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FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 13.—Lapham offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to report all Indian reservations where troops are stationed and where troops are destroyed.

The tariff commission bill was taken up and Slater maintained the greatest hindrance to the achievement of commercial supremacy was protection, and the only condition on which we could win success was the adoption of free trade.

After an executive session of three hours, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 13.—The Speaker announced as a select committee on the woman's suffrage Messrs. Camp, White, Sherwin, Stone, of Ohio; Springer, Vance, Muldron and Shackelford.

The Speaker presented a memorial from the Utah Assembly asking Congress to suspend action upon Utah affairs until a committee of investigation learn the facts and lay a tangible foundation for rational proceedings.

Belmont, a member of the committee on foreign affairs, asked leave to offer a resolution calling on the Secretary of State for information as to what compensation had been paid or is to be paid by the State Department to Prescott as envoy to the South American governments; also out of what appropriation he has been or is to be paid; also by what law he had been appointed or employed at the State Department at any time since March 4th, 1877, and what compensation had been paid him since that time.

Williams, chairman of the same committee, objected.

Butterworth reported the army appropriation bill, appropriating \$29,235,882.

The army appropriation bill was ordered printed and recommitted. It provides for an aggregate appropriation of \$27,810,885, based upon estimates aggregating \$29,235,882 and is an increase of \$143,886 over the appropriation of last year.

The principal items of the bill were \$12,274,719 for the pay of the army on a basis not to exceed 25,000 enlisted men, \$1,164,000 for transportation; \$3,500,000 for supplies for the army; \$1,400,000 for purchase and manufacture of clothing and camp and garrison equipment. The bill contains a clause providing for compulsory retirement of officers at sixty-two years of age and a further provision referring what are known as "claims of July" to the court of claims.

Bills were introduced and referred by Dunn, to supply rations, etc., for the sufferers from the overflow of the Mississippi River also for repairs to levees; also to authorize females to enter public lands.

The Senate bill was taken up to punish polygamy on which on the 8th of March a point of order had been made by Converse, to the effect that it must receive its first consideration in committee of the whole as it provided for appropriation. Converse called attention to the fact that the bill provided for the appointment of five commissioners at a salary of \$3,000 each, and cited precedents in support of his point.

Haskell contended that the precedents cited were not applicable. There was not a line in the bill which required an appropriation from the Treasury or attached any liability to the government for the payment of these commissioners. It merely proposed to locate an election system in Utah and territorial laws provided that every election officer should be allowed fair compensation. These commissioners, therefore, would be paid out of the territorial fund. They would not be federal officers in any sense.

Springer asked Haskell who was to pay these commissioners.

Haskell replied that the Legislative Assembly would provide for their pay.

Springer:—But there is no Legislative Assembly in Utah. It is abolished by this bill.

Haskell:—Then there is no provision for their payment, and they cannot look to the United States for payment until they are adopted as federal officers.

The Speaker asked if the point of order was to the provision in the bill abolishing the Legislative Assembly.

Springer:—The Legislative Assembly has adjourned without day, and there is provision that it be paid out of the same fund and the same treasury as the officers whose places they would fill and whose duties they perform.

Robinson contended that the officers provided for would, according to every interpretation of law, be paid out of the same fund and the same treasury as the officers whose places they would fill and whose duties they perform.

Townsend, of Illinois, denied that the democratic side fought the anti-polygamy bill under cover. He said he knew a single member who was not ready to denounce his opposition to polygamy. He appealed to his democratic friends to uphold the withdrawal of the order of gentlemen on the other side would allow full and free discussion and an opportunity to amend the bill. Some doubts in his mind; he did not. He was ready to vote for it as a step in the right direction.

Springer, on supporting the point of order declared the object of the democratic side was not directed against the bill, but to consider it as other bills were considered, under the rules of the House, and it would then be found the democratic side as ready as republicans to pass stringent measures.

Randall asked that a reasonable time, about two hours, be allowed for discussion, and the bill be opened for amendment, but he was interrupted by cries of "Treason" from the republican side, when Haskell attempted to state the reason which impelled him to ask for the immediate passage of the bill.

A motion to adjourn having been defeated, Mr. Edmunds withdrew his motion for a call of the House. An attempt was then made to arrive at some compromise, but the democratic side insisted upon being permitted

to offer amendments, and Haskell stated his determination to have the bill passed without amendments, knowing as he did that enemies of the bill had been lurking around the lobby begging for an opportunity to have amendments adopted.

No satisfactory arrangement was arrived at, and Springer moved to refer the bill to the Judiciary committee—yes 74, nays 86. Then followed another call on a motion to adjourn, which was again defeated.

Cassidy, of Nevada, was the only democrat who voted with the republicans on this as on every other question. The question recurred on seconding the demand for the previous question, and no quorum voted. A call of the House was ordered, but on motion of Haskell further proceedings were dispensed with and the House took a recess till 11.30 a. m. to-morrow, when the bill will retain its present position.

AMERICAN.

Declining the Honor.

WASHINGTON, 13.—The following leaves in reference to the recent Associate Justiceship of the United States Supreme Court were made public to-day:

No. 229 Nassau St., N. Y., March 8, 1882.

Mr. President:

Absence prevented my prompt acknowledgment of your two esteemed letters, which were found awaiting my return from Utah.

The high and unexpected honor you proffer by selecting me as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States is greatly valued. It is over a quarter of a century since I was elected to the office, and the Senate deemed me fit for so great and exalted a trust.

But for reasons which you will not fail to appreciate, I am constrained to decline. A year's absence from my duties on my part just now would prevent my accepting your cordial invitation to pass a few days with you in Washington, let me hold this as a pleasure deferred, but not lost.

I have the honor to be, sincerely, RESPECTFULLY, GEORGE F. EDWARDS.

SENATE CHAMBER, Washington, Dec. 8, 1882.

Mr. President:

I have received, through the Secretary of State, your very flattering offer of the appointment to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. This highly valued proof of your good opinion, but I feel for reasons that I ought not to accept. I shall cherish this mark of your kindness and good opinion, which I did not need this proof of it, as one of the most pleasant of my life.

I am, sir, very faithfully yours, GEORGE F. EDWARDS.

No. 1411 MASS AVE., March 11th.

Mr. President:

I am deeply touched at the manifest consideration you have shown me in connection with the Justice, but further reflection has not enabled me to change the views I expressed to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

With sincere hope that you have experienced success in the result of your delay your kindness has caused, I am faithfully yours, GEO. F. EDWARDS.

The Polygamy and Chinese Bills.

Although when the House assembled at 11:30 o'clock to-morrow morning, the polygamy bill will hold the place it occupies at the time the recess was taken this evening, it will not continue before the House when the session of Tuesday commences, unless the previous question upon its passage shall then have been called and seconded. There is, of course, no possibility of the bill being advanced to such a state of progress during the short hour before Tuesday's session will begin, for the democrats have given emphatic notice that they will indefinitely postpone their effort to obtain the passage of this measure. An arrangement may possibly be made by common consent assigning a specific future time for consideration, but it will very likely go over at 12 o'clock, simply as unfinished business on the speaker's table, not to be reached again except by means of another resolution to proceed to a vote on the bill. The bill, therefore, cannot be displaced from the assignment for to-morrow, unless the polygamy bill comes over to Tuesday's session under operation of the previous question, which is highly improbable, or unless a regular appropriation bill be called up, which the chairman of the appropriation committee has promised to do some day, or, again, by the motion to proceed to the speaker's table be adopted by a majority of the House, in spite of the opposition which the Chinese bill, which is now on the table, will make if one is offered that is not in order against the special assignment.

Foreign.

Austrian Occupation.

VIENNA, 13.—At the council of Austrian and Hungarian ministers, the minister of war announced the complete Austrian occupation of Croatia, Slavonia and Bosnia, and anticipated the withdrawal of troops soon. Fortifications on the frontier, costing 1,000,000 florins, will be required. This amount and sum of maintaining troops on a war footing will make necessary a new grant. An extraordinary meeting of delegations will be summoned for April.

Irish American Prisoners.

LONDON, 13.—Mr. Lowell's letter calling on the interior minister of the Irish-American prisoners who have been arrested under the coercion act, was published without his consent or knowledge. The publication was presented and approved by the prisoners to whom the letter was addressed and who presented the refusal with a view to injuring Mr. Lowell by giving currency to exaggerated statements of coercion which if published by him might be regarded as diplomatic. The letter attracts little attention in England.

Free Tickets.

PHILADELPHIA, 13.—The Senate, 145 to 83, adopted a resolution granting the granting of railway tickets to legislators at nominal rates.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

John H. Stephenson confirmed as paymaster.

Samuel E. Howe, president of the Woman's bank, at Boston, was

appointed to three years' imprisonment.

The small-pox has become epidemic in South Bethlehem, Pa. It is reported there are 70 cases, and also a number of cases of pneumonia. The schools are closed.

Commodore John Glasson, on the retired list of the United States navy, died yesterday. His death was caused by heart disease, aggravated by congestion of the lungs.

Active negotiations are going on between England and Spain, about Borneo. The Madrid government has decided to respond to the creation of a British company by the occupation of several islands in the Sulu Archipelago, near Borneo.

A Buena Vista special says: The Denver & Rio Grande Alpine accommodation train jumped the track last night near Hastings. The coach went down an embankment, and the engine and tender went through the bridge. A passenger named Joe Hickey and a brakeman named Ford were killed. Two other men and two ladies were slightly injured. The bridge and coach are a total wreck.

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