

Proceedings of Congress.

The proceedings of Congress have become somewhat interesting, we publish an abstract principally copied from the Baltimore American:

In the Senate on the 2d, majority and minority reports were presented from the Committee on Foreign Relations in favor and against the indemnification for the Amistad negroes. The House bill making appropriations for the national armories was passed. The Senate then resumed the consideration of the army bill, and whilst engaged on it received a Message from the President on Kansas affairs, accompanied by the Lecompton Constitution. It is an earnest statement of the President's views, but furnishes nothing new, either in fact or argument, in relation to the much vexed subject. A motion was immediately made to refer it to the Committee on Territories. Mr. Douglas presented a protest against the admission of Kansas, signed by the Governor and State officers (Free State) elected in that Territory, and also moved its reference to the Committee on Territories. The President's Message states that no official returns of the election on the 21st January, at which State officers were elected, have yet been received. After a brief debate, without coming to a vote, the Senate adjourned.

The House was engaged with the printing deficiency bill. After amending the bill in various important points, it was put upon its passage and rejected. The Message from the President on the subject of Kansas and accompanied by the Lecompton Constitution was received. Propositions to refer the Message to Select Committees were made, and then the House adjourned.

In the Senate on the 3d, Mr. Wilson offered an amendment to the motion referring the Kansas Message and Lecompton Constitution to the Committee on Territories, the object of the amendment being to provide for its reference to a special committee with authority to inquire whether said Constitution had been framed in accordance with law and with the consent of a majority of the people of Kansas. Mr. Trumbull made an ineffectual effort to call up the report of the Judiciary Committee upon the right of the Indiana Senators, Messrs. Fitch and Bright, to their seats. A debate on the Kansas question followed.

In the House, J. D. Williamson, arrested as a witness in the tariff bribery case, was brought up and given until next day to purge himself of contempt in refusing to answer the summons of the investigating committee. From the Committee on Naval Affairs a majority and minority report was made in relation to Commodore Paulding's arrest of Gen. Walker, the former condemning, the latter applauding the act. The House then debated the report of the Committee in relation to the contested seat of Mr. Campbell of Ohio.

In the Senate on the 4th, Mr. Jones, of Iowa, presented the resolutions of the Legislature of that State instructing its Senators to oppose the Lecompton Constitution or resign, and though he admitted that a majority of the people of Iowa would approve these resolutions, yet he declared that he had not the most remote idea of obeying these instructions. Mr. Mason submitted a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, inquiring into the propriety of extending to the Turkish Commissioner, who it is understood will shortly visit this country, an appropriate reception. The question of the contested seats of the Indiana Senators was then taken up.

In the House the Speaker announced the appointment of Messrs. Boyce, Quitman, Trippie, Garnett, Mott, Wortendyke and Spinner as the select committee to consider the navigation laws of the United States, the reduction of the expenditures of the Government, and the existing duties on imports and the expediency of a gradual repeal on all duties on imports, and a resort exclusively to internal taxation, as proposed by Mr. Boyce's resolution. Mr. J. B. Williamson, the recusant witness in the tariff fraud case, was brought before the bar of the House and after being examined was allowed further time to amend his answer. The consideration of the case of Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, whose seat is contested, was then resumed.

The Senate was not in session on the 5th. In the House a resolution offered by Gen. Quitman was adopted calling on the President for information as to the number of soldiers engaged in the late war with Great Britain and in the Indian wars of the same period, and also for an estimate of the expenditure of extending to them the benefit of the Revolutionary pension laws. The resolution declining to give Mr. Campbell further time to take testimony in the contested election case involving his seat was adopted.

A letter was received from J. D. Williamson stating that when subpoenaed he was under bonds in New York and was advised by counsel that if he left voluntarily his bonds would be forfeited, which fact, and not any intention to commit contempt, was the cause of his disobeying the mandate. This statement being deemed satisfactory, he was discharged from custody. Mr. Harris, of Illinois, moved the appointment of a select committee to enquire generally into the facts attending the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution. He moved the previous question in order to bring out a test vote on the reference of the President's Kansas message. The parliamentary contest then commenced, and motions to adjourn, &c., were made amid much confusion and good humored excitement. The motion was finally lost. The parliamentary struggle continued until Saturday morning at 7 o'clock, the hours of the night session being spent in efforts to prevent the taking of the question on the motion of Mr. Harris, Douglas Democrat, to refer the Message to a special committee of thirteen, with authority to investigate alleged frauds by which the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution was procured.

Motions for a call of the House, for the ayes and nays upon a variety of trivial questions, and similar parliamentary tactics were resorted to by the Administration party. Up to two o'clock the struggle continued in a good humored though not at all dignified manner, when a disgraceful and violent scene occurred through an indiscretion upon the part of Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, of which the following appears to be a correct account:

About a quarter before two o'clock, while various motions to kill time and prevent definite action were put, and while many members, knowing that there was no special business on hand and no likelihood of a vote, were lounging and dosing in their seats or moving promiscuously about the Hall, Mr. Grow of Pennsylvania, whose seat is about the centre of the western side of the House, where the Republican members nearly all sit, found himself on the opposite side, whose inhabitants are chiefly Democrats.

There is a passage or aisle between the seats, leading from the North-east corner of the Hall to the Speaker's chair, making a radius of the circle of member's desks. Mr. Grow was quietly walking down this aisle, when Mr. Keitt of South Carolina, and Mr. Reuben Davis of Mississippi, approached him. Mr. Quitman had risen, and Mr. Grow had objected to his speaking.

Said Mr. Keitt, "if you want to object, you had better go to your own side of the House."

"This is a free land," said Mr. Grow, "and every man has a right to go where he pleases."

"What do you mean by such an answer as that?" said Mr. Keitt.

"I mean just what I said," replied Mr. Grow, and repeated the remark.

Mr. Keitt then seized him by the collar, exclaiming: "I will let you know that you are a d—d Black Republican puppy."

Mr. Grow thrust his hand aside with violence, saying: "I shall occupy such a place as I please, and no nigger driver shall crack his whip over me."

Again Mr. Keitt seized him by the throat, and was again driven off by Mr. Grow, and on the attempt being repeated, Mr. Grow delivered a well aimed blow and knocked Mr. Keitt down.

There was a rush of members from the opposite side of the Hall, and from all quarters. Mr. Barksdale of Mississippi, rushed in to separate the combatants. Mr. Washburn of Illinois, who has a front seat on the Republican side, thinking he was going to help Keitt, hurled into the melee and knocked Mr. Barksdale's wig off.

Reinforcements arrived from all quarters, and for a couple of minutes there was a furious contest, but fortunately no one was hurt, and by the aid of the Sergeant at Arms, the principal combatants were parted and order was restored.

Speaker Orr, who is a colleague and friend of Keitt, was as pale as a sheet, but composed and collected in manner. The moment the combatants were separated, there was a quiet that was startling in the effect. The Speaker directed the roll to be called on a motion to excuse a member from voting, and the business went on until 6 o'clock, when a motion to adjourn prevailed.

In the Senate on the 8th, Mr. Allen presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Rhode Island, remonstrating against the Lecompton Constitution. The resolution referring the President's Kansas Message to the Committee on Territories was taken up. A resolution from Senator Wilson proposing to send for persons and papers and examine into all the facts connected with the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution was rejected by a majority of six votes, and the reference to the Territorial Committee prevailed. Pending an effort on the part of Senator Douglas to call up his motion asking the President for information upon Kansas affairs the Senate adjourned.

In the House, according to the agreement adopted upon Saturday morning, the first business taken up was the call for the previous question upon the motions for the reference of the President's Kansas Message. The call was sustained, and the question then recurring on the motion to refer to the Committee on Territories it was lost, yeas 113, nays 114. The amendment of Mr. Harris, referring the Message to a select committee of thirteen, to inquire into all the facts relating to the formation and adoption of the Lecompton Constitution, was adopted, yeas 114, nays 111, and a motion to reconsider the vote just had laid upon the table by a vote of yeas 115, nays 111. Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, made an apology for the violation of the decorum of the House on Saturday morning, admitting that he was the aggressor and taking the entire responsibility of the occurrence upon himself. He denied any knowledge of having received a blow during the collision. Mr. Grow also apologized, and the House then adjourned.

Holloway's Pills.—When this great vegetable alterative and detergent was introduced, the want of centuries was supplied. It is the only preparation before the world which eradicates disease without enfeebling the patient, that cures indigestion and all the complaints arising therefrom, that restores the disordered nerves, that regulates the functions of the bowels and liver, that expels all morbid matter from the animal fluids, that causes the constitution itself to recover its elasticity and strength, and that, in short, fulfills the design of all stimulants, tonics, cathartics and alteratives, without entailing any of the unpleasant consequences, immediate or remote, which flow from the use of ordinary medicines.

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LOCAL AFFAIRS.

DROWNED.—A boy at the poor house named Crozier, aged about 8 years, was sent on an errand on Saturday morning, and a basket which he was pitching before him having got into the creek, he slipped in his efforts to recover it on the high bank near the poor house, fell into the water and was drowned. His body was subsequently recovered, an inquest held by Coroner McCord, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the above facts.

SAD ACCIDENT.—Frederick Heigus, of Derry township, met with a severe accident on Thursday last, while engaged in cutting timber near Rothrock's mill, which rendered an amputation of his leg between the ankle and knee necessary. It appears that a saw log which was sent through the chute from above, met with an impediment near where he was working, causing one end to fly around, striking him below the knee, and fearfully crushing that part and his foot. It was amputated by Dr. Van Valzah, assisted by John Van Valzah and Joseph Milliken, Jr.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT FROM FLUID.—An alarm of fire was raised on Sunday evening, caused by the appearance of flames in the second story of a house next door to the Red Lion Hotel, occupied by Major D. Eisenbise as a dwelling. The room was occupied by Mrs. Eisenbise, who had the door locked, being engaged at the time of the accident in reading the Bible. On bursting it open, a fearful sight was presented. Mrs. E.'s dress having caught from a fluid lamp, which she was tilting over to wet the wick, a custom too much in vogue with those who use these lamps. The top being probably loose, the burning fluid ran on her dress, in a moment enveloping the upper part of her body in a sheet of flame. In efforts to extinguish the fire Major and Alex. Eisenbise had their hands severely burnt—nor did they and others succeed until she was so severely burnt as to render a recovery almost hopeless. Several physicians were in attendance, who rendered all the aid that science and skill could suggest, but after lingering until about 4 o'clock on Monday morning, her sufferings were terminated by death. Mrs. E. was a native of Reading, was well known as the attentive landlady of that hotel for many years, enjoyed a high reputation among her friends as a kind and obliging neighbor, and her sad end has called forth a general sympathy.

At a special meeting of the Washingtonians held at the Town Hall on Monday evening last, meetings were appointed to be held at the following places:

- Keilly's School House, Derry township, on Friday evening, February 12th.
- Locke's Mills, Thursday evening, February 18th.
- Milroy, Friday evening, February 19th.

The following persons were elected Vice Presidents: Wm. Montgomery, Geo. C. Smith, Jas. Kerr, John Phearer, Martin Hopper, Absalom Snyder and Henry Stahl.

On motion, C. E. Thomas and J. A. McKee were appointed Assistant Secretaries.

John Davis, Daniel Fiechthorn, John Cubbison, Samuel Belford, Henry Book, Bernard Riley, James Parker, James McDowell, L. J. Elberty, James McCord, William Lind and Benjamin Stauber were appointed a Vigilance Committee.

The regular meeting on Tuesday evening was largely attended. Col. J. Hamilton, Thos. M. Utley, James A. Belford, Chas. Stratford, Rev. Thos. Stuart, and Rev. Dr. Woods delivered addresses.

RECOVERED.—Some silver watches, a portion of those stolen from G. W. Gibson's jewelry establishment some time ago, were recovered the other day through the indiscretion of the robber, who commenced an anonymous correspondence with Mr. Gibson, and as an evidence of his sincerity pointed out where the above watches could be obtained. For the remainder, excepting a few which had been disposed of, he demanded that a certain sum of money (\$70) should be deposited at a specified place, when they would also be pointed out. At this stage of the proceedings, and before this arrangement was consummated, circumstances seemed to point to a young man of this place, who was accordingly arrested and committed. The watches recovered appear to have been buried or hid in a damp place, as they are considerably rusted.

A number of men and boys are in the habit of defacing the walls at the Town Hall with pencil, chalk, kale, &c. We will pay a reward of one dollar for testimony sufficient to convict any one who may hereafter engage in this low-lived business, or in cutting seats, benches, doors, window frames, or other woodwork at that building.

If you wish to raise your boys in the way they should not go, turn them out on the street every night.

EXHIBITION.—The scholars attending the Lewistown Academy gave an exhibition on Saturday evening last at the Town Hall, which came off with considerable eclat, though mingled, as is always the case, with good, bad and indifferent speaking. A number of compositions were also read, some of which were highly creditable to the authors. The hall was crowded to excess. A light charge was made for admission, and we are pleased to learn that the receipts, after deducting expenses, will make a considerable addition to the library.

Under the management of Mr. Warner, the Academy has regained a high standing and liberal patronage.

A smoke and wash house on the premises of Mrs. Cunningham in Kishacoquillas valley, was destroyed by fire last week.

A wild cat was killed in Granville on Monday by James Brothers (son of Joseph)—making the second shot in that region this winter.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The following is an abstract of the Annual Report of J. Edgar Thompson, President of the road:

The report opens with a reference to the financial crisis, and mentions that the failure of the semi-annual profits in November owing to this cause; the profits would have been a reasonable dividend, but they had been invested in constructing and equipping the mortgage bonds would enable the Directors to replace them in time for the dividend, or the sacrifice of its securities and the temporary inconvenience of the shareholders. The Board could not hesitate, and the permanent dividend will be undoubtedly been commuted. A dividend will not be declared until the Board has determined to reduce the dividend (which is now about 5 percent on the stock) to 3 percent, and hereafter not to allow it to exceed this limit.

It has been urged that the suspended dividend should be divided among the stockholders as convertible scrip, but it has not been thought proper to do so at present. At a future period this disposition of these profits may be advisable.

The earnings of the road during the year, as reported by the General Superintendent, were \$4,855,662 97. From which deduct tolls paid Phila and Colbin (State) road, \$239,365 97; Harrisburg and Lancaster RR, \$24,949 71; Northern Central RR, \$4,901 17; Phila City RR, \$3,903 99.

Leaving the business of the Pennsylvania RR, proper, \$4,387,348 13. From this deduct transportation expenditure and tonnage duties \$2,484,926 97.

Leaving the surplus earnings of the road for 1857, \$1,902,421 16. From which deduct the following items, not included in the statement of the General Superintendent: Interest on Funded Debt, as it stood Jan 1, 1858, which is more than it accrued during the year, \$444,775 48; Excess gen'l office, \$38,430 94; State tax paid on Stock and Bonds, \$5,806 42; Balance of rent acct., \$25,513 07; Dif. in interest on bills payable and receivable, \$34,000 00; Five months of accrued interest on purchase of Main Line, Jan 1, 1856, \$1,156,250 00.

754,773 81.

There is a balance of \$1,100,150 35 which is more than sufficient for a dividend, the balance being added to the capital of the Company.

Any additional allowance for deterioration would seem to be unnecessary, but if we plan \$175,677 to "Contingent and Renewal Fund," there would still remain \$924,472 53, which is equivalent to a dividend of seven percent upon the present capital of the Company.

The whole number of passengers carried between Philadelphia and Pittsburg is equivalent to 143,613 passing over the whole length of the road, showing a decrease of 5,040 passengers. Upon the Harrisburg and Lancaster Railroad (leased by the Company), adding the number carried over the whole length of the equivalent distance, was 140,329, being 2,284 less than the equivalent through passengers carried on the Pennsylvania Railroad; showing that the local business on the Pennsylvania Railroad, though traversing a mountainous region intersected by rich valleys, is to be greater than that of its associate, though passing for its whole length through the wealthy and populous counties of Dauphin and Lancaster.

The gross earnings of the road for the year ending on the 31st of Dec 1857, were \$3,376,516 26, being an increase of \$132,284 69.

The year 1858 will be the first under which the whole line from Philadelphia to Pittsburg will be operated by the Company, and from this period the accounts of the Company will be kept so as to be of greater value for future reference in exhibiting the development of the traffic of the line.

The report gives a condensed sketch of the purchase of the Main Line, and states that bonds of the Company for the amount (\$2,500,000) have been delivered to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth. Provision has been made for the gradual extinguishment of the debt assumed by the purchase of the Main Line. The cars now in use were found in a very dilapidated condition, but the purchase is a good one for the Company, inasmuch as the whole line can now be operated with greater efficiency. The Columbia Railroad was found in better order than the canals.

The report says that the Company have just claim on the State for certain heavy repairs, &c., made on the purchased railway, which accounts for a seemingly heavy outlay on the part, now known as the Philadelphia Division of road.

The ordinary running expenses of this portion of the road, have been largely increased, and will be still further circumscribed as circumstances permit.

Upon the other portions of the road the increased expenses are mainly due to the increased tonnage transported, except for the cost of iron, rails, &c., and repairs of bridges.

The prevailing low prices of labor and materials will be sensibly felt during 1858, but will fully compensate for any anticipated decrease in the business of the road.

Little progress has been made with the second track; on the Western Division 22 miles of second track have been laid, with 13 miles of sidings and a single track branch to Indiana containing 20 miles. On the Eastern Division 70 miles of second track and 124 miles of sidings have been laid. The branch from Altoona to Hollidaysburg, eight miles in length, including sidings, is equivalent to 10 miles of second track. \$1,088,396 36 is yet required to complete the double track and substituting iron bridges for the present wooden ones, except the Susquehanna bridge.

The remainder of the report discusses the connections of the Pennsylvania Railroad with the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, and their other important connections, and to meet any demands which may arise the present year. The necessary changes which have been made since the purchase of the Main Line, in the manner of conducting the duties of the General Superintendent, and the late resignations of Messrs. Spangler, Farnum and Carpenter, are also alluded to. The vacancy on the Board of Directors have been filled by the appointment of Messrs. John Hulme, G. D. Koenigstein and Wistar Morris.

NOTICE TO CARPENTERS & PLASTERERS.

PROPOSALS will be received by the undersigned at the house of Samuel Myers, Sr., on MONDAY, the 22d DAY OF FEBRUARY, for the carpenter work and planing of a Meeting House of the German Methodist Church, to be erected in the west end of Ferguson's Valley. Specifications will be made known at the time. Proposals will be received or specifications may be seen at the residence of Oliver township, Mifflin county. JOSEPH R. HANAWALT, SAMUEL MYERS, Sr., PETER S. MYERS, Building Committee. Feb. 11-2t.