

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 1.—Robertson read resolutions adopted by the colored and white citizens at Barnwell Court House on January 15th, and asked that they be referred. They declare that 700 colored members who joined the democratic clubs, and 976 who voted for the Hampton ticket, did so to secure to their native State an honest government and home rule, and to free her from the thieving government under which she had suffered and from corrupt carpet-baggers and infamous scallawags.

The resolutions further deny that intimidation on the part of the whites existed, and support the Hampton government.

The resolutions were referred to the elections committee.

Saulsbury presented a long petition, signed by prominent citizens of New Orleans concerning the affairs there. It charges the Kellogg government with incompetency, and appeals to the country to discredit the statements of fraud, violence, &c.

On motion of Howe, it was referred to committee on elections, who were directed to summon such signers of the petition as they deemed advisable to prove the charge.

The Chair appointed Sargent and Allison tellers, subsequently Sargent declined, and Ingalls was substituted.

Ferry said it was his intention to appoint one republican and one democrat, but noticing the appointment of the House, had appointed two republicans.

Pending discussion the Senate proceeded to the roll of the House to participate in the electoral count.

WASHINGTON, 1.—Bogy presented resolutions of the Missouri legislature favoring the speedy construction of the southern transcontinental railroad; referred.

Bailey was appointed to fill the places vacated by Key on the post office committee and education and labor committee.

A bill passed appropriating \$20,000 for the relief of the destitute in the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, 2.—When the Senate met, the bill passed providing for the punishment of manufacturers of counterfeit tools.

The bill passed relating to public accounts.

Several bills on the calendar were then passed.

Ingalls introduced a bill to enable the Indians to become citizens of the United States; referred.

WASHINGTON, 3.—Hamlin offered an amendment to the post office appropriation bill, appropriating half a million dollars for the steamship mail service between San Francisco, Japan and China for one year, and authorizing a contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for transporting a monthly mail between the ports designated, also an amendment appropriating a million from the post office revenues to obtain the proper facilities for a railway post office service from the Great Trunk lines during the fiscal year ending June, 1878; referred.

WASHINGTON, 5.

The bill appropriating \$35,000 for the deficiency in public printing during the current year was passed.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 1.—Kasson called for the reading of yesterday's journal in full, to consume the hour previous to the counting of the electoral votes and prevent a vote on the resolution reported by the Florida investigating committee.

The Chair appointed as the House tellers, Cook and Stone.

Kasson pointed out that both the letters were from the majority, which was contrary to custom.

The Speaker said he acted under authority, and had communicated to the President of the Senate, who would appoint two tellers from the majority.

Kasson said that was done on account of the Speaker.

Cox intimated that this was insolence, and the Chair remarked that he had done his duty.

The Speaker presented a notification from Clifford, president of the electoral commission, stating that the members had taken the oath, and the commission was ready for its duties.

Payne offered a resolution direct-

ing the clerk of the House to inform the Senate that it was ready to receive that body for the purpose of opening and counting the electoral votes; adopted. During which the floors were filled up by the members of the cabinet and counsel for the national committees of both parties. The galleries were packed largely with ladies. Justices Miller and Field arrived, the first of the commission, and at 1 o'clock the Speaker announced that the Senate members had arrived, whereupon the House arose and the Senate members filed down the main aisle and took seats on the democratic side. The President of the Senate took his chair. The Speaker being on the right called the House to order; and, amid perfect order, said, "In obedience to the Constitution the Senate and House of Representatives have met to be present at the opening of the certificates and counting and declaring the results of the electoral vote for President and Vice-President of the United States for the term of four years, commencing on the 4th of March next. In compliance with the law the President of the Senate will now proceed, in presence of the two houses, to open all the certificates of the several States, and in their alphabetical order, beginning with Alabama."

Bassett, assistant doorkeeper of the Senate brought in the strong box in which were the certificates, and placed it on the desk before the President of the Senate, who opened it, took therefrom the certificate from Alabama, handed it to the tellers, who were seated just below him at the clerk's desk, and Allison, one of the tellers, read the document in extenso.

WASHINGTON, 1.—The Alabama electoral vote was counted with the following result—that Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, had received the 10 electoral votes of Alabama.

Stone having then resumed and completed the reading of the duplicate certificate, the presiding officer said, "Are there any objections to the certificate from the State of Alabama?" After a pause: "The chair hears none. The votes of the State of Alabama will be counted. One of the tellers will announce the votes, so that there may be no mistake."

The result was announced by Mr. Cook.

The same ceremonial was observed concerning the next State, Arkansas, and the result was the six votes of Arkansas were given for Tilden and Hendricks.

The next State was California, six votes for Hayes and Wheeler, Colorado, three for Hayes and Wheeler.

Connecticut, six for Tilden and Hendricks.

Delaware, three for Tilden and Hendricks.

When Florida was reached, Mr. Stone, a teller, proceeded with the certificates, the first of which showed four for Hayes and Wheeler and the second four for Tilden and Hendricks. The former being authenticated by the late Governor Stearns, the latter by Attorney General Cocke.

The presiding officer asked whether there was any objections to counting the electoral votes of Florida.

Representative Field sent to the clerk's desk a written objection to the first certificate for Hayes and Wheeler, signed by Senators Jones, of Fla., Cooper and McDonald of Indiana, and Representatives Field, Tucker, Jenks and Springer. These objections were referred to the electoral commission, and the Senate returned to its own chamber.

WASHINGTON, 2.—Foster moved to amend by striking out of the first section, the paragraph which fixes the compensation of senators at \$4,500 dollars; agreed to—133 to 31.

Holman gave notice that he would call for the separate vote of the House to see if it would confirm the extraordinary vote of the committee.

Considerable debate ensued.

At noon, Wilson, from the committee on rules, reported a bill amendatory of the electoral bill, providing that either house may adjourn until ten the following day. Wilson explained the complications which rendered this amendment necessary, and after discussion, the bill was recommit-

Lord offered a resolution to prevent admission to the south wing of the capitol; referred.

Wood introduced a bill repealing taxes on bank capital; referred.

The House then went into a committee of the whole on the legislative appropriation bill, which appropriates \$14,266,155. The bill was considered by sections.

WASHINGTON, 2.—Holman said the vote was extraordinary, because the house, less than a year ago, decided almost unanimously that \$4,500 was a reasonable compensation. It was unseemly for legislators to insist on high salaries for themselves and reduce smaller salaried officers.

Waddell said the services of members of Congress were worth \$5,000 or nothing. If the chairman could reduce the salaries to \$4,500 he would then try a further reduction, and the people from his part of the country could not come to Congress.

Holman said this decided economy had reduced the nation's expenses \$25,000,000.

Kelley, of Pennsylvania, charged that this was the most expensive Congress the country had ever seen. It refused to appropriate for necessary public buildings, but was paying high rents everywhere. In Chicago \$70,000 with an incomplete building there. In Philadelphia \$45,000, and so on. This so-called economical legislation was a blow to the labor and the productive interests of the country. In the last political campaign the democracy had gone to the country on professions of economy, but he thanked God that the American people had some intelligence. The democratic majority in the present House was about two-thirds. In the next house it would be a questionable majority of two or four.

Carr said what the people meant by reform was that the wasteful expenditure of the public money should be stopped, and robbery of the Treasury be ended, but he never understood the people to mean that those employed by the Government should be starved or that the real and natural expenses of the Government should be cut down below the proper figure. The people believed that to be a mistaken idea of retrenchment. They did not expect that sort of economy. He thought that \$5,000 for the salary of members of Congress little enough.

WASHINGTON, 3.—At ten o'clock the House went into committee of the whole on the legislative appropriation bill.

Kehr moved an amendment making the President's salary \$50,000 instead of \$20,000 as provided in the bill.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 31.—The select committee on the privileges of the House had before it, to-day, two witnesses who gave testimony of a highly important character affecting the integrity of the Louisiana returning board. The following is the report of the most important testimony:

John T. Pickett was sworn and examined. He said, I am an attorney-at-law, a resident of Washington, D.C.

Q.—Have you in your possession a letter from Wells, of the Louisiana returning board?

A.—I have.

Q.—Will you produce it?

A.—(Handing to Mr. Field.) It is what purports to be his handwriting. I am not familiar with it.

Field read the letter as follows:

"New Orleans, Nov. 20, 1876.

"(Names cut out.) New Orleans, La.

"My Dear Sir—You fully understand the situation. Can you not advise with me relative thereto.

Yours very truly,

"J. MADISON WELLS."

Q.—State the circumstance of receiving this letter and what was done in relation to it.

Witness—On Thursday preceding the last Sunday of November, the 23rd, a gentleman with whom I have been acquainted for more than a quarter of a century came to my office, having just arrived from Louisiana, and gave me a full history of the state of affairs there, arising out of the late presidential election. He said he had been spending for a week or ten days in New Orleans. This gentleman delivered to me that letter. He stated he had been some days in New Orleans. I knew that, for I had notified my democratic friends down there of the fact of his having gone thither, and that he was an exceedingly dangerous man to our people, meaning the democratic party, inasmuch as he had been a resident of New Orleans in former

years and held a high position there, socially and otherwise, and they might not have known that he was now a member of the republican party and an emissary, as I believed, from the government here, touching how the vote of Louisiana should be counted, and stating that from my personal friendship for him of long standing I hoped that if there should be any disturbance there, such as has occurred on previous occasions, no harm should befall him. By some means he obtained information of my having written such a letter, and when he came back to Washington, he repaired to my office, and stated to me fully the condition of affairs in Louisiana he said that he believed, and that others believed that Louisiana was democratic by from eight to twelve thousand majority, but that money would decide how her electoral vote would be thrown; that his sympathies were with the south and with what was right, and that he had in his possession, which he exhibited to me, a sealed letter purporting to be from Mr. Wells to Senator West. My informant said, I have read this letter. It is sealed; I cannot open it, of course, nor would I have you do it, but it informed Senator West that the democrats had put up a million of money, and that we (meaning the republicans) would need a million down there to settle this thing to counteract that. He said he did not feel disposed to deliver that letter, that it was not obligatory on him, and that if he followed the wishes of his heart and dictates of his judgment, he would endeavor to have this gentleman supplied with what they need so as to determine the result, and he asked me whether I had any objection to co-operate with him. I said, professionally, I cannot, but in view of the magnitude of the interests at stake, I have no hesitation to do all in my little power. The result was that after one or two long conversations extending over a portion of the next day, and after some preliminary reduction of points to writing, I repaired to New York and there had an interview with several gentlemen, eminent in the democratic party, to whom I fully related all those antecedent facts. I had but one letter, that which I have already produced to the committee, and in order to conceal the name of the party to whom it was addressed I cut it out, but I have it with me, properly identified. I arranged with him certain preliminaries.

Q.—Did you see the letter to Senator West?

A.—I saw the sealed letter. I did not see its contents, but this gentleman voluntarily stated to me its contents, the chief portion of which was that the democrats had to pay a million dollars, and that the republicans want a million to counteract that.

Q.—The gentleman with whom you had this conversation is, you say, within this building now?

A.—He was here this morning.

By Lawrence—Who is the gentleman?

A.—His full name is Joseph Harris Maddox.

Q.—Did he give you any other paper than this letter purporting to be from Wells?

A.—Nothing in the shape of a letter or credential. We made some notes as to the basis on which he proposed I should endeavor to negotiate affairs.

Q.—What were you to negotiate?

A.—I was to negotiate, if possible, money enough to pay Governor Wells and his fellow-members of the returning board to do what I considered right and proper, that is to say, to determine the State for Tilden. He informed me that they would give it for Hayes unless they were paid to give it for Tilden, under which circumstances I felt perfectly justified in doing all in my power, lest I might regret it ever hereafter, to attain that great end. This gentleman, with whom I endeavored to make the negotiation, I am happy to say, informed me that had our positions been reversed, if he had been in my place and I in his, he would have done precisely what I did.

Q.—The thing which he proposed to you was that you should make the necessary negotiation to get Wells and the returning board to give the State to Tilden; is that it?

A.—He informed me that the State of Louisiana was certainly democratic by from eight to ten thousand votes, but that it would be counted for Hayes by the re-

turning board. He knew its complexion. He had been acquainted with Wells for twenty-eight years, and with Anderson nearly as long. To get them to do what was right, I assented to see those parties at his instance, and to endeavor to see if a negotiation could be made.

Q.—In other words your object was to raise money?

A.—Most undoubtedly, not for myself, but for this great object.

Q.—And the money was to be given to Maddox?

A.—No, not to be given to him. A stakeholder would have been sent down.

Q.—Who was to be stakeholder?

A.—That was to be determined by those who would supply the sinews of war.

Q.—Whom did you see in New York?

A.—I endeavored first to see Mr. Hewitt. He was out of town that day, Sunday, but a note was sent in the evening that he had returned, and I did see him. Previously I saw Mr. John Morrissey, with whom I had some slight acquaintance. I stated these facts to him. He said that while he had no particular compunctions in paying a man to do what was right, he did not feel that he was in that necessity. He said that he would buy these fellows as readily as he would buy pigs, or words to that effect, in which I coincided with him in the interest of forty millions of people; but he said we all knew Tilden was elected, and that he had just received, or that the public had just received information from Oregon, which made it unnecessary to resort to any such measure. That was about the purport of my conversation with Morrissey.

Q.—Did you receive any money from him?

A.—Not any.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Hewitt?

A.—In the evening I saw Hewitt, and went over the whole story to him, to which he listened very patiently and kindly. I told him while I had been attorney-at-law for ten or twelve years in Washington I had never used a dollar corruptly, and never expected to, but in this instance I felt the approval of my conscience upheld by duty, in presenting the thing to him, and he said that were our position reversed, he would have done precisely the same. He said this was the third proposition of this kind that had been made to him on the part of the returning board in Louisiana, but that mine appeared the most plausible and authentic, and that under no circumstances would they entertain any such proposition; that if we bought them now we would have to buy them hereafter; that if the country was getting into civil war, we might as well let it come and be done with it, but that he had no apprehensions of any such result, and that the country knew Tilden was elected. That was about the purport of our conversation.

The electoral commission this afternoon adopted rules for their government, drawn up by Edmunds. The sessions will be public, but very few will be admitted.

The first rule provides for the appointment of a secretary and two assistants, a marshal and two deputies, a stenographer and messengers.

The second rule allows the counsel to talk two hours on disputed subjects, with fifteen minutes on interlocutory questions.

Rule third allows Congressmen, who object under the law to the certificates, to select two of their number on each side to argue their objections, time being limited to two hours on each side.

Rule four provides for hearing application for processes for witnesses and papers.

Rule five provides that the president of the commission shall regulate the admission of people to the open sessions.

Rule six provides that the sessions be open, except when the commissioners are consulting.

The committee on the Florida election reported to-night. They say that it was difficult to conceive of a more wanton attempt to defeat the will of the people and impose on the State and country officers not their choice, than is here presented. The fact has been judicially ascertained that the persons named upon the face of the returns as having received the highest number of votes were elected, and the committee submit that in order to ascertain who were chosen presidential electors the House has only to look upon the face of the record and read the words and