

BY TELEGRAPH.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 21.—Immediately after the reading of the journal in the House of Representatives, Potter called up for action the resolution presented by him yesterday, directing the committee on investigation of the election frauds to inquire into the cipher dispatches, and appropriating \$10,000 to defray the expenses of such inquiry.

Potter having yielded, however, for some preliminary matters, Stephens, from the committee on coinage, introduced a bill to authorize the coinage of gold metric dollars of five and fractions of dollars. Referred.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the cipher resolution.

Potter moved the previous question, which was seconded, and the main question was ordered, thus leaving one hour for discussion, which was thereupon opened by Potter, who said:

Mr. Speaker.—I offered this resolution because I was instructed to offer it. I do not propose to discuss it, except to say a few words in reply to an attack made on me by the gentleman from Michigan (Conger). I was not in the House at the time, and when the gentleman's attention was called to the fact, he stated that I had left the House to avoid hearing him. If the gentleman thought so he was mistaken. I think I listen to the sprightly and amiable utterances of the gentleman from Michigan with as much satisfaction as any gentleman in this House. The gentleman accused me because I had not permitted an investigation of these dispatches. Mr. Speaker, it is as open to the gentleman from Michigan, and has been ever since this session of Congress assembled, and to every member of the House as it is to myself to propose such an investigation. He did not propose it; no one on that side of the House proposed it, and for reasons which perhaps it is not difficult to divine, but at any rate for reasons satisfactory to themselves. No gentleman on this side of the House had proposed it, and the gentleman from Michigan said I had not permitted them to do so. Mr. Speaker, I neither had power to prevent them, nor did I seek to prevent them. The only wish I had expressed on the subject was that if such a resolution was introduced it might be referred to another committee than that of which I was a member; but I neither sought to influence anybody nor prevent anyone from action in respect to it. I simply refused to volunteer to introduce such a resolution myself, and for these reasons. At the last session of Congress I introduced a resolution for the committee to inquire into certain alleged and confessed wrongs in Florida and Louisiana, which had taken place under color of State law, and which were said to have been perpetrated under the influence of the federal visitors and under the protection of federal troops, and which wrongs the electoral commission had decided it was impossible for states to rectify or recall. Such a matter was a proper subject for congressional legislation; for if Congress could not correct a wrong which had taken place in the states themselves, it would at least adopt such legislation as would afford those states an opportunity to correct and recall the action taken under color of their law. It was therefore a proper subject for investigation, and when I introduced that resolution I declined to yield to the amendment which the gentleman from Maine (Hale) desired to offer, proposing an inquiry into certain cipher dispatches in Oregon, because I insisted that it was not in the province of Congress to inquire into the individual wrong of any citizen, which it could neither prevent nor punish, and at any rate this investigation ought not to be overshadowed by any such inquiry. I did not then suspect the existence of dispatches which have been since published, but an analogy between these dispatches and those which the gentleman from Maine sought to have inquired into is perfect and the House having sustained me in my views of the question, it was not for me now to set on foot myself an investigation of this kind nor to prevent a completion of the work which I have in hand by any such inquiry. Beyond that Mr.

Speaker, there were private personal reasons why I did not think I ought to set on foot any such investigation. The House may recollect that when I introduced the resolution inquiry, a leading independent journal of the country declared that I did so in pursuance of a bargain between Governor Tilden and myself, in which I was to have his support. There are gentlemen in this chamber now who know that when I was called upon on the evening previous to the introduction of that resolution to wait upon a joint committee in the democratic caucus I was absolutely ignorant that I had been selected for that work, and I had no more reason to suspect that I would be connected with it than any other gentleman in the House. The truth is, that not only did I have no bargain with Governor Tilden, but I had none with anybody else. I served on that committee simply because I was invited to serve by a joint committee of the democratic caucus and because in 1875, as a member of a committee of this House, I had visited Louisiana and had very profound convictions alike of the danger and wrong of the returning board's action. I served, therefore, on these accounts, on these alone, and I not only had no understanding or bargain with anybody on the face of the earth, but I sought for no promise or assistance, and had none, and yet, Mr. Speaker, that conjecture has gone all over the United States, and nine-tenths of the people who have any opinion on the subject believe that I am a member of a committee of investigation as a confidant and agent of Governor Tilden. Beyond that, although I had endeavored to conduct the investigation with absolute impartiality and fairness, so much so that I do not believe that anybody familiar with the record will rise to claim that such has not been the fact, and so, that during all that time I have observed the utmost reticence in respect of the objects and purposes of the committee, yet there has been no unworthy and partisan speech that has not been falsely put into my mouth, and no mean or outrageous suggestion in the conduct of that committee that has not been attributed to me. Under such circumstances for me to volunteer to advance an investigation of the cipher dispatches, for the purpose of protecting and whitewashing those whom it might affect, and beyond that, sir, there are in my State some persons who believe that I or my friends have cause of grievance against Mr. Tilden and who, if I volunteered any movement of any kind, would ascribe my action to personal dislike and spite. If the gentlemen will look at the New York Tribune of Saturday week, they will see it declared that the probable cause of this resolution is the object of personally injuring Mr. Tilden. For these reasons, sir, I did not feel called upon to volunteer any action upon this subject. I have not volunteered it and I here introduce the resolution which because without any wish or request of mine. I have been instructed to do so and I do it for no other reason.

Hale followed in support of the resolution. He said now that the machine had been started and set in motion, let it run and make an investigation into both sides of the question.

Conger followed with a short speech, making sarcastic allusions to the cipher dispatches as scriptural telegrams signed by Moses and Aaron and the rest.

Cox, of New York, supported the resolution. Justice to Samuel J. Tilden demanded that the investigation should be made. Justice to the great democratic party demanded it. Justice to the American people who had elected him to the highest office in their gift demanded it. Let Tilden have an opportunity to confront his accusers and traducers, and show the world that at least one of the candidates at the late presidential election was not a miserable trickster, willing to bargain for the highest office in the gift of the people.

Hewitt (N. Y.) then spoke. He said: Whether the cipher dispatches published in the Tribune are genuine or not, I have no means of knowing. I never received one of them; I was never cognizant of their existence until they were published by the Tribune. Neither do I know whether the alleged translations are false; but this I do

know, that not one of them containing reference to the use of money to influence the returning boards or the electoral votes was ever addressed to or received by any officer of the national democratic committee. I am aware that newspapers have credited one of those persons to whom telegrams were addressed with having been an officer of the democratic committee, but I say to this House, and to the country that this is an error. He never held any official connection with the committee. Is it to be supposed for a moment that if Samuel J. Tilden had decided to buy those votes, the purchase would have failed for the want of money? (Laughter on the republican side.) Is it not absolutely clear that when it reached the point where money—

Townsend, New York (interrupting)—Did not money go to Oregon?

Hewitt (without noticing Townsend's interruption)—Where money was required it failed, and is not the conclusion irresistible that when, in the last report, it was necessary to go to him for money, he indignantly stamped on the suggestion as one to which he could give neither approval nor assistance.

The hour allowed for discussion having closed, Garfield moved to reconsider the vote ordering the main question.

Atkins moved to lay that motion on the table, and it was ordered—yeas 123, nays 120.

The House then proceeded to vote on the resolution, and it was adopted without division.

Waddell, from the post office committee, reported the post route bill, and it was passed.

Thursday night was set apart for consideration of the bill for the classification of mail matter.

Robbins, from the committee on ways and means, reported a bill agreed upon by the committee to regulate the duties on sugar, and asked to have it made the special order for next Saturday.

Ward objected and the bill was ordered printed, and the House adjourned.

AMERICAN.

HARRISBURG, Pa., 21.—A rare incident in the history of this State occurred to-day. Owing to the inauguration being delayed until 1.20 p. m., the State was without minutes. Hartranft's term having expired at noon.

CHICAGO, 21.—In the Reno inquiry, to-day, some time was consumed in a debate between counsel as to whether the witness, Girard had Indian children, and whether his testimony on that account was admissible. The latter issue was decided in the negative. The witness testified that Custer, on seeing Reno moving away from the timber, shouted, "Who the mischief ordered out that command?"

Lieut. C. A. Varnum, quartermaster of the Seventh Cavalry, testified that on the 25th and 26th of June, 1877, he was second-lieutenant in command of a party of scouts under Custer. On the 26th he was detached from the main troops. Being away with the scouts he did not know what troops were assigned to Reno, but he had about 120 men. He described the maneuvers of the forces. The Indians were in greater numbers than he had ever before seen them. He recounted the advance and retreat of Reno much as Gilbert had done. He said the horses and men were greatly fatigued. The troops were badly demoralized on their retreat. Adjourned.

NEW YORK, 21.—The second game of the billiard tournament was between Gallagher and Rudolphe. The latter won by 600 to 449. The winner's largest run was 159, the loser's 183.

FORT ROBINSON, 21.—Lieutenant Dodd, who left here for Pine Ridge agency on Saturday last, for the purpose of enlisting Sioux scouts, returned to-day with 17 braves, including Chiefs "Three Bears" and "No Flesh," also a mountain howitzer from Camp Sheridan. The Indians will be armed and mounted here, and will leave to-morrow with 10 days' rations. Lieut. Dodd in command. The latest news from the field is that the Indians escaped in the night from Crow Ridge, their last position. The trail, which is being followed by Capt. Wessels, leads towards the Spotted Tail agency. Nothing has been heard from the command since Saturday, up to this hour.

WASHINGTON, 22.—At a Cabinet session, yesterday, Secretary Schurz

stated that he had received a report from the Indian agent at the Cheyenne agency, to the effect that information had reached that place of the recrossing of the line into the United States of the noted chief "Sitting Bull," with his people, and that they are exceedingly anxious to return to this country, and come under the supervision of the Indian Bureau, and be distributed in the Indian country as are other tribes. This news was not confirmed by any information at the War Department, but it was thought worthy of consideration, and led to some discussion.

It is reported that some 5,000 lodges, or nearly 15,000 people, are with "Sitting Bull." The subject will receive the immediate attention of the President and Secretaries of War and Interior Departments.

Telegrams will be sent to the officers of the War Department as well as to the Indian agents, requiring them to give the authorities here information on this matter. The report is that "Sitting Bull" comes with the most peaceable intention, but in the present disturbed condition of Indian affairs, it is not known what may be his meaning.

The Potter committee held a session this morning. The democrats brought up the question whether St. Martin should be called as a witness by the republicans or be discharged.

Shellabarger, in behalf of Secretary Sherman, presented a letter in which, after criticising the course of the committee in not recalling St. Martin on their own motion, he asked that St. Martin be recalled for further cross-examination, on his testimony given in New Orleans, and on the affidavit which he recently filed with the committee.

The subject was laid over until to-morrow.

The question then was whether the committee should call witness in regard to the cipher telegrams in advance of the passage by the Senate or the House bill making an appropriation for the expenses of investigation, the funds being wholly exhausted. The question went over till to-morrow.

A member asked, Where are those dispatches that were published in the New York Tribune?

Hiscock thereupon expressed the belief that General Butler had them.

He made the statement that certain dispatches had come into his possession. Early last spring he found them upon his private table, but has no knowledge how they come there. These dispatches, it was said, were part of those printed in the Tribune. If so he had nothing to do with their publication. They had been furnished to the Tribune before they came into his hands. During the summer they were missed for several weeks, and subsequently they were found again, when he had them numbered and stamped, and put in a place of safety. He was willing to place them at the service of the committee. In doing so he contended that they should be printed and made public or placed within the power of any member of the committee to make public. At the same time he protested against the whole system of investigating the dispatches, and insisted that it would be wiser for both parties not to inquire into them; however, upon proper receipts being given, the committee could have the dispatches that were in his possession.

Discussion followed as to whether it would be advisable to print the dispatches at once, in pamphlet form, but that question also went over. Adjourned till to-morrow.

Potter says a sub-committee will be sent to New York to take testimony in the cipher dispatches investigation. The number of cipher telegrams in the possession of Gen. Butler is 640.

The committee examining the charges against Seward, heard Professor Williams, of Yale College, to-day. He testified that he never heard any charges against Seward until these, but on the contrary, had heard very favorable comments on his character and ability. His associates in China bore the most reputable character. He contrasted the present commodious consulate apartments with those of previous years, when it consisted of one small room in a tavern, and was disgraceful to the nation. Adjourned until Friday.

ST. LOUIS, 22.—The Times says: Senator Chaffee got hold, rather feebly to be sure, of the only right idea regarding the

possible circulation of silver dollars. He proposes to retire United States notes of denominations under \$5, and to replace them by notes of not less than \$5. As the notes to be retired are about \$40,000,000 in amount, and as they are nearly indispensable to the transaction of ordinary business, their retirement would leave room for nearly an equal amount of silver dollars. It is obvious, however, that Chaffee's bill, were it passed, of which there is a small prospect, would lead to the inflation of currency by the total amount of silver thus got into circulation, under the present policy of the Treasury. Bills would probably be allowed to accumulate and would not seriously affect the volume of currency, but if silver and paper money would, at any time, succeed in compelling the issue of the note reserve of the Treasury, that feature of the bill would be full of mischief.

ALBANY, N. Y., 22.—In a joint session of the Senate and assembly, to-day, Roscoe Conkling was declared United States senator.

MILWAUKEE, 22.—The joint convention of the Senate and Assembly, at Madison, to-day, elected Matt. H. Carpenter United States senator to succeed J. O. Howe.

HARTFORD, Conn., 22.—Declaration of the election of Orville H. Platte, United States senator, was made to-day, in joint session of the legislature.

HARRISBURG, 22.—The election of J. Donald Cameron to the United States Senate was proclaimed, to-day, in the joint convention of both houses.

MADISON, Wis., 22.—The republicans nominated Matt. H. Carpenter for the United States by acclamation, this morning. This secures his election.

SPRINGFIELD, Ills., 22.—A joint session of the general assembly to-day declared John A. Logan elected United States Senator.

NEW YORK, 22.—The Herald's Paris special says: Grant left here last evening on his tour of the east. The party accompanying him consists of Mrs. Grant, Colonel Fred. Grant, Ex-Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Dr. Keating, and a Herald correspondent, who will make the whole trip. Badeau goes as far as Marseilles. Generals Noyes and Fairchild, Secretaries Hill, Itigian and a large number of Americans go off.

The Metropolitan Elevated Railway signed a stupendous contract, yesterday, for a road in Second Avenue, twelve miles long, double track. The contract was for 80,000,000 pounds of iron.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 22.

A Belgrade dispatch says: Col. Gola, the Italian member of the Servian boundary commission, was robbed and murdered by Turkish brigands near Plevna.

The Austrian and Hungarian governments have arrived at an understanding in regard to taking precautions against the plague.

A Ragusa dispatch says: Upon the arrival at Podgoritz of the Turkish commissioners charged with the surrender of the town to the Montenegrins, all the inhabitants withdrew to their houses as a demonstration of disapproval.

CALCUTTA, 22.—Intelligence has been received here that a Russian steamer has made its way up the river Oxus, and beyond the Afghan frontier.

The Colonial office communicates the following: Captain Patterson, two Europeans and five natives, while returning from a mission to a native prince, all died from drinking from a poisonous spring near Victoria Falls, Zambesi River.

ST. PETERSBURG, 22.—The Agence Russe announces, in a very positive form, that according to intelligence received by the Turkish ambassador to Russia, the denominative treaty was to be signed at Constantinople to-day.

BERLIN, 22.—It is again reported that Bismarck is willing to withdraw his bill, to discipline the Reichstag, this time in consequence of the vehement opposition it meets from the diets of various German states.

The Chinese embassy was received by the Czar with great ceremony.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 22.—The Russian ambassador to Constantinople, and the Turkish minister of foreign affairs, had an interview to-day. The definitive treaty is not yet signed.