

The Columbian.

GEORGE H. MOORE, EDITOR.

BLOOMSBURG, SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1866.

THE COLORADO BILL.

The veto of this bill, on the fifteenth ultimo, by President Johnson, will render proper notice of some points connected with the proposed organization of Colorado into a State.

An act was passed by Congress, and approved March first, 1861, authorizing the people of Colorado Territory, at a certain time and under certain legal regulations, to elect members of a convention to form a State constitution for themselves, and upon its adoption in a regular manner the President was authorized to issue his proclamation announcing the admission of Colorado as a State into the Union.

Pursuant to the enabling act above mentioned a convention was elected and a constitution framed; but upon being submitted to the vote of the people the constitution was rejected. At the election held on the question of adoption only six thousand one hundred and ninety-two votes were polled, while the majority against the constitution amounted to the relatively large number of three thousand one hundred and fifty-three.

Nearly a year afterward, in 1865, a most remarkable proceeding was entered upon by men in the Territory who were desirous of a State organization, and desirous also of enjoying the various interesting offices which would be called into existence by it. The chairman of the Territorial committee representing the two political parties of the Territory joined in making a call for a new convention to form a State constitution.

In the veto message of the President the facts are set forth showing, as near as can be ascertained, the actual population of the Territory. The only census taken in the Territory was that of 1861, when there was a population of about twenty-five thousand, and a vote polled at the Territorial election of about ten thousand.

Here, then, is the case of a Territory, with less than one-fifth the number of inhabitants required in the old States for a member of Congress, asking for admission into the Union as a State, with a Representative and two Senators; that is, Colorado, with a population not exceeding that of Columbia County, is to have an equal voice in the Senate with the great State of Pennsylvania or New York.

While Colorado has but twenty-five thousand or less of population the Territory of New Mexico has nearly one hundred thousand, and Utah still more; and yet it is not proposed now to admit either of these into the Union.

One or two other Territories also exceed Colorado in numbers. It thus clearly appears that the admission of Colorado as a State would be an act of favoritism, and create an invidious distinction among the Territories of the United States.

At the present session of Congress the bill for admitting Colorado, after undergoing full debate in the Senate upon the merits of the question, was rejected by a vote of yeas, 14; nays, 21. Subsequently, without a new fact shown or any new argument produced, the bill was reconsidered and passed. This course of action requires explanation, and that explanation was furnished by Mr. Sumner, when he stated that there were whippers about that two more votes in the Senate were required for political purposes.

THE ASSESSORSHIP.

Upon the establishment of this Revenue District, corresponding to the Thirtieth Congressional District of the State, and composed of the Counties of Bradford, Wyoming, Sullivan, Columbia, and Montour, the appointment of Assessor was conferred upon Benjamin P. Fortner, who served for some time. But charges of misconduct were made against him, and an inquiry instituted, which resulted in his resignation of the office.

Then Major Isaac S. Monroe was appointed, and held the place for sixteen months, until November last, when he was removed, and Palemon John appointed. The latter has not been nominated to the Senate for confirmation, and as a matter of course, his appointment will expire with the present session of Congress.

On the twenty-third of April the President nominated Robert F. Clark, Esq., to the Senate as Assessor, and this nomination is pending. The question is now one of time with the present incumbent. He has held the place seven months without confirmation, but cannot hold it permanently, under the terms of the Constitution, without a nomination or new appointment by the President, which will not be made.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

WHEREAS it has become known to me that certain evil-disposed persons have, within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States, begun and set on foot, and have provided and prepared, and are still engaged in providing and preparing, means for such a military expedition and enterprise, which expedition and enterprise is to be carried on from the territory and jurisdiction of the United States against the colonies, districts, and people of British North America, within the dominions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and people and kingdom of the United States at peace.

Now, therefore, for the purpose of preventing the carrying on of the unlawful expedition and enterprise aforesaid from the territory and jurisdiction of the United States, and to maintain the public peace as well as the national honor, and enforce obedience and respect to the laws of the United States, I, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States, do admonish and warn all good citizens of the United States against taking part in any wise aiding, countenancing, or abetting such unlawful proceedings; and I do exhort all judges, magistrates, marshals, and officers in the service of the United States to employ all their lawful authority and power to prevent and defeat the aforesaid unlawful proceedings, and to arrest and bring to justice all persons who may be engaged therein; and in pursuance of the act of Congress in this case made and provided, I do furthermore authorize and empower Major-General George G. Meade, Commander of the Military Division of the Atlantic, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States and the militia thereof to arrest and prevent the setting on foot and carrying on the expedition and enterprise aforesaid.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and in the year of the independence of the United States the nineteenth. ANDREW JOHNSON, By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

At least twelve hundred Mexicans were executed in one month, at Zacatecas, under Maximilian's decree condemning to death those opposed to his Government.

THE FENIANS.

The daily papers are filled with accounts of Fenian movements, and we transfer a portion of their reports to our columns.

Reports from St. Armand, Canada, state that the town has been evacuated by the inhabitants, who removed everything valuable that they could carry off, and that the people are flocking over the border into the States by hundreds. The bank deposits at St. Armand have all been removed to a safe distance in the interior, and the citizens of the place are in the wildest state of alarm and excitement.

The Canadian volunteers stationed at Smith's farm, the first station near the railroad, on the other side of the line north from Highgate, undertook Monday evening to make some observations near the line, under cover of the darkness; but when near the place they desired to survey they were informed that the Fenians, over a thousand strong, were posted near by, and this bit of information proved too much for the Canucks, and off they rushed like mad, some throwing away their arms and altogether making a most disorderly retreat.

Eleven hundred Fenians, fully armed and well drilled, passed through Sheldon, ten miles east of St. Albans, near noon on Tuesday, and had baggage wagons with them. They are moving north, and two mounted officers brought up the rear.

Ninety-nine out of every one hundred of the people at St. Albans are friendly to the Fenian cause, and many have declared their intention of joining issue with them when the time comes, as they have an old score to settle with the provincials.

General Spear, commanding the right wing of the Fenian army, left St. Albans at two o'clock on Tuesday, for Fairfield, where he was to meet General Sweeney for the purpose of holding a council of war.

General Spear shortly afterward returned from Fairfield, accompanied by General Sweeney. They are consulting with closed doors at the Weldon House. The United States forces are encamped on the green, directly opposite and not one minute's walk from the house. Everything is remarkably quiet.

All the British volunteers have evacuated St. Armand, Canada, leaving their overcoats, knapsacks, etc., under an anticipation of an advance of the Fenians. They locked the wrong switch on the railroad and carried off the key. The train was delayed about an hour in consequence.

St. Armand is on the line which divides Canada from the State of Vermont, and is directly north of Fairfield and about twenty-five miles distant. It is also about the same distance from St. Albans.

General Sweeney remained closeted with Generals Spear, Murphy, and Mahon until eleven o'clock P. M. on Tuesday. The result of the conference, as far as can at present be divulged, is in substance that Fenian prospects are brightening, and that the boys mean fight.

A large crowd congregated about the hotel, and filled all the corridors, anxious to get a glimpse of the General. A number of regular United States officers and soldiers now on duty here, and most of whom had been companions in arms with General Sweeney during the late war, mixed freely with the crowd, and appeared delighted to see their old commander again.

Special dispatches from St. Albans on Tuesday say that the main column of the Fenians commenced moving from Fairfield at four o'clock on Monday afternoon, the column heading toward Canada.

American citizens who have visited Prescott on Tuesday have been subjected to many indignities from the provincials. The presence of three thousand British troops at Prescott and vicinity has inspired the Canadians wonderfully. This uncalculated exhibition of feeling is much resented.

There are now in Malone, N. Y., six hundred Fenians housed in barns, and each furnished with two rations daily.

SALES OF GOLD BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, June 5, 1866. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution adopted by the House of Representatives on the twenty-eighth ultimo:

In obedience to the resolution I respectfully report that the sales of gold belonging to the United States during the month of May, made by the Assistant-Treasurer of New York under the general authority given him by this Department, amounted to the sum of \$35,440,000. The agent by whom the sales were made was Mr. P. M. Myers.

The commission allowed to him for making the sales and for the responsibility of receiving the proceeds and depositing the same in the office of the Assistant-Treasurer of the United States was one-eighth of one per cent. The usual commission for such services, and the smallest commission at which sales can be made under the regulations of the Board of Brokers, of which Mr. Myers is a member. The rates at which the gold was sold were as follows: \$26,655,000 at 130 1/2, \$9,359,000 at 130 1/4, \$50,000 at 130 1/4, \$2,065,000 at 131, \$315,000 at 131 1/2. These constituted all the sales of gold made by this department since the month of February last.

In view of the criticisms of a part of the public press, and in order that the House might be put in possession of all the facts connected with these sales, I requested Mr. Van Dyck, the Assistant-Treasurer of New York, to inform me of the circumstances under which they were made, the reason for selling so largely, and the circumstances which had induced the mode of sale adopted by him, and the selection of this agent. The reply of Mr. Van Dyck, a copy of which is herewith submitted, is so complete in its statements and so satisfactory in its explanation of his action that it is hardly necessary for me to say anything in addition to it in reply to the resolution of the House. The coin received into the Treasury had been prepared for some time past to accumulate, to be held for the purpose of facilitating a return to specie payments, or to be disposed of in any emergency which might render the disposition of it necessary for the protection of the national credit or preventing such a depreciation of the national currency as would effect injuriously the business of the country, and especially the interest of the laboring and producing classes.

It has been my purpose, either by holding or selling, to keep the market steady until the industry of the country, diverted by the war from its legitimate channels, should be brought again into full productive activity, and thus prepare the way for a permanent resumption. My instructions, given at various times to Mr. Van Dyck, have been to make no sales except for the purpose of supplying the Treasury with currency, or for meeting the necessary demands of commerce, or preventing successful combinations either to impair the national credit or to produce serious fluctuations in prices. The correctness of these instructions has been indicated by the general steadiness of the market, the gradual advance of currency toward the true standard of value, and the prevention of financial troubles which so many had anticipated as the legitimate consequence of the war and a superabundant circulating medium.

In the exercise of the discretion conferred upon him Mr. Van Dyck has found it necessary for many months past to make but few sales; and had it not been for the demand which arose in the latter part of February, based upon apprehended political complications, and not upon commercial necessities, which demand it was deemed judicious to meet, and the existing and unexpected financial crisis in Europe, the gold in the Treasury would have been permitted to accumulate up to the present time. The demand in February was met by the sale of some fifteen millions of dollars at a premium of between thirty-seven and thirty-eight per cent., after which the rate gradually declined to twenty-four and one-half per cent., but advanced again to near thirty per cent., beyond which point it was not deemed advisable that it should go; and as there was but little commercial demand no sales by the Government were deemed necessary until unfavorable financial intelligence was received from Europe. Upon the receipt of this intelligence the demand became active, but it was met without a heavy depletion of the Treasury. On the receipt, however, of the disastrous news by the Cuba, the demand assumed a serious character. This news reached New York late in the afternoon, but before the stock board had closed. It was then too late to obtain instructions from this department, and sales were resolutely continued and unparaltered excitement. Had there been time for Mr. Van Dyck to advise me in regard to the news brought over by the Cuba, and to receive my instructions, the probability is that sales would have been suspended before so large an amount of coin had been disposed of. But in the light of facts since developed, I concur in the opinion expressed by you that a suspension of sales before the demand had been freely supplied would have added to the excitement, and resulted in a panic which would have produced serious and extensive disaster. I received the intelligence of the unexpected heavy sales with regret; but I have since become satisfied that the action of the Assistant-Treasurer and his agent was not only under the circumstances courageous, but judicious.

This opinion, as I am advised, is entertained by many of the soundest merchants and bankers of New York. The correctness or incorrectness of it can be better determined when the effect of the sales and the heavy, and perhaps consequent, shipment of coin upon the Eng-

lish market and the reactive influence thereof upon our own shall be fully ascertained. It may not be improper for me, in conclusion, to remark, although the fact is indicated in the accompanying letter, that the selection of agents and the manner of disposing of the gold were committed to the discretion of Mr. Van Dyck, and that, but for the unexpected sales in February and May, the services of Mr. Myers, who for months had neglected his own business in looking after the public interests at the gold-room, would have been a gratuity to the Government. I am, with great respect, Sir, your obedient servant, H. McCULLOCH, Secretary of the Treasury. HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY.

The news received on the first instant from the River Platte makes it certain that the war which has now for more than two years been desolating the Atlantic States of South America is speedily drawing to a close. After several months spent in preparation, the allies have at length succeeded in forcing a passage at the Parana, and in crossing their whole army into Paraguayan Territory. After many reconnoissances and skirmishes between the vessels of the Brazilians and the Paraguayans, two Brazilian brigades, on April fifth, occupied the island of Carvalho, situated a few miles west of Paso de la Patria, at the confluence of the Parana and the Parana. On the tenth of April, a large force of the Paraguayans made an attempt to dislodge the Brazilians in charge of the island battery, but were routed with great slaughter, losing in killed, wounded, prisoners, and drowned nine hundred to one thousand men, and fifty canoes, or flats, while the loss of the Brazilians did not exceed one hundred and fifty.

On the sixteenth of April ten thousand Brazilians, under General Osorio, effected a landing a little up the Parana and drove back the enemy's skirmishers. On the next morning they defeated a Paraguayan force of three thousand men with a great loss, and being joined by an equal force of Argentines and Orientals, took possession of the Fort of Itapicui (immediately northwest of Paso de la Patria).

By the nineteenth, all the allied force had passed over, with their cannon and cavalry, and encamped within a half a league of the entrenched camp of the Paraguayans. The latter did not make a stand, but abandoned their camp and retreated to their great stronghold, Humaita (on the Parana, a few miles above the confluence of the Parana and the Parana). It was considered as certain that Humaita could not be held, and that the war would be speedily ended. In addition to the above force of the allies which entered the Paraguayan country in its southwestern corner, another army of twelve thousand Brazilians, under Baron Porto Alegre, had invaded Paraguay from the southeast, and was marching upon the capital, Asuncion. The military superiority of the allies over the Paraguayans is now so great that news of the submission of Lopez and the end of the war may be expected by the next mail-steamers.

With the war will probably end the Presidency of Lopez, and his chief result is likely to be a radical change in the constitution of Paraguay.—New York Tribune.

TAXATION.

HAD that magnificent pedlar, Sir Morton Peto, but known that two-thirds of the newspaper correspondents in this city were desirous of doing his work gratis, he might have saved the expense and trouble of making a book to prove free trade good for America, and protection the very thing for England.

Excepting your correspondent and a few others, all the gentlemen of the press in this city are either in full sympathy with the intriguers against our industrial interests or strangely oblivious to their course. Else why has Congress been encouraged to delay the reduction of the crushing war tax until too late to take effect this year? And now that the outrageously delayed Revenue bill has at length seen the light, why is there not a greater reduction made?

The fact ought not to be longer disguised that the last and present Congress have both neglected our industrial interests in the most shameful and inexcusable manner. And now that the subject is before it, members are frittering away time in discussing details, having passed entirely over the principal question, whether an overtaxed or lightly-taxed nation raises a revenue the easiest.

HEALTH OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Under direction of the President Dr. Cooper has made a medical examination of Jeff. Davis, and reports as follows:

Fortress Monroe, Va., May 9, 1866. Sir,—In compliance with directions from the President of the United States to me, given through the office of the Adjutant-General, I have made a special examination of State prisoner Jefferson Davis, now in confinement at this post, and report the following to be the result of said examination: He is considerably emaciated, the fatty tissue having almost disappeared, leaving his skin much shriveled. His muscles are small, flaccid, and very soft, and he has but little muscular strength. He is quite weak and debilitated. Consequently his gut is becoming uneven and irregular. His digestive organs at present are in comparatively good condition, but become quickly deranged under anything but the most carefully-prepared food.

With a diet disagreeing with him, dyspeptic symptoms promptly make their appearance, soon followed by vertigo, severe facial and cranial neuralgia, and erysipellous inflammation of the posterior scalp and right side of nose, which quickly affects the right eye, the only one he now has, and extends through the nasal duct into the interior nose. His nervous system is greatly deranged, being much prostrated and excessively irritable. Slight noises, which are scarcely perceptible to a man in robust health, cause him much pain, the description of the sensation being as of one flayed, and having every sentient nerve exposed to the waves of sound. Want of sleep has been a great and almost the principal cause of his nervous excitability. This has been produced by the tramp of the creaking boots of the sentinels on post round the prison-room, and the relief of the guard at the expiration of every two hours, which almost invariably awakens him. Prisoner Davis states that he has scarcely enjoyed over two hours of sleep unbroken at one time since his confinement. Means have been taken, by placing matting on the floors for the sentinel to walk on, to alleviate this source of disturbance, but with only partial success. His vital condition is low, and he has but little recuperative force. Should he be attacked by any of the severe forms of disease to which the tide-water region of Virginia is subject, I, with reason, fear for the result. A copy of this report I have furnished to the Headquarters of the Military District of Fortress Monroe, in compliance with orders from the Major-General Commanding.

Respectfully, your obt' serv't, GEORGE E. COOPER, Surgeon U. S. A.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY LAWS.

At the recent session of the Pennsylvania Legislature several acts were passed changing or modifying the general laws of the Commonwealth relative to property and other rights. Some of the changes are important. We have no doubt that every one of them was designed to affect some particular case, but still they now form a part of the general body of our State laws, and it is of interest to the public to be informed of their passage, particularly as the pamphlet laws are seldom ever published before the close of the Summer. The following will give the substance of those we refer to:

In all cases in equity in which a special injunction has been or shall be granted by any Court of Common Pleas or District Court, an appeal to the Supreme Court shall be allowed without affidavit or security; but such appeal shall not suspend the operation of such special injunction, or the proceedings in the original suit.

Any person whose husband or wife is non compos mentis, and possessed of real estate, is empowered to sell, mortgage, lease for years, and convey upon ground rent the same or any part thereof, under the direction of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper county, whenever it shall appear that it is to the interest of the owner thereof to make such disposition of the property. It is to be provided also that such sale shall divest such premises from any estate or claim of power; and any estate as tenants by the courtesy.

The powers and jurisdictions conferred upon justices of the peace by the landlord and tenant act of December 15, 1865, are conferred upon the aldermen in this Commonwealth, any of whom may act with the like effect as may be done by any justice of the peace by virtue of said act.

All judgments in foreign attachments heretofore liquidated in accordance with the law and practice as it was previous to May 8, 1855, are declared valid and binding judgments, the same as if they had been liquidated according to the provisions of the act of said date.

The Judge of a court before whom any writ of habeas corpus shall be returnable, is empowered to issue subpoenas, and all other process necessary to compel the attendance of witnesses.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The New York Board of Health, in their cholera-preventive researches, have discovered that one of the citizens of that place, who resides near Fifty-fifth Street and Seventh Avenue, asks for no better accommodation than is afforded by a barrel and a few pieces of old carpeting, spread upon the rocks in that region. He also subsists upon dead rats and cats, and does many other unusual things, the whole of which have so astonished the Board of Health that they have proclaimed him a nuisance, to be removed forthwith.