

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Late Session of Congress.

From the N. Y. Nation. Congress has adjourned after an exciting session, which has resulted in comparatively little harm, and in some positive good. It is impossible to bestow very great praise upon a session which has brought no particular reform in the civil service...

The first important subject that was brought before Congress on the opening of its regular session, was the report of the Committee on Reconstruction. The feeling of the House was then so strongly opposed to the measure that it was only by the use of dilatory motions that the minority could obtain a chance to be heard as fully as they believed to be their right.

Had Congress been able to bear the insult then put upon it, we have little doubt that Mr. Johnson would have been encouraged to proceed to some clear violation of the Tenure-of-Office Act; in which case his conviction and removal would have been certain.

The release of cotton and of manufactures from taxation was, in our opinion, a beneficial measure. We have always been opposed to any system of taxation which undertakes to collect a little tribute from every producer.

The only method of taxation on manufactures which can be fully carried out is one which lays the burden on a few articles of general use, so that the revenue officers may confine their attention to those. Unequal as this mode appears at first sight to be, it is only at first sight that it appears so.

The reduction of the tax on whisky was also a wise act, though for different reasons. The tax ought to be at least one dollar per gallon, because the article is a mere luxury, and the system of taxing a few articles only requires that those articles should be heavily assessed.

Now, when our revenue service has fallen so low that it seems impossible to get an honest man into it, or to keep him honest for one day after he enters it, and when Congress is unwilling or unable to do anything toward its reform, it is obvious that the maintenance of a high duty is a premium upon bribery, and that the next best thing to do is to lower the duty to such a figure as will give the distiller little choice, as a mere question of money, between paying the tax and bribing the tax-collector.

which the bill finally passed was a mere fragment, was discreditable enough. The passage of such a measure, remodeling the entire internal revenue system, was the most important duty of the whole session. Almost everything else might better have sacrificed than this.

While referring to this subject, we must call attention to the significant fact that every Democratic Representative except the two or three members who were on the committee which framed the bill, voted to kill it; thus illustrating the truth of the charge which we made against them last week, that they contribute no aid whatever to administrative reform.

Many other topics suggest themselves in reviewing the work of the session, but space fails us. The reconstruction acts of previous sessions have been improved. The admission of the Southern States which have complied with the law has proved the good faith of the Republicans in proposing the terms of restoration.

The Air-Line Route to Financial Ruin. From the N. Y. Tribune. A correspondent, recently writing to the Tribune, says: "We favor the payment of the fifteen-cent greenbacks. You ask us now, then, will we pay the greenbacks? In gold, to the utmost farthing, when we can; but meantime we will avoid the ruinous interest we pay at present."

Not a dollar of it has been paid. The United States still owes the holders of the greenbacks \$2,500,000,000, which our correspondent says should be paid in gold. But he says we have stopped the payment of the interest. Waiting the point that it would be as just to repudiate the principal as the interest of any debt on which we have agreed to pay interest, and hence the plan, if a good one, stops short of its full fruition.

Even were there absolute certainty, therefore, that every greenback note would be paid in full in gold, at the end of twenty years it would be worth only twenty cents on the dollar. If used as a currency in which prices were to be stated and debts paid, all prices would go up 350 per cent. above what they now are, or 400 above the gold price, and all debts would be payable with less than one-third the actual value which they now pay.

The Terrible Counter-Revolution Approaching. From the N. Y. Herald. The figures as they come in from Kentucky, are mounting up for the Democratic majority. The last returns, which we published yesterday, set down eighty thousand for Major Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for Governor, and these returns represent the country districts from which they come in slowly, and will probably show larger gains, according as they are received.

eighty thousand millions of it, at its advanced value, would pass from the hands of those who have honestly earned it into the hands of speculators. This proposition launches us on a shoreless sea. It has no element in it but certain destruction, wide-spread and terrible.

The people demand a change, and it is the people, and not any particular party, who will make the issue at the approaching election. Names and individual candidates count for very little in this contest. It is a cheap government, honestly administered in view of the fact that the country is at peace, which the people require.

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Choice of Presidential Electors. From the N. Y. Times. The action of the Florida Legislature, in taking to itself the power of choosing Presidential electors, is assailed by the Southern allies of Seymour and Blair as part of a scheme for securing for Grant the vote of the South.

The Tribune makes two noteworthy admissions—one explicit, the other virtual. The explicit admission is, that the Republicans can succeed in electing their candidate for President only by the most strenuous exertions; the virtual admission is, that it is necessary for the party to retreat from the Reconstruction policy of Congress.

This is a great lowering, nay, a complete abandonment of the vaunting and confident tone which has heretofore prevailed in the Republican press since the Democratic nominations. It has been trumpeted all over the land that the Democratic party has defeated itself; that its National Convention destroyed whatever slender chances it had, by its platform and ticket.

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the direction of these straws which show how the wind blows. The Republican majority in Oregon in 1866 was 327; the Democratic majority for member of Congress (the solitary one who represents that young State) was, at the election of the first Monday in June, 1868, 1229.

There was a gain of the anti-radical party of over fifteen hundred votes in a voting population of about twenty thousand. Taking these two States as an example, we will find that the people are not abandoning their hostility to the wretched and dangerous policy of the ruling faction, which during three years of peace has increased the national debt and kept up war prices and war taxation.

There is nothing in "the fourteenth amendment" which forbids the exclusion of every Southern negro from the ballot-box. If they are excluded, the States will have proportionally fewer representatives in the lower branch of Congress, but the amendment permits them to regulate the elective franchise as they please.

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credit. We must have a President who will execute the will of the people by tramping into camp the opposition in Congress. Know as the Reconstruction acts, I wish to stand before the Convention upon this issue, but it is one which embraces everything else.

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