill passed as amended, yeas 37, nays 20, Booth and Withers voting with the republicans in favor of the bill.

Harvey called up the Senate bill to confirm pre-emption and homestead entries of public lands within the limits of railroad grants in cases where such entries have been made under the regulations of the Land Department. Harvey spoke in favor of the passage of the bill, and quoted from several decisions of the Interior Department against the rights of settlers, which he said were erroneous, and that settlers could not have their rights decided in the courts in consequence of such decisions.

Ingalls said that aid had been granted to probably a hundred railroad companies. The laws which had heretofore been construed in favor of the settlers within the past three years had been reversed, and were now just the opposite, and had been opposite since Delano was Secretary of the Interior and Willis Drummond was commissioner of the general land office. There was no appeal from the decisions of the Secretary of the Interior.

Bogy said the decisions of the late Secretary of the Interior, in the cases complained of, were erroneous.

WASHINGTON, 26.—West submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to the Senate copies of any proposition made by the Pacific R. R. Co.'s for the creation of a sinking fund for the redemption of government mortgages, together with a statement of the action of the government thereon, and of the reason therefor.

WASHINGTON, 27.—Windham presented a petition of citizens of Minnesota, asking an appropriation for the improvement of the Red River of the north; referred.

Hamilton presented a memorial of a delegation of Choctaw and Creek and Cherokee Indians, now here, asking the repeal of certain acts granting lands in Indian Territory to railroads; referred.

Boutwell presented a report prepared by the chief clerk of the Treasury Department, and submitted to the secretary in December, 1872, in regard to erroneous practices in accounting in the Treasury which have grown up in usage or have been authorized by law. That bill was for the purpose of correcting all such erroneous practices. He thought the report prepared by the chief clerk of sufficient importance to be printed for the use of the Senate and therefore moved to have it printed. Agreed.

Sargent submitted preamble and resolution, reciting the provisions of third section of the act of July 1st, 1862, in regard to and for the construction of a railroad from the Missouri River to the Pacific ocean, to the effect that the land granted said road, if not disposed of within three years, after the completion of the road, should be disposed of for settlement at the price therein named, &c., and directing the committee on public lands to inquire at what date said road was completed, if the time fixed for the sale of such lands had expired and what further legislation is necessary to carry into effect the act of 1862 above referred to; agreed to.

HOUSE.

Randall supported the bill, and

expressed his gratification that those who had any connection with the legislation last year, now to be repealed, disavowed it. Even the Postmaster General had suggested the repeal of the law, which he had been clearly found guilty of having inaugurated. It was remarkable that all blunders which were committed in the haste of legislation at the end of the session were sure to be in behalf of monopolies and against the interests of the people. The result of the law of last session had been to inconvenience that people, and to augment the receipts of express companies a quarter of a million dollars.

Garfield asked Randall whether he held the committee on appropriations of last House responsible for doing a guilty or infamous thing in connection with this legislation.

Randall replied, that he held the conference committee and the committee on appropriations of the last House guilty of the omission of scrutiny in the matter and he promised that the committee on appropriations of the present House would not be guilty of anything of the kind.

Garfield suggested to Randall's consideration Scriptural advice, "Let not him who putteth on his harness boast as he who taketh it off."

Randall replied that he had not boasted but had simply condemned where condemnation was called for. He did not propose to act in the interest of the express co's, or in any interest except those of the people. The bill was passed without division.

The House went into committee of the whole, Haskins in the chair, on the military academy appropriation bill, which appropriates \$231,241.

Cannon, from the committee on post office, etc., reported a bill to amend the sections providing penalties for the sending of obscene matter through the mails. Recommended.

AMERICAN.

MILFORD, N. H., 25.—A large hotel at Amherst, owned by Shaw, of Boston, was burned last night; loss \$50,000, insurance \$20,000.

The President has replied to the resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted last Saturday, saying that no correspondence has taken place with any European government except Spain in relation to intervention in Cuba.

ST. LOUIS, 25.—Judge Dillon gave a decision on the opening of the trial of McKee this a. m., ruling that the case must go on. The conspiracy had been one of numerous acts, and extending over a long period of time, and the declaration of the conspirators, or accomplices must be heard. If, however, when the case should be all in and the connection of McKee with the conspiracy should rest solely on the testimony of accomplices, then the court would instruct the jury how little weight was to be attached to their evidence. The intimation was that the evidence of the ring and McKee's connection with them would not be alone sufficient. Following the decision of the judge, the testimony of Sanford M. Barton, manager of Bingham Bros. St. Louis distillery, was taken; he testified to the general operations of the ring.

WASHINGTON, 25.—In the course of Lamar's speech, on the centennial appropriation bill, he asked whether it could be said that, in view of the plenary power of the general government in regard to foreign affairs, there was a constitutional incompetency in Congress to invite commissioners from foreign countries to bring here the productions of commerce, art and industry? Was it unconstitutional in the President to give an invitation which the law authorized him to give? If not, it was clearly and unqualifiedly the duty of Congress to appropriate the moneys for that purpose. He favored the celebration, in order that the people of the North should become satisfied of the longing desire of the southern people to live with them in perpetual union, and before that feeling all others sunk into insignificance. He deprecated an allusion made by Townsend, of N. Y., last week, to Preston Brooks, and intimated that the inevitable offset of the allusion was to excite passion, to inflame animosity, and to awake the hatred of sectionalism. He (Lamar) advocated the scheme because it carried out the spirit of peace and reconciliation. The cur-

rents of passion and feeling might flow hither and thither, lashed by extraneous agencies, but there was in the great sea an unsounded depth of common humanity, common interest and patriotism, which lay unspoken. Lamar spoke under the ten minutes rule, but as soon as the time expired, Garfield rose, and, being recognized, courteously yielded to Lamar.

Rea spoke against the bill, and then, the general discussion having closed, Holman moved, as a test vote, to strike out the enacting clause of the bill; the motion was rejected, 101 to 123.

The committee then rose and reported the bill to the House, with a recommendation that it pass. The amendment offered by Springer, requiring the payment in full, to the treasury, of any balance that may be left in the hands of the finance committee, before any division or percentage of profits be paid to the stockholders, was agreed to.

The House then proceeded to vote on the passage of the bill, and the bill was passed, yeas 116, nays 130.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Clark, of Mo., from the post office committee called up the bill regulating postage on 3d class mail matter. It provides that all mailable matter of the 3rd class referred to in sections 3,878 and 3,911 of the Revised Statutes may weigh not exceeding four pounds for each package; and that the postage thereon shall be one cent for every two ounces or fraction thereof. Clark explained that this bill proposed to repeal the law passed in the last hours of the last session, in the form of an amendment, inserted obscurely in the sundry civil appropriation bill with the evident intention of misleading the House. That law increased postage on third class mail matter from one cent per two ounces to one cent per ounce, or from eight cents to sixteen cents per pound. This bill proposed to reinstate postage on third class mail matter as it was before, to one cent for two ounces.

Garfield gave his story of the legislation of last session, which it was now proposed to repeal. It originated in the Post Office Department in the shape of a letter to the chairman of the Senate post office committee, suggesting that the rate of postage on merchandise be doubled. The sundry civil appropriation bill came from the Senate to the House at 2 on the morning of the last day of the session, with over 100 amendments, among which were amendments supposed to be in pursuance of the Postmaster General's recommendation, and in that idea it had been unanimously adopted by the committee on appropriations, of which he was then chairman. No member of the committee understood that the language of the amendment included anything else than merchandise. After the bill had passed it was ascertained that the language of the amendment covered transient newspapers and pamphlets. In that all were surprised.

Randall—"Why did the Postmaster General wait till the last hour of the session to put such a matter on the country when he had the entire session to come to a conclusion about it?"

Garfield—"I cannot answer for the postmaster general's reasons." Garfield then went on to argue against the propriety of carrying merchandise in the mails, and said that if anyone would show him any logical place to stop at in that business, until a railroad car was loaded with goods and had its sides pasted with stamps, he could do more than he, Garfield, could.

Clark—"Is not merchandise carried in the mails of every other country?"

Garfield—"Perhaps, I am not informed. The postoffice was established to transmit intelligence, and anything else is a departure from the original idea."

Lawrence advocated the bill and said that the legislation of last session increasing postage on 3rd class matter was undoubtedly at the instance of express companies and to the great detriment of the public interests. He favored the bill because the mails reached every village and the express companies did not, and if the people of those remote places were cut off from the privileges of receiving packages of seeds, books, and merchandise by mail they could not receive them at all. He also favored it because these merchandise packages could be carried with-

out loss to the postoffice department. Merchandise could be carried all around the globe at eight cents a pound or less; no merchant in New York would send a hundred pound packages through the mails and pay eight cents a pound for them, because the express companies would carry them cheaper. That was an answer to his colleague's (Garfield's) argument.

Howe, from the judiciary committee, reported favorably on the House bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the U. S. relating to naturalization; passed.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The committee of ways and means, to-day, took up the bill to carry into effect the treaty between the U. S. and the King of the Hawaiian Islands, the ratifications of which were exchanged in June last; the consideration of the bill was postponed till next Tuesday.

Representative Knott, of Ky., reported from the committee on the judiciary, a bill to reorganize the judiciary of the U. S. The main features of the bill are as follows:—

A circuit court shall be held in each judicial district of the U. S. at the same time and place at which the district court shall or may be held; and such circuit court is established in every district where no such court now exists, and shall belong to the circuit in the territorial limits of which it is embraced. The several circuit courts shall have and exercise no jurisdiction in cases of appeal or writs of error allowed, taken, or issued out after the first day of Sept. 1878; but writs of error, appeals and reviews in bankruptcy cases may be had as heretofore, provided there is established in each of the circuits a court of appeals with appellate jurisdiction of all cases arising in the several circuit and district courts. A justice of the supreme court shall be assigned to each circuit. The circuit judge and the several district judges of the district composing the circuit shall be the judges of the court of appeals. No judge who has heard a cause in a court below shall sit in the court of appeals upon the hearing of the same case, or shall be consulted by or give any opinion to the other judges in relation thereto. The court of appeals shall also be a court of record. The decisions of the court of appeals upon questions of law shall, in all cases except as provided, be final and conclusive; but an appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court. Appeals in chancery shall be allowed from the court of appeals to the Supreme Court in cases where the matter in controversy exceeds \$10,000, in the manner now provided by law for direct appeals in like cases from a circuit court. The Chief Justice and other justices of the Supreme Court may attend any term of a circuit or district court within his circuit, and when so attending he shall sit in and preside over the court.

The House committee on appropriations took up, to-day, formally, and considered the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill; they struck out the appropriation for seven clerks of the House, reduced the salaries of the members of Congress from \$5,000 to \$4,500 per annum, and proposed to make a general reduction of ten per cent. on the salaries of all civil government employees.

Daniel A. Jerome, of Mich., has been appointed a member of the board of Indian commissioners.

NEW ORLEANS, 25.—The particulars of the shooting of democratic ex-Senator Offutt, of St. Landry Parish, are as follows—Offutt, while making a visit to relatives at Washington, La., was shot, through the rear of his buggy, in the head, by a negro named Augustus, armed with a shot gun, who shortly afterwards informed some colored women that Offutt had been hurt; Augustus was suspected, and a crowd went up to his cabin, and he ran out from under the cabin, about 200 yards in advance of his pursuers. Two hundred armed men surrounded the swamp in which he refuted. Offutt died on Sunday.

BOSTON, 25.—Some private parties, it is said, hold fully \$100,000 worth of Winslow's paper, a large proportion of which it is feared is worthless. The total amount of paper issued by him is stated by the *Herald* to be \$250,000. Some papers say it is probable that he has systematically carried on the business of forgery, endeavoring to take up forged paper with other worthless notes until driven to the wall. The *Journal* has information from a reliable source that Winslow, with his family, sailed for Brazil last Saturday.

No efforts have yet been made to arrest him, or to discover his movements. It will require several days to fully disclose the extent of his rascality, as several banks outside of Boston are said to have been victimized.

The *Herald*, to-morrow, will state that among the principal persons whose names are on Winslow's paper, forged or otherwise, are W. E. Sheldon, for \$104,000; Leopold Morse, for \$80,000; B. F. Hayes, for \$45,000; and that the stocks and notes, forged and genuine, issued by Winslow and held as security, will reach half a million.

CINCINNATI, 25.—The *Gazette's* Charleston, W. Va., special says that an altercation occurred between Thomas Hines and William Dooley, regarding the latter's wife, and to-night Hines went to Dooley's house and knocked on the door, and when Dooley appeared Hines cut him with a knife, severing his jugular vein, from which he died in about an hour afterwards.

The cases of Dawson and Estep, charged with the murder of Lee several days ago, was called in court to-day, at Charleston. The day was consumed by the prisoners' counsel in arguing for a change of venue, on the ground of the hostile feeling of the people against the prisoners; the Judge reserved his decision until to-morrow. The courthouse yard was filled to-day with excited citizens, chiefly from the vicinity where the murder was committed.

Later.—About 200 men arrived at 10 p. m., and proceeded to the jail, and took Dawson and Estep out and marched them off to the woods, where they will probably be found hanging to a tree in the morning.

Dooley, who was killed by Hines early this evening, was a colored man. After the mob had carried off the Lee murderers, colored citizens, to the number of fifty, went to the jail and demanded Hines, whom was delivered to them, and they then followed the former crowd to the woods with their prisoner, who will probably meet the same fate.

HELENA, MONT., 25.—A letter from Fort Pease, on the Yellowstone river, says that Sitting Bull's band of Sioux attacked a party near Fort Pease, on the 22nd of Jan'y, killing one man and wounding five others, eight horses were also killed; another party of nine men are out off from the fort by Indians, who number several hundred; it is feared the entire garrison will be massacred unless speedily assisted.

The thermometer, the last few days, has ranged from zero to twenty below.

CHICAGO, 26.—The *Times* Washington special says that Congressman Goode was before the committee on naval affairs yesterday, and told what he knew about Robeson's rascalities in his district, and the committee felt convinced that his charges are authentic. He resides in the Norfolk district, where the alleged frauds were practised, and he brings testimony to warrant all the charges. A committee of three members was appointed to go to Norfolk, and investigate. Mr. Goode, among other things, informed the committee that the republican party at Norfolk had manipulated matters at the navy yard so as to make them subservient to their purposes. On election days they would collect a large number of men at the yard and tell them that if they voted the republican ticket they could have employment. The appointment of men at the Navy Yard, he says, came from the republican executive committee, not from the committee of the yard. For some time before and on election days, as many as 1,400 men have been given employment at the yard without any occasion for their services, but simply to obtain their votes. After the elections are over, and the votes of the employees are not wanted, they are largely discharged, and the number is reduced almost one half. In addition to this, the employees at the Navy Yard are required to submit to a pecuniary assessment for the benefit of the republican party; and if they do not they forfeit their places in the yard.

The *Tribune's* Washington special says that reports have reached the Treasury from St. Louis, that fears are entertained there that one man has been smuggled into the jury box who cannot be depended on; even if a strong case be made out, the statement does not cause much uneasiness at the Department since great faith is still felt in the convincing character of the evidence collected for the prosecution. It is still uncertain when the