

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 12.—Dawes, from the committee on public buildings, reported adversely on the petition from the friends of female suffrage, asking to be allowed the use of the Senate Chamber to present arguments before the committee on elections in favor of the 16th amendment, granting female suffrage. In submitting the report, Dawes said the committee had expressed no opinion adverse to the adoption of such amendment, but the Senate had invariably declined to allow the Chamber to be used for any other purpose than the business of the Senate.

Sargent, from the committee on naval affairs, reported favorably the Senate bill to regulate the expenditures in the navy. Passed.

Also, the Senate bill authorizing a general account of advances for naval appropriations. Passed.

The following bills were introduced and referred:

Davis (W. Va.) submitted a resolution, reciting sections of the revised statutes in regard to the organization of militia in the States, making an annual appropriation for arming and equipping such militia, etc., and calling upon the Secretary of war to report to the Senate the condition and strength of the militia in the several States, together with any recommendations he may have to make looking to a more thorough organization of the militia. Ordered printed. Davis gave notice that he would call it up for action at an early day.

Upon motion of Allison, the Senate insisted upon its amendments to the deficiency appropriation bill and a committee of conference was ordered. Sargent, Dorsey and Beck were appointed members of the committee on the part of the Senate.

Pending the discussion, Allison moved that the Senate proceed to a consideration of executive business, and the motion was agreed to—yeas 44, nays 20.

The Senate then went into executive session, and at 8 o'clock the doors were reopened and the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 13.—The regular order of business, the consideration of the Colorado contested election case, was resumed.

Cameron, of Wisconsin, presented petition of David T. Corbin, of South Carolina, asking that his claim to a seat from the State may be inquired into, and decided upon its merits. He moved that the petition lie upon the table for the present, and gave notice that he would call it up hereafter and move its reference to the committee on privileges and elections; so ordered.

Dawes introduced a bill to authorize and equip an expedition to the Arctic seas; referred.

Voorhees submitted the following resolution, and gave notice that he would call it up on Tuesday, Jan. 15, for the purpose of submitting some remarks thereon:

Resolved, that it is of the highest importance that the financial credit of the government be maintained, and in order to do so the government, itself, in all its departments, should, in good faith, keep all its contracts and obligations entered into with its own citizens.

At the expiration of the morning hour consideration was resumed of the resolution of Matthews to pay bonds in silver.

WASHINGTON, 13.—Bayard reviewed the financial acts of the United States and took a strong position against Matthews' resolution, declaring it historically incorrect, inasmuch as it failed to recite that after the act of Congress of 1834 and till February 1873, the 412½ grain dollar was of greater intrinsic value in the market than the gold dollar of 25 3-10 grains. Silver bullion had ceased to come to the mints for coinage and the silver dollar already coined could not be retained in circulation, and that having become practically obsolete it was abolished in February, 1873, so that for nearly four years it had ceased to exist. He intended to wait until the silver bill was up before presenting his views.

Allison submitted the following amendment to the silver bill recently reported from the committee on finance and now upon the calendar:

Section 2.—That immediately after the passage of this act, the President shall invite the governments of the countries composing the Latin union, so called, and of such other European nations as he may deem advisable, to join with the United States in a conference to adopt a common ratio legal tender, as between gold and silver, for the purpose of establishing internationally the use of bimetallic money and securing a fixity of relative value between those metals, such conference to be held at such place in Europe or in the United States, at such time within six months as may be mutually agreed upon by the executives of the governments joining in the same. Whenever the Governments so invited, or any three of them, shall signify their willingness to unite in the same, the President shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint three commissioners, who shall attend such conference on behalf of the United States, and shall report the doings thereof to the President, who shall transmit the same to Congress. Said commissioners shall each receive the sum of \$2,500 and their reasonable expenses, to be approved by the Secretary of State, and the amount necessary to pay such compensation and expenses is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Ordered printed.

Hill opposed the resolution. He said the question was one of law. The refunding act of 1870 declared the bonds redeemable in the coin of the then present standard value, that is, when the bonds became due they would be payable in whatever might then be the coin of the United States, but the coin must be of the standard value of 1870. The whole depended upon the coinage law, which might prevail in the United States at the maturity of the bonds.

Matthews said, supposing that on the day of the passage of the act of 1870 the gold dollar contained 25 8-10 grains, how many grains of gold must a dollar contain to pay the bond when it matured should gold then be the coin of the country?

Hill replied—Twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of course. That is a simple question.

Matthews—Then if silver should be the coin, how many grains must be in the dollar?

Hill—Four hundred and twelve and a half.

Matthews—Then why not make silver a coin?

Hill said he was not willing to say what should be done thirty years hence. This Congress had no right to settle such a question in advance.

Allison regretted exceedingly that Matthews had thought proper to antagonize his resolution to what he conceived to be the main question before the Senate; namely, what should be done with the silver, unless silver should take its place as money?

Pending the discussion, Anthony, from the printing committee, reported favorably the Senate bill regulating the purchase of material for the printing office. Passed.

Hereford took the floor on the Matthews resolution, but the Senate went into executive session at four, and at 6.50 adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 14.—The Vice-President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, calling attention to the law in regard to compensation for government advertising, and the complaints daily received as to the inadequacy of such compensation. He suggests that the law be so amended as to allow the department to pay the same rate for advertising as the papers receive from private individuals. Referred to the committee on civil service and retrenchment.

Edmunds introduced a bill to extend the operations of the act of February 28th, 1875, to provide for a settlement with certain railway companies for one year; referred.

WASHINGTON, 14.—Sargent presented a petition of Sarah J. Knox of San Jose, Cal., asking for the right of suffrage, and said he had known this lady for thirty years. During the past ten years she had been a widow, and managed her own affairs and paid over \$20,000 taxes, and yet she could have no voice as to how the money paid by her could be expended. The petition was referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

At the expiration of the morning hour, Hereford made some remarks on Matthews' resolution, after

which the Senate went into executive session, with the understanding that the doors should be reopened soon and legislative business continued.

At 4.05 the doors were reopened, and Sargent, from the conference on the deficiency appropriation bill, made a report. The committee's total appropriation as agreed upon was \$2,645,873. Sargent said to a question of Davis, that the franking privilege was retained and also extended to the Vice President. The report was agreed to and the bill passed.

Merrimon, on account of the late hour declined to speak on Matthews' resolution, and it was unanimously ordered that the Vice President declare the Senate adjourned.

To-morrow, immediately after reading the journal, Sargent said the Paris Exhibition bill, the deficiency bill, and probably two others would be ready for signature.

On motion of the Vice-President he was allowed to sign such bills to-morrow.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the post route bill, and Ferry said all the amendments had been carefully considered by the committee, and as the bill was a long one there was no necessity for reading it.

Edmunds objected, and said that no bill should pass while he had a seat in the chamber without being read.

The bill was then read, the amendments agreed to and it was passed.

On motion of McMillan, it was ordered that the testimony taken in the investigation of the charges against Senator Grover, of Oregon, be printed.

Sargent said the House had passed a bill relative to the burial of the officers and others of the United States navy who perished by the wreck of the United States steamer *Huon*. The bill had been received by the Senate and referred to the committee on naval affairs, but the committee had not yet been able to consider it. All the members were in favor of the bill, and he therefore moved that the committee be discharged from its further consideration by the Senate. So ordered.

The bill was then read the third time and passed. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 15.—During the reading of the journal a message was received from the House announcing that the Speaker had signed a number of bills, among them the deficiency appropriation bill, all of which were immediately signed by the Vice-President.

Cockrell said it had been his intention to offer resolutions of respect to the memory of his late colleague, Boggs, before the holiday recess, but after consideration with Senators it had been thought best to defer the matter until after the holidays. He would do so on January 16th.

Butler submitted a resolution for the investigation of the discharge of the committee on elections from consideration of his credentials at the extra session but Cameron of Wisconsin objected on the ground that the resolution was a violation of the agreement not to transact new business and after an animated discussion the resolution went over.

The motion to go into executive session was declared also to be against the agreement, but subsequently Mr. Thurman said there was a matter which he had been informed would be brought to the attention of the Senate, and he moved the doors be closed, under rule sixty-four; agreed to unanimously.

Rule 64 provides that on a motion made and seconded to close the doors of the Senate, on a discussion of any business which may in the opinion of the Senators require secrecy, the presiding officer shall direct the galleries to be cleared, and during the discussion of such motion the doors shall remain closed.

This motion was submitted for the purpose of considering the difficulty between Conkling and Gordon in the executive session yesterday, and after the doors were reopened it was made public that during the secret session Hamlin offered the following, which was unanimously agreed to:

Whereas, A misunderstanding having arisen between Hon. Roscoe Conkling and Hon. John B. Gordon, in the course of the executive proceedings of the Senate yesterday, and mutual understandings thereon having been arrived at, as set out in the following paper, it is ordered that said paper be entered at large on the legislation Journal of the Senate:

During an executive session of the Senate, held yesterday, words were uttered both by Senator Gordon of Georgia, and by Senator Conkling of New York, which were mutually felt to be unkind and offensive reports of an incident appearing in the papers of this morning, which are inaccurate and unjust to both speakers. Upon careful inquiry as to what was said by each speaker, and what was understood to be said by the other, it is certain that the first offensive words were inspired by an honest misunderstanding of what had been innocently said by the other speaker. One harsh remark provoked another, as too often happens, but all that was offensive was the outgrowth of a misapprehension. Since such was the fact, we, who are mutual friends of both senators, are of the opinion that it is due alike to the Senate and speakers that whatever was felt to be unkind or offensive in the remarks of either should be treated as if never uttered, and, we are now authorized to state, are mutually and simultaneously withdrawn.

(Signed) H. HAMLIN,
M. W. RAMSON,
TIMOTHY O. HOWE,
J. E. McDONALD.

The Senate then adjourned until January 10th, 1878.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 12.—The presentation of arguments in support of the majority and minority reports of the elections committee occupied the entire day. Speeches on the subject were read and interrupted to permit the following:

Wilson, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported a bill to provide for the distribution of the Mexican award. Ordered printed and re-committed. This bill is reported as a substitute for that referred to the committee in relation to suspending the payment of claims on the Benj. Weil and La Albra Silver Mining Company. It directs the State Department to receive the moneys paid by Mexico on account of awards to American citizens and distribute the same pro rata. It also directs the payment to Mexico of \$50,528 in Mexican gold, \$10,559, in American gold, and \$89,410 in United States currency, in the discharge of the awards made in favor of Mexican citizens.

A conference committee was ordered on the deficiency bill, and Singleton, Atkins and Hale were appointed.

Money introduced a bill authorizing the Southern Pacific railroad company to extend its railroad and telegraph line east from its present terminus in Arizona to a point on the Rio Grande at or near El Paso, and to aid in building the same. Referred.

Huntton, from the select committee on ascertaining the result of Presidential elections, reported a resolution directing the committee to take into consideration also the duration of the Presidential term. Adopted.

The discussion of the Colorado contested election case was resumed and continued up to the adjournment, Harris, chairman of the elections committee announcing that he expected to have a vote to-morrow evening. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 13.—The regular order of business, consideration of the Colorado contested election case, was resumed.

Butler favored sending the case back to Colorado, warning the democrats not to seat Patterson, who was not the people's choice. Whatsoever stood between the voice of the people and a fair count should be swept away. (Derisive laughter from the democrats.) No machinery ought ever to put a man in office not elected by the popular vote. If the democrats seated Patterson, they must stop the cry of fraud concerning a recent election.

Patterson, being allowed to speak, replied to the speech made by Hale, in which the latter characterized him as a vagrant and mendicant, and his claim of unblushing, bare-faced audacity, and said: "It is not always that beggars are to be blamed. Circumstances, sometimes drive them into poverty, but a coward and a villifier is always that either from nature or from his own choosing. (Applause to the democratic side.) It, after on statement which I propose to make, the gentleman from Maine does not feel inclined to rise in his place and ask the pardon of the House, and even of a mendicant, then I think that even a beggar would be a prince beside him, in principle." (More applause and encouragement on the democratic side.)

The debate being closed, the House proceeded, at 6.30, to vote on the proposition of the minority of the committee that Belford was entitled to a seat. This was negatived by a strict party vote, yeas 110, nays 128. The next vote was on the resolution that there was no

valid election, rejected—yeas 116, nays 117. When the vote was announced it was greeted with applause on the democratic side. The following democrats voted with the republicans in the affirmative: Butler, Stenger, Williams (Del.), Potter and Willis, (N.Y.) A vote was then taken upon the majority resolution, declaring Patterson entitled to a seat, and it was agreed to, yeas 116, nays 110.

Patterson was then sworn in as representative from the State of Colorado. Adjourned at 8 p. m.

WASHINGTON, 14.—A number of bills were introduced and referred.

Singleton presented the report of the conference committee on the deficiency appropriation bill. He explained that the difference between the two houses was \$171,000, the committee of conference of the House had yielded \$102,000 to the demands of the Senate committee.

Eden said the House had yielded everything to the demands of the Senate, and he therefore moved to lay the report on the table.

The Speaker ruled the motion was in order.

Eden said it was a very remarkable appropriation committee.

When it reported the bill it had made a mistake of a million dollars which had since been added by the Senate. There was another deficiency bill looming up of \$7,500,000 for a deficiency in the navy, most of which had been created in defiance of law.

After a long discussion, the report of the conference committee was agreed to without the yeas and nays. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

At the end of the morning hour the House proceeded to consider the business on the Speaker's table.

When the Paris Exposition bill was reached, Wood (N.Y.) moved that the House concur in the Senate amendment. Agreed to—yeas 124, nays 89.

At 4 o'clock there was a movement on the republican side of the House for adjournment, and the opposition on the democratic side, growing out of a desire to have reported and acted on to-day the resolution looking to a general investigation of the departments, and the motion to adjourn was voted down by a strict party division.

After several dilatory votes and proceedings, led by Butler, the House, at 7.20, adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 15.—The democratic side, under the lead of Wood, has been endeavoring all day to force a vote on the resolution for the wholesale investigations, while republicans are determined not to allow a vote. A number of points of order having been pressed and discussed, the Speaker intimated that all these efforts were unavailing.

Wood finally got the floor, but had not proceeded far when Conger interposed the point that as the resolution involved the expenditure of money, it must receive its first consideration in committee of the whole.

The Speaker sustained the point, and Wood moved to commit the resolution to the committee of the whole. On a rising vote there were 95 in the affirmative; none in the negative. This showed no quorum and the vote by the tellers affirmed it.

Attention being called to the fact of the republicans not voting, Wright asked whether there was not a rule which required the members to vote who were present.

The Speaker replied there was but there was no way of enforcing it. (Laughter.)

A motion to adjourn was defeated, yeas 29, nays 141.

Dilatory motions continued until 3.30, when Mills moved to postpone until the 10th of January.

Wood said a majority desired a fair, honest and impartial investigation, such as the people demanded, and no party could defend itself in opposition. He continued: "If it be the unanimous desire that this question be postponed till January, I shall, of course, yield to the inevitable. Whatever be the result to-day, I shall persist from hour to hour, from day to day, and from month to month, until the House finally adopts the resolution which have reported."

Conger—We shall be here during those hours and days and months (Laughter.)

The question was taken on Mills' motion to postpone and it was agreed to without division.