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[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

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CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 15.—Sherman spoke at length on the financial condition of the country, contending that as everything was prosperous and the revenues still largely in excess of the expenditures, all things were favorable for a further reduction of taxation. The net receipts of the government, he said, during the last fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1871, were $383,323,944, and for the current fiscal year they were estimated at $359,000,000. The actual surplus revenue for the year ending June 30th, 1871, was $91,146,776; for the current fiscal year it was partly estimated at $71,794,591, and for the next fiscal year at $87,974,226. It was not probable that any material change would be made for the current fiscal year, while for the current year the receipts are greatly in excess of the estimates. These are based on the appropriations required by existing laws, and they can be or ought to be diminished in several important branches of the public service. The abolition of the banking privilege, the reduction of the public printing and the internal revenue service, a close scrutiny of the pension list, a careful limitation of appropriations for public buildings, and a general cutting down of expenditures that grew out of but have survived the war, would enable us to repeal other taxes without injury to the public service. On the other hand, in a great and growing country like ours, exercising new powers, extending its influence into new regions within our own limits and into foreign countries where civilization is growing influenced by commerce with the United States, a gradual increase of just and proper expenditures is necessary.

But with such increased expenditures we can easily pay off the national debt in thirty years, and yet at each congress repeal and reduce taxes. He concluded that $50,000,000, including the sinking fund provided by law, should be applied to the reduction of the public debt, and that this sum added to $273,025,773, should be the basis of our revenue. In conclusion he said: "I am prepared to say we can, and ought, now to repeal all internal taxes except on whisky, tobacco and beer, and to consolidate and simplify them. If these changes in our internal revenue laws are made it will reduce internal taxes thirty-one and a half millions. This reduction of taxes should be accompanied by a reduction of expenditures not less than $25,000,000; and if the new regulations as to the whisky tax should prove practicable, there will be a much greater reduction." The senator closed with a general discussion of the question of protection vs. free-trade.

Trumbull in a personal explanation, pronounced malicious and preposterous the charges in the Hasting, Michigan *Republican Banner* that Trumbull pocketed a ten thousand dollar fee in the McArdle case.

Chandler replied to Trumbull and was called to order by the vice-President for using approbrious language.

The tariff bill came up and Sherman addressed the senate thereon.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON.—On motion Schofield from the committee on commerce, was instructed to inquire into the extent of the southern improvement company, alleged to be seeking to monopolize the transportation of oil from Pennsylvania to the seaboard.

Beatile, from the committee on printing, had prepared a bill for printing the Congressional proceedings and which would reduce the expense one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, but notwithstanding this the proprietors were laboring to get passed the motion in the next senate bill, which would give them $15,000 more than the work was worth.

The house then resumed the consideration of the senate bill, extending the time for Wisconsin to complete the St. Croix railway. Ketchum gave the hour he had at the close of the debate to the friends and opponents of the bill.

Strong and Butler, of Massachusetts, replied to the point made by Conger as to the old States having received all the public lands within their limits.

EASTERN DISPATCHES.

BOSTON, 15.—The Harvard schoolhouse, at Charleston, was burned this afternoon, with a loss of $40,000. At the time the building took fire, 320 children were in it, but by the presence of mind of the teacher they escaped. Some were considerably injured in the rush, but none seriously.

The judiciary committee continued the investigation of the charges against Judge Barnard. Among the witnesses was Jay Gould, who testified that the accusation of corruption against Barnard, in the Erie suits, were unfounded.

The First suit against the Eastern, Ky. on account of the Revere disaster, was brought by William Lloyd Garrison, sr., who sues for $30,000.

A. H. Rice and Geo. B. Loring will probably be chosen delegates at large to the national Republican convention.

NEW YORK, 15.—Erie is up to 42¾.

Upon opening the Hall trial to-day the counsel for the prosecution said owing to the death of a juror he first thing necessary would be to discharge the present jurors and then make an extention of the term of the court. Counsel for the defence said there was a doubt whether the court could extend its term further. After discussion the court extended its term to Tuesday next. When the court shall meet on Monday the power of extension will be discussed.

Judge Cardoza to-day set next Wednesday for the trial of Hagarty, & Co. in the voucher case, provided ex-controller Connolly appeared against them, otherwise they would not be tried.

The report that several strikes are impending among laborers for the first of April is traced to the Internationals. There is no truth in it.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., 15.—A fire at Monroe, Ind., last night, originating in the bakery of Kintz & Kumedy, destroyed fifty thousand worth of property. No insurance.

CHICAGO, 15.—The Evening *Journal's* Washington special has the following—A short passage at arms between Trumbull and Chandler took place in the senate to-day, growing out of the statement that the former, Trumbull, was employed illegally by Andy Johnson in the McArdle case. Trumbull denied that he was employed by Johnson, and read letters to show that he was retained by secretary Stanton and Grant, and that his fee was fixed by Stanton. He intimated that the slander had been instigated by Chandler of Michigan. The latter arose and in a very excited manner denied any connection with it. He said he hurled back the slimy slander upon its author, at the same time advancing towards Trumbull's seat in a menacing manner. The vice-president called Chandler to order. For a time there was considerable excitement in the chamber. It was soon over, however, and, the Senate took up the tariff bill, when Sherman explained it and stated that it reduced the tariff 50 millions.

The commissioner of the land office was before the appropriation committee, urging an increase of appropriation for the survey of public lands, which was put at $400,000 dollars, but was found insufficient to carry on the work proposed. The committee agreed to give an extra amount.

Tobacco manufacturers from the South and East were before the ways and means committee to-day, urging a uniform tax and then suggested that the committee fix it at any figure they please, but want it uniform, and not in two grades of 16 and 24 cents.

CENTRALIA, Pa., 15.—Green, a school teacher, to-day was violently assaulted in the school room by three unknown ruffians with knives. One ear was severed from his head. His condition is considered critical.

CINCINNATI, 15.—The Dodsworth distillery, near Hamilton, Ohio, was burned to-day. Loss about $1,200.

ST. LOUIS.—A revolt in the Missouri penitentiary at Jefferson City was discovered and frustrated yesterday, without serious result. As the prisoners were going from their cells to breakfast yesterdsy a.m., Pat Duffy, who murdered Fred Astermeyer in St. Louis over a year ago, broke from his gang, ran into a shoe shop, ascended to the roof, and with a knife and an iron bar, defied his pursuers. He was shot in the arm and captured. Charley Clark, also armed with a knife, attempted to escape, but was prevented. It appears there was a plot, and from a paper found their plan contemplated overpowering the guard, firing various shops, forcing the gates, robbing the office, and a general escape. Timely notice and the vigilance of the officers prevented any concert of action on the part of the prisoners.

EUROPEAN.

LONDON, 15.—The Fenians are making preparations for grand demonstrations throughout Ireland, in favor of amnesty, on St. Patrick's day.

PARIS, 15.—The commission of pardons have rejected the appeals of Fedel, Queratel and Girard, the murderers of hostages under the Commune.

The trial of Marshal Bazaine for the capitulation of Metz is expected, and the prospect just now occupies public attention, as he can only be tried by his peers. There is some difficulty in assembling a competent court martial, as nearly all the martials, the officers of whom the court must be composed, were concerned in capitulation or surrender during the late war.

The Assembly to-day discussed the estimates. Thiers made a speech in defence of the estimates of the war department, and insisted that it was necessary to repair the fortifications which guard the frontiers and create an army. He said general Cissy, minister of war, will ask for a credit of 200,000,000 francs, for building new forts around Paris, and for the fortification of the frontier, especially at Longevy and Belfort, for the Prussians are actively extending the fortifications of Metz and Strasburg.

ROME, 15.—The funeral of Mazzini yesterday was attended by great crowds.

The Democratic organ here this morning has a long article on the Cincinnati convention, approving of its nomination of a candidate that will be satisfactory to the Democratic party. The article is said to be the result of a conference of the opposition elements. It is asserted that they have the assurance that the extreme southern wing of the Democracy will agree to coalition.

LONDON.—Copies of the reply of Secretary Fish to Granville's note were communicated to the secretary of state for foreign affairs yesterday and to Gladstone last evening, after the reply of the latter to the request of Disraeli in the Commons for the production of the dispatch. The reply of the American Government though friendly, is firm and unyielding. It calls upon England to submit to the Geneva tribunal of arbitration, the question whether the claims for consequential damages shall be admitted to be discussed by that board.

The Emperor and Empress of Brazil sailed from Lisbon for Rio Janeiro on Wednesday.

THE PLAGUE.

A Pestilential Epidemic in Persia—Revivalation of an Ancient Scourge.

When the report of the outbreak of a pestilential epidemic in Persia near the Turkish frontiers reached Constantinople, notwithstanding the assurances given by the Persian Government to the effect that the epidemic was not the plague, the Ottoman Sanitary Department, while recommending the greatest vigilance to the sanitary officers at the frontiers, hastened to dispatch Dr. Castaldi, the Ottoman sanitary delegate attached to the Turkish Embassy at Teheran, to the spot to inquire into the nature of the disease. Dr. Castaldi has now sent in his report, which is most carefully drawn up, and contains most valuable information. In his opinion there cannot be any doubt on the character of the disease which had made its appearance in the Persian Kurdistan. The malady is characterized by a strong fever, accompanied with typhus symptoms, with the appearance of bubos under the arms, in the groin and in the neck, of carbuncles on various parts of the body, and of spots scattered over the whole surface of the skin; it carries the sufferer off quickly, attacking several houses in one place and several persons in the same family, and transmits itself from an infected place to a healthy one. Such a malady, says Dr. Castaldi, cannot be anything but the Eastern plague of former times. According to the report it was during the last winter that the plague appeared in the district of Mukry, in the Aderbidjan, in two villages situated at a short distance from each other, and called Djoumouchan and Arbanouz. These two small villages have been completely depopulated only seven or eight persons having been spared by the scourge. Unable to trace the existence of the plague beyond the district of Mukry, Dr. Castaldi feels at a loss to point out the causes which have produced the epidemic, for the district is not only the healthiest in all Persia, but has also escaped from the famine which has so cruelly visited and continues to visit the other parts of that kingdom. If an outbreak of the plague, says Dr. Castaldi, was anywhere to be apprehended, it would be surely in the Khorassan and in Fars, where the famine made such frightful ravages, where men enough could not be found to inter the dead bodies left unburied in the streets and in the bazars, and where parents sold their children for a few francs, to save them from starvation and provide themselves with a little bread. Dr. Castaldi, therefore inclines to think that the plague in the Persian Kurdistan should be attributed to the excessive dryness and to the cattle disease which the district of Mukry shared in common with the rest of Persia. His opinion on this point, however, is not admitted here by the health authorities. They maintain that the plague in Persia is the consequence of the terrible famine which prevailed in that country, and must have been imported into the district of Mukry from other quarters in the interior. They, moreover, understand that Dr. Castaldi has been unable to trace the epidemic further in the interior; for getting at the truth in Persia is next to impossible, and the government itself is generally only made acquainted with the epidemic existing on its territory through the authorities of the bordering countries. It was the Ottoman Sanitary Department that first intimated the existence of the plague in the Kurdistan to the Persian government. The mortality caused by the scourge, and ascertained by Dr. Castaldi, is approximately calculated as follows: At Bana, 53; at Kaniuias, 4; in Karava, 27; in Djoumouchan, 62; in Arbanous, 39; at Utchtepe, 100; in Sandiak, 35; at Guitepe, 12; in Charab, 18; at Rahim-Khan, 27, and in Akoleyan, 13—total, 390. Dr. Castaldi further declares that the epidemic in question has exhibited the well-known characteristics of contagion. He concludes by stating that since his departure from the Kurdistan no further news respecting the plague had arrived at Teheran, except a communication to the Persian government to the effect that the plague had disappeared, a communication to which he does not seem to attach great faith.—*Constantinople Cor., London Times.*

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