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Miscellaneous.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Remarks of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, in the House of Representatives, January 15th, 1862.

The House resumed the consideration of the amendment reported to the House from the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union to the Civil Appropriation bill.

Mr. DAWES (Mass.) said:—Mr. Speaker, though I have spent the better part of my Congressional life upon investigating committees, no one was ever yet raised upon my motion, no resolution was ever carried upon my motion calling for inquiry, no motion was ever made by me, the result of which has been an investigation by this House, and yet I have felt that it was proper for me to speak, in order to decline the service that has been imposed upon me. But I felt again that it was incumbent upon me to discharge my duty as well as I could, and I have, I think, discharged it fearlessly and cheerfully, however much mortification and discomfiture might come from it.

Sir, I have not appealed to minorities, and I believe that the Committee of which I am one, have taken notice, in common with the whole country, of the fact, that for some reason or other, some unaccountable reason, the charges upon the Treasury of the country have been such as to reach nearly to its bottom. Positive facts have come to the notice of the Committee of the country, touching the manner and mode of the expenditure of the public money. To some of these items I propose to call the attention of the House, in this connection, and then to ask whether they propose to meet the question at all, and if they intend to meet it, how, and when, and where.

Sir, the very first contract entered into by this Government, when the troops left their homes in April last, to come here for the defence of the capital, was the contract by which they were to be fed. It was a contract for cattle, not with men whose business it was to furnish cattle, not the men who know what the price of beef is in the market, and entered into without even telegraphing to New York, to know the prices of beef in the market there; entered into by the Government here, with men known to this and the other branch of this Congress, for the last ten years as old political stipendiaries—men who have made what little they have made by buying the salaries of members at a discount, and then drawing from the Treasury the full amount.

2200 head of cattle was the amount of the contract. In twenty-four hours after it was given, it was sought to men in New York who did not know the price of beef; so subtle that on the first 2200 head of cattle they put into their own pockets, without stirring from their chair, \$32,000, and the men who did furnish the cattle, put \$26,000 more into their pockets, so that the contract under which these 2200 head of cattle were furnished to the army was so made, that the profit of \$58,000 over the market price was realized upon that small number.

It takes a thousand and head of cattle longer to reach the city than it does to consume the same number by the army. The most ample provisions are needed merely to support the subsistence department of this army.

Sir, a million shoes have already been worn out by the army, and a million more have been already manufactured. Now, upon every one of these shoes there has been a waste of seventy-five cents; three quarters of a million of dollars upon the shoes already worn out, and another three-quarters of a million upon the shoes already manufactured has been worse than wasted in that department of this Government.

Sir, there are horse contracts that have been made, and Government officials go about the streets with their pockets filled with them, and of which they make presents to some political friend to secure the political doom of some other, while the telegraph announces that the hatchet of political animosity is buried in the grave of public confidence, while the national credit is crucified among malefactors. We have just heard the result of one of these contracts. A regiment of cavalry has just reached Louisville, one thousand horses strong. Out of that thousand, and a board of army officers has condemned four hundred and eighty five as utterly worthless; that not one of them is worth more than twenty dollars a piece; that they are afflicted with every kind of disease that horseflesh is heir to. The whole four hundred and eighty-five cost the Government before they were mustered into the service, \$58,500, and it takes \$250,000 to put one of these regiments upon its feet before it moves, and twenty millions of dollars have thus been expended upon these cavalry regiments

before they left the encampment in which they were gathered and mustered into the service. They came here, and then they are sent off here and there to spend the winter. Many of these horses have been chained to trees, and there they have absolutely been starved to death. I can take you along within the District of Columbia and show you the bones and the carcasses of these horses, with the posts to which they have been chained, and where they have pined away and died, until the Committee on the District of Columbia have called for legislation on the subject.

One more instance. In addition to the arms in the hands of the six hundred thousand soldiers in the field, there are outstanding contracts to day made with private individuals, not made on advertisements, not made with the knowledge of any other man, but made with ex-members of Congress who know no more about arms than does a Methodist Minister, with ex-members of Congress, and their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers; there are outstanding contracts for the manufacture of Springfield muskets, the first one of which cannot be delivered in six months from this day. Springfield muskets, 1,092,000, at twenty one dollars a piece, while the Springfield musket is made at the Springfield armory for thirteen dollars and fifty cents.

An ex-member of Congress is in Annapolis to-day, trying to get machinery manufactured, which cannot be made in six months, by which to make these muskets at twenty-one dollars a piece. Before those six months have passed away, we will have disposed of the war or it will have disposed of us.—There will not one of these muskets come back here before this exigency will, in the providence of God, for good or for evil, be on us. There are also outstanding contracts for the manufacture, some time hence, of 272,000 Enfield Rifles.

The gentleman from New York charges me with desiring to blacken men's names.—I desire to call the attention of the House to the enormous expenditure which is being carried on, and it don't make so much difference whether it be by A or by B. I speak by the figure, Mr. Speaker, and I know what I am saying. Twenty millions of dollars was appropriated by Congress, at its last session, and seventeen millions more have been added to it, which will have to be paid.

Sir, the riot of the 19th of April, in Baltimore, opened this ball. From the 21st of April, there was a garrisoned corps of plunderers on the Treasury, and two millions of dollars was put at the disposal of a poor unfortunate man, I think an entirely incompetent editor of a paper in New York, to use it as he could. And he went straightway to the purchase of linen pantaloons, and straw hats, and London porter, and dried herring, and such like provisions for the army, until he had used \$240,000 dollars of the money, and got scared, and quit.

(A voice.) It was \$390,000.
Mr. DAWES, resuming.—It was \$390,000 my friend says. I prefer to keep on the low figure.

Again, a man has got a wood contract, at \$7 a cord, for all the wood he chooses to bring. He goes into the forests, and he takes the Government wagons and horses to draw it to the several camps. He draws his \$7 a cord, and lets the Government draw the wood. (Laughter.)

One hundred millions of dollars have been spent since the first of December, and another hundred million dollars will be spent before the 4th of March.

But sir, I care very little what it may cost to put down this Rebellion, provided it may be put down. But I am free to confess that my faith sometimes fails, my faith in man, not in God. Sir, when the history of these times shall have been written, it will be doubtful upon whom the guilt shall rest, upon him who has spared to destroy, or upon him who has proved incompetent to preserve the institutions that have been bequeathed to us by our fathers. Sir, is it strange that the public treasury trembles and staggers like a strong man loaded with too great a burden.

How soon will it be before the bottom of the Treasury is reached by this exhausting process, while we have no revenue from our custom houses, from our land sales; while our notes of issue which the Government has sent out are already sold at 5 per cent. discount at the tables of the money changers, and at 6 per cent., my friend says, and the sellers are following the army to seize the pay of the soldiers as the shark follows the ship on its voyage. I have no desire to criticize the movements of the army, or criticize its operations, but in view of the stupendous drafts upon the Treasury, how long will it last? The longest road has an end, and the deeper it well has a bottom.

It is impossible for this stage of things to continue sixty days longer, or we will have an ignominious peace.

Again, the Secretary of Treasury, in July last, said it would cost \$200,000 to execute the engraving and printing of the bonds and Treasury Notes, and now it not only has

cost \$200,000, but \$350,000, and another \$100,000 is asked for. We should like to have the question answered before the money is paid.

I have here an amendment which I wish to offer to the bill, and I hope it will be adopted.

For the necessary expenses of carrying into effect the act of the 17th of July, 1861, and in addition to the appropriations made by this act, \$400,000, provided that no part of this appropriation shall be used in payment or liquidation of any sum, due under existing contracts for engraving and printing bonds or notes.

Mr. BAKER (N. Y.) reviewed the financial condition of the Treasury, and advocated the passage of a tax bill—straightforward in its object—to realize a hundred million of dollars. Three fourths of this amount can be collected from the loyal States, which will cheerfully pay, rather than to submit to bankruptcy; the remainder can be collected in the disloyal States six months hence. In addition to this, Treasury notes should be made a legal tender, bearing a small interest. He was in favor of Commissioners being sent to Europe to negotiate a loan.

He would amend the Excise bill so as to relieve commerce of some of its burdens.—The restoration of the Government credit was of more importance than a battle on the Potomac. It was with pain and humiliation he admitted the fact that the credit of the Government had sunk so low in the payment of its just debts, that it cannot purchase its immense supplies at the market rates, and the Quartermaster at New York is so besieged by public creditors, that he has been obliged to post a notice that he had "no funds." He wished to restrict the business of Congress for the present, to the consideration of military, naval, and financial affairs, and hence advocated the postponement of the bill before the House until the second Tuesday in February.

Mr. SEDGWICK (N. Y.) replied to Mr. Dawes, in vindication of the Treasury Department in contracting for the engraving and printing of the Treasury notes.

Mr. DAWES offered an amendment appropriating \$150,000 for this service, in addition to the former appropriation, provided that no part of it shall be applied in the payment or liquidation of any sum due on any existing contract for engraving and printing Treasury bonds or notes.

This was agreed to—yeas 95, nays 44.
Mr. STEVENS (Pa.) in reply to an inquiry put by Mr. Wickliffe, said he could see no necessity for the appropriation in this form with the proviso, as it looked to a new contract, while the old one was unexpired. Mr. Dawes said the contractors were to receive \$500,000, and having already received \$200,000, they can wait.

Mr. Dawes moved a similar proviso to the next item, appropriating \$100,000. Adopted.

The House, by a vote of 34 against 106, rejected the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, suspending the appropriation of \$178,000 for the survey of the Atlantic and Gulf; \$100,000 for the Western coast, and \$11,000 for the Florida keys and reefs, while the present rebellion existed, excepting such portion as the President may deem necessary and important for blockade or other naval and military purposes.

The bill was then passed.
On motion of Mr. Fenton, New York, it was resolved that the Committee for the District of Columbia be instructed to inquire whether Marshal Lamar has issued an order prohibiting any Senator or Representative from visiting the Washington Jail.

The House then adjourned.

WHAT A MARYLAND LADY DID.—The Richmond correspondent of the Nashville Union tells the following:

Not long ago I told you of the sufferings of Miss Converse on her trip from Philadelphia. I have now to record another instance of female heroism.

A young lady of Maryland, as gentle and genuine a woman as the South contains, but with a true heroine, has after braving many hardships, recently arrived here. Reaching the Potomac, she found a boat and a negro to row it, but the negro refused to attempt to cross, for fear, as he said, that the Yankees might shoot him. Drawing a pistol from her pocket, our heroine told him coolly she would shoot him herself if he didn't cross. The negro quailed, rowed her over to the Virginia shore and thus, utterly alone, she came to her friends in Richmond, with her satchel full of letters, many of them containing money, and with no end of spool thread, needles, pins and other little conveniences now so hard to get in the blockaded South. The name of this heroine ought not to be withheld from the historians. It is Miss Nannie Webster.

A kiss is the first prisoner that escapes when a maiden unlocks her heart to her lover.

Good Suggestions.

We deem it important at this time to publish a number of suggestions in regard to the prevention of fires, which we commend to the attention of housekeepers, tradesmen, manufacturers and others. They are as follows:

Keep matches in metal boxes, and out of the reach of children.
Wax matches are particularly dangerous, and should be kept out of the way of rats or mice.
Be careful in making fires with shavings and other light kindling.
Do not deposit coal or wood ashes in a wooden vessel, and be sure burning cinders are extinguished before they are deposited.
Never put fire-wood upon the stove to dry. Never place ashes or a light under a staircase.

Fill fluid or camphine lamps only by daylight and never near a fire or light.
Do not leave a lamp or candle burning upon the steps of a doorway.
Never leave a candle burning on a bureau or chest.

Always be cautious in extinguishing matches and other lighters before throwing them away.

Never throw a cigar stump upon the floor or into a spit box containing sawdust, or trash without being certain that it retains no fire.

After blowing out a candle, never put it away on a shelf or anywhere else, until sure that the snuff has gone entirely out.

A lighted candle ought not to be stuck up against a frame wall, or placed upon any portion of the wood work in a stable, manufactory shop or other place.

Never enter a barn or stable at night with an uncovered light.

Ostlers should never smoke pipes about stables.
Never take an open light to examine a gas meter.

Do not put gas or other lights, near curtains.
Never take a light into a closet.
Do not read in bed by candle or lamp light.

Place glass shades over gas lights in show windows, and do not crowd glasses too close to them.

No smoking should ever be permitted in warehouses, especially where goods are packed or cotton stored.

The principle register of a furnace should always be fastened open.
Stovepipes should be at least four inches from wood-work, and well guarded by tin.

Rags ought never to be stuffed into stove-pipe holes.
Openings in chimney flues for stove-pipes which are not used, ought always to be securely protected by metallic coverings.

Never close up a place of business in the evening without looking well to the extinguishment of lights, and the proper security of fires.

When retiring to bed at night, always see that there is no danger from your fires, and be sure that the lights are safe.

This is the season of the year when fires are indispensable everywhere, and when the short days and long nights render it necessary to burn lights for many hours.

The above suggestions, if carefully followed, may be the means of preventing numerous fires, and thereby saving thousands of dollars' worth of property, as well as preserving many valuable lives.

RHYMING IN MEETING.—Old Dr. Strong of Hartford, whose name is still a praise in the churches, had an unfortunate habit of saying amusing things when he meant it not so. As when he was presiding in a meeting of ministers, and wishing to call in one of them to come forward and preach he said:

"Brother Colton,
Of Bolton,
Will you step this way,
And pray?"

To which Mr. Colton immediately answered, without intending to perpetrate anything of the same sort:

"My dear brother Strong,
You do very wrong,
To be making a rhyme,
At such a solemn time."

And then Dr. Strong added:

"I'm very sorry to see
That you're just like me!
The good men would not for the world,
Have made jests on such an occasion; but
They could plead the same excuse for the school;
That the boy did for whistling in rhyme;
"I didn't whistle, sir," it whistled itself."

A wag passing by a house which had almost been consumed by fire, inquired whose it was. Being told that it was a hatter's, "Ah!" said he, "then the loss will be felt!"

A clergyman consoling a young widow on the death of her husband, remarked that she could not find her equal. "I'll bet I will!" remarked the sobbing fair one.

Death of Prince Albert.

Prince Albert the husband of Queen Victoria whose death occurred rather suddenly on Sunday, the 15th ult., in London of gastric fever, was born at Rausau, on the 26th of August, 1819. He was the second son of Ernest Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, whose immediate personal superintendence he received an admiral education, which he completed by attending the University of Bonn during three academical sessions. In July 1838, he visited England, in company with Leopold, King of Belgium, and spent some time at the court of the youthful queen, and in November 1839, it was formerly announced to the privy council, by the Queen, that she intended to form a matrimonial alliance with Prince Albert. The secret had long been public property, but was kept in suspense by the decorous contradictions of the ministerial journals. The marriage was solemnized Feb. 10, 1840. For the purpose of rendering him perfectly independent, the magnificent personal allowance of \$150,000 a year was made to him by Parliament. Beside he was a field-marshal, Knight of the Garter, and held a number of other lucrative or honorary appointments. He was a man of refined taste, and an accomplished musician and draughtsman. Forbidden by his position from interfering in politics he occupied himself with superintending the education of his children. The progress of the arts and sciences, and general philanthropic subjects, such as the dwellings of the working classes, sanitary arrangements, &c., also engaged his attention. He was patron and president of numerous charitable institutions, in which he took a personal interest. As President of the Society of Arts, he was the chief promoter of the great exhibition in 1851. He was noted, in a country of scientific agriculturists, for the spirit with which he carried out agricultural experiments, and his farming stock has been frequently exhibited, and gained prizes. As a patron of art, Prince Albert has been particularly active.

CURIOUS.—Eight years ago the wife of John Lambough of Pink Prairie, this county died and was buried in that place. A short time since it became desirable to take up and remove the remains of Mrs. L., and last week Mr. D. L. Smith of this place, was employed to perform the labor. The grave was opened, and the coffin, which was in a state of perfect preservation, was removed; but before depositing it in the new place, it was concluded to open it, especially, as it appeared so uncommonly heavy. It was therefore opened and the body of Mrs. L. was found to be perfectly petrified; every part being as full and fair as on the day of her burial, eight years ago, except the lower part of the face and the hands which were partially decayed. Her limbs breast and every part, with the above exceptions, were solid stone, and as fair and perfect as when she died.—The soil of the grave was clay, and possessed peculiarities discernable. This is an uncommon case, and we had, a curious one. We got these facts from Mr. Smith, the sexton.—Genesee (Ill.) Republican.

A YANKEE and a Frenchman owned a pig in co partnership. When the killing time came, they wished to divide the meat. The Yankee was very anxious to divide so that he could get both hind quarters, and persuaded the Frenchman that the way to divide was to cut it across the back. The Frenchman agreed to do it on condition that the Yankee would turn his back and take the choice of pieces after it was cut in two. The Yankee turned his back accordingly.

Frenchman.—Which piece will you have, ze piece wid ze tail on him, or ze piece vat hain got no tail?

Yankee.—The piece with the tail on.

Frenchman.—Zen by gar you can take him I take ze ozer one.

Upon turning around, the Yankee found the Frenchman had cut off the tail and stuck it in the pig's mouth!

A REFRESHING REVIVAL.—At a late revival meeting one of the brethren became anxious to pile the altar with mourners, and for purpose left his seat and went among the congregation personally exhorting his acquaintances to quit the error of their ways. Approaching an individual who drawlingly talked through his nose he began with:

"Don't you want to go up?"
"Nay."
"Don't you want to join the church?"
"Nay."
"What would you do if the Lord was to come for you?"

"Well," the sinner drawled out, "I'd kill a chicken, cook some biscuit, and do the best I could. Deut reckon he'd get mad at that."

Mr. Jenkins is about to get married. He says, that to live single is not only singular, but "agin natur, law, gospel, common sense, and—fun generally." Jenkins is about right.

Pat Didn't Like to Say.

The Charleston Courier's Richmond correspondent gets off the following:

Frequently the ladies are in the habit of visiting the prisoners, but often from curiosity than sympathy. Another incident is told of an encounter between several of them and an Irishman.

It had become a matter of habit with the fair ones to open conversation with the very natural inquiry, "where are you wounded?" and accordingly when a party of three or four the other day approached our cell they launched out in the usual way. Paddy made believe that he didn't hear distinctly, and replied, "pretty well I thank yez."

Where are you wounded? again fired away one of the ladies. Faith not badly hurt at all I'll be traveling to Richmond in a wake."

Replied Pat with a peculiarly distressing look as if he was in a tight place. Thinking that he was deaf one of the old ladies in the back-ground put her mouth down to his ear and shouted again, "we want to know where you are hurt?"

Pat evidently finding that if the bombardment continued much longer he would have to strike his flag anyhow, concluded to do so at once, and accordingly with a face as rosy as a boiled lobster, and with an angry kind of energy he replied:

"Sure ladies, its not dafat that I am, but since you are determined to know where I've been wounded, its on me sate, the bullet entered behind or me breeches. Please to excuse me feelings and ax me no more questions."

I leave you to imagine the blushing consternation of the inquirers and sudden locomotion of the crimine out the front door.

Since then Pat has been the hero of the hospital, and receives any amount of female visitors, for you know such a thing circulates among the sex like quicksilver on a smooth glass, but they bestow their sympathy in silence and no more ask him, "Where are you hurt?"

CURE FOR FROSTED FEET.—It is said that frozen feet can be speedily and certainly cured by being bathed and well rubbed by kerosene or coal oil for a few times at night before retiring to bed. Several persons have already tried it, all of whom unite in pronouncing it an effectual cure, which, if they are correct, is an easy and cheap mode of getting rid of a very sore and troublesome affliction. Those who have tried it say that the feet should be well warmed by a hot store during and after application of the oil, and it will certainly effect a speedy cure.

Within the past few weeks, some of the Southern cities have suffered from conflagration, to an extent without a parallel. We give below the most disastrous fires, with the dates of their occurrence:—

Dec. 12—Charleston,	\$8,000,000
D. C. 17—Greenville, Aa.,	50,000
Dec. 22—Nashville, Tenn.,	800,000
Jan. 1—Richmond,	65,000
Total,	\$8,915,000

Returned.—A negro boy belonging to Daniel T. Hyde, Esq. of this city, who ran away and went to Brooklyn with the Sixth Regiment N. York volunteers, returned home a few days since, begging pardon for his faults and praying to be restored to the protection of his master. He represented his treatment as being very harsh and far different from what he was led to expect.—Annapolis Rep.

LONGEVITY.—Recently died (on the 23d of October) in East Bradford, Chester county, Hamilton Ballentine, at the advanced age of one hundred and one years. He was a native of Ireland, from whence he came at 83 years of age. He was remarkably hale, and neither hearing nor sight failed him up to the last. He left behind him in this country, in children, grand-children and great-grand-children, eighty descendants.

A young man, named Levi Schoch, hung himself, week before last, in the barn of a gentleman residing near Freiburg, Snyder county.

All of us who are worth anything, spend our manhood in learning the follies or expatiating the mistakes of our youth.

As riches and favor forsake a man we discover him to be a fool; but nobody can find it out in his prosperity.

It is not the multitude of applause, but the good sense of the applauders, that gives value to reputation.

Always be as witty as you can with your parting bow; your last speech is the one remembered.

A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. Kites raise against and not with the wind.

Was it the egg or the chicken that first made its appearance on this terrestrial globe?