

OPPOSING THE RESOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The minority members of the Committee on the Judiciary have prepared two vigorous reports in opposition to the Houk resolution, which was ordered favorably reported to the House, directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into and report to the House whether or not any State, by any constitutional or statutory provision, has violated the second section of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, so that a proper apportionment of representatives may be made by Congress. One minority report is prepared by Oates, of Alabama, and signed by Oates, Culbertson, of Texas. Henderson, of North Carolina, Wilson, of West Virginia, and Stewart, of Vermont. This report says the States are not constitutionally prohibited from disfranchising any of their male citizens. It is only prescribed as a penalty for such disfranchisement, for any other cause than that of participation in rebellion or other crime, that the representation in Congress from such State shall be reduced in the proportion which the persons disfranchised bear to the whole number of adult male citizens in such State.

The question is asked, If the resolution as adopted be adopted now, can the committee make inquiry directly, in the absence of any legislation by Congress providing the means of securing evidence to enable the committee to procure the necessary proofs to warrant Congress in reducing the representation of any State? The committee assume that some citizens in Mississippi and Massachusetts are denied the right to vote by the State Constitutions for some other reason than crime. This may be true, but the minority cannot shut their eye to the fact that the Constitution of Mississippi has not yet been put into operation and that there is no law applicable to Massachusetts or any other State by which the committee can legally and certainly ascertain the number disfranchised, for Congress has never provided means by which this may be done. Presumptions are worthless in such a grave matter. Legal proofs must be had to a reasonable certainty, and until such legislation is enacted it is utterly futile to adopt such a resolution, for it cannot be complied with. Until Congress enacts a law providing for enumeration of the number of persons disfranchised for crime and for the number disfranchised for other causes it would be impossible to comply with the resolution.

If the resolution be literally construed, the report says, requiring twelve months' residence in a State, and registration as a pre-requisite to voting would be a cause for reducing its representation.

"But," the report concluded, "the cardinal principle in our system of government is that the States shall each prescribe the qualifications of its electors. When they ratified this article of the Constitution it cannot be assumed with any show of reason that they intended to surrender this right or to restrict their powers to the extent that such a construction would maintain."

Rogers makes an individual minority report, holding that the hearing

proceeded on two false assumptions. First, that if a State restricts suffrage for cause other than rebellion or crime, it violates the Fourteenth Amendment; and, second, that it is necessary for some State to violate this amendment in order that a proper apportionment may be made. If the logic of the majority had been followed, of all the State constitutions that most flagrantly offensive is Idaho's, our little sister, brought into Statehood by this Congress, after long labor and a successful performance by the Speaker of the Cassarian operation, generally known as "counting a quorum." Rogers draws attention to the Idaho provision forbidding polygamists or Mormons to vote. Other States might be cited, but the list is already so long, he says, as to suggest inquiry as to whether the whole country is not rapidly growing weary of the Fourteenth Amendment altogether, becoming imbued with the idea that the people of the States should be left to self-government, without officious outside interference.

The majority report, prepared by Caswell of Wisconsin, says the committee did not deem it necessary to examine the various State constitutions, but the constitutions of Mississippi and Massachusetts are clearly within the provisions of the second section of the Fourteenth Amendment, because of their educational and property requirements.

The majority says it is not for them to discuss the wisdom of the Fourteenth Amendment, nor to determine in what manner the number or proportion of the inhabitants of any given State who are disfranchised can be ascertained. "The sole question delegated to us was whether the constitution or laws of any State should make a reduction of its representation by reason of suffrage restrictions. The instances cited above show that the resolution should pass, so a thorough investigation might be had."

SING SING CEMETERY.

Upon a grassy knoll on the outskirts of Sing Sing and overlooking the grandly picturesque Hudson is the graveyard of those convicts to whom death has granted a reprieve. It lies a quarter of a mile northeast of the State prison and between this resting place and the river runs the line of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad.

The little treeless, leafless cemetery cannot be seen by the passengers, nor, owing to its obscurity, can it be seen from the decks of the steamboats or luxurious yachts against whose hulls ripple the waters of the magnificent stream on whose banks stand the many splendid mansions of fortune's favored ones.

It is a desolate place, is this plot of ground in which lie the bones of those unhappy mortals whose crimes led to the convict stripes and the humiliating ball and chain. The area is not over one acre, and it is neither walled, fenced or hedged in. Stray cattle and vagabond hogs may trample over the little mounds of earth raised above the graves of the dead. There is neither weeping-willow nor tree of any kind to mark the sacred spot. The snows of winter and the fierce rays of the summer sun beat upon the unprotected

strips of ground which contain all that was mortal of some mother's darling. Not a single stone slab is there visible and not a gravestone or coping. At the head of each grave, however, is a wooden board painted a slate color, and upon this board, fashioned by convict hands, are the name, date of death and age of the deceased. The prison records show the crimes for which the dead convicts were bereft of liberty, citizenship and the respect of their fellow men, but the cloak of charity and the instincts of humanity and common decency surround the death and burial of these erring ones.

When grim death has issued a ticket of leave the convict is stripped of his prison garb.

"A dead convict is clad in clean underwear and a white pleated shirt," said warden Brush yesterday. "Our chaplain holds a burial service and the body is carried to the grave by other convicts, an officer accompanying them."

Borne to the cemetery by convicts—lowered into the grave by convict hands! And in order that none of the six convicts bearing their late comrade to the grave shall attempt to escape the officer who accompanies the funeral cortege goes armed with rifle and revolver!

A more dreary desolate spot can hardly be found than this little country convict cemetery, lying midway between the pretty village of Sing Sing and the walls of the State prison, on which sentries continually mount guard. It is a strip rarely visited by human beings. Even the children avoid it. The wooden slabs show that most of the convicts died young and the majority of them under the age of 30. One or two had reached the age of 45, and some there were who "departed this life" at the age of 18 and 20. And, among these rude slabs, pleasant to relate, there is not one which bears the name of a woman.

But there is a women visitor to this desolate spot. Four times a year she comes. She is young, not over 30, and always wear a black veil. She never takes a hack from the depot and never leaves any flowers on a grave.—*N. Y. Recorder.*

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW.

DUN & Co., for the week ending February 21, 1891, report much uncertainty about the future of trade. Though there is no longer any expectation of silver legislation, yet the effects of the uncertainty of the past three months still remain. Eastbound shipments from Chicago for two weeks of February show a falling off of 28 per cent. This is attributed to short crops.

Foreign trade, both imports and exports, is falling behind that of last year. Iron is dull, wool manufacture flourishing, and cotton prosperous.

The report says:

The decline of silver below \$1 per ounce, at one time to 97½ cents, discourages those who are looking for a speculative boom in prices. Wheat is one cent