

## BY TELEGRAPH.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

## SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 6.—Merrill, in the course of his argument, said he thought that by January 1st, 1878, the difference between paper and gold would be much less than it is now, and that, as a forerunner of resumption, it would be well to provide that contracts, after January 1878, shall be upon a specie basis, unless otherwise specified.

Sargent submitted a resolution that the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire what legislation, if any, is necessary to secure indemnity to the U. S. for the advances of interest paid and to be paid by the government on account of the subsidy bonds issued to the several Pacific railroad companies, and to secure indemnity against the liability to pay the principal of such bonds, by requiring the creation of sinking funds or otherwise; also whether the issues of the companies' mortgage bonds, under the act of 1864, were in excess of the amount necessary for the completion of said roads, and if so, whether such issues are a first lien upon the road; also, whether any bonds of the U. S. issued in aid of said roads are a first lien upon the same, and that the committee report by bill or otherwise; agreed to.

The Chair laid before the Senate a message from the President of the U. S., inclosing the report of the Director of the Mint, in answer to the Senate resolution of last session in regard to the proper place for a branch mint in the Mississippi valley; ordered printed and to lie on the table.

Clayton submitted a preamble and resolution, instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing one or more inferior courts in Indian territory, for the trial of minor offences, where the federal court now has jurisdiction; after some discussion the resolution was referred to the judiciary committee.

WASHINGTON, 7.—Clayton presented the papers bearing on the case of Wm. K. Sebastian, late senator from Arkansas, expelled from the Senate; referred.

Ahison introduced a bill for the sale of certain Shawnee Indian lands, to provide homes for Black Bob and the absent Shawnee Indians; referred.

Wright introduced a bill granting pensions to officers of the war with Great Britain in 1812, and those of the Indian wars during that period; referred.

Sherman said the senator from Indiana, Morton, yesterday made a report from the committee on privileges and elections, as to the presiding officer of the Senate. It seemed that this report had better be acted upon, he therefore moved that the Senate proceed to consider the resolution offered by the senator from Vt. before recess, in regard to electing a president pro tem. of the Senate. He made the motion with the view of offering a substitute for it should it be taken up.

Edmunds thought the matter should go over until Monday. The report of the committee on privileges and elections had just been placed on the tables, and they had not examined it yet.

Thurman asked that the matter go over.

Sherman said he would not object, and the report was laid over.

Davis gave notice that, on Wednesday of next week, he would ask the indulgence of the Senate to submit remarks in regard to the expenditures and revenue of the country, public debt, etc.

Mitchell called up the resolution submitted before recess, calling for information as to arrests in Alaska; agreed to.

Kelly, of Oregon, presented a petition from citizens of Oregon, asking for an appropriation for the construction of a canal at the Cascades of the Columbia river in that state.

The Senate in executive session confirmed George H. Seward as minister to China, Ayres P. Merrill as minister to Belgium, and Cyrus C. Carpenter, of Iowa, as second comptroller of the Treasury Department.

The Senate then went into executive session, and soon after adjourned till Monday.

WASHINGTON, 10.—Sargent presented the memorial of the California Vinicultural Society, setting forth various facts in regard to the

culture of the grapevine and the manufacture of brandy, and asking for relief; referred to the committee on finance. In presenting the memorial Sargent said that in France one billion five hundred million gallons of wine were produced annually, valued at \$300,000,000; 5,000,000 people were engaged in the culture of the grape, and it had been stated that two vintages paid the indemnity exacted of France by Germany. California had about the same area of land as France, and one half of it was suitable to grape culture, and at present there were 30,000,000 vines in the state. He stated that there was a prejudice against California wine, and frequently a higher price was paid for an inferior foreign article; the result was that grapes in that state were frequently fed to hogs. The only remedy to be applied at present was a relaxation of the rules in reference to the taxation of brandy. The memorialists desire that there should be a species of government warehouses provided in which the wine could be stored, and the tax paid to the government at the time the wine or brandy went to market. The government now paid bounties to fishermen, discriminated in the tariff in favor of ship building, &c., to all of which he had no objection, but he hoped the same policy would be extended to the interests of California. He hoped the matter would be considered by the finance committee, though he knew that no bill in regard to the subject could originate in the Senate, but the matter could come up on a revenue bill from the House, and he would then ask to be heard further on the subject.

Alcorn occupied his seat to-day, for the first time this session.

Sargent presented the petition of twenty-six thousand six hundred and sixteen women of Utah, asking the repeal of the anti-polygamy law of 1862, and the Poland bill, and that Utah be admitted as a State in the Union; in presenting the petition Sargent said he did not concur in the objects of the petitioners, but he believed in the right of petition, and therefore he laid the matter before the Senate as they requested him to do; referred.

Thurman presented the petition of citizens of Ohio asking the repeal of the resumption act passed last session, and also the enactment of a law to provide for the retirement of national bank notes, and to substitute therefor legal tender U. S. notes and the issue of 3.65 convertible bonds, the proceeds of the sale of such bond to be applied first to the redemption of the six per cent., and second to the redemption of the five per cent., gold-bearing bonds; referred.

Conover submitted the following—

"Resolved, by the senate and House of Representatives of the U. S. of America, in Congress assembled, that, in compliance with the will of the people, the precedent of history, the best established principles of international law, the precepts of Christian rule and morality, and the requirements of the commercial and political interests of the United States, and taking into consideration the relations existing between the United States and Spain, and that it is desirable that the reciprocal sentiments of good understanding between the two peoples and governments should not be changed by reason of the grave events which, for seven years, have taken place in the Island of Cuba; the President of the United States be, and he is, hereby authorized and requested to declare and maintain the strictest neutrality between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba; and be it further

"Resolved, That in making this declaration, though in the usual form of a proclamation, and in order to protect citizens of the U. S., and merchants and navigators in general, from injury in any way, for want of clear and precise regulations to govern them, the President of the U. S. be, and he hereby is, authorized and requested to place in full force and operation the same provisions made and enacted by the government of her majesty the Queen of Spain, on June 17th, 1861, on the occasion of the outbreak of the civil war in the U. S.; ordered printed and laid on the table."

Hamlin, from the committee on rules, reported back the resolution submitted by Edmunds before recess to adopt the joint rules of the present session, with a recommen-

dation that it be passed; he asked its present consideration.

Morton moved an amendment to except the 22nd joint rule. Pending the discussion on the motion, Thurman proposed that the further consideration of the subject be postponed till to-morrow.

White submitted the following—  
"Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, that the people of the several states, acting in their highest sovereign capacity as free and independent states, adopted the federal constitution, and established a form of government in the nature of a confederated republic, and for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects for which it was founded, delegated to that government certain rights enumerated in said constitution, but reserved to the states respectively, or the people thereof, all the residuary powers, not delegated to the U. S. by the constitution nor prohibited by it to the states;" ordered printed and to lie on the table.

Howe presented the annual report of the librarian of Congress, which was ordered printed.

Morton said it had been suggested to him by several Senators that the report of the committee on privileges and elections, in regard to the president pro tem. of the Senate, should have been accompanied by a resolution embracing the conclusions of the committee, he therefore submitted the following—

"Resolved, that the tenure of a President pro tem. of the Senate, elected at one session, does not expire at the meeting of Congress after the first recess, the Vice President not having appeared to take the chair.

"Resolved, that the death of the Vice President does not have the effect to vacate the office of President pro tem. of the Senate.

"Resolved, that the office of President pro tem. of the Senate is held at the pleasure of the Senate.

"Resolved, that the Hon. Thomas M. Ferry, Senator from Michigan, who was elected President pro tem. of the Senate at the last sessions is now President pro tem. by virtue of said election." Ordered printed and to lie on the table.

## HOUSE.

The following bills were introduced—

By Phillips, of Missouri, directing the committee on civil service reform, to enquire into the fact of the presentation of a silver tea set to the late commissioner of patents, Leggett, by contributions from his subordinates; adopted.

By Rea a resolution declaring it to be the opinion of the House that the contraction of the currency, in the manner and to the extent that it has been done, has been detrimental to the business of the country, and that in the present financial condition of the country, no further contraction of the currency ought to be had.

Cox suggested that the resolution should be referred to either of the two committees having charge of the subject, but Rea demanded the previous question on the adoption of the resolution. The House refused to second the previous question, 54 to 122, and on motion of Cox the resolution was referred to the committee of ways and means.

By Wilshire, a resolution directing the committee on Indian affairs to investigate the effect and operation of Indian treaties, and the conduct of Indian agents, contractors, &c. in furnishing and distributing Indian supplies; adopted. Also a resolution calling on the President for information as to the number of agents, &c. in the Indian service and the cost of the same; adopted. Also a bill to facilitate the settlement of claims for stores or supplies, taken or furnished during the rebellion.

By Durand, a resolution condemning the practice of making assessments on government employees for political purposes; adopted.

By Reagan, appropriating \$1,536,416 on account of money paid by Texas for frontier defenses in Sabine Pass; also to repeal the act of the 2nd of March, 1867, prohibiting payment to persons not known to be opposed to the rebellion.

By Hancock, for the payment of the losses of citizens of Texas from Indian depredations.

By Schleker, a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the robberies and murders along the Mexican borders in Texas.

The motion to refer the resolution to the regular committee was

rejected, and the resolution adopted.

Bills were further introduced and referred as follows—

By McCrary to regulate commerce by railroad among the several States, and to establish a bureau of commerce.

By Oliver, for an amendment to the Constitution, to elect the President, Vice-President and Senators by the direct vote of the people.

By Goodwin, a resolution directing the committee on public lands to inquire into the expediency of conferring authority on registers and recorders of land offices to issue process and compel the attendance of witnesses in contested land cases; adopted.

Blaine said he had a substitute to offer, which he asked to have read and ordered printed. The substitute was read as follows—

"That all persons now under the disability imposed by the 14th amendment to the constitution of the U. S., with the exception of Jefferson Davis, late president of the so-called Confederate States, shall be relieved of such disabilities upon their appearing before any judge of a U. S. Court, and taking and subscribing in open court, the following oath, to be duly attested and recorded, viz.: 'I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the constitution of the U. S. against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will faithfully discharge the duties of a citizen of the U. S.'"

Bills were introduced and referred as follows—

By Kidder, a resolution instructing the committee on Indian affairs to inquire into the expediency of opening the Black Hills to settlement by purchase from the Indians; adopted.

By Maginnis, to amend the coinage act; also for the improvement of upper Missouri and Yellowstone rivers; also for the sale of timber lands in the Territories; also to promote education in the Territories.

The reading of the journal of Thursday occupied three-quarters of an hour. Under a call for the States bills were introduced and referred, as follows:

By Wood, of N. Y., to repeal, in part, the act of Jan'y 19th, 1875, providing for the resumption of specie payment and to facilitate the resumption of specie payment without a contraction of the currency.

By Cox, for the payment of the same bounty to drafted men as to volunteers.

By Cutler, declaring the Department of Agriculture one of the executive departments.

Randall moved to suspend the rules in order to proceed to the consideration of the amnesty bill.

Blaine suggested that the centennial appropriation bill should be first considered, but Randall insisted on his motion, and the rules were suspended by the requisite two-thirds vote.

Randall demanded the previous question on the passage of the bill.

Blaine—"Does the gentleman desire to cut off an amendment?"

Randall—"I desire to have the previous question seconded, and then I will allow half of the hour which the rules give me to a discussion by the other side of the House."

Blaine—"The gentleman proposed not to allow the amendment."

Randall—"I will listen to any amendment."

Blaine—"The gentleman knows very well that the previous question cuts off an amendment."

Randall—"I am quite aware of the effect of it. I have, for twelve years, learned its effect in adversity, under your direction and that of your side of the House."

The previous question was seconded 159 to 95.

Randall—"As I have one hour for debate I propose—"

Garfield, interrupting, "Under what rule? This bill is not a report from the committee and therefore there is no debate allowed after the previous question being seconded."

Blaine insisted on the same point, and said that the rule as to allowing an hour for debate after the previous question applied only to reports from committees. The previous question, in this case, cut off absolutely every moment of debate.

The amnesty bill, having finally been forced to a vote without the amendment being permitted, the

republicans voted solidly against it, and it therefore failed of a two-thirds vote.

## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 6.—The democrats who opposed the new election of a President of the Senate, hold that Ferry, becoming Vice President by the death of Wilson, cannot be legally displaced. The republicans cite the precedent established in 1856, when Bright, President pro tem., being absent, an attempt was made to assign Stuart, of Michigan, by letter, to take the chair, but the Senate decided that Bright could not delegate his power, and that when absent a new election must be had. The republicans will probably insist on a new election now.

PITTSBURG, Pa., 6.—The execution of Wm. Murray and Frederick Myers, for the murder of G. B. Wahl, took place in the jail yard, at noon to-day.

OTTAWA, 7.—J. T. and W. J. Pennock, brokers and insurance agents, of this city, have submitted a statement of their affairs, showing liabilities to the amount of \$88,000, and assets \$177,000; they ask their creditors to accept full payment in one, two and three years without interest.

WASHINGTON, 8.—At Sargent's instance, Oliver Hyde, of San Francisco, has been appointed superintendent of machinery at the Mare Island Navy Yard, vice E. L. Armstrong, thereby removed.

The Secretary of War, in an official communication to Congress, invites attention to his recommendations, two years ago, to turn over to the Interior Department, for disposition as public lands, the military reserves of Camp Brown, Cal., and Camp Crittenden and old Camp Grant, Arizona. He says they are no more needed for the military, and their custody involves a useless expense.

The Mitchell & Kelley bills for the opening of the Uniatilla reserve to settlers requires the removal of the Indians now occupying it to either the Nez Perces, Fort Hall or Yakoma reservations; provided the chiefs of the Walla Walla and Uniatilla tribes and the Indians on the last reservation consent to such arrangement; as an inducement to the former it is proposed to continue their annuities for ten or twenty years.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs does not apprehend any trouble at the Red Cloud agency on account of the failure of supplies; Congress will be asked for an appropriation to bridge over the time between this and the end of the fiscal year, but temporarily the commissioner thinks he will be able to issue rations as usual.

Representatives Fort, of Ills. and Cason, of Ind., were serenaded to-night by their republican friends, including Union soldiers, at Willard's hotel, the former having offered a resolution in the House of Representatives instructing the elective officers to give subordinate places to well qualified Union soldiers in preference to soldiers of the late confederate army; the latter offered a resolution declaring that, all other things being equal, the soldier should have preference over civilians in emoluments, public offices, &c. Each made an address in support of the principles announced in their resolutions, and was frequently applauded.

Sargent freely declares that one expected result of his resolution for an inquiry relative to Pacific Railroad affairs, is a searching investigation into the operations of the contract and finance company and the Central Pacific directors. The Senator declares his purpose to attest his earnestness by furnishing the judiciary committee all possible aid.

Piper's anti-Chinese emigration resolution will be supported by the entire Pacific coast delegation, but the eastern members generally are either indifferent to the subject or believe cheap labor is so valuable to the country that only hard work will effect any result.

The resolution inquiring into the navy yard frauds for partisan purposes, empowers the committee to call for persons and papers; it is anticipated that the Mare Island affairs will be ventilated.

Page's resolution inquiring into fraudulent entries under the soldiers' homestead act is to apply first to recent entries on timber lands in California; the Land Office, however, holds that these entries were within the letter of the law, so it is improbable that the