

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Dec. 16th, in the Senate, Mr. Lane, of Indiana, presented a memorial from the Society of Friends (at their yearly meeting) for Indiana and Eastern Illinois, asking that hereafter all differences with foreign powers be referred to the arbitration of some foreign power, which was referred.

Mr. King presented a petition that the lands of convicted traitors be awarded to soldiers, and also to abolish all fees and perquisites of office, which was referred.

The bill to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office, was taken up and passed.

The bill for the protection of overland emigrants to California and Oregon, was taken up and passed.

The unfinished business of yesterday, which was the contested seat of Kansas, was taken up. The question being the motion of Mr. Clark to strike out the word "not" in the resolution of the committee on judiciary, that Mr. Lane was not entitled to his seat.

Mr. McDougal (Cal.) opposed the amendment. He contended that the President had authority under a power to suppress insurrection. He thought the Senator from Kansas had attempted to exercise military and legislative power at the same time, and, in fact, he had no right to a seat in the Senate.

Mr. Lane said he had refused to accept the office on the 22d of July. He referred to the contest in Kansas with Mr. Stanton for the Senatorship, and said that four days after he was elected, the Governor, whom he had overthrown, and his contestant whom he had beaten, declared the seat vacant.

A vote was finally taken on Mr. Clark's motion to strike out the word "not," which resulted, ayes 24, nays 16.

Mr. Dixon offered a resolution, that the usual mileage be allowed the contesting member, which was laid over.

The Senate went into executive session, after which it adjourned.

In the House, on the 16th, Mr. Dunn, from the military committee, reported a bill, which passed, authorizing and directing the Secretary of War to furnish the prisoners of the United States in the revolted States with clothing and other necessities of life, and for this purpose that he employ such agents as may be necessary, which passed.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on judiciary, reported back with amendments the bill amendatory of the act of 1857, to enforce the attendance of witnesses, which passed.

Mr. Lovejoy (Ill.) introduced a bill to establish a bureau on agriculture, which was referred to the committee on agriculture.

Mr. Blair, of Missouri, asked leave to present a memorial of 140 colored persons of California, asking that provision be made for the colonization of that class, and where color will not be a badge of degradation. He asked that it be printed, which was agreed to.

Dec. 17th. In the Senate Mr. Chandler presented the credentials of Hon. Jacob M. Howard, senator elect from Michigan, in place of Mr. Bingham, deceased, who appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Wilnot presented a petition asking for the employment of homoeopathic physicians in the army.

Mr. Fessenden from the committee on finance, reported back the House joint resolution declaratory of the purpose of Congress to impose a tax.

Mr. Carlile objected to its consideration, but subsequently withdrew the resolution, and it was passed, by yeas, 30; nays, Mr. Powell, 1.

Mr. Foote, from the committee on public buildings, reported a resolution ordering the removal of army bakeries from the Capitol.

Mr. Trumbull offered a resolution, which was referred, to pay one thousand dollars out of the contingent fund for the funeral expenses of the late Senator Baker.

In the House on the 17th, Mr. Train introduced a bill, which was referred, transferring the penitentiary building of the District of Columbia to the War Department for the use of the Arsenal.

The Pennsylvania election was taken up and a vote was first taken on the substitute reported from the minority of the committee on elections, that John M. Butler is not, and Wm. E. L. Hman is, entitled to a seat as representative from the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which was adopted by a vote of 77 against 67.

Mr. Alley, from the postoffice committee, reported a bill, which was passed, authorizing the establishment of branch postoffices in cities.

The House then concurred in the Senate's amendments to the bill to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office.

Mr. Holman, from the committee on army contracts, reported a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of War to communicate to the committee a copy of the contract for the purchase of horses for Col. Williams' cavalry regiment now in Kentucky.

Mr. Steele, of the same committee, reported a resolution to inquire into several orders on contracts, one for fifty thousand, and another for twenty-five thousand Enfield rifles; whether these contracts have been extended or annulled, and whether they have been sold, or offers made to sell them.

Jan. 20.—In the Senate, Mr. Dixon presented a petition from Benjamin Silliman, Ellis Loomis and others, asking for continuance of the coast survey.

Mr. Nesmith offered a resolution providing for an overland daily mail from Utah to Oregon.

Mr. Wade introduced a bill to authorize the

Secretary of War to appoint more assistant secretaries.

Mr. Wade introduced a bill to promote the administration of justice.

The bill repeals the bill excepting witnesses examined before a congressional committee from examination in a court of justice.

Mr. Wade said he wanted the former law repealed before he went much further with the examination of witnesses before his committee.

Mr. Sumner offered a joint resolution authorizing certain officers in the navy to accept presents from the Japanese government.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, the bill to amend certain articles of war was taken up.

The bill provides the penalty of death to spies and those forcing safe-guards. After some discussion it was laid over.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was taken up.

Several amendments from the Committee on Finance were adopted, and the bill passed.

The report of the Judiciary Committee on the resolution to expel Mr. Bright from the Senate—that no sufficient cause existed to do so—was taken up, and speeches were made by Messrs. Williamson, Bayard, Morrill, Trumbull, Bright and Pearce.

In the House, on the 20th, Mr. Van Wyck presented the memorial of Joseph Archbold, on behalf of the mechanics and laborers of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, asking the repeal of the eighth section of the act of Congress to promote the efficiency of the navy, approved December 21, 1861.

Wm. A. Hall, representative of the Third congressional district of Missouri, appeared, was sworn in, and took his seat.

Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to settle with the States for supplies furnished their respective troops, which was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Daily, delegate from Nebraska, it was resolved that as Alabama has treasonably entered into the rebellion, the committee on public lands inquire into the expediency of confiscating certain lands selected by that State under the law of Congress, and that the same be applied to the use of a seminary now in operation in that territory.

On motion of Mr. Edwards, the committee on judiciary was instructed to inquire whether further legislation is necessary to secure to the relatives of volunteers killed or died the bounty provided by the act of July last.

Mr. Diven introduced a bill to establish an additional judicial district in New York in relation to the United States courts in that State. Referred to the committee on judiciary.

Mr. Allen offered a resolution that, in the judgment of this House, no part of the appropriation now or hereafter made, nor of taxes now or hereafter to be laid by Congress, shall be used in or applied to the prosecution of the war for the emancipation of slaves in the slaveholding States of the Union, which was tabled by a vote of 91 to 37.

Mr. Holman, from the government contract committee, reported a resolution directing the sergeant-at-arms to bring before the bar of the House Henry Hickley, for an alleged contempt of its authority in not appearing before them as a witness at the time they held a meeting in Cincinnati, which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Lovejoy, a resolution was adopted instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill making void all sales, transfers, and disposition of property of every kind by persons engaged in insurrection against the United States.

The House then went into committee of the whole and proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for legislative, executive and judicial expenses, upon which Messrs. Fessenden, Steele, Wright and Bingham made speeches.

January 21st, in the Senate, Mr. Sumner, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported back the resolution to allow certain officers to receive presents from the Japanese government.

Mr. Hale objected. He thought the resolution was loosely drawn. It did not state the names of all the officers, nor the presents they were to receive, and was a bad precedent. The resolution was passed, yeas, 22; nays, 14.

Mr. Wilson offered a new section repealing the act allowing the discharge of minors, and providing no persons hereafter shall be mustered into the service under 18 years of age, but the oath of enlistment shall be conclusive as to age. He also offered another amendment, altering the Articles of War, by providing the penalty of death to persons found lurking as spies: both were agreed to.

A bill that the President, with the consent of the Senate, appoint two additional Assistant Secretaries of War, at a salary of three thousand dollars each, the office to last one year, was passed.

The case of Bright was resumed, and Mr. Lane, of Indiana, made a speech, in which he said that Bright, in one of his letters, had averred that he was opposed to the coercive policy of the government. He (Lane) was in favor of all the coercive policy of the government, and would tax every dollar to carry on the war. He would carry on the war until every individual was bankrupt. He would give his coat off his back, and even die in a pauper's grave, and be buried by the hands of charity, rather than close the war, which caused so much applause from those in the galleries that the Vice-President ordered the

galleries to the right of the chair to be cleared. He spoke at some length on the deadly heresy of opposing coercion, which he said found no favor in the proud State of Indiana. Indiana, thank God Almighty, has participated in no defeat and no repulse. So let it be to the end, and let the people say Amen. As the letter of his colleague now stands without any explanation, he must vote for expulsion.

In the House, on the 21st, the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill regulating the carriage of printed matter outside the mails, requiring the postage to be paid, &c.

Mr. Colfax explained and advocated the bill.

Mr. Morrill said the subject should be considered as a postal measure, and not as a means of raising revenue.

Mr. Blair moved to commit the bill to the committee on ways and means with instruction to report a bill for a stamp tax instead of postage on newspapers.

Mr. Liddell moved to lay the subject on the table. Lost by 61 against 66.

Mr. Riddle said the Post Office Department was established for the transmission of letters, without especial reference to printed matter. He did not see why the manufacture of newspapers should be more the subject of tax than the manufacture of pig iron or any other. He moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Disagreed to, 61 against 66.

Mr. Morrill moved to recommit the bill, to the post office committee, with instructions to report one increasing the postage from three to five cents. This was voted down, together with the motion of Mr. Blair.

Mr. Colfax reported a substitute for the bill referred to in his speech, which was disagreed to, one of the sections proposing a tax on telegrams.

The original bill being before the House for final action, Mr. Dawes moved to lay it on the table, which was carried, 75 against 60.

Jan. 22d. In the Senate, Mr. Howe, from the committee on finance, reported back the resolution appropriating \$10,000 for the expenses of the joint special committee on the war, which was passed.

Mr. Trumbull, from the judiciary committee, reported back the House bill in regard to witnesses examined before a Congressional committee.

The bill provides that the examination of a witness before a committee of Congress shall not prevent his examination in a court of justice.

Mr. Harris objected to the bill as making a great innovation on the common law rule of evidence, by which a witness is not obliged to testify to anything which may criminate him. He opposed making such an innovation.

Mr. Bayard moved to strike out that portion of the bill which compels a witness to answer questions which may tend to disgrace or make him infamous.

Mr. Trumbull claimed that the object of the bill was to put witnesses on common law grounds. The law, as it now stands, enables the greatest criminal to escape if he can only get before an investigating committee and tell something about the crime. That very case occurred with their clerk who stole two millions of Indian bonds, and he went clear in that very way.

Mr. Sumner said there was no other system of jurisprudence but where a witness was expected to answer questions. He thought other systems preferable.

Mr. Wade hoped the amendment would prevail. He did not see why we should be so tender footed on account of rogues. Were combinations formed to rob the government, he dare not enter on an investigation before his committee, because the law as it stands exculpates great rascals. It had been said that a witness might be compelled to testify so as to lead to something that would convict him, he (Wade) hoped this might be the case.

Mr. Harris said he was in favor of the bill. He only objected to innovation on the common law.

Mr. Collamer agreed with the senators from New York and Delaware in regard to the common law, but he thought the bill, even as it stands, did not interfere with the common law at all.

Mr. Bayard withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Harris offered as an amendment the following:

"That the law shall not be so construed as to require any witness to testify to any fact which will tend to criminate him."

This was lost, by yeas, 19; nays, 21.

Mr. Wade from the special committee on the conduct of the War, reported a bill to authorize the President to take possession of certain railroads and telegraph lines, which passed.

The case of Mr. Bright was then taken up and Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, made a lengthy speech against his retaining his seat in the Senate.

In the House on the 22d, Mr. Cox, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported the Senate bill, which was passed, authorizing Capt. McKean and other naval officers to accept certain presents from the Emperor of Japan.

Mr. Mallory, from the committee on roads and canals, reported a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Secretary of War, if not incompatible with the public interest, to inform the House as soon as practicable, whether, and in what time, a sufficient military force can be extended to the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, in order that the road may be prepared.

The House, in committee of the whole, resumed the consideration of the making appro-

priations for the executive, legislative, and judicial expenses, upon which a lengthy discussion arose.

Mr. F. A. Conkling offered an amendment, which was adopted, that nothing in the bill shall be construed as in any manner impairing the compensation of army officers of the government, or abolishing any existing office. He mentioned the fact that the joint commission on reducing the civil, military and naval expenses, had reported three several bills with this object.

In the Senate on the 23d, Mr. Collamer from the postoffice committee, reported the bill for the completion of the postoffice of Philadelphia.

On motion of Mr. Wilson the bill for the completion of the defense of Washington was taken up.

The question being on the amendment providing that the forcing of safeguards be punished with death, was agreed to.

The bill was then so amended as to provide that no work shall hereafter be commenced on the defenses, when it was passed.

The case of Bright was again taken up, and Mr. Davis resumed his remarks. After he had concluded, Mr. Harlan obtained the floor and occupied the time till the hour for going into executive session arrived.

In the House on the 23d, Mr. Blake from the postoffice committee, reported a bill to establish a postal money order system the consideration of which was postponed.

Mr. Kellogg from the committee on judiciary reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to settle with states for supplies furnished their troops called out to aid in the suppression of the rebellion.

The consideration of the bill was postponed. Mr. Mallory from the committee on roads and canals reported a bill for a military and mail railroad from Kentucky to Tennessee.

The House then went in committee of the whole, and took up the Military Academy bill which occupied the House the balance of the day.

Jan. 24th. In the Senate Mr. Sherman introduced a bill creating two new bureaus in the Navy Department, which was referred.

Mr. Grimes introduced a bill providing a charter for certain banks in the district of Columbia.

Mr. Davis presented the credentials of Robert Wilson, appointed senator from Missouri, to fill the vacancy caused by the expulsion of Mr. Polk.

Mr. Wilkinson moved to refer the credentials and certain papers he had, to the Judiciary Committee. He said he had the report of a certain meeting held about the first of May and Mr. Wilson was one of the committee who reported a set of resolutions, two of which were as follows:

Resolved, That we the people here assembled declare our loyalty and sympathy with the South, and for the protection of the southern institutions.

Resolved, That we condemn as inhuman and diabolical the war now waged by the Federal government against the South.

Mr. Davis said that Mr. Wilson had no part in the resolutions, which were entirely without his sanction in any way. Mr. Davis then had a paper read, signed by Governor Hall and others, attesting the loyalty of Mr. Wilson, also a letter from Mr. Wilson to Mr. Davis, asking that a thorough investigation of his loyalty might be had, that the country might be satisfied.

Mr. Pomeroy said that he knew Mr. Wilson, and that he had the reputation of a good Union man. It was so good that he (Wilson) had to go through Iowa to get home, he being hunted like the rest of Union men.

Mr. Wilkinson withdrew his opposition and Mr. Wilson took the oath.

On motion of Mr. Trumbull the bill relating to certain judicial districts of the United States Circuit Courts was taken up, and the bill was passed as reported by the committee.

The case of Mr. Bright was then taken up.

Mr. Davis made an explanation of what Mr. Harlan had said in regard to the law against teaching slaves. Where he (Davis) lived they had schools and Sunday schools, where the slaves were taught to read. His own slaves, when born, were baptized according to the rites of the church to which he belonged, and female slaves were given in marriage the same as white people. Mr. Rhet, himself, who owned a large number of slave, built a church, and specially employed a preacher for their edification. One great cause of the rebellion, which he omitted to speak of yesterday, was the division of the church North and South.

In the lengthy discussion which followed Messrs. Harlan, Cowan, Sumner, Harris, Ten Eyck, Clark and Davis participated.

In the House on the 24th, the consideration of the bill making more stringent the provisions in the Indian Intercourse act, against the sale of spirituous liquors was resumed.

Mr. Edwards in the course of explanation, said that the present law is evaded by vending intoxicating drinks outside the Indian limits or frontiers. Hence the necessity of further legislation, to protect the Indians from such degrading and destructive influences.

Mr. Cox remarked that from conversations with ex-commissioners of Indian Affairs, (Medill and Manypenny), he was led to the conclusion that nearly all the efforts of the Indian bureau to meliorate the condition of the Indians were foiled by the conduct of the War Department, especially under the administration of Jeff. Davis.

The Senate bill, appropriating \$25,000 to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, if, in his judgment, the same be ne-