Evening Telegraph

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PHILADELPHIA. The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet); or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mai is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1869.

THE MESSAGE AND REPORTS. To-DAY we devote the greater portion of our space to the publication of the annual budget of documents which always accompanies the Message of the President at the opening of the session of Congress. The department reports are usually verbose, but by a careful condensation we are enabled to lay them all before our readers at one time, and in such a shape that they are not of wearisome length. while, at the same time, nothing of interest to the general reader is omitted from them.

CONGRESS IN SESSION AGAIN. THE second session of the Forty-first Congress began at noon to-day, and, as both houses are already fully organized, there is no impediment to the immediate resumption of business. It is generally understood, however, that but little will be accomplished until after the customary Christmas recess, and the interval between the present and the beginning of the new year will doubtless be devoted to committee work, a general comparison of notes, buncombe speeches, and a careful consideration of the claims of the lobby. But when the great legislative mill gets fairly under way the indications are that there will be a lively time and a very heavy grist.

If Congress should devote its whole time to the consideration of the measures proposed at the brief session of about three weeks held immediately after the inauguration of President Grant, it would be fully employed until the close of the present term. During the few days of the spring session over three hundred bills and about twenty joint resolutions were presented in the Senate; while in the House there were presented four hundred and twenty-one bills and over sixty joint resolutions, making a total of about eight hundred measures which are now pending. Early in the session just commencing, it is probable that quite as many new measures will be presented, and from this immense mass of embryo legislation must be selected the comparatively few propositions which will succeed in running the gauntlet of both houses.

The question that will probably receive the earliest definite action is that pertaining to reconstruction. This great work is happily approaching completion. Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas, the three States which alone were unrepresented at the spring session, have held their elections during the recess, and in each of them the Congressional policy has received an overwhelming endorsement, although in Virginia, and probably in Texas, also, the so-called radical tickets have sustained defeat. Yet in all three of these States the elections were conducted with as much fairness as could be expected, even if not with as much as could be desired, and there is no substantial reason why they should not be at once fully restored to all their relations to the Union and their legal representation in Congress. But while Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas will doubtless be at once remanded to their former positions in the sisterhood of States, a serious attempt will be made, at least, to unsettle the present status of Georgia. It is unquestionable that the so-called Democracy of this State have acted in bad faith and taken advantage of the first opportunity which was presented to inaugurate a reactionary policy. If the faithless demagogues who have gotten the upper hand can be brought by Congress to a sense of their duty, without a general unsettling of the whole reconstruction process in this State, it will be well; but if the dominant party in Georgia should prove refractory, it will become a serious question as to whether or not it is the duty of Congress to counteract their intrigues by unseating their delegations and compelling them to go through the ceremony of reconstruction a second time. This would certainly be the surest and quickest way of bringing the Georgia Democracy to their senses, but it should be resorted to only after every other device has failed.

Desirable as is the complete restoration of all the Southern States to their representation in Congress, the financial problem which our National Legislature will be called upon to solve is one of even greater importance to the country at large. Congress will go about this serious task under most favorable auspices. A much healthier feeling now pervades financial circles than at any time since the outbreak of the war, mainly in consequence of the large reduction in the national debt, which has been brought about by the wise policy of the President and his Secretary of the Treasury. The financial problem that will engage the attention of Congress will assume several aspects. Primarily will arise the question of a funding of the debt, as the only possible method of securing uniformity in the character of our obligations, and a lowering of the rate of interest paid by the Government. A determined effort will be made by the visionary element in both houses to hinder the solution of the great financial problem by clamoring for an immediate or early resumption of specie payments, without regard to the necessities of business. But with both the President and the Secretary of the Treasury in opposition, it is probable that the only mischief they will be able to acomplish will be a consumption of the time of Congress, and a fostering of the feeling of uncertainty which serves as a stronghold for the reckless speculating element throughout the country. A redistribution of banking facilities, or their material increase for the especial benefit of the South and West,

will also demand attention, while we may expect the customary tampering with the sources of revenue, both internal and external, especially as a voluminous bill, presented last March by General Schenck in the House, which provides for amending and reducing into one act the laws relating to internal revenue, is pending, and the Ways and Means Committee are prepared to submit a report upon the general commercial condition and necessities of the country, the result of the investigations in which they have been engaged during the recess.

Then there is the great Cuban question, which will be sprung upon Congress without delay. An earnest effort will undoubtedly be made to compromise our relations, not only with Spain, but with all the great powers of Europe, by according to the Cuban insurgents a recognition of belligerent rights, and to the Cuban republic a place in the sisterhood of nations. The sympathies of the entire American people are heartily enlisted in the patriot cause, but Congress should exercise the greatest care in any action which it may take, and above all avoid the adoption of a policy that is not strictly in keeping with the well-known rules of international law. The great danger is that our sympathies with a heroic and struggling people may get the better of our judgment, and involve us in difficulties with foreign nations which will seriously impede our progress at home, even if they do not ultimately embroil us in a destructive war.

Among other important questions which will engage the attention of Congress is that of providing for the taking of the ninth census, a vindication of our flag in the Paraguayan imbroglio, a solution of the vexatious Indian problem, the settlement of the numerous contests over seats in the House which are still pending, the revision of the naturalization laws, and the reorganization of the Treasury and other executive departments. concerning which several bills are already pending. The reform of the civil service will also doubtless receive some passing attention. but we can scarcely hope that it will command the serious attention so imperatively needed until the more pressing questions are

Such is a brief outline of the profitable work which will engage the time of the session of Congress commencing to-day. It will be obvious to the reader that satisfactory legislation upon all these subjects will demand a degree of industry, honesty, and sound statesmanship which is not always centred at Washington during the sittings

CONGRESSIONAL JOBBERY. In addition to the profitable work laid out for the present session of Congress, a sketch of which is given in another article, there is an infinitude of jobs on hand, over one hundred bills and resolutions having been introduced at the spring session and being now pending, which provide for aiding the construction of railroads, canals, and similar public and private enterprises. A summary of the amount of public land which the Congressional advocates of these different schemes propose to give the persons interested in them may well startle the reader who imagines for a moment that the public domain is not intended for the exclusive benefit of speculators. The proposed railroad grants involve the construction of 13,490 miles of road in the South and West, by the aid of a subsidy which foots up an aggregate of 216,454,746 acres! And this vast extent of territory, which is equal to fully seven and one-third times the entire area of Pennsylvania, does not include an acre of the grants to railroads which have fallen through by lapse of time, but which it is proposed to revive to the extent of several millions of acres! In addition to the proposed railroad grants, bills are pending which give away 2,721,000 additional acres to canal enterprises and river other improvements; while by one other measure it is proposed to appropriate 19,100,000 extra acres to assist in the construction of the China and Pacific Telegraph Cable, which, it is estimated, will be not less than three thousand miles in length. An additional 10,000,000 of acres is allotted by various other bills, swelling the grand total to 248,375,746 acres, equal to nearly eight and one-half times the area of Pennsylvania, or to the combined areas of the six New England States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Kentucky! And, in addition to all this grand gift of territory, the proposed measures involve the guaranteeing by the National Government of the interest on railroad bonds aggregating a principal of \$104,300,000, the annual interest of which will amount to \$6,258,000, independently of the proposed Mississippi River Levee bonds, the amount of which can not be estimated with any degree of precision. In view of this startling statement, it will be well for the people to keep their eyes on the doings of their representatives at Washington.

THE GRAND JURY, in their final presentment, call attention to the habitual violation of the law of separate confinement in the County Prison, owing to the insufficient accommodations. In the male section there is nearly double the number of prisoners that there is cells, and, owing to the positive necessity which exists sometimes for keeping some of them alone, the Superintendent is obliged frequently to crowd three persons into one cell. This is a wrong to the prisoners as well as to the community. It effectually prevents any good effects resulting from the law of separate confinement, and it makes the prison a breeding-place for crime instead of a reformatory institution, as it ought to be. This matter has been referred to time and again by the Grand Juries, and the necessity for increasing the number of cells urged by the newspapers, but nothing whatever has been done to correct the evil. It is disgraceful that such a state of things should be permitted to exist, and we hope that some measures will be speedily taken by Councils to enlarge the County Prison sufficiently to allow the law to be carried out.

JUDGE PETROE on Friday, in discharging the jury in the case of McGarrigle, accused of killing his wife in a fit of drankenness, called attention to the fact that of the eight cases of homicide recently tried seven could be traced to an indulgence in intoxicating liquor. The Judge desired that this fact should be known, with a hope that it would have some effect in checking drunkenness. There is no doubt that a very large proportion of the crimes committed in the community may be traced to the whisky bottle as the inspiring cause, and never before was there a time when the temperance cause was in greater need of able and earnest advocates. McGarrigle was proved to have kicked and beaten his poor wife most shamefully, and he only escaped conviction because it could not be shown that her death was caused by his violence and not by the disease from which she was suffering. Although the offender in this case escaped conviction, he richly deserves the severest penalties that the law allows. If such as he were always to be punished with rigor, it would have more effect in checking drunkenness than any argument on the subject that the most eloquent advocates of temperance could advance.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Por additional Special Notices see the Inside Pag TO COUNTER an opinion provalent among some who have not tried us, that, because we are on Chesnut street and deal only in a class of clothing finer than or linary Ready-made garments, our prices must be enormously high, we here publish a Light Weight Overcoats from \$9 to \$25.

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The Annual Meeting of the UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA will be held at the LEAGUE HOUSE on MONDAY EVENING. December 13, at 7 o'clock, at which meeting there will be an Election for Officers and Directors for the cusning year. 1267t GEORGE H. BOKER, Secretary.

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