

## BY TELEGRAPH.

## FORTY - SIXTH CONGRESS.

EXTRA SESSION.

## SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 24.—On motion of McDonald, a resolution was passed requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the Senate the amounts of money drawn and paid the supervisors of elections in general and special elections in 1876 and 1878, as compensation in excess of fees as allowed by law for circuit court commissioners, and state the amounts expended in New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati for the years aforesaid.

Wallace offered a resolution that the Senate now proceed to the election of the Secretary of the Senate, chief clerk, executive clerk and sergeant-at-arms. A lengthy political discussion ensued, which was participated in by Anthony, Hamlin, Wallace, Conkling, Bayard, Beck, Voorhees, Blaine and Eaton. During the course of the debate Beck read a circular issued during the campaign of '78, and signed "Sidney A. Austin, by order of the committee, Geo. C. Gorham, secretary." The circular says it is almost certain that the next Senate will be democratic, and asserts that the foremost among the schemes of that party is the intention to attempt the revolutionary expulsion from his office of the President.

Eaton referred to the circular read, and asked if it was true that the democrats contemplated the ousting of the President as there stated. Now I have not, he said, any very high respect for the man that occupies the presidential chair. I think he is there through fraud; that he has no business there; that a majority of 300,000 free men of this country say he has no business there; but when the secretary of this committee says the foremost among the democratic schemes of opposition and already announce their intention to attempt the revolutionary expulsion of the President from his office, I, as a democrat, deny it as false. No body of men, respectable either in numbers or intellect, ever announced such a policy. Therefore, even were it not right and proper for other reasons, to make this change in the secretaryship of the Senate because of this issue.

Blaine said that the pretext that the Secretary was to be removed because he issued this circular might go for what it was worth. He would have to go just the same if he had never issued the circular, but Eaton said Gorham stated an untruth in the circular when he said it was the design of the democratic party to remove the President. Now the struggle in both branches of the last Congress, which culminated in the Potter committee, was an evidence of the sentiment in the democratic party which justified the assertion made in the circular. The Potter committee was organized for the purpose of obtaining, if possible, evidence on which to base proceedings to remove the President.

Wallace—Does the senator know that in a week from the issuance of that circular the democratic convention of Pennsylvania declared that it was unwise and impolitic to make an attack upon the title of the President.

Blaine—Why did they make that resolve if there was not some danger in the air?

Wallace—Because that assertion was false.

Blaine—That document had never seen the light then. It did not come out until some sneaking federal officeholder betrayed the secrets of his party and is probably now waiting in the corridors for some reward. The senator cannot base his action in Pennsylvania on that. He went up to Harrisburg to make it certain that no such rash step should be taken by the democratic party.

Wallace said he would concede that there was some such agitation then, but it was also true that the assertion of the circular was that of a man who declared what was untrue and was unsustained by any word or act of men worthy to represent the democratic party.

Blaine thought there was an immense exhibition here of virtue after the fact. If anything was in the air at the time of appointment of the Potter committee, it was the conviction that it was organized to fish for testimony on which to proceed against the title of the President.

Kernan—My recollection is that contemporaneously with the organization of that committee, the House passed a resolution that there was no intent to question the title of the President.

Blaine—Some weeks after there came up from the country a cry of indignant protest. After the business communities everywhere discountenanced such action, then the House, on motion of a republican, did adopt such resolution.

Eaton reiterated his assertion that the charge contained in the circular was baseless.

Blaine said there were still echoing in his ears the words of the senator from Connecticut (Eaton), himself, denouncing the title of the President to his office.

Eaton—I say so now.

Blaine—Then is not the senator denouncing the republican party that is answerable for the situation?

Eaton—I do. But a great many of the republicans feel as I do about it. The best of them agree with me that the man in the White House has no legal title to his place as President of the United States.

Blaine—I will answer the gentleman with my view of the case. It is that the President of the United States holds the office to which he was elected by as fair and honest a vote as George Washington did, but that it took a singular departure from the constitutional modes to make that vote good, and that he was not only entitled to the votes of the three Southern States which he got, but to three more Southern States of which he was deprived by bulldozing democrats. (Applause.)

Chair—The sergeant-at-arms will see that the doorkeepers take into custody any persons in the galleries violating the rules.

Eaton said he could make argument upon the belief of his friend from Maine (Blaine). His own belief was 300,000 majority of the people were defrauded out of the result of an honest election for president. The gentleman states that the Potter committee was organized to hunt for the evidence of that fraud. Dare he say that if such evidence was found Hayes ought not to be removed?

Blaine—The Senate, a while ago, alleged that the President held his seat by fraud. Now, he does not know whether the committee could find evidence of fraud.

Eaton—I have evidence sufficient for me.

Blaine then remarked that the decision of the electoral commission was final and conclusive and was so accepted by the people, and it was an unpatriotic course on the part of the democracy to seek to disturb that settlement. They had agreed upon a tribunal which decided against them and it was, in his view, dishonorable to refuse compliance to the terms of that settlement.

Hill (Ga.) said there was an issue of fact raised here between the senators who had spoken, and a very material one, affecting not only the democratic party but the character of our institutions. It was important that the real truth be stated on this question. The charge of a revolutionary purpose made against the democracy by the circular which had been read was denounced by Eaton as false, whereupon Blaine came to the rescue of the document and charged that there was such revolutionary intent, and to sustain his general charge he specifies the Potter resolution as having that ulterior meaning. Hill claimed that Blaine was as incorrect in his statement, as was the secretary of the Senate in his, and he could produce enough facts to bear out his charge. No person of the democratic party ever intended, under any contingency, a revolutionary movement for the expulsion of the President. When the election commission bill was passed it contained a provision as follows; Section VI.—That nothing in this act shall be held to impair or affect any right now existing under the Constitution and laws, to question by proceedings in the judicial courts of the United States the right or title of a person who shall be declared elected or who shall claim to be President or Vice-President, if any such right exist. This is a provision of the act of Congress establishing the electoral commission. It was embodied there in view of the apprehension that the commission would, as they in fact did, refuse to look into and investigate the alleged frauds in Louisiana and Florida, and that the result of their labors would be the declaration of one of the claimants as President without examination into

the testimony regarding the merits of the case. It was adopted that the doors might be left open in such case to proper judicial investigation, which should bring out the facts. That there was ground for the belief that the courts of the country would have jurisdiction is manifest from the fact that the learned gentlemen and distinguished statesmen on both sides of both chambers, incorporated the provision in the electoral commission bill, reserving all the right to reopen this question and have it investigated before the judicial tribunals of the country. Some of the most able lawyers believe that by proper proceedings the Supreme Court can get jurisdiction to investigate this question. It was on that principle that the legislature of Maryland passed the memorial to Congress, demanding that proceedings of this nature should be inaugurated. Some of the most distinguished republican lawyers of the country hold that it would be perfectly proper in a competent proceeding, for the Supreme Court to reopen and determine this case upon its merits. Every gentleman of his (Hill's) acquaintance, every prominent democrat of the United States who desires to investigate this question, desires to do so in the courts and under the encouragement and authority of the electoral law. Was this revolutionary? Whether that proceeding before the court should be inaugurated or not, would depend upon the reliable evidence that should be obtained in the case. All sections of the democratic party were willing to have an investigation to obtain the real facts. There were republicans as well as democrats in the country who, if the facts should establish the illegality of title of presidential incumbent to the Presidency, and if it should appear that the Supreme Court had authority to investigate the subject, were in favor of such investigation. Hill denied that the democratic party had ever announced a revolutionary purpose looking to the expulsion of the President. It had never been announced in the legislatures, conventions or in Congress. To tell a candid fact, he always believed that the gentleman raised the cry of revolution to prevent investigation.

Blaine read from the decision of the Speaker of the House at the time the Potter resolution was introduced to show that the investigation involved the occupancy of the presidential chair. Hill inquired whether any law had been passed subsequent to the electoral commission law which gave parties the right to legally test the question of the Presidency. Blaine replied, the entire Potter resolution from its beginning to its conclusion did not mention it. Hill said the Potter resolution was simply to obtain testimony in relation to the subject. Would the senator say that the appointment of a committee for this purpose was revolutionary. Blaine—The Speaker stated it involved the rightful occupancy of the presidential chair. Did you want the evidence to be obtained by the Potter committee to be used by the Supreme Court? Hill—I said no such thing. Blaine—How does the senator connect the Potter committee proceedings with the electoral bill? I maintain that, being entirely outside of the electoral commission, the resolution was grossly and blatantly revolutionary from beginning to end. Hill—I have asked a question twice. Instead of answering mine, he refuses, and asks me a question. My question is first in order. My question is, you charge revolutionary principles on the democratic party and say it was manifested in the appointment of the Potter committee. I ask, do you hold that the appointment of a committee to make investigation is a revolutionary movement?

Blaine—The reason for the appointment of the Potter committee as construed by the Speaker of the House was revolutionary.

Hill—Will you say that the appointment of a committee of investigation by the House is revolutionary?

Blaine—The committee, as construed by the Speaker, was revolutionary.

Hill—Is the appointment of a committee revolutionary?

Blaine—Don't be childish.

Hill—Was your resolution for the appointment of the Teller committee revolutionary?

Blaine—No. We wanted to find

out how persons had been deprived of their rights. I assume that the object of the electoral bill was that if any wrong was done there might be a judicial remedy. That it contemplated only a judicial action before the court. The democratic party and friends of Tilden never wanted a remedy, but organized a committee which had no connection with it. The democrats had startling witnesses, and had been coaching them in order that the country might be treated by their revelations, but it did not pan out well. It rather missed fire, and notwithstanding the decision of the Speaker as to the character of the resolution, which under his construction, meant revolution, the democrats resolved subsequently that it did not mean any such thing.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring John C. Burch elected clerk of the Senate.

Conkling said he would like to record a vote for the present competent, faithful and accomplished secretary, and he thought every republican senator would like to do so. He had hopes that senators not republican would be glad to do so, because some of them understood purity, efficiency and honesty in civil service to mean what he meant, namely the selection of not a scoundrel, but an honest man, not a fool, but a man of sense, not a pretender, a sniveller, but a man of efficiency, so that when they had brought such a man into office, they should keep him there; when they had a man of this character he should not be removed to make place for some favorite or party claimant. He moved to strike out the name John C. Burch and substitute that of George C. Gorham.

Eaton said the senator could not be aware of the full scope of his language. He said he wanted to vote for an honest man, rather than a scoundrel. That Mr. Gorham is competent and a man of character they all agreed, but they did not want it to be inferred that because they did not re-elect Gorham they selected a man who was a scoundrel and incompetent. The resolution declaring Burch elected secretary was then adopted.

Burch was then sworn into office, the Vice-President administering the modified oath and also the oath that he would discharge his duties to the best of his knowledge and ability.

The Vice-President then laid before the Senate the final report of the retiring secretary.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring Richard J. Bright, elected sergeant-at-arms. Adopted. After rejecting an amendment offered by Anthony to substitute the name of the incumbent John R. French. Yeas 23, nays 39, a party vote.

Wallace submitted a resolution declaring F. E. Shober elected chief clerk of the Senate.

Anthony moved the substitution of the name of Wm. E. Spencer, the incumbent. Rejected, yeas 35, nays 38, and the resolution was adopted.

Wallace then submitted a resolution declaring Henry B. Peyton elected executive clerk. Anthony moved the substitution of the name of the incumbent, James R. Young. Disagreed to, yeas 25, nays 25, and the resolution was adopted.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring elected J. G. Bullock, vice Dr. Sunderland incumbent. Adopted in same way.

In the Senate, to-day, Davis introduced a joint resolution for a special committee to consider the best means of promoting agriculture.

The resolution of Hoar was taken up, declaring unconstitutional and revolutionary the democratic programme of legislation announced by Beck at the close of the late Congress.

Adjourned.

## HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Harris and Cox asked leave to introduce resolutions, but confessed they would object to the introduction of anything, unless it had reference to the appropriation bills. Adjourned—yeas 129, nays 111.

## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 24.—The republican leaders have become thoroughly alarmed over the unqualified assertions of leading democrats that as a result of a conference with the President and members of the cabinet, the President will sign a modified bill repealing the election

laws. There was something like a panic among the republicans on Saturday and yesterday regarding the President's probable action, and confidence was not fully restored when it became known that several leading republicans had been to see the President and talked over the situation. One of these informed your correspondent that he is not entirely satisfied with the result of his conversation with the President, and that the latter was not as outspoken as he desired. It is believed, however, that strong expressions of disapprobation at any compromise on the part of republican leaders will have the desired effect on the President and that he will yield his own inclinations for the good of the party, whose head he is supposed to be. The democrats still assert the President will sign a modified repeal bill and that they will carry their point over the heads of the republicans in both branches of congress. It is expected there will be further developments regarding this matter.

A ripple of excitement occurred in front of the Ebbitt House to-day, which at one time bade fair to terminate in a fist-fight and caning melee, between Wm. Gouverneur Morris, special agent of the Treasury, and Col. De Ahna, ex-collector of customs for Alaska. It appears that a considerable portion of the appropriation made by the last Congress for the payment of De Ahna's claim is kept back by the Treasury Department upon a report from Major Morris that De Ahna owes the government a balance. This report and some intimation in it that De Ahna was a defaulter, led to a lively exchange of words between them to-day. De Ahna denounced Morris as a scoundrel, liar and coward. Morris reciprocated with similar endearing epithets, canes were raised in a threatening manner, and blows were momentarily expected by an admiring crowd of lookers on. But the parties separated before the war proceeded further and no one was hurt.

NEW YORK, 24.—Pratt, the defaulting treasurer of the Reading Saving Bank, in Massachusetts, disappeared last evening, and no trace has yet been found of his whereabouts. Defalcations probably aggregate ninety thousand dollars. The bank has only two hundred dollars cash remaining.

Police Captain Williams, of clubbing notoriety, was arraigned before the police commissioners to-day, but his trial was postponed on the paltry technicality that he had not had time to procure counsel. His precinct is filled with the worst resorts in New York, and it is alleged that he has grown rich by collusion with them. Rev. D. Crosby is one of the most active workers against crime in the captain's district. His retention or dismissal is generally regarded as a test case as to how far official corruption can sustain official ruffianism in New York, and disregard the rights of law abiding citizens.

CHICAGO, 24.—Methodist ministers, this morning, heard Doctor Otis Gibson, of San Francisco, regarding the Chinese question. Among his statements were the following—He did not believe the best people in California were prejudiced against the Chinese, who were simply political footballs. He did not know what California would do without them to gather the grain and fruit. They were the best laborers there. Chinatown was a good, respectable neighborhood, and the mission there was doing a good work and had developed many excellent Christianized Chinese women. His mission has been persecuted by the Anti-Chinese element, who had burned him in effigy, and planned to attack the mission once, but were frustrated by the police. There was no virtual Chinese slavery. The Rev. Kallack, whose church had petitioned the President to veto the restrictive bill, had been removed for this cause from the Eastern church, and was now seeking political honors through the pulpit at the sand lots. They were probably Kearneyites who made the petition.

ST. LOUIS, 24.—Mr. Brown, manager of the Western Union Telegraphic Office, instead of appearing before the grand jury this morning with dispatches called for by the subpoena *duces tecum* served upon him on Saturday, went directly before the criminal court with his attorneys, Messrs. Allen and Lodge, the latter of whom stated at length the reason why Mr. Brown could not produce the dispatches demand-