

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 6. Sargent submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Navy to transmit to the Senate the narrative of Hall's Second Arctic Expedition, compiled from notes made by Captain Hall, and purchased from his widow; agreed to.

WASHINGTON, 6.—Paddock, from the committee on public lands, reported favorably the Senate bill for the relief of settlers upon the public lands under the pre-emption laws; passed.

West, from the committee on railroads, reported favorably on the Senate bill to amend the act of June 8th, 1872, granting the right of way through the public lands to the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company; passed.

Cockrell reported favorably on the Senate joint resolution to amend the joint resolution of July 3rd, 1876, authorizing the Secretary of War to issue arms to certain States and Territories so as to issue ammunition not to exceed fifty ball cartridges for each arm; passed.

Hamlin, from the conference committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on the bill establishing certain post routes, which involves the question of restoring the fast mail trains and franking privilege, reported that the committee had been unable to agree. He moved that the new conference asked for by the House, be granted; so ordered. Subsequently he said the House had not appointed its members of the new conference although the bill had been sent to the Senate, and he moved that the bill be returned to the House that that body might appoint its members first; agreed to.

Ingalls said the bill abolishing the board of metropolitan police commissioners, with the President's veto, was lying upon the table, the committee having recommended that it be passed, notwithstanding the objections of the President thereto. The subject was discussed at some length, and the question being—Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the President thereto, it was decided in the negative—yeas 33, nays 22; two-thirds not voting in the affirmative.

WASHINGTON, 7.

Sherman called up the bill authorizing the commissioners of the Freedmen's Trust Company to buy and sell certain property, and submitted an amendment that the sale be at public auction, unless the Justices of the Supreme Court shall first approve such sale; agreed to and the bill passed.

WASHINGTON, 8.—The Chair laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of War, including the recommendation of the third auditor of the Treasury that an appropriation of \$10,000 be made to pay Montana war claims, and \$5,000 to pay Dakota war claims. Laid on the table.

WASHINGTON, 8.—The Speaker, in reference to the prisoners Wells and Anderson, said he had not charge of the witnesses, but having charge of the rooms of the Capitol, he had ordered the prisoners to be transferred to the room of the education committee; that committee had objected, and the Sergeant-at-arms could only return them.

Wood said he did not wish the prisoners to appear as inhumanly treated, but thought the ordinary method of requiring a doctor's certificate as to the health of the sick man should be followed.

Conger denounced any party which would confine a man to the detriment of his health for refusing to produce papers not in his power to produce. The American mind would perceive that it was an infamous wrong, and suggestive of the thumbscrew and Inquisition days.

Clymer said the Sergeant-at-arms had done his utmost to make the room comfortable. It was well heated, lighted and ventilated, and the preceding Congress had used it for the same purpose. They were allowed to converse with friends.

Conger denied this. The Speaker said the resolution directed that they be kept in close custody.

Banks called attention to the absurdity of that construction of the resolution, as they had been taken before the House committee and compelled to testify without any order of the House allowing them

to be brought out of custody. When witness was testifying before the committee he was a free man. Wood said the republican members were endeavoring to mislead the country and put on the democrats the stigma of inhumanity. Those prisoners might have produced the papers, which would have settled the present lamentable condition of the country.

Cox thought the minority were attempting to lionize the returning board under the pretense of humanity. He affirmed that the room was a good accommodation, and if the prisoners' friends feared for their health they should advise them to produce the papers and not make walking arsenals of themselves. He hoped that if the complaint had any foundation, the trouble would be remedied.

The resolution was referred—145 to 89.

The House went into committee of the whole on the deficiency appropriation bill, and Foster, by a formal amendment, corrected the statement of Speaker Randall, recently, that the democrats had reduced the expenditures \$30,000,000 the last year. The actual reductions, including the deficiency, was \$19,000,000.

Randall compared the appropriations of the 43rd and 44th Congress, showing that the former appropriated \$359,000,000. The latter had already appropriated \$148,000,000, and would add about \$142,000,000 more, making a saving of \$69,000,000, and but for the Senate's resistance of retrenchment it would have been \$80,000,000.

WASHINGTON, 9.

The Chair appointed Harvey on public buildings committee vice Paddock excused, and Paddock on the agricultural committee vice Harvey excused.

WASHINGTON, 10.—The Senators on returning from the House heard Field's objection read.

After further debate, the chairman submitted the following:

Resolved, That the decision of the commission upon the electoral votes of the State of Florida stand as the judgment of the Senate, the objections made contrary thereto notwithstanding.

A long debate as to the form of the question sustaining or overruling Field's objection was in order.

It was submitted by Whyte, "That the Senate non-concur in the commission's decision, but that the votes cast by the democratic electors of Florida are the true and lawful votes, and should be counted as the electoral vote of that State," and was defeated by a strict party vote.

The Senate then agreed to the order by Hamlin that the vote of Florida should be counted for Hayes and Wheeler as determined by the electoral commission. The vote standing 43 to 25; strictly partisan.

On motion of Sargent the secretary was directed to notify the House that the Senate had reached a decision, and was ready to meet the House for the purpose of proceeding with the count.

A motion of Stevenson to adjourn till Monday was rejected—yeas 26, nays 44; a strictly party vote.

At 3 o'clock the Senate took a recess until 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

WASHINGTON, 12.

At 2:20 the clerk of the House appeared at the bar of the Senate and announced the decision of the House that the counting the vote of Florida shall not proceed in conformity with the decision of the electoral commission, and also notified the Senate that the House was now ready to meet the Senate in joint meeting.

The Senate then proceeded to the hall of the House.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 7.—Knott, chairman of the committee on privileges, reported the testimony taken up to February 5th, together with the resolution for its printing, which was adopted.

Waldron, from the deficiency appropriation committee, reported back the Senate bill appropriating \$350,000 for the government printing deficiency for the present fiscal year.

Vance offered an amendment prohibiting, after the current year, the payment of a greater price by government for labor than is paid in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He said he had, as chairman of the printing commit-

tee, written a note jointly with the chairman of the Senate committee to the public printer recommending him to adopt such a rule. Had he adopted this advice there would not have been one dollar of a deficiency now.

Conger opposed the amendment, which was adopted—118 to 115, and the bill passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the deficiency appropriation bill.

WASHINGTON, 8.—Soon after the business was begun in the House of Representatives, to-day, Hale rose to a privileged question and read a letter addressed to him from J. Madison Wells and Thos. C. Anderson, stating that they were confined in a damp, dark dungeon of the cellar of the Capitol, and that yesterday, by order of the Speaker, they had been transferred to a much better room, and that they had been brought back to the cells by order of the sergeant-at-arms, and that on account of the bad air in the cell, one of them, Gov. Wells, was now on his sick bed. Hale said his attention had been called by this letter to the matter. He had gone to the cell in which the prisoners were confined, and had found it a damp, dark room, into which a gleam of sunlight could never penetrate, and to which the hall had to be illuminated by gas. The air was poisonous, and one of the prisoners, an old man over 70 years old, lay on his bed of sickness. It was inhuman to keep them in such a room, and he therefore offered a resolution directing the sergeant-at-arms to remove the prisoners to a well lighted and well ventilated room, where their health may not be endangered.

Cox said it was in this same cell that the republican Congress had incarcerated Stewart and Irwin. The prisoners were confined and in the custody of the sergeant-at-arms, but they could release themselves by simply purging themselves of the contempt of the House, and answering the questions they had refused to answer.

McCrary inquired what questions they had refused to answer.

Cox—They had refused to produce certain papers.

McCrary—They are confined for not producing what was not in their possession.

WASHINGTON, 9.—The bill passed to promote telegraphic communication between America and Europe.

The bill for the distribution of awards under the convention between the United States and Mexico passed.

Blackburn, from the Louisiana election committee, reported a resolution for printing its testimony at a private printing office, the public printer being unable to do the work.

Hale raised a point, which the Speaker sustained, that the House could have no printing done except at the public printing office.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the private calendar.

WASHINGTON, 9.—Morrison, chairman of the Louisiana committee submitted a report with a resolution declaring that the democratic electors received the majority of the votes in Louisiana, and that the pretended canvass and compilation of the vote by the returning board was without legal authority, fraudulent and void, and that the vote cannot be counted for Hayes and Wheeler without confirming and approving that fraud.

Townsend made a minority report that the republican electors were elected and the election was legally examined and declared in compliance with the federal constitution.

WASHINGTON, 10.—At 1 o'clock the Senate took its seat in joint session with the House, and president Terry took the chair.

The decision of the electoral commission having been read, written objections were made by Representative Field on the part of five senators and twelve representatives, and then the two houses separated.

After the Senators retired the motion to adjourn till Monday was warmly debated. The republicans arguing that under the electoral bill the House had no power to take a recess, but must consider the objections to the decision of the committee for two hours, then vote upon it, and hold a joint session again.

The Speaker overruled the point of order against the right to take a recess, and accordingly the House

took a recess till 10 o'clock on Monday.

WASHINGTON, 12.—At 10 o'clock McCrary rose to discuss the electoral decision.

Clymer objected, on the ground that no quorum was present, and the debate was postponed till 10.30 a.m., when Field offered the following:

Ordered, That the counting of the electoral vote from Florida shall not proceed in conformity with the decision of the electoral commission, but that the votes of Call, Young, Hilton and Bullock be counted as the votes from the State of Florida for the President and Vice-President of the United States.

Hale offered an amendment:

Ordered, That the counting of the electoral votes from the State of Florida shall proceed in conformity with the decision of the electoral commission.

Knott offered as a resolution an order reciting the language of the electoral act that the commission might inquire into such petitions, depositions and other papers as shall, by the constitution and now existing law, be competent; reciting also the fact that in the Florida case the commission had decided and determined that no evidence would be received or considered which had not been submitted to the two houses in joint convention by the president of the Senate; that certificate number one, that of the Hayes electors, contained no evidence whatever, while certificates numbers two and three of the Tilden electors, did contain evidence fully and specifically showing that the latter had been duly elected and appointed as electors, and therefore ordering that the decision of the commission and grounds thereof be remanded and recommitted to the commission with the request that the same be so corrected or explained, and that the commission be further requested to furnish in detail the reasons of the decision so that the House may be enlightened as to the course it ought to pursue in the discharge of its duties, and that in the meantime the votes of the Hayes electors be not counted.

Hale made a point of order that by order of the electoral commission law it was the imperative duty of the House, at the end of a two hours debate, to vote on the main question, which was, Whether the votes should be counted in conformity with the decision, and that nothing in the shape of delay, in whatever form presented, could now arrest the wheels of its decision.

Wilson, of Iowa, added to Hale's point of order, that the House could refer nothing to the commission that would require at least concurrent action.

The Speaker overruled the point of order made by Hale, but sustained that made by Wilson, holding that there was nothing in the electoral commission that authorized the remanding of the question back to the commission and also ruling that it was not competent for one House to refer a bill on another matter to an outside commission.

The substitute offered by Knott was, therefore, not in order.

The House thereupon proceeded to discussion.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 10.—The Herald's Washington special gives the opinions of congressmen on the electoral decision, as follows:

Townsend, of Penn.—The vote is as it should be. It is a vindication of the wisdom of creating the commission.

Plasted—How could anyone expect a different result?

Hibbell—It shows conclusively that we are entitled to build our hopes on justice and right, even with the approval of the democracy.

Foster—The Lord is a just judge and Hayes is the choice of a small majority of the people.

Republican Congressmen generally are jubilant over the report. On the democratic side were all shades of opinions.

Buckner said he did not expect anything better.

Kehr—I am bound to accept the decision, and as such am prepared to say it is right.

Thomas, of Maryland—It means that Hayes will be counted.

House—Tilden, "thou art so near and yet so far."

Hardenburg—Bradley is a great mathematician, and if the problem

is stated correctly for Tilden, the majority will be on our side.

Jones, of New Hampshire—We have agreed to abide by the decision of the commission, what is the use to waste words about opinions?

Hewett—The report is filled with bitterness for me, but I cannot find a draught of sweetness in it.

Hurd—Expecting nothing, I am not disappointed.

Hill, of Georgia—If the ruling is as reported, Oregon will surely save us.

Hopkins—It means Hayes and Wheeler.

Saylor—At this rate, my fellow-citizen, Hayes will be counted in.

Blackburn—I never had any faith in the bill, but still I have hope.

Cutler—Have we any reason to expect a different result?

Anderson—It is all over.

Rice, of Ohio—Where did the chances of Tilden appear better than in Florida?

Whitthorne—I have been discouraged ever since I heard the first decision of the commission.

Knott—I have stopped to think about the subject. Ever since the bill passed the House my eyes rest upon Louisiana as a hope of the country.

Caulfield—If we do not get Louisiana and Oregon, score 185 for Hayes.

Douglas—I wish I had voted against the bill.

Lord—I think we have a strong chance in Louisiana.

Cox—O Lord, only let me alone.

Mead—I am neither surprised nor dejected.

Levy—What have we to hope for now?

McMahon—The judicial character of the commission is in our favor when Louisiana is reached.

Senator Jones, of Florida—The result is not what I expected, and I do not know what to say about it.

Harrison—Hope is the main-spring of life. Why should we mourn.

Sparks—It looks as though the report that the commission is governed by a partisan feeling is true.

Mills—This changing the leaders of the choir in the middle of the tune never suited me. I voted against the bill.

Durham—My vote against the bill is the best vindication of my action.

The World's Washington special says Mrs. Oliver's counsel claim to hold some interesting letters from the aged Senator of a character which will throw serious doubt on the Senator's discretion. She is the grand daughter of Commodore Stewart, of the famous frigate Constitution.

WASHINGTON, 10.—The electoral commission state that the grounds of their decision are that it is not competent, under the constitution and law as it existed at the date of the passage of the act constituting the commission, to go into evidence *abunde* on the papers opened by the President of the Senate in the presence of two of the House, to prove that other persons than those regularly certified to by the Governor of Florida, according to the determination and declaration of their appointment by the board State canvassers prior to the time required for the performance of their duties, had been appointed electors, or by counter proof to show that they had not, and that all proceedings of the courts or acts of the legislature or of the executive of Florida subsequent to the casting of votes of the electors on the prescribed day are inadmissible for any such purpose. As to the objection made to the eligibility of Humphreys, the commission is of the opinion that without reference to the question of the effect of the vote of an ineligible elector, the evidence does not show that he held the office of shipping commissioner on the day when the electors were appointed.

The commission also decided, as consequence of the foregoing, upon the grounds before stated, that neither of the papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes of Florida are certificates of votes provided for by the constitution of the United States, and they ought not be counted as such.

The objections to the decision interposed in the House, recite:

First—That the decision determined that the vote cast by Charles H. Pearce, Frederick C. Humphreys, William H. Haden and Thomas W. Long, as electors of the President and Vice-President of the United States on behalf of Florida, is the true and legal electoral vote of the State, when it truth and in fact the vote cast by