

## BY TELEGRAPH.

### CONGRESSIONAL.

#### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The committee on public buildings and grounds reported favorably to provide for a building for a postoffice, United States courts, etc., at Topeka, Kan., and with amendments, the Senate bill to provide for a public building at Kansas City, Mo. Both were placed on the calendar.

Windom called up the House bill to provide for the deficiency in the miscellaneous fund of the House of Representatives. The amendments reported by the committee appropriating \$20,000 for contingent expenses of the Senate and \$1,500 for folding documents were agreed to and the bill passed as amended.

Booth introduced a bill to protect the waters of all the lakes, rivers and streams upon the public lands from sale, and to dedicate the same to the common use of the inhabitants; referred.

Wallace submitted an amendment to the House bill to repeal the specie resumption act which provides that on and after July 1st, 1878, United States legal tender notes shall be receivable for all debts and dues, both public and private, that any national banking association now in existence which may desire to increase its circulation shall deliver to the Secretary of the Treasury for cancellation any of the bonds of the United States payable within ten years and bearing six per cent. interest and shall receive in exchange therefor legal tender notes of the United States to the amount of the nominal value of such bonds, which said bonds shall be treated as part of the sinking fund and recorded and destroyed under existing laws, but the whole amount of legal tender notes issued for this purpose and otherwise outstanding, shall never exceed \$382,000,000. No tax upon circulation shall be imposed upon legal tender notes issued under the provisions hereof, and no reserve shall be required to be kept for their redemption by any such national banking association. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions hereof be and they are hereby repealed; referred.

At the expiration of the morning hour, Howe called up his resolution asking the President for information in regard to the alleged defalcation of Judge Whittaker of Louisiana, and made his promised speech.

In regard to that portion of Howe's speech where he referred to the indictment against Whittaker having been *nolle prossed*, Hoar said he desired to enquire of Senator Howe whether he had any information that Whittaker was indicted for the defalcation charged eight years ago, tried and acquitted on the merits of the case, and the indictment *nolle prossed* a year ago was for the same offense.

Howe said it was due to truth to say that he had such information, but he had also been told that the defalcation actually existed, and he (Howe) hoped that the answer to his resolution would show how Whittaker was acquitted on that trial.

Hoar said when the present administration came into power, the Attorney General received from the district attorney in New Orleans a list of old cases pending, and the one against Whittaker was wiped off the docket with a number of others of no importance. The action was taken by the Attorney General in the ordinary course of business without any understanding with the President. The remarks of Senator Howe would imply that the *nolle prosequere* of Whittaker's case had something to do with the political events in Louisiana.

Howe said he would not be surprised if that should turn out to be a fact that would not overwhelm him with astonishment.

At the conclusion of Howe's speech the Senate went into executive session and when the doors were reopened, adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 26.—The Vice-President was authorized to appoint a committee to receive at New York the body of the late Representative Leonard, and escort it to West Chester, Pa.

The House joint resolution, to prescribe the time for payment of the tax on distilled spirits, passed as it came from the House.

Christiancy, from the committee on judiciary, said he was directed by the majority of the committee

to report back the bill to repeal the bankrupt law. He said an honest effort had been made in the committee, for some time past, to amend the law that it would be satisfactory to the public, but there was such a conflict of opinion that it was impossible to agree upon the amendments. Several members of the committee who did not favor the repeal, consented that the bill should be reported without recommendation. Placed on the calendar.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Sargent presented a memorial of the governor and citizens of California similar to that presented in the House yesterday by Page, in reference to trespass on the public lands, timber depredations, prosecutions, etc., and after reading from a paper, he said this was a hard case, which appealed to the justice of Congress. He asked that the memorial be referred to the committee on public lands, and hoped that the committee would submit an early report. It was so referred.

At the expiration of the morning hour the Senate resumed consideration of the Pacific Railroad sinking fund bill, and Merrimon spoke in favor of the bill reported by the committee on judiciary.

Cameron (Wis.) called up the petition of Corbin, claiming the seat as senator from South Carolina, and moved that it be referred to the committee on elections. So ordered.

Davis (W. Va.) submitted a preamble and resolution quoting from the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury in 1871, to the effect that \$20,700,983 was due the government from collectors of internal revenue not in office, and directing the Secretary to report to the Senate what amount or portion of this sum has since that time been paid to the government, what amount has been settled by compromise and what steps have been taken to collect the balance. Ordered printed and tabled.

Coke moved that the Senate bill amending the Revised Statutes in regard to militia be made the special order for Monday next. Agreed to. He also submitted an amendment, providing that the several states have the right to select the arms and equipments to be issued, provided they shall not exceed in cost the *pro rata* of the State making the selection.

On motion of Oglesby, it was ordered that the testimony taken before the committee on public lands in regard to the McGarran case be printed.

Windom called up the circular and diplomatic appropriation bill, and said he was prepared to go on with it to-day, but at the request of Senator Hamlin, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, he had concluded to let it go over till to-morrow.

After a short executive session, the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 27.—Kernan introduced a bill granting pensions to Indians who were in the service of the United States in the war of 1812, as scouts, guides or warriors; referred.

McMillan reported the House bill for the allowance of certain claims reported by the accounting officers of the Treasury Department; placed on the calendar.

Hoar called up the resolution to pay John Ray and Wm. L. McMillan the sum of \$1,000 each to reimburse them for expenses incurred in contesting the seat in the Senate for the unexpired term of Wm. P. Kellogg, as senator from Louisiana, for the term ending March 3d, 1873. Agreed to—yeas 50, nays 7.

#### HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Under the call of States a number of bills were introduced and referred, including a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to convey to the Chamber of Commerce, New York, \$220,000 for the site of the late city postoffice; also a joint resolution declaring it inexpedient at this time to change or modify the tariff.

Bills introduced and referred as follows:

By Stephens, by request, authorizing the issue of postoffice bonds, bearing interest at the rate of 90 cents for every three calendar months, and redeemable on demand at any postoffice having funds on hand.

By Banning, authorizing the committee of internal revenue to refund and pay back certain taxes to distillers; also to reorganize the army.

By Gunther, by request, to aid in the education and advancement of colored people.

By Schleicher, to regulate the value of subsidy silver coin. It provides that such coin shall be legal tender for any amount not exceeding \$10, and that wherever presented in amounts of \$100 the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue therefor legal tender money.

The Speaker presented a communication from the Secretary of State transmitting letters from the Italian government expressive of the gratitude of that government and people for the manifestations of sympathy and respect by the President, Congress and people of the United States on the occasion of the death of King Victor Emanuel.

Batler introduced a bill to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the will of the people in reference to disabled soldiers of the late war; also a bill to authorize the bondholders and other creditors to elect receivers in suits in equity pending in the United States courts.

A communication from Consul General Clark of Havana, giving the circumstances of the illness and death from yellow fever of Representative Leonard, was read. The Speaker appointed Ellis, Muller, Turner, Stewart, Calkins and Ward a committee to receive the body at New York and to escort it to West Chester, Pa.

Springer's motion of Monday last to suspend the rules and pass the bill to authorize the coinage of gold and silver on the same terms, and to permit the deposit thereof for the same purposes, was rejected, yeas 140, nays 102. Not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Good, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill to suspend the operation of the sinking fund act for five years. Rejected, yeas 122, nays 112—not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Durham moved to suspend the rules and fix Thursday, April 4th, for the consideration of the bill reported last Friday by Stephens, to perfect a double metallic standard of value, to provide for issuing silver bullion certificates, etc.; that the bill be made the special order after the morning hour, and continue from day to day, "subject to appropriation bills;" that it be subject to amendment or debate; that no member shall speak longer than thirty minutes; that the time shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the bill, and that at least one legislative day shall be allowed for discussion before the vote is taken on the final passage of the bill. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Atkins, chairman of the committee on appropriations, reported the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, and gave notice that he would call it up for consideration on Tuesday next.

Wood, from the committee on ways and means, reported the tariff bill, and it was referred to the committee of the whole.

WASHINGTON, 26.—Page introduced a bill for the sale of timber lands in California, Oregon and Washington Territory. Referred.

Patterson offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for information as to what steps have been taken to protect residents of Colorado from an outbreak on the part of the Utes. Adopted.

Findlay, from the committee on agriculture, reported a bill appropriating \$10,000 for the relief of citizens of New Mexico who are suffering from the ravages of grasshoppers. Referred.

Singleton, chairman of the committee on printing, reported back the concurrent resolution for printing 300,000 copies of the report of the commissioner of agriculture. Passed. Also the concurrent resolution for printing 5,000 copies of the report of the forestry commission.

Aiken moved to increase the number to 25,000. Agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, passed.

Cox (N. Y.) reported back the Senate bill to constitute a commission to consider and report a plan for providing enlarged accommodation for the library of Congress. Passed.

Wood reported a resolution making the tariff bill the special order for Thursday, April 4th, after the morning hour, which was adopted, 137 to 114.

Springer then called up the Dean Field, Massachusetts case, and Walsh (Md.) made a most notable speech against the majority report.

#### AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Senator Howe's speech in the Senate attacking the administration, or rather, as he facetiously termed it, explaining the reasons why he has not given cordial support to the President's policy, attracted a very large audience, but on the whole was much less interesting and effective than his auditors expected. A great portion of it was devoted to the oft-repeated and tiresome story of Louisiana affairs, and the attack on Schurz, though pungent and vigorously phrased, was entirely of a personal nature, and by omitting any reference to his administration of the Interior department, left it to be inferred that the Secretary's official record had been found invulnerable. It seems to be generally understood that Howe's speech was designed to draw forth some defense of the President, and to be only the first of a number of similar demonstrations which are intended to drive the President into the arms of democrats or force him back into the ranks of his former party friends. The democratic senators have determined to keep silent and leave the republicans to quarrel without giving assistance to either faction, and if they will adhere to this determination, which is doubtful, the anti-administration programme will be deprived of most of its anticipated interest and importance.

In the Senate to-day, Sargent presented a telegram from the San Francisco chamber of commerce, remonstrating against the passage of any bill repealing the law authorizing the coinage of the trade dollar, and reciting at some length the advantages of that on the Asiatic trade. Referred to the committee on finance.

The following decision was rendered in the Supreme Court, to-day: In the case between the Western Union Co. and the Pensacola Co., under the law of the State granting exclusive telegraph privileges to the latter company, the court holds that the business of telegraphing falls within the provision of the constitution giving to Congress the right to regulate commerce; that the telegraph has become indispensable to the business of the world, both as to private persons and governments, and that it cannot be limited or restricted by the State law. The law in question is an attempt to regulate commerce on the part of the State, and as such is clearly incompetent.

PHILADELPHIA, 25.—There was a fire to-night on the third floor of the paint and drug warehouse of W. H. Wampole & Co., Fourth Street. A strong wind was blowing. The fire rapidly spread in all directions, soon becoming one of the most disastrous conflagrations that ever visited this city. The flames spread north rapidly to the buildings occupied by Lovegrave & Co., machinery, A. T. Seizing & Co., printers, T. P. and S. S. Smith, shoe manufacturers, on South, James Hynars, white lead establishment, Royal & Co., morocco boot and shoe house, Toudy & Co., engravers. Several explosions occurred in the paint house of Wampole & Co., and soon after the walls fell in, causing the fire to communicate to the buildings on the west side of Fourth Street. The buildings from 122 to 132 were soon enveloped in flames.

At midnight the fire was still burning furiously, and continuously breaking out in fresh places, so that no estimate of the probable loss can be made. It is not expected to be less than \$1,000,000.

About thirty houses in all were more or less damaged by fire or water, and the total loss is still thought to be about \$1,000,000.

At this hour, 3 a. m., the fire is still burning, but is so far under control that there is no possible chance of its farther spreading.

NORFOLK, Va., 25.—Sixty-three bodies, victims of the *Huron* disaster, have arrived here. They will be taken to Annapolis.

POUGHKEEPSIE, 25.—Henry Bailey, another victim of the *Magenta* disaster, died at Sing Sing this afternoon. Willie Hammond and a man named Barchard are still missing.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, 25.—George M. Wernard, proprietor of the Columbus steam pump works, was shot and instantly killed by his father to-night, who immediately afterwards committed suicide. Cause, business difficulties.

LAKE CHARLES, La., 25.—Despairing of relief from the Federal

courts, disheartened with the veto of the Mississippi bill, not knowing the latest action in Congress promising an exposure of the unlawful and despotic action of the government agents and confederates, some of the defendants and two of the interveners have just been induced by Carter to confess judgment in the log suits. The United States by this compromise is to pay all costs of suit. Violations of Federal and State laws by the government agent and associates can be proved that will startle the American people.

NEW YORK, 25.—This afternoon John T. Moore was assaulted in Thirtieth Street by George Mansy, and robbed of \$35,000 in Missouri Pacific Railroad bonds. The thief was subsequently arrested in a street car, the bonds recovered, and he sent to the Tombs in default of \$8,000 bail.

NEW YORK, 26.—The *Herald* thinks Howe's speech amounts to nothing.

The *Times*' Washington special thinks Howe's speech has destroyed Packard's chances of appointment.

The *Times* thinks Howe's speech unfortunate. It will do no good to anybody, though it may give him relief. It was the speech of a mere partisan, not that of a leader.

The *Tribune* says, of Howe's speech: The true significance of the speech is not in what it says so much as in the fact that it was spoken at all. Hayes has been only a year in office, and he has made no great change of policy, nor formally broken with his party; yet here we have an able and distinguished republican leader attacking him on the floor of the Senate with a vehemence almost unparalleled in the domestic dissensions of politics, and the attack makes no scandal and hardly causes surprise. Surprise will come if Hayes finds an equally vigorous republican defender. Howe, unfortunately, says aloud only what many of his associates are saying in private. We see nothing to be gained by such speeches. We are not sure that we understood what Howe hopes to gain, but his invective will command attention as a phenomenon of troubled times potent of a storm.

Capt. Bogardus, the famous wing shot, who sails for Europe on June 1st, has challenged all Europe as a pigeon shooter.

In a letter to the *Tribune*, to-day, the veteran, Thurlow Weed, closes as follows: "If a young man, in whose welfare I take an interest, should consult me about office holding, I should tell him it was one of the worst ways of commencing life."

The *Tribune*, reviewing its Washington letter, says: Extracts from correspondence between Fish and Sir Edward Thornton, with reference to the third member of the Halifax Commission, shows that England waited 50 days before acting upon the nominations of the United States; that a conjoint nomination was evaded; that Delfosse was pressed by England for the appointment against the repeated objection of Fish, and that the three months time allowed having been consumed by England with various expedients that the power then fell back upon the alternative of the nomination by the Austrian minister in London. When Delfosse was promptly appointed, the correspondence between Fish and Thornton was very pointed.

Fire broke out this morning, in the six story marble front building Nos. 261 to 267 Canal Street. After two hours hard labor the fire was got under control. The building was owned by E. S. Higgins. The first floor and basement were occupied by B. L. Coffin, dealer in notions and hosiery. The loss is \$340,000; insurance \$255,000.

WASHINGTON, 26.—A number of members of Congress, friends of the President, called upon him this morning, with reference to the speech of Senator Howe. They all expressed more feeling in the matter than the President himself, and suggested that the speech be answered, fearing that to permit it to pass in silence might be an admission of its entire truth. The President was opposed to a public response, preferring that his acts should be the best interpreter of his motives and principles. He had sought to perform his duty, and with this he was content, no matter how others, with prejudiced minds might view his conduct. All would recollect, he said, how bitterly Senator Howe had denounced President Lincoln toward