

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Important Order of General Grant.—HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Adj. Gen. General Office, Washington, July 1, 1866.—General Order No. 44—Department, District and Post-Commanders in States lately in rebellion, are hereby directed to arrest all persons who have been or may hereafter be charged with commission of crimes and offenses against officers, agents, citizens and inhabitants of the United States, irrespective of color, in cases where the civil authorities have failed, neglected, or are unable to arrest and bring such parties to trial, and to detain them in military confinement until such time as a proper judicial tribunal may be ready and willing to try them. A strict and prompt enforcement of this order is required. By order of Lieut. Gen. Grant.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Asst. Adj. Gen. Postmaster General Dennison resigned his place in the Cabinet, on the 12th inst., on the ground of irreconcilable differences of opinion with the President.

Attorney General Speed has sent in his resignation to the President. Controller Clark of the Treasury has also resigned.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—July 10.—The House bill fixing the number of Judges of the United States Supreme Court and changing certain judicial districts, was called up, amended and passed. The bill enlarging the public grounds surrounding the Capitol, was called up and passed. The Senate concurred in all the House amendments to the California Land Title bill except the last.

July 11.—The bill to extend the benefits of the act granting land to endow agricultural colleges in the South was passed. The bill to regulate the time and manner of holding elections for Senators was passed with an amendment. The bill to repeal the act by which Alexandria county, formerly of the District of Columbia, was retroceded to Virginia, was taken up, discussed and on the final vote was lost. The bankrupt bill was reported from the Judiciary Committee.

July 12.—The Tariff bill was reported from the House, and after considerable discussion, referred to the Finance Committee, with instructions to report on the second Monday in December. The vote on so referring it was 23 yeas to 17 nays.

July 13.—The Niagara Ship Canal bill was postponed till December next—yeas 24, nays 11. A bill was introduced providing for the restoration of the lately rebellious States upon their ratification of the new Constitutional Amendment.

July 14.—The House resolution relating to bounties to colored soldiers was recommitted. The resolution for the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee was amended by adding one Senator, making the number three, and passed. A bill was offered appropriating \$50,000 for the Portland sufferers.

July 15.—A resolution was passed directing the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare a codification of all laws of the United States relative to the collection of customs rates of duties. The bill authorizing the use of the metric system was favorably reported from the select committee. A bill was introduced to regulate the civil service and promote its efficiency. It provides for competitive examinations. The veto message of the Freedmen's Bureau was received and read. The veto was then taken on the passage of the bill, notwithstanding the President's objections, and resulted—yeas 33, nays 12. It was then announced that the bill had become a law notwithstanding the veto.

House.—July 10.—The Tariff bill was passed—yeas 94, nays 53.

July 11.—A bill was passed recommending the organization and instruction of militia by the different States. A substitute for the bill to amend the national currency act was presented. The Senate bill to aid in the construction of telegraph lines was passed, after much discussion, under the operation of the previous question.

July 12.—A conference was requested on the Legislative Appropriation bill.

July 13.—The Miscellaneous Appropriation bill was considered in Committee, and passed finally. A bill revisory of the Tariff was reported from the Ways and Means Committee. The case of Fuller vs. Dawson was taken up, and Mr. Dawson declared entitled to his seat. The conference report on the bill to prevent smuggling was agreed to.

July 14.—The Senate bill authorizing the construction of railroad bridges across the Mississippi was passed, with amendments. The majority report of the Select Committee, recommending the expulsion of Lovell H. Rousseau for assaulting J. B. Grinnell, and the minority report, recommending that he be reprimanded, were discussed.

July 15.—The resolution for the appointment of a commission to examine and report upon the necessity of cheap and speedy communication with the West was passed. The Rousseau-Grinnell case was called up, but was laid over to receive the veto of the Freedmen's Bureau bill. The message was read and the vote was taken on the motion to pass the bill over the veto. The ballot resulted—yeas 104, nays 23. The veto was then sent to the Senate, and as will be seen by the report, was passed there, so that the bill is now a law.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—The city of Erie has a population of twenty-three thousand, a million and a half of dollars invested in manufactures and during the past year about one thousand buildings have been erected.

New York City.—Judge Lott, of New York, has declared the Ex parte law constitutional.

Maine.—The burned district in Portland has been surveyed, and found to cover 327 acres.

Massachusetts.—The great elm tree on Boston Common is so much decayed, that its speedy fall is expected.

West Virginia.—The official majority for disfranchising rebels in West Virginia is 6922.

Tennessee.—The old police was withdrawn at Memphis, and the Metropolitan substituted on July 1. The change caused great rejoicing among Union men and property holders. This is regarded as the dawn of a new era in Memphis.

Georgia.—The Savannah board of aldermen has adopted an ordinance prohibiting colored persons from entering the public park unless nurses having white children with them. Policemen at the gates will enforce the order.

The City.—The calico print works of Messrs. Lippincott & Co., at Frankford, was burned on the 12th inst. The fire, which was incendiary, involved a loss of \$1,250,000. The Mercury was 98° on Saturday at 3 P. M. On Sunday, same hour, 95°. Monday seems to have been the hottest of the hot days. The mercury was from 99 to 100 degrees.

Financial.—The internal revenue receipts during the week ending July 14th, were \$2,179,749.93, or a total since the commencement of the new fiscal year, of \$14,164,000.

731.71.—The hopes of speedy peace in Europe have given an upward turn to our Five-Twenties, which were quoted, July 5, at 67½ @ 67¾.

FOREIGN.

THE EUROPEAN WAR.

Three Prussian Armies moved simultaneously, about the 25th of June, upon the Austrian frontiers. The Army of the Elbe, forming the right wing, entered Bohemia by way of Saxony; the centre, under the Crown Prince, Frederick Charles, moved into Upper Silesia, and by way of Glatz took the same district on the flank, aiming, perhaps, after beating the Austrians, to form a junction with the right wing and move upon Prague. The third, or extreme left of the extended and mighty host, moved in the opposite direction from the centre, and sought to penetrate Galicia, or Austrian Poland, which borders on Silesia to the east. Of the subsequent movements of the right and centre, we gather the following summary.

The Army of the Elbe, having occupied Reichenberg on the 25th of June, advanced, without meeting with any resistance, on the 26th to Turnau. Here a battle was fought, of which the Prussians say the Army of the Elbe took seven officers and five hundred men prisoners. The cavalry had several engagements, and the Austrians suffered heavy losses. The 3d Corps took 1000 prisoners. An Austrian dispatch mentions that, subsequently, the Prussians advanced even so far as Gitschin (or Jicin), but at this place they were so thoroughly defeated by Gen. Edelsheim, that they had to evacuate Melnik, Dausa and Leipa, and retreat to Niemes, a town near the Saxon frontier.

The Army of Silesia, under command of the Crown Prince, had entered Bohemia on the 26th of June, one column descending from the north upon Trautenau, and the other advancing from Glatz upon Nachod. Both columns were engaged with the enemy on the 27th and 28th, the former at Trautenau, the latter at Nachod and Skalitz. The Prussian dispatches in regard to this army are as follows:

"BERLIN, June 29, 11.15 A. M.—The Austrians were defeated on the 27th and 28th inst., near Nachod, by our First Army Corps; on the 28th, at Trautenau, by the Corps of the Guards, and at Munchengratz by Prince Frederick Charles. At Trautenau the Austrians had from 3000 to 4000 killed and wounded, and lost several thousand prisoners. Our loss at the same place was 1000 men.

"BERLIN, June 29, 1866.—The Corps of the Guards yesterday defeated the 14th Austrian Army Corps, under Gen. Gablenz, after an obstinate engagement. The Austrians lost several thousand prisoners, some field pieces, and a large quantity of war material.

"Yesterday, the Prussian Fifth Corps, under Gen. Steinmetz, which, on the 27th inst., drove back the Austrian Corps to Josephstadt, again compelled the enemy to retire after a severe contest. Numerous trophies were captured by the Prussians."

The latest despatch from the Austrian side triumphantly announces that the Prussians were finally, on the 28th, completely defeated, leaving one-third of their army killed and wounded, and that they thereupon withdrew to Prussian territory, toward Glatz.

On the other hand, there is a Prussian dispatch dated on the 28th of June, in the following terms:—"Prince Frederick Charles has to-day driven back the Austrians from Podol to beyond Munchengratz with great loss, and has made some 1000 prisoners. The Prussian loss was inconsiderable."

Still another:—"BERLIN, June 29.—Prince Frederick Charles, in junction with Gen. Herwarth Bitterfeld, captured Munchengratz yesterday, after a successful engagement with the Austrians, capturing 300 prisoners. The army retired to Furstenbruck with the loss of 2000 men. The Prussian loss was much less."

Furstenbruck is 25 or 30 miles within Bohemian territory.

Meanwhile Prussia continues to revolutionize in the smaller States who have dared to oppose her. Besides declaring the incorporation of the territory of Hesse Cassel, as we understand, into her own, she has replaced the principal functionaries in Saxony and Hanover.

The opponents of Prussia in these States can do but little. 15,000 Baden troops will occupy a position between Darmstadt and Frankfurt, and will be reinforced by available Federal forces.

In Hungary, there is talk of an insurrection against Austria. Divided counsels, however, are likely to rob it of efficiency. The first we hear of it, is that a seditious mob taken place in the camp of the Liberals. The Deak party is opposed to any insurrection in Hungary unless Austria meets with a defeat from Prussia or Italy, while the other faction of the Liberals is in favor of an immediate insurrection, which would assist Italy and Prussia. The latter faction has extensive ramifications in Croatia, Dalmatia, and Illyria.

In Croatia especially, Italian sympathies are so strong that the provinces on the Adriatic have been declared in a state of siege.

Here is the point where the interference of the Northern bear may be expected. A Paris correspondent, name not given, which throws some doubt on the statement, says that the Prussian Government has demanded explanations of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg relative to the concentration of Russian troops on the frontiers of Galicia. The Russian Government replied that this concentration of troops was not made with any hostile intention, and that the Czar would not interfere in the Austro-Prussian conflict. Prince Gortschakoff, however, informed M. Bismark that should certain events take place through the revolutionary element, a Russian army should enter Hungary. This account coincides with a report that Russia had promised to occupy the western coast of the Adriatic, to protect it from the Italian volunteers.

Our complications are hinted at. It is said that Victor Emmanuel has requested the assistance of France, offering to Louis Napoleon in exchange the Island of Sardinia, in addition to important concessions in the Roman question. It may also be regarded as certain, that offers in exchange for assistance have been made by Prussia no less than by Italy. One town in the Rhenish Provinces has, in particular, been mentioned as being proposed, together with the adjoining district, which contains very valuable coal fields, as the prize of the French-Prussian alliance.

June 29th.—The Hanoverian army, 27,000 strong, surrendered to the Prussians, and it is deemed likely that Hanover will also be absorbed by Prussia.

The Austrians were greatly exhausted by the fight of June 27th and 28th. A letter was found in one of the Austrian camps, written by an Austrian officer commanding the 16th Corps, the forces opposed to those of the Prussian Crown Prince, and addressed to Gen. Benedek, in Josephstadt, which offered complete proof that the forces under his command were thoroughly exhausted. He therein requested General Benedek to send him two fresh brigades, in order that his troops might bivouac under their protection, and acknowledged that they would not be able to light on the following day.

Gitschin was taken by storm. The Prussian loss was considerable—that of the Austrians was 4000. It is announced that the total Austrian loss up to that point is 30,000

to 40,000 men. In consequence of the successful storming of Gitschin, the junction of the Prussian armies under the Crown Prince and Prince Charles, was completely effected. Gitschin was much damaged.

A Gitschin telegram of July 2d, says that the Prussians have captured 15,000 Austrian prisoners since the 26th of June, and that 20,000 Austrians have been killed and wounded. Several battalions were completely annihilated. The Saxon corps, the 14th and 15th, the Olmütz Galtz corps, and the Gablenz corps are completely broken up, and for the present not in a condition to fight. The Austrian army retired to a strong position behind Josephstadt and Koniggratz, and according to the statements of some captured officers the soldiers were discouraged and the army in a state of dissolution.

Another dispatch announces the arrival of the King at Gitschin, where he was received by Prince Frederick Charles. The streets everywhere showed traces of an obstinate engagement. The command of the Prussian troops was excellent. The corps of Prussians repeatedly repulsed charges of cavalry without forming square. The head quarters of Prince Frederick Charles have been removed beyond Gitschin.

But worse for poor Austria was yet to come. The greatest battle, and one which seems to be regarded as overwhelmingly decisive of the conflict, was fought by the combined forces of the Prussians and the shattered Austrian army, near Ludowa, July 3d.

The Prussians were commanded by the King in person. They met the Austrians under Benedek, between Hoytand Koniggratz. The battle lasted twelve hours. Until ten o'clock, A. M. the battle was favorable to the Austrians, but after that time the advantages all went to the Prussians.

At 2 P. M., after an obstinate defense, the Prussians carried by storm the strong position of the Austrians, after which the latter were quickly driven out of other positions, and by 7 P. M. were in full retreat to Koniggratz, pursued by the Prussian cavalry.

The Austrians were in a complete rout, the road being strewn with baggage which they had thrown away. The number of killed and wounded on both sides was great, but owing to the extent of the battle field it had not yet been ascertained. The Prussians claim to have captured, up to the evening of the 4th, 14,000 un wounded prisoners, 116 cannon, and several flags.

Austrian Archdukes are reported wounded. Prince Lichowstein and Prince Windischgratz were among the prisoners. General Testicis, commander of an Austrian corps, lost a leg. General Count Huss was shot in the head, and Colonel Bender and another staff officer were killed.

The London Times of July 5th, says the suddenness and magnitude of the Austrian calamity, are too overpowering for any man to speculate on the possible consequences on the destinies of the Austrian empire. With the exception of a few fortresses of no more avail in modern warfare to stay the progress of a victorious army than Josephstadt and Koniggratz have proved to be. Benedek has nothing in his rear but open country—a nothing between him and his capital—but vast smooth battle-field, where the cannon, the cavalry, and the needle gun of the Prussians will have free play. The Austrians have done enough for the honor of their arms. They must now provide for the safety of the State.

The most illustrious names in the empire are among the dead and wounded.

The Paris Monitor of the 5th makes the following announcement:—"An important event has just occurred. After having maintained the honor of his arms in Italy, the Emperor of Austria, concurring in the ideas expressed in the Emperor Napoleon's letter of July 11th, to his Minister of Foreign Affairs, cedes Venetia to the French Emperor, and accepts his mediation for the conclusion of peace."

The Emperor Napoleon hastened to respond to the summons, and immediately communicated with the King of Prussia in order to obtain an armistice. The Austrian field marshal, Von Gablenz, arrived at the Prussian headquarters, at Hovitz, near Gitschin, on the 4th of July, with a flag of truce.

Italy.—At the battle of Custoza the Austrian forces numbered 60,000. The First Army Corps (Reserve), on the heights to the left of Valeggio, held in check an overwhelming number of Austrians, before which Gen. Crane (Cerafe) had been forced to retire. Bixio's division and the cavalry of the line protected the retreat of the army, which was effected in good order. The Peasanti division took prisoners an entire battalion of Austrian chasseurs.

The Italian cavalry had several engagements with the Austrians, who suffered heavy losses, and the Third Army Corps took about 1000 prisoners. The Italian loss is believed to be still more considerable. The Italian cavalry did not abandon their positions, nor were they overcome until after the enemy had received reinforcements. Toward nightfall, both the Italians and Austrians retired from their respective positions.

Spain.—Public order had not been disturbed in Madrid since the suppression of the military revolt on the 23d ult. A simultaneous outbreak occurred at Gerona. Some companies of troops revolted under their subaltern officers and proceeded toward the frontier. The troops remaining faithful were marching to out off their retreat.

MISCELLANEOUS.

What the Mother of a Soldier Starved at Andersonville Thinks.—To the Editors of the Commercial.

In your paper of yesterday, you say, "There is no great eagerness for the hanging of Jeff Davis. The best public opinion is that he ought to have been permitted to run away, or killed on the spot when captured, and that he should now be set ashore upon the continent of Africa," etc.

I am the mother of one of the bravest of volunteer soldiers, who served his country during the late war, and died, with thousands of his sons, at Andersonville, under the treatment of Jeff Davis.

What I want the Government, from these men served, and for whom they were so cruelly murdered, to assure to us, their surviving friends, is, that we are not to be insulted by the liability of meeting that murderer face to face in the streets or highways of his native land. I cannot imagine that the Government contemplates inflicting such a torture on its own friends as this possibility.

Perhaps we had a right to demand his death—perhaps there is not one of us who would not almost have given their own life to have been allowed to take his—perhaps in the history of the world there has never been an instance of a man who has so barbarously treated his prisoners, being in return pampered with luxuries and indulgences, and invited, as it were, to live, in the very polite Government for whom our poor boys had been sacrificed.

Is he to have his health carefully considered who refused to shelter from the cold, the heat and the storm, the sick and dying of our army—dying a thousand deaths in this monstrous captivity, without a friend to help them, and we, their nearest and dearest, expected to sit by their complacency and read the reports of this man's triumphs, and to be published, to draw attention and excite commiseration for his fate?

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TROUBLE WITH TURKEY.—A serious embroglio in our relations with the Divan has arisen, as follows:—Sarkis Minasian, who has for many years acted as the resident agent in Turkey, for the sale of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.'s medicine, driven by the increase of his business to a necessity for more room, built his warehouse in Constantinople several stories higher, after having obtained the necessary permit from the authorities. The Imams of a neighboring mosque, which overlooked the premises, demanded a large present of money, which was refused. They then applied to the Grand Vizier, for the enforcement of an obsolete law, which had been disregarded two hundred years, requiring him to take down the building to eighteen feet, which was granted, and they commenced the work of demolition. Minasian then applied to the American Minister, who notified the Sublime Porte that American property could not be thus trifled with, and that the demolition must cease. Then commenced the usual course of Mussulman prevarication and promises, but no real redress. Finally, Minister Morris informed them that if their deprecations continued, he should order the U. S. ships of war to enter the Bosphorus and Messrs. Ayers' medical warehouse would not be alone roofless. A stroke of his pen could have laid the whole city under the sweep of American cannon, backed by men who are not schooled in the lessons of fear. This brought them to their senses and speedy redress. Minasian has now arrived in this country, to present the case to our State Department for indemnity. At length it is something to say among the people of the earth—"I am an American citizen!"—Columbia Republican.

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TROUBLE WITH TURKEY.—A serious embroglio in our relations with the Divan has arisen, as follows:—Sarkis Minasian, who has for many years acted as the resident agent in Turkey, for the sale of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.'s medicine, driven by the increase of his business to a necessity for more room, built his warehouse in Constantinople several stories higher, after having obtained the necessary permit from the authorities. The Imams of a neighboring mosque, which overlooked the premises, demanded a large present of money, which was refused. They then applied to the Grand Vizier, for the enforcement of an obsolete law, which had been disregarded two hundred years, requiring him to take down the building to eighteen feet, which was granted, and they commenced the work of demolition. Minasian then applied to the American Minister, who notified the Sublime Porte that American property could not be thus trifled with, and that the demolition must cease. Then commenced the usual course of Mussulman prevarication and promises, but no real redress. Finally, Minister Morris informed them that if their deprecations continued, he should order the U. S. ships of war to enter the Bosphorus and Messrs. Ayers' medical warehouse would not be alone roofless. A stroke of his pen could have laid the whole city under the sweep of American cannon, backed by men who are not schooled in the lessons of fear. This brought them to their senses and speedy redress. Minasian has now arrived in this country, to present the case to our State Department for indemnity. At length it is something to say among the people of the earth—"I am an American citizen!"—Columbia Republican.

Should the Government again require volunteer help, what amount does it expect from the families of the thousands who are lying at Andersonville?

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