

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 10.—Dorsey introduced a bill to organize the territory of Okolohoma, and for the better protection of the Indian tribes therein, and for other purposes; referred.

Hamilton introduced a bill to secure the speedy completion of the Texas Pacific Railroad from a point at or near Marshall, Texas, to the southeast boundary of California, and to authorize the Southern Pacific Railroad to aid in building the same, and also to build a branch of its road to San Diego, Cal.; referred. The bill, relating to the Texas Pacific and Southern Pacific Railways, proposes to authorize the Southern Pacific Railway company of California to extend its line east from the Colorado River to meet the Texas Pacific Railway on the latter's line, or one more practicable if found, on or near the 32nd parallel; said Southern Pacific Company to have and enjoy, for the portion which it constructs, all the land grant and other rights heretofore provided for the Texas Pacific Company. The Southern Pacific Company is also empowered to build a road from some point on its line to Ship's Channel, in San Diego Bay, and for this portion also it shall enjoy all the rights heretofore granted to the Texas Pacific line, provided it shall build twenty miles of the railway branch within two years, and twenty miles yearly thereafter. It is also required to commence work on its extension east from the Colorado within one year after its road is completed to that river, as required by charter, and it must build at least twenty miles of the extension yearly until it connects with the Texas Pacific; provided this connection of the western and eastern boundary of New Mexico shall be made within six years from the enactment of this bill. Another section provides that, after connection the whole line of the trans-continental road shall be operated as one continuous road, and that no unjust discrimination in rates of freight or fare shall be made by either of the said companies against the other.

Sargent of Cal., introduced a bill to restore lands conditionally granted, by the condition of which they have lapsed to the public domain; referred to committee on public lands. The bill declares all such land grants forfeited, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to ascertain what lands should revert under this requirement to the public domain, and to cause them to be restored for preemption and homestead settlement only.

Ingalls submitted a resolution that the Secretary of the Interior be requested to report to the Senate what amounts have been expended under the appropriation of \$300,000 for the support, education and civilization of 3,000 captive Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa and Comanche Indians, for what purpose the money has been spent, to whom it has been paid, and whether the Indians have received the benefits of said expenditure; agreed to.

The Chair laid before the Senate various petitions from citizens of Michigan asking Congress to give a bounty of \$200 in money to each Union soldier and sailor in lieu of the homestead donation without actual settlement; referred.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of executive business, and when the doors were reopened, the resolutions submitted by Morton, in regard to the president *pro tempore* of the Senate were taken up, together with the report of the committee on privileges and elections.

Merriman, member of the committee on privileges and elections, gave his reasons at some length for dissenting from the report of the majority. He argued that the president *pro tem.* of the Senate was not the mere occupant of the chair by the courtesy of the Senate; his official character was recognized by the constitution as well as by other departments of the government. He quoted from the act of 1792, and argued that the Senate had no power to vacate the office.

Saulsbury did not agree with the views expressed by the Senator from N. C., Merriman. He (Saulsbury) argued that the Senate had the right to change its officers at pleasure. If the President *pro tem.* of the Senate should fail to dis-

charge his duties and the Senate had not power to remove him, there was no remedy, as he was not an impeachable officer. He spoke in complimentary terms of the present president *pro tem.*, and said that all were satisfied with his fairness and impartiality.

Jones, of Fla., spoke at length in opposition to the power of the Senate to change the president *pro tem.* at will.

The question being on the adoption of the resolutions submitted by Morton, Merriman called for the division and the vote being taken on the first one, it was adopted unanimously, yeas 95, nays 0. The second was also adopted unanimously, yeas 62, nays 0. When the third resolution was read, Thurman moved that it be laid over that the Senators might have more time to consider it, and pending the discussion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Debate on the Amnesty Bill.

Strike out the closing paragraph in the House report yesterday afternoon about the amnesty bill, and substitute the following—

Randall—"Does that side of the House object to debate?"

Blaine—"It does not, nor does this side of the House desire any unreasonable time for debate, although, as Congress has been in session five weeks, and as the sessions of the House have averaged only about two days per week, it might be considered that an hour or two of debate would not be too much to allow on a bill of this kind."

Randall, persistently—"I want to know if anybody on that side of the House objects to debate?"

Hale, of Me.—"No sir, but we want debate and amendment, both."

Garfield—"We want consideration of the subject, which means debate and amendment."

Randall—"I propose that we give an hour's consideration to it."

Garfield, sneeringly—"Aye, consideration without amendment."

Blaine—"I told the gentleman, Randall, in good faith, that it was absolutely impossible for him to pass his bill under that kind of tactics. A vote on the previous question has revealed the fact that considerably more than one-third of the House objects to the bill going through under a gag."

Randall—"I do not propose to put it through under a gag, on the contrary I propose to put it through after debate; if that side of the House objects to debate, it will itself be responsible for there being no debate, it is for that side of the House to say whether there shall be a debate or not."

Blaine—"The gentleman from Pennsylvania knows that Mr. Benton left on record the saying that 'The very essence of legislative power is amendment,' and the gentleman from Pennsylvania confesses the weakness of his cause when he attempts to deprive the minority of the House of the parliamentary right to offer amendments."

Randall, tauntingly—"I am glad that you see light, for during many years you were blind to such considerations. (Laughter on the democratic side and in the galleries.)"

Blaine, defiantly—"The gentleman will search the globe for the last twelve years in vain for a case where a bill of this magnitude was attempted to be put through without discussion and amendment; never, sir, I defy him to give an instance."

Randall—"Was not this very bill passed last year under the previous question, on a report from the committee on rules, of which you were a member?"

Blaine—"And to which I objected."

Randall—"Never, either in or out of the committee did you object to it."

Blaine—"Being in the chair and unable to object myself, I got several gentlemen to object. I asked the gentleman from North Carolina, Rainey, to object, but he, with a delicacy which did honor to his position and his race, said he would be misunderstood if he did so, although he thought the bill ought not to go through."

Randall—"I say this bill is almost identical with the bill reported last session from the committee on rules without any objection on your part."

Blaine—"I differ from the gentleman on that point; I did object to it, although the gentleman does not observe parliamentary rules when he refers to what took place in committee."

Randall—"I repeat that a similar bill came last session from the committee on rules, and that neither as a member of the committee nor as a member of the House, nor as presiding officer, did you object to it; on the contrary, as far as you were able, you facilitated the passage of that bill."

Garfield—"I make a point of order that the rules require the gentleman to address the chair, and not to address the gentleman from Maine as 'you.'"

Randall, contemptuously—"The gentleman from Ohio is getting very fastidious."

Banks demanded the yeas and nays on ordering the main question, and the yeas and nays were ordered.

Blaine—"I desire it to be distinctly understood that the effect of ordering the main question is to cut off all debate whatever."

Randall—"And I desire it to be equally understood that it is not the purpose of this side of the House to prevent debate, and if debate is cut off it will be the fault of the other side of the House; this side will accord to the other side all the time it wants for discussion."

Burchard—"I ask whether, under the rules, the minority can have that privilege?"

Randall—"It can by unanimous consent, and objection, if it comes at all, must come from that side."

The main question was ordered, yeas 163, nays 92, a strict party vote.

Randall—"I now ask unanimous consent for one hour's debate prior to the vote on its final passage."

Garfield—"I join with the gentleman, and add to it the request that, by unanimous consent, amendments may be offered."

Randall—"I have not heard anybody object to my suggestion."

Speaker—"Is there any objection to the request?"

Garfield—"With the privilege of offering amendments, I understand."

Randall—"The gentleman does not understand any such thing."

Garfield—"Then without that privilege, I object."

Blaine—"I desire to say a single word."

Randall—"You may have thirty minutes if you like."

Blaine—"The indications of the vote are plain: The bill in its present shape cannot pass; if it fail to pass I shall immediately move that the rules be suspended, and that the bill be brought before the House for consideration. I shall then move as a substitute the amendment which I endeavored to offer, and the House can choose between them. It is only to have a fair vote; there is no disposition on this side to dodge the question, or to evade it, but we must have an opportunity to make a record on this question. The gentleman must evidently see that he would save time, and probably create a better feeling and more harmony by allowing that course, because this side has the power to enforce that course."

Randall—"This bill is exactly the same, word for word almost, as the one which the last republican House passed without even the yeas and nays. Twice have republican houses passed this bill, and twice has it been strangled in the Senate. I do not know what has come over the spirit of the dream of the republican party, or of the gentleman from Maine."

Blaine—"The gentleman will not allow me to state."

Randall—"I asked unanimous consent, and objection was made on that side. I do not know why the gentleman should want to change this bill in any particular, from what it was a year ago when he was Speaker, and had the party majority under his control."

Blaine—"I want an opportunity to tell what has come over the spirit of my dream."

Randall—"I wish unanimous consent, that you may have that under the rules."

Blaine—"I do not want to talk except for some practical purpose; I want to talk to an issue, I want to talk in favor of an amendment, and I do not want to be confronted with the statement that that amendment cannot even have the privilege of being voted down. I suppose it would be voted down, and I want it to go on the journal of this House."

Randall—"I have permitted the amendment to go on the journal of the House."

Blaine—"Not at all."

Randall—"It is on the record of the House."

Blaine—"But not in the journal."

Randall—"The gentleman's object is already accomplished if he wants to go before the country as an obstructionist to amnesty."

Blaine—"The gentleman is obstructing amnesty; he is holding down every man in the South, and keeping off amnesty, because he will not allow us to vote on excluding Jefferson Davis."

Randall—"Did you allow the minority of the House to offer amendments to the civil rights bill?" (Murmurs of "No, no; nor to the force bill either," from the democratic side, and calls for the regular order from both sides.)

The question was then taken, and the bill was rejected, yeas 172, nays 97, not the requisite two-thirds in the majority.

Blaine—"I now move to reconsider the vote just taken, and I desire to address the House on the subject."

Speech by Blaine.

The House was now restored to order, and was prepared to give close attention to Blaine, who continued—

"If I can induce the House to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was rejected, it is my intention to offer my amendment. Every time that the question of amnesty has been brought before the House, by a gentleman of the other side, for the last two Congresses, it has been done with certain flourishes of magnanimity, which is an imputation on this side of the House, as though the republican party, which has been in charge of the government for the last twelve or fourteen years, had been bigoted, narrow and illiberal, and as though certain few worthy and deserving gentlemen in the Southern States were ground down under great tyranny and oppression, which the hard-heartedness of the House could not possibly be prevailed upon to remove. I desire now to place on record just what the republican party has done in the matter; I want to place it there as an imperishable record of a liberality and large-heartedness and magnanimity and mercy, such as has not been shown in the world's history by conquerors to the conquered."

"The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Randall) and myself, entered this Congress in the midst of the flames of war, when the Union was rocking to its foundation, and no man knew whether we were to have a country or not. He would have been surprised, when he and I were of the officers in the thirty-eighth Congress, if he could then have foreseen that before our equal service ended he should have seen sixty-one gentlemen then in arms against the U. S. government admitted to equal privileges with ourselves in this House, and all by the grace and magnanimity of the republican party."

"When the war ended, according to the universal law of war, the party in possession of the government, or the government itself, which was controlled by the party, had the right to determine what should be the status of these people. Did we inaugurate any measures of persecution? Did we set off on a career of bloodshed and vengeance? Did we take property? Did we prohibit any man the enjoyment of all his civil rights? Did we take from him the right which he enjoys today, to vote? Not at all. But instead of a general sweeping condemnation, the republican party placed in the fourteenth amendment only this exclusion—after considering the whole subject, it ended in coming down to this—'that no person shall be a senator or representative in Congress, or an elector of the President, or Vice-president, or hold any office, civil or military, under the U. S., or under any State, who, having previously taken the oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the U. S., or a member of any state legislature or executive, or judiciary, or a judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the U. S., who shall have been engaged in the insurrection or rebellion against the same, or who gave aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; but Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disabilities.'"

"I never have been able to determine, from any statistical examination, exactly how many men in the South that exception affected. It has been variously estimated that at the time of its original insertion in the Constitution it included somewhere from

20,000 to 30,000 persons, but as near as I can gather from the facts in the case it included about 18,000 men in the south, and it let go free every man of the hundreds of thousands, of millions if you please, who had been engaged in the attempt to destroy the government, and only held those under disability who, in addition to the general revolt, had violated a special and peculiar and personal oath to support the Constitution of the United States. That disability was hardly fixed on the South until we began in this hall and Senate chamber, when we had more than two-thirds republican in both branches, to remove it, and the very first bill took the disability off 1,578 citizens of the South; the next bill took it off 3,526 gentlemen by a wholesale, many of whom are on this floor, and who have come here from the grace and amnesty in these two bills. After these bills, specifying individuals, had passed through, small bills, which I will not further refer to, were passed.

"In 1872, the Congress of the United States, by a vote of two-thirds of both branches—still being two-thirds republican—passed a general law that all political disabilities imposed under the 3rd section of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, 'are hereby removed from all persons whomsoever, except senators and representatives in the 36th and 37th Congress, officers of the judicial, military and naval service of the United States, heads of departments, and of foreign ministers of the United States.' Since that act passed, a number of gentlemen included in it have specially, by name, been relieved from disability, but I believe in no one single instance, since the act of May, 1872, have disabilities been taken from any man unless on his respectful petition to Congress that they should be removed; and I believe in no one instance, except one, was such petition refused. I believe that in no instance except one has there been any difficulty, by unanimous vote, even to pass such bills."

"Now I find an equally erroneous varying of judgment in reference to the number still under disabilities in the South. I have had occasion by conferences with the departments of the navy and war, and by reference to some other records, to be able to state to the House, with more accuracy than has been already stated, just the number of gentlemen who are still under disabilities. Those who were officers of the U. S. army, educated at the expense of the government at West Point, and who joined the rebellion and are still under disabilities, are estimated at the War Department at 325; and the number of such persons in the navy is 295, and those coming under other heads, members of the 36th and 37th Congress, judges, heads of departments and foreign ministers, I am not able to give the number, but the whole number of persons now under disability in the South is about 750. I frankly say that, in regard to all these, I know of no reason why amnesty should not be granted to them, as it has been to many of the same class. I am not here to argue against it, since amnesty has already become so general, I am not going back to argue that question; I am in favor of giving it to him. But in the absence of that respectful form of petition which, since May, 1872, has become a sort of common law, as a preliminary to amnesty, I simply wish to put into the law that these persons shall go before a U. S. court and, in open court, with uplifted hand, swear that they mean to conduct themselves as good citizens of the U. S. That is all."

"Gentlemen say that this is a foolish exclusion; it is, but I am prejudiced in favor of it, for I do not want to impose citizenship on gentlemen. If I am correctly informed, there are some gentlemen on this list who have spoken contemptuously of the idea of their taking citizenship under the U. S., and they have spoken with great harshness about their associates in the South who have done so. I understand that Mr. Robert Toombs has made special boast, at watering places in this country and in Europe, that he would not ask the U. S. for citizenship. We can stand that as well as Mr. Toombs; and if Toombs is not prepared to come into a U. S. court and swear that he means to be a good citizen, let him stay out. I do not think Congress ought to raise itself, or to resolve it-