

News of the Week.

EXECUTIVE.

Bills.—The President has signed the bills amendatory of the smuggling laws, and authorizing the construction of a submerged tubular bridge across the Mississippi, at St. Louis. He has signed the Diplomatic and Military Academy Appropriation bills; also the bill refunding commutation money to drafted men.—On the 4th the President signed the Tax bill, and all the regular Appropriation bills passed; as also the bill placing a tariff of 12 cents per pound on the higher grades of wool, and 10 cents on the lower grades, with ten per cent ad valorem.

Nominations.—The U. S. Senate has confirmed General Dix to be Minister at Paris. F. F. Burmeister has been confirmed as Pension Agent at Philadelphia, and J. W. Frazier Internal Revenue Assessor for the First District of Pennsylvania.—The U. S. Senate has confirmed Charles M. Hurley to be Appraiser of Merchandise, and rejected Frank McLaughlin as Postmaster at Philadelphia.

Treasury.—The total receipts of the Treasury from the sale of abandoned and confiscated lands have been \$34,000,000.—The Internal Revenue receipts for last week were \$4,661,252.

Professor Pierce, of Cambridge University, has succeeded Prof. A. D. Bachs, as Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—Feb. 26.—Mr. John D. Defries was elected Government Printer under the act recently passed. The Army Appropriation bill was passed with amendments directing the disbandment of militia organizations in the Southern States, and directing Freedmen's Bureau officers to prevent maiming and whipping in said States.

Feb. 27.—The amendatory Naval bill was passed, with an amendment reducing the number of cadets appointed at large from 25 to 10. The Compound Interest Note bill, a substitute for the House bill, authorizing the redemption of compound interest notes by an issue of one hundred millions of dollars in legal tenders, was passed. It provides for the issue of loan certificates bearing 3 per cent interest, and for the withdrawal of compound interest notes after July 1st, and forbids the paying or taking of interest on any portion of the reserve of a National bank deposited in any other National bank. The House bill regulating the Presidential succession in case of vacancy, was reported adversely and postponed.

Feb. 28.—The House bill to establish a Department of Education was passed. The Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of the Vice Consul of Portugal at Savannah, asking for compensation for property taken from him by the troops under General Sherman. The Miscellaneous Appropriation bill was passed.

March 1.—The Colorado bill was taken up, and on the question of its passage over the President's veto, the yeas were 29, and the nays 19. Less than two-thirds having voted in the affirmative, the bill was defeated. The Tax bill was taken up, and the House for concurrence in amendments. The Fortification Appropriation bill appropriating \$1,095,000, passed with amendments, as also the Naval Appropriation bill.

March 2.—The bill increasing the duty on wool was passed. Conference reports on the Bankrupt bill and on the Compound Interest Note bill were agreed to. The Indemnity bill was passed, and goes to the President. The Tenure of Office bill was passed over the President's veto by a vote of 35 yeas to 11 nays. The Reconstruction bill was also passed over the President's veto, by a vote of 38 to 10. Conference reports on the Army Appropriation and Tax bills were agreed to. The conference on the Indian Bureau bill having failed to agree, the bill falls dead.

March 4.—A bill was passed providing that the Wool Tariff shall go into effect five days after its passage. The conference report on the bill to facilitate the settlement of the accounts of disbursing officers was agreed to. Hon. Benjamin F. Wade, of Ohio, was elected President pro tem, and took the chair. The Senate went into Executive session, and, before the doors were reopened, was adjourned by the termination of the Thirty-ninth Congress.

House.—Feb. 26.—The Special Committee to inquire into the alleged political bargaining between the President and certain Congressmen, made a report, stating that no testimony had been obtained reflecting either upon the integrity of the President or of Congressmen. The Fortification Appropriation bill was passed. The joint resolutions looking to the removal of the Naval Academy from Annapolis, were rejected by 37 yeas to 10 nays.

Feb. 27.—The Naval Appropriation bill was passed. Among the appropriations are \$51,016 for the Navy Yard, and \$10,000 for the Naval Hospital at Philadelphia. The Tariff bill was considered.

Feb. 28.—Raymond's resolution of inquiry, in reference to Canadian Confederation, declaring "that the establishment in the immediate proximity of the United States of a powerful monarchy, under the support of a foreign nation, cannot be regarded otherwise than as being hostile to the peace and menacing the safety of this Republic, and requesting the President to inform the House whether any remonstrance has been made by this Government against the consolidation of all the British North American provinces into a single confederacy, under the imperial rule of an English prince, and whether the consent of this Government has been given in any way to the consummation of the project," was referred to the Foreign Committee. The bill providing for an allotment of Supreme Court Judges and the appointment of a Marshal for the Supreme Court was passed. An attempt to bring up the Tariff bill was lost.

March 1.—The bill allowing a deduction of one month in each year for good conduct from the sentence of persons imprisoned for offences against the United States was passed. The Senate bill for the relief of inhabitants of towns on the public lands was amended, so as to allow the lands to be entered by the corporations, and passed. The Senate's amendment to the Army Appropriation bill disbanding the military organizations in the lately rebel States was concurred in, and a conference asked as to the other amendments.

March 2.—The bill increasing the tariff on wool was passed and goes to the President. The Reconstruction bill was passed over the President's veto by 135 yeas to 48 nays. Conference reports on the Army Appropriation bill and on the Compound Interest Note bill were agreed to. The Tenure of Office bill was then passed over the veto, by a vote of 131 yeas to 37 nays. Conference reports on the Tax bill, on the Naval Appropriation bill and on the Legislative Appropriation bill were agreed to.

March 4.—A report on the murder of Union soldiers in South Carolina, a report of testimony taken in regard to freedmen's affairs in Maryland, were laid over for submission to the Fortieth Congress. The hour of noon having arrived, the Speaker declared the Thirty-ninth Congress adjourned sine die.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Senate.—March 4.—The Senate of the Fortieth Congress was called to order by Mr. Wade, at 12 20 P. M. A committee was appointed to wait upon the President.

House.—March 4.—The House was called to order by the Clerk, and the roll of members called. Nineteen States answered to the roll, Mr. Brooks, of N. Y., presented a protest signed by the Democratic members against any action tending to reorganization until the States were more fully represented. The protest was not received, and the House

organized by re-electing Mr. Colfax Speaker, and Mr. Edward McPherson Clerk.

THE MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

The Military Reconstruction Bill, as passed over the President's veto, is as follows:—

Whereas, No legal State Governments or adequate protection for life or property now exist in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Arkansas; and whereas, it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced in said States until loyal and republican State Governments can be legally established; therefore

Be it enacted, etc., That said rebel States shall be divided into military districts, and made subject to the military authority of the United States, as hereinafter mentioned; and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the First District, North Carolina and South Carolina the Second District, Georgia, Alabama and Florida the Third District, Mississippi and Arkansas the Fourth District, and Louisiana and Texas the Fifth District.

Sec. 2. That it shall be the duty of the President to assign to the command of each of said districts an officer of the army not below the rank of brigadier-general, and to detail a sufficient military force to enable such officer to perform his duties and enforce his authority within the district to which he is assigned.

Sec. 3. That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder and violence, and to punish or cause to be punished all disturbers of the public peace and criminals; and to this end he may allow civil tribunals to take jurisdiction of and try offenders, or, when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military committees or tribunals for that purpose; and all interference under color of State authority with the exercise of military authority under this act shall be null and void.

Sec. 4. That all persons put under military arrest by virtue of this act shall be tried without unnecessary delay, and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted, and no sentence of any military commission or tribunal hereby authorized affecting the life or liberty of any person shall be executed until it is approved by the officer in command of the district; and the laws and regulations for the government of the army shall not be affected by this act, except in so far as they may conflict with its provisions.

Sec. 5. That no sentence of death under this act shall be carried into execution without the approval of the President.

Sec. 6. When the people of any one of said rebel States shall have formed a constitution and government in conformity with the Constitution of the United States in all respects, framed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said States 21 years old and upward, of whatever race, color or previous condition, who shall have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion or for felony at common law, and when such constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for electors of delegates, and when such constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification who are qualified as electors for delegates, and when such constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, and Congress shall have approved the same, and when said State by a vote of its Legislature elected under said constitution shall have adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by the XXXIXth Congress, and known as Article 14, when said article shall have become part of the Constitution of the United States, said State shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and senators and representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this act shall be inoperative in said State.

STATES AND TERRITORIES.

Massachusetts.—The State constables made a raid on a wholesale liquor store in Boston, and seized \$5,000 worth of liquor.—In Beverly, (Feb. 23d,) while Rev. John Nichols, pastor of the Universalist church, was preaching his farewell discourse, he was struck with paralysis, and he died the same night.

New York.—It is said that if the Bankrupt bill passes, it will cost A. T. Stewart over \$1,000,000, chiefly in bad Southern debts. The World recommends the South to accept the Military Reconstruction bill, as the best bargain they can make with the Republicans, and as affording the only hope that they will be admitted as participants in the next Presidential election.—The customs receipts for the month of February amounted to \$11,452,203, a decrease of over \$506,000 from the corresponding month of last year.

Pennsylvania.—Col. George P. McLean has been confirmed Surveyor of Customs at Pittsburgh, not Philadelphia, as the types had it in last week's news summary.—On the 28th the House of Representatives passed the bill authorizing the Citizens' Association to take charge of inebriates; also, the Sunday car bill, (yeas 46, nays 38.) Mr. Wallace was the only Philadelphian voting against it. The result was greeted with applause.

New Jersey.—Dr. Craven, author of the "Prison Life of Jefferson Davis," has been rejected by the U. S. Senate as Postmaster at Newark.

Nebraska.—President Johnson, March 1, issued a proclamation, declaring the admission of Nebraska as a State into the Union.

Illinois.—The Legislature has passed a bill virtually abolishing capital punishment.

Maryland.—The Radical Convention have adopted resolutions favoring universal manhood suffrage.—Governor Swann's resignation and the inauguration of Lieutenant Governor Cox as Governor of Maryland, which were to have taken place Feb. 25th, have been postponed.—Baltimore has contributed about \$50,000 for Southern relief.—Gov. Swann sent a message to the Legislature, (March 1,) stating that at the solicitation of prominent citizens, he should not accept the U. S. Senatorship, but would retain the Governorship of Maryland.

Virginia.—Warrants have been issued for the arrest of five magistrates of Norfolk, who violated the Civil Rights bill by refusing to receive colored testimony.

Tennessee.—The Legislature has adopted a resolution calling on the Federal Government for a military force to keep order in Tennessee.—The House has rejected a proposition to allow negroes to hold office under the new franchise law.

Kansas.—Treaties have been made with the Cherokee and Shawnee Indians of this State for their removal to the Indian Territory.

Mississippi.—The bill establishing common schools, for negroes and whites alike, has been defeated in the Legislature.—A new law imposes a poll tax on persons without visible means of support, and those who cannot pay it are held as vagrants. This is to force the negroes to work on whatever terms white men choose to offer.

South Carolina.—Gov. Aiken has already received many applications from young South Carolinians, who wish to finish their education under the Peabody Fund. All applications must wait until a plan for distribution of the fund has been agreed on.

District of Columbia.—Official returns of the Georgetown election give a Radical majority of three Condemners. The negro vote was solidly Radical.—Carpenter's painting of Mr. Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet, has been placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington.

FOREIGN.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Feb. 26.—London, noon.—The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Ireland has been suspended for three months longer. The leading newspapers have editorials in approval of the Government Reform measures.—Earl Russell has censured our Government for pleading for the Fenians.—Evening.—The government has withdrawn its resolutions on Reform, and promises to bring in a regular bill.—The bill for the confederation of the British Provinces in North America has passed the House of Lords.—Berlin, noon.—King William of Prussia will be Emperor of Germany.—Florence.—The elections which have so far taken place for the Italian Parliament have generally resulted in the defeat of Riccasoli.

Feb. 27.—London.—The party in Parliament called the Adulmities, and who drove Russell and Gladstone from power last year, by joining the Conservatives, and who act under the leadership of Roebuck, Lowe and Gladstone, have resolved to join their forces with the Liberals.—The Court of Admiralty in the case of the steamer Alexandria, which Mr. Dudley, U. S. Consul, recently commenced a suit to recover, has required security for the payment of costs in the event of the case being decided for the defendants.—Paris.—One of the reforms proposed by the Emperor—the abolition of the reply to the address from the Throne—is peculiarly unpopular. The Liberal party insist upon the preservation of this privilege.—The French government has officially announced that it will not relinquish the right to search the baggage of all foreigners arriving in France.—In the French Court of Admiralty, in the case of the United States against Armand Filis, the appeal of the United States against the decree requiring payment into the court of a certain sum of money as security for the costs of the suit, was again rejected.

Feb. 28.—Vienna.—The Turkish garrisons are to be withdrawn from the forts in the principality of Servia.

March 1.—London.—The bill for the confederation of the British Provinces has been read twice in the House of Commons.—"Artemus Ward" is so ill that his life is despaired of.—Evening.—Lord Stanley, in the House of Commons to-night, stated that neither Brazil nor Paraguay had ever invoked the mediation of England.—Venice, noon.—The sons of Gen. Garibaldi have gone to help the Cretans.

March 2.—Paris, noon.—The communication between Vera Cruz and the capital of Mexico has been entirely cut off. Maximilian has consequently forbidden the transmission of despatches to Europe giving opinions on the state of the country, lest they may fall into the hands of the Liberals.—St. Petersburg.—The Czar of Russia has strongly urged the Sublime Porte to cede the Island of Candia to Greece.

March 3.—London.—The Colonial Ministers have resigned for reasons connected with the Reform question. The Reform bill promised by the government will be presented to Parliament on the 11th inst.—It is reported that despatches have been received announcing that war has broken out in India.

March 4.—London, evening.—Lord Brougham strongly urges the adoption of household suffrage.—In the English Cabinet the Duke of Richmond becomes Colonial Secretary; Sir John Packington, Secretary of War; Sir Stafford Northcote, First Lord of the Admiralty; Right Hon. A. J. Canning, Under Secretary for the Colonies; and Mr. Stephen Cave, President of the Board of Trade.—Paris.—The government has commenced proceedings against M. Emile de Girardin, for an editorial boldly criticising the policy of the Emperor.—Strikes for higher wages, to meet the increased prices of food, are very frequent among the operatives of France. Berlin, evening.—Bismarck, to-day, laid before the North German Parliament the draft of the new constitution for the Confederation of the North German States.

Toronto, March 4.—Garibaldi, promises soon to go to aid Cretons. Financial.—U. S. S. 20's closed in London at 73 1/2; in Frankfurt at 76 1/2.

BY STEAMER.

Mexico.—Maximilian has gone north from the city of Mexico to meet the Liberalists, with 6,000 men. The Liberalists under Carvajal, numbering 2,000, have all been killed or captured by Mejia, according to a New Orleans despatch.—Romero has received official news of the occupation of Guanajuato by the Liberalists. 22 cannon and 150 prisoners were captured.

PHILADELPHIA, the Metropolitan of Moscow and ecclesiastical head of the Greek Church in Russia, has issued an appeal for subscriptions in behalf of the Cretons.

The cholera has re-appeared at Elberfeld in Rhine Prussia, and nine cases occurred in eight days ending on January 24th.

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