

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 18.—Grover from the committee on private land claims, reported favorably on the Senate bill to authorize the claimants to certain lands in Santa Barbara County, California, to submit their claim to the United States district court for that State for adjudication. Placed on the calendar.

He also reported from the same committee favorably on the Senate bill to confirm the Lopez private land claim in the Territory of New Mexico. Placed on the calendar.

McDonald, from the committee on judiciary, reported adversely on the Senate bill for the endorsement of judgments and decrees in other States than those where rendered or made. Indefinitely postponed.

Garland, from the committee on Territories, reported favorably the joint resolution disapproving of the act of the Territory of Arizona granting a charter to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, passed on the 7th of February, 1877. Placed on the calendar.

By Hereford, to recognize and pay certain claims due by the State of West Virginia to citizens thereof for services rendered in suppressing the late rebellion.

By Eustis, to authorize the States to impose a tonnage tax, charge or duty on vessels, to maintain quarantine.

Windom, from the committee on appropriations, reported, with amendments, the House bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to employ temporary clerks, and making appropriations for the same. Also making appropriations for detecting trespassing on the public lands; for bringing into market the public lands in certain States, and for other purposes. Placed on the calendar.

Spencer submitted an amendment to the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill as follows:

"Provided, That before any part of the appropriation provided for in this act shall become available, the appointments in the consular and diplomatic service shall be so arranged as to be equally distributed between the several States of the United States, Territories and the District of Columbia, according to population." Referred.

Allison called up the Senate bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to make certain negotiations with the Ute Indians in the State of Colorado, for the consolidation of all bands into one agency, to be located on White River.

Edmunds inquired where Congress had received power to authorize any one to make treaties except the President of the United States.

Allison moved to amend the bill so as to authorize the President to make the negotiations instead of the Secretary of the Interior, and it was agreed to.

Edmunds also opposed the clause of the bill directing the report of the proceedings under it to be made to Congress for consideration and approval, and moved to amend so as to have the report made to the Senate alone.

Pending discussion the morning hour expired and the bill was laid aside.

The Senate resumed consideration of the Pacific Railroad Sinking Fund bill, and Christiancy spoke in regard thereto.

Pending discussion, Sargent submitted several amendments to the bill to organize the life-saving and coastguard service, and it was ordered that they be printed and lie on the table.

Morgan then took the floor to speak upon the Pacific Railroad Sinking Fund bill, and the Senate went into executive session. When the doors were re-opened the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 19.—Matthews said he was directed by the majority of the committee on railroads to report back the two Senate bills in regard to the Texas Pacific Railroad, the one introduced by Johnston on the 10th December and the other by Dorsey on the 11th of December last, with a substitute, and to recommend its passage; placed on the calendar. He also reported back from the same committee, the Senate bill authorizing the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to extend its railroad from its present terminus in Arizona to a point on the Rio Grande, near El Paso, and aiding in building the same, with-

out amendment and without recommendation; placed on the calendar.

The House bill to authorize the granting of American register to a foreign built ship, for the purposes of the Woodruff Scientific expedition around the world, passed as it came from the House of Representatives.

Blaine, by request, introduced a bill for the better protection of acting plays and dramatic literature; referred.

The Senate bill to amend section 2464 of the revised statutes, relating to the cultivation of timber on the public domain, was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour, and laid aside.

Consideration was resumed of the Pacific Railroad sinking fund bill.

WASHINGTON, 19.—The Vice-President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, calling attention to the fact that the appropriation for the printing for that department would soon be exhausted, and asking an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for printing during the remainder of the current fiscal year. Referred.

Paddock called up the Senate bill, which was discussed yesterday, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to make certain negotiations with the Ute Indians in the State of Colorado. The amendment submitted by Edmunds yesterday, providing that proceedings under this act should be reported to the Senate only, instead of the two Houses of Congress. The bill then passed.

Mitchell, from the committee on railroads, reported with amendment, in the nature of a substitute, the Senate bill amendatory of the act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Portland to Astoria and McMinnville, Oregon. Placed on the calendar.

Morgan argued that Congress had power to alter, amend or repeal the Pacific railroad act. If Congress had no such power, then it required but a few more gigantic corporations to be created to absorb all the powers of Congress, leave the government stranded and the people at the mercy of these corporations.

The committee on appropriations reported the following amendment: "And provided, further, that where wood and timber lands in the Territories of the United States are not surveyed and offered for sale in proper subdivisions, convenient of success, no money herein appropriated shall be used to collect any charge for wood or timber cut on the public lands in the Territories of the United States for the use of actual settlers in the Territories and not for export."

Beck moved to amend the last line of the amendment, so as to read: "Not for sale or export," and in support of the amendment argued that men should not be allowed to go upon public land and make timber an article of merchandise. He favored limiting the cutting of wood for actual use only.

Dawes opposed the amendment of the committee on appropriations, and argued that every means should be taken to prevent the people from plundering the public lands of timber.

Teller said there were no wood rings in Colorado, and he (Teller) did not hesitate to declare it, the Secretary of the Interior to the contrary notwithstanding.

After some further discussion, Beck modified his amendment so as to provide that no money of the amount appropriated shall be used to collect any charge for wood or timber cut on the public lands in the territories of the United States for the use of actual settlers in the territories and not for export from the territory where the timber grew.

Blaine accepted the amendment.

Eustis said he would vote against any appropriation to pay the special agents of the department of the interior who were engaged in the business of discovering and prosecuting persons who were charged with trespassing on the public lands. These agents, instead of being rewarded, as suggested by the Secretary, should be dismissed with disgrace from the service. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 20.—Mitchell introduced a bill for the protection of homestead settlers on the public lands; referred.

It was ordered that there be printed, for the use of the finance committee, the statement made by the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the repeal of the specie

resumption act, and the tables submitted to him on the subject.

Allison introduced a bill to repeal the pre-emption laws and provide for the sale of timber on the public lands; referred.

The Senate bill to amend section 2464 of the revised statutes, relating to the cultivation of timber on the public domain was discussed briefly and passed—yeas 29, nays 12.

Windom, Blaine, and Withers were appointed a conference committee, on the part of the Senate, on the military academy appropriation bill.

Howe submitted the following:

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform the Senate whether W. K. Whitaker, who recently presided in the superior criminal court of the parish of Orleans, was formerly employed either in the internal revenue service or as assistant treasurer at New Orleans. Is said Whitaker a defaulter to the United States, and to what amount? Whether legal proceedings have been taken against said Whitaker? and whether such proceedings are still pending? Ordered that it be printed and lie on the table.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 18.—Bills were introduced as follows:

By Vance, granting pensions to soldiers who enlisted out of prisons; also for the payment of certain southern mail contractors. This bill provides that no claims shall be paid which have heretofore been paid by the confederate government.

By Money, granting alternate sections of land to the State of Mississippi to aid in the construction of the Ship Island, Ripley and Kentucky railroad.

By Gibson, for the appointment of a commission to ascertain on what terms a treaty of commerce with Mexico can be arranged.

By Monroe, relating to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries.

By Sampson, proposing an amendment to the constitution, providing that the President shall be elected by the direct vote of the people.

By Conger, repealing the law appropriating \$375,000 for the payment of certain southern mail contractors.

By Cox (N.Y.), for the erection of a monument over the grave of Thomas Jefferson.

Mayham, from the District of Columbia committee, reported the bill investing the district commissioners with the power of the late board of audit, for the purpose of issuing certificates on claims passed upon and allowed by such board, but for which no certificates had been prepared. Also, that outstanding certificates issued by the board auditor, which shall hereafter be issued by the commissioners, shall be convertible into 3-65 bonds. The bill was referred to the committee of the whole and then the House resolved itself into such committee, Stenger in the chair, for the purpose of considering the bill.

Eden opposed. He sometimes heard about the paying of southern claims, but he never had seen a batch of claims that he thought so little of as this mass of rotten claims, which came up from the purloins of the old Washington ring.

After further discussion the committee rose without action. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 19.—Harrison, chairman of the committee on civil service reform, submitted the majority report of that committee, on the matter of the charges against doorkeeper Polk. It declares Polk to be unfit for the responsibilities of the position, and recommends the adoption of resolution declaring the office of doorkeeper vacant, and devolving its duties on the sergeant-at-arms until the appointment of a new doorkeeper.

The minority report, signed by Cook, Cravens, Garth and Henry, declares that no corruption having been proven or even charged against Col. Polk, it would be a grievous wrong to adopt the majority resolution.

Harrison gave notice that he would not call the matter up before Saturday.

O'Neil presented a remonstrance of printers, electrotypers, stereotypers, booksellers, engravers and others against the action of the committee on ways and means in not imposing a duty on imported

stereotype and electrotype printing plates; referred.

WASHINGTON, 19.—On motion of Gibson the House passed the bill for the relief of the families of men who perished on the dredge boat *McAllister*.

Davis (Cal.) offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for information with regard to the use which is being made of the Custom House and old appraiser's stores in San Francisco. Adopted.

The Speaker then proceeded to call for committees for reports.

Durham, from the committee on expenditures in the department of justice, reported back the bill fixing the compensation of jurors serving in United States district and circuit courts. It reduces the daily compensation of such jurors from \$3 to \$2. Passed. Also fixing the fees of clerks of district and circuit courts. It allows a charge of 10 cents for searching court records for liens on real estate, and provides that clerks shall account for the same. Passed.

Also the bill fixing the compensation of United States marshals and deputies. It limits that of marshals to \$5,000, chief deputies to \$2,700, other deputies \$5 per day. Passed.

Smith (Pa.), from the committee on appropriations, reported the bill making an appropriation for the payment of invalid and other pensions. It appropriates \$29,289,000. Referred to the committee of the whole.

Durham, from the same committee, reported back the West Point Academy bill, recommending concurrence in some of the Senate amendments and non-concurrence in others. One amendment in which concurrence is recommended was that depriving the President of the power of appointing ten cadets a year, and allowing but ten during his term.

O'Neill believed it would be better to non-concur in the Senate amendments, and to leave the power in the President to make ten appointments at large annually, whether law or custom had established the right.

Potter also opposed it.

The House then agreed to the report of the committee on appropriations.

Hewitt (N. Y.) offered a resolution calling on the Attorney General for information as to whether foreclosure proceedings are now pending against the property and franchises of the Kansas Pacific Railroad and the present condition of the same, also as to the extent of the government interest affected, or liable to be affected by such proceedings, and what steps have been taken to protect such interests. Adopted.

A number of bills were introduced and referred.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Hunton in the chair, on the general deficiency bill.

The total sum recommended by the bill is \$1,386,465.

Without any general debate the clerk proceeded to read the bill by sections. At the clause appropriating \$75,000 for constructing, repairing, enlarging and renting the vaults and safes for the use of the treasurer and assistant treasurers of the United States, Hanna inquired whether these vaults were for the purpose of hoarding up the silver coin lately authorized. If so he was opposed to it, because he wanted to see the silver put in circulation instead of being hoarded.

Chittenden defended the course of the treasury in not paying out the silver coin for the debts of the government. The Secretary could not properly act otherwise, because silver was receivable for custom duties, and was now within 1-16 of 1 per cent. of the value of gold coin.

Hanna replied, quoting Chittenden's speech characterizing the silver dollar as a clipped dollar. If silver was not worth gold by within 1-16 of 1 per cent., he would like to know where the poor man had been robbed.

Townsend remarked that nobody cared for the poor man half as much as was pretended.

Chittenden defended himself from the imputation of inconsistency on the subject of silver. Facts were beginning to be developed and the gentleman would find the silver bill would bring them results which they had not contemplated.

Young offered an amendment, appropriating \$25,000 for continuing the survey of the Mississippi

River for the purpose of reclaiming the alluvial lands of the Mississippi delta, and made an argument for it.

Baker (Ind.), opposed the amendment, which was rejected.

Aldrich moved to increase the amount appropriated for the continuance of the building of the custom house and sub treasury at Chicago, from \$100,000 to \$200,000; but soon withdrew it and the committee arose. Adjourned.

AMERICAN.

CHICAGO, 18.—The *Times*' Washington special says: Senator Edmunds, to-day, reported back, adversely, from the judiciary committee, the bill giving the right to female lawyers to appear in the Supreme Court. Sargent saved the measure from eternal death by asking that it be placed on the calendar, instead of tabled. This indicates that he intends to call it up at some future time for debate.

The appointment of Miss Sweet, to-day, as pension agent here, is a great victory for Secretary Schurz. Miss Sweet had very little political backing, while Mrs. Mulligan, widow of the late colonel Mulligan, the applicant, had as her supporters a long list of prominent political friends of the President, who have worked vigorously and earnestly for her success. Miss Sweet is the present incumbent, and has done her work for the past four years in a perfectly upright and satisfactory manner. Schurz insisted on her retention, and carried his point against the politicians.

NEW ORLEANS, 18.—The Supreme Court, this morning, was crowded with members of the bar, politicians and other persons anxious to hear the decision in the case of the State ex Thomas C. Anderson. Chief Justice Manning, after reading a very lengthy opinion, ordered that the verdict be set aside and reversed, and the prisoner discharged from custody.

The decision of the Supreme Court, to-day, virtually ends the prosecution against the members of the returning board. The order of the court, however, ordering the discharge of General Anderson, does not enlarge him at once, the State having five days in which to file application for a re-hearing.

READING, Pa., 18.—The habeas corpus hearing of A. L. Boyer and C. Sellers, officers of the suspended Dime Savings Bank, charged with conspiracy to defraud, was concluded to-day. The prisoners were held in \$5,000 each to appear at the April term.

WASHINGTON, 18.—The Senate has confirmed Alanson W. Beard collector of customs at Boston; M. D. Ball, of Virginia, collector of customs at Alaska; Benjamin F. Simpson, United States marshal of Kansas; Charles McCandless, of Pennsylvania, chief justice of the supreme court of New Mexico.

The House bill providing for deficiencies in last year's appropriations for clerical service in the Treasury and Interior Department, has been amended by the Senate committee on appropriations. The section making a deficiency appropriation for the detection of trespasses on public lands is reported back to the Senate with an amendment (offered in committee by Senator Blaine) providing that where wood and timber lands in the Territories of the United States are not surveyed and offered for sale in proper subdivisions, convenient of access, no money herein appropriated shall be used to collect any charge for wood and timber cut on public lands in said Territories for the use of the actual settlers thereof, and not for export.

NEW YORK, 19.—The *Herald*'s Washington correspondent thinks Schleicher's committee will recommend that Diaz be recognized. The evidence taken by the committee shows that the cattle and other raids have greatly diminished in number since the accession of President Diaz. We have now on the border 5,000 troops, and this number is found to be sufficient to guard the border. If Diaz should encourage immigration into Mexico, by offering protection to public improvements and to private enterprise, he would do much, it is thought, to settle the question. Nobody here desires to acquire any territory from Mexico.

The *Tribune*'s Washington special says: A gentleman connected with a prominent tea importing house in Baltimore, and who is an expert in all matters pertaining to