Pittsburgh Gazette.

TUESDAY MORNING.....FEB. 9, 1864.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

The Public Roads—Efforts to Improve their Condition.

On Monday afternoon, in response to a public call, a number of citizens assembled in Splane's Building, Fifth street, for the purpose of adopting some measures to secure the improvement of the public thoroughfares leading from this city, upon which tolls are collected.

Mr. Joseph Dilworth was appointed Chairman, and Mr. J. G. Davis Secretary.

Mr. John T. Bennett gave a brief history of the efforts heretofore made to improve the public roads, by taking legal measures to compel a compliance with the laws governing road corporations. He also read the opinion of Judge Mellon in the case of Dr. O'Bryan vs. The Birmingham and Brownsville Turnpike Road Company. Several months had been spent in prosecuting Mr. Burns, as lessee of the road, and the only good which resulted was an imposition of a fine of one hundred dollars—but, during "the law's delay," Mr. Burns had collected tolls amounting to $3,000. It was needless to say that, under such circumstances, the public had no remedy adequate to correct the evil complained of. The common law remedy was considered and adjudged equally insufficient. The Equity side of the Court had also been applied to, and after taking voluminous testimony on both sides, consuming much time, and involving an expense of not less than one thousand dollars, the bill of the complainant had been dismissed. It was absolutely necessary, therefore, to make an effort in a new direction, looking toward a reform. If the present legislation was insufficient, as it really seemed to be, then the General Assembly should be appealed to, and an act passed which would bring relief. Mr. Bennett had no suggestion to make, but his opinion was that all past efforts had been utterly in vain.

Mr. J. K. Morange moved the appointment of a committee of three, to prepare business for the meeting.

The motion was agreed to, and the chair appointed Messrs. J. K. Morange, J. H. O'Bryan, and R. H. Patterson.

After a brief absence the Committee reported the following:

Resolved, That a Committee of — be appointed by the chair, to correspond with the members of the present Legislature from this county, and request them to prepare and have passed such a bill as will afford us a more speedy and effectual relief from the evils now complained of—the present mode of proceeding under legislative enactment being entirely inadequate for the purpose.

Mr. R. H. Hartley moved to amend by adding—"and that said bill or act shall provide for an increase of the present rate of tolls."

Mr. Trunick called attention to the financial condition of the Temperanceville and Noblestown Plankroad company. The tolls were inadequate to keep the road in repair, and he favored the amendment. No dividends had been declared for three years, and all the receipts had been judiciously expended upon the road. When this was done, what more could the public expect? He had considerable interest at stake personally, but he was willing to sacrifice it all for good roads.

Mr. Mansfield B. Brown favored the amendment. Three years ago, first mortgage bonds, amounting to $9,000, had been issued, for the repair of the Temperanceville and Noblestown Plankroad, and this amount, together with the entire receipts, except the necessary expenses for toll collectors, etc., had been expended upon the road—still it was not in good condition. The road could not be kept in proper repair at the present rate of toll. He was largely interested in this road, and he knew that its affairs had been judiciously managed, notwithstanding the allegations to the contrary. He expressed himself willing, however, to sacrifice his personal interest, large as it was, if by doing so a good road could be guaranteed.

A gentleman suggested that the increase of the rate of tolls would be a matter for the several corporations to attend to, and that it did not properly belong to this meeting.

William A. Herron, Esq., moved that the amendment be laid upon the table.

Mr. Bennett favored the motion to lay upon the table. He was of the opinion that all the franchises of every toll-collecting road should be annulled, and the roads taken charge of by those who would respect their obligations to the traveling public. He had positively refused to pay toll for some time, and the gates had been shut upon him, but he would wait quietly until some one else came along, when the gate would have to be opened, and he was of course the first to drive through!

Mr. W. S. Bissell called attention to the fact that the Perrysville road had already a petition, asking for legislative authority to double the rate of tolls on that road.

The question upon Mr. Herron's motion to lay upon the table was then called, and the motion prevailed by an almost unanimous vote.

The original motion was then adopted by a large vote.

Mr. Isaac Jones moved that the blank be filled by inserting the word "five," which was agreed to, and Messrs. Isaac Jones, J. H. O'Bryan, M. B. Brown, R. H. Patterson and J. F. Bennett appointed on said committee.

Dr. J. A. Herron then submitted the following:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed by the Chair to prosecute the different corporations, under the present laws, until legislative action is obtained.

Mr. Bennett opposed any further prosecutions, as his experience in that line fully satisfied him that no practical good would result from them.

The resolution was adopted, and Messrs. J. A. Herron, R. H. Patterson, W. S. Jackson, J. P. Wilson and W. B. Posey were appointed a committee.

It was agreed that two members of the committee to correspond with members of the Legislature, should be authorized to call a meeting of the citizens at any time.

W. A. Herron, Esq., expressed regret at the want of interest manifested in the meeting, as indicated by the paucity in numbers. The matter was one of vital importance to every citizen. He had been deeply mortified to hear strangers express the opinion that "we had worse roads about Pittsburgh than any other place they had ever seen," etc. The roads were actually a disgrace to the citizens, and if gentlemen would only express their minds freely on the subject, it would contribute much towards correcting the evil. He was sorry to see gentlemen present who were backward about speaking out plainly just as they felt.

Mr. Hartly stated that the Farmers' and Mechanics' Turnpike Road was about being abandoned, as it could not be maintained under existing circumstances. A good deal had been said about "large receipts," "pocketing money," etc., but he knew that the affairs of the corporation had been faithfully managed, and every cent earned during the past five years had been judiciously expended on the road. Any gentleman disposed to verify this statement, to his own satisfaction, was invited to call upon him, and he would take pleasure in exhibiting the vouchers, receipts, and other documents belonging to the corporation.

Mr. Dilworth read a bill which has already passed the House, providing for the abandonment of the above named road, the receipts being insufficient to keep it in repair.

Mr. J. G. Davis moved the appointment of a committee of three, to collect funds for the purpose of defraying the expenses attending the prosecution of derelict road corporations.

The motion was agreed to, and Messrs. J. G. Davis, Alex. King and Wm. A. Herron were appointed—Mr. Davis to act as Treasurer.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to re-assemble in the same place, on Saturday, February 20th, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Lectures on the Atmosphere.

Last evening Professor W. C. Richards gave the first of his series of lectures on the philosophy and chemistry of the atmosphere, illustrated with many beautiful and interesting experiments, in Concert Hall. He is a pleasing speaker, and seems to be thoroughly master of his subject, while his apparatus is the most extensive and complete we have ever seen. It is rare indeed that such an opportunity is presented for combining the acquisition of valuable scientific knowledge with chaste and elegant amusement. He had a large and appreciative auditory, who enjoyed the lecture and experiments highly. The subject and the experiments will become more and more interesting as he progresses.

This evening he continues the subject of atmospheric pressure, illustrated by numerous interesting and curious experiments.

COUGHS.—As a soothing pectoral, Brown's Bronchial Troches are advantageously employed to alleviate Coughs, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, and Bronchial affections.

Military officers and Soldiers should have them, as they can be carried in the pocket and taken as occasion requires.

For sale at Fulton's drug store, Fifth street, Pittsburgh.

Firemen's Association.

A regular quarterly meeting of the Firemen's Association was held on Monday evening, Feb. 8th.

Present—Messrs. Hare, Dorrington, Mackey, Simms, Montgomery, Nowhouse, Hammill, E. Hall, Cupples, Creegan, Warden, Rosewell, Swint, Little, Sawyer, Jr., and Irvin, President.

The Secretary, Mr. Dorrington, read the resignation of J. H. Stewart, Esq., Sheriff, as a delegate from the Vigilant Fire Company.

On motion the resignation was accepted.

The credentials of Mr. George W. Leonard who was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Stewart, were read by the Secretary, and Mr. Leonard was admitted to a seat as a delegate.

Mr. Hare offered a resolution, that the different fire companies be notified that the Relief Fire Company desire to come into the Association as a Steam Fire Engine Company. Adopted.

Mr. Cupples moved a committee be appointed to investigate certain allegations contained in an article in a morning newspaper, relative to certain transactions at the fire at Messrs. Bunton, Miller & Co.'s planing mill. The motion was agreed to, and Messrs. Cupples, Swint and Hammill appointed on the committee.

Mr. Mackey suggested that the committee take into consideration also the conduct of certain companies at the fire at Jenks' machine shop.

Mr. Hammill offered the following:

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to ask Councils to pass an ordinance at their earliest convenience, which will compel the owners or lessees of all public halls, schools, churches, and other buildings where large bodies assemble for pleasure or worship, to so alter the doors that they shall open *from* the hall, instead of *into* the hall, as at present—and the doors on the street, during the use of any hall, to be opened to their greatest extent, and secured in that position with bolts, to prevent them from becoming closed in case of fire or other accident.

The resolution was adopted, and Messrs. Sawyer, Tibby and Newhouse were appointed upon the committee.

On motion, the Secretary of the Association was requested to notify Councils that the appropriation for the Relief Company should be increased to $1,500—the sum allowed to other Steam Fire Engine Companies.

On motion, Messrs. George W. Leonard, J. H. Hare and R. W. Mackey, were appointed a Committee to wait upon Mayor Lowry and request him to direct his police force, or detail a sufficient number of them, to attend all fires, for the purpose of protecting property from thieves; also, to keep the vicinity of the fire clear of loungers and other disinterested persons, in order that the fire department may be able to work advantageously.

Warrants were ordered in favor of O. A. M'Grew, Esq., for $20, for copying old minute book, and in favor of E. F. Pratt, for $6.50, after which the Association adjourned.

Found Drowned.

Yesterday the body of a man named Daniel Berry, employed as a teamster at the coal works of Mr. Charles Armstrong, was found in the Allegheny river, below McCullough's saw mill, opposite Lawrenceville. The deceased was about thirty years of age, and had been sent up to the coke works, several days ago, on business. Nothing more was heard concerning him until his body was found. Coroner McClung was notified and held an inquest, but the manner of his death was not ascertained. The jury found a verdict of "found drowned."

The Bounty Bond Convention.

The Convention to consider the propriety of requesting or instructing the County Commissioners and Controller to issue bonds for the payment of a bounty of two hundred dollars to each volunteer who may enlist and be credited to the quota of the county, will assemble this morning, at eleven o'clock, at the Court House. The delegate meetings were held yesterday afternoon and evening; but so far as we can learn, they were not very largely attended. It is impossible, at present to state what the action of the Convention may be.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

THOMAS PARRY, Plain and Ornamental Slate Roofer, and dealer in Pennsylvania and Vermont slate of the best quality at low rates. Office at Alex. Laughlin's, near the Water Works, Pittsburgh, Pa.

GROVER & BAKER'S SEWING MACHINES have obtained the highest premium at every State, County, and Institute Fair held in 1863, as the best family and best manufacturing machines, and for the best machine work.

A. P. CHATONEY, General Agent,
18 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

VOLUNTEERS, ATTENTION!—For the derangements of the system incidental to the change of diet, Wounds, Eruptions, and Exposure to which every Volunteer is liable to, there are no remedies so safe, convenient, and reliable as HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment are now retailed, owing to the high price of drugs, &c., at 30 cents, 70 cents and $1,10 per box or pot.

For sale in Pittsburgh, Pa., by B. L. Fahnestock & Co.

For sale also at Fulton's Drug Store, Fifth street.

JUST RECEIVED AND READY FOR SALE.—The fine assortment of Fall and Winter Clothing, lately received by Messrs. John Wise & Co., Merchant Tailors, No. 146 Federal street, Allegheny. The stock of clothing consists of the finest variety of gents' pantaloons, vests, coats and overcoats. The style of patterns is tasteful and fashionable. We would invite all of our readers to give the above gentlemen a call.

SAMUEL GRAHAM & Co., merchant tailors, are opening out their fall and winter stock of goods at a reduced figure. Gentlemen desiring a fashionable and well made suit of clothing would do well to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere. SAMUEL GRAHAM & Co.,
Merchant Tailors, 54 Market street.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, &c.—J. M. Roberts, No. 17 Fifth street, is now opening the most choice stock of fine Gold and Silver Watches, Jewelry, Silver ware and Fancy Goods ever displayed in this city, and is selling them at remarkably low prices.

OMNIBUS and carriage calls will be taken at the Omnibus office, No. 410 Penn street, day or night. All orders left at the above place will be promptly attended to. All calls must be paid in advance.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY.—A portable engine, six inch cylinder and twelve inch stroke, by
CARSON & Co.,
St. Perry's Block, Duquesne Way.

BOSS BRICKLAYERS will find a notice in another column which will interest them.

C. SILL, Dentist, 248 Penn street, will attend to all businessten of his profession.

DIED;

THOMPSON.—On Monday, the 8th inst., at 1½ o'clock a. m., Mr. ROBERT THOMPSON.

Funeral on TUESDAY AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, from the residence of his brother-in-law, Geo. F. Dilm, No. 184 Lacock street, Allegheny City.

BLACK.—At the residence of his mother, Sewickleyville, Allegheny county, Pa., Feb. 7th, 1864, after a very severe and tedious illness, HARRY STERLING BLACK, (of the United States Signal Corps, Army of the Cumberland,) son of the late Andrew W. Black, D. D., in the 20th year of his age.

Funeral will take place on TUESDAY, the 9th inst., at 2½ o'clock p. m., to proceed from the Allegheny Depot, P. F. W. & C. R. R., to the Allegheny Cemetery. The friends of the family and his fellow soldiers are invited to attend without further notice. Carriages will be in waiting at the Depot.

STORAGE FOR REFINED OIL.

We have storage room for

1500 Barrels Refined Oil,

In a cellar built expressly for this purpose.

CHILDS & CO., Hancock street.

UPHOLSTERING.—Having purchased a large stock of goods for CASH, I am able to offer great bargains at extremely low prices. FEATHER BEDS; Hair, Husk and Spring MATTRASSES; a great variety of SHADES, TABLE & FLOOR OIL CLOTHS; CARPETS; EMBOSSED TABLE COVERS; Adilaide, Grass, Cocoa and Manilla Bordered MATS, of the best quality, and cheapness unsurpassed.

All orders promptly attended to.

House No. 172½ FEDERAL STREET, Allegheny, (formerly occupied by Mr. Semple.)

dc23 THOMAS BARKER.

TO LET.—A suite of two large communicating and handsomely furnished ROOMS TO LET, without board, on first floor of house No. 78 SECOND STREET, Pittsburgh. fa2:2w

ITALIAN MACCARONI, fresh importation and warranted genuine, just received and for sale at the family Grocery Store of
JOHN A. RENSHAW,
fa6 Corner Liberty and Hand streets.

TIMOTHY SEED.—400 bush. prime Timothy Seed for sale by
fa6 SCHOMAKER & LANG.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1864.

INVESTIGATIONS.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War have ended their investigations on the subject of ordnance, and have reached conclusions rather favorable to the course of the Departments on the subject than otherwise. To-morrow they mean to take up the subject of ice contracts, in which it is whispered that some developments are anticipated. Three contracts are said to amount to one half million of dollars for last year, while the appropriation for the same was only forty thousand dollars. The profits made by some contractors are represented as amounting to several hundred per cent. Some of the same facts are likely to come out before the Hammond Court Martial.

The House Naval Committee are engaged in the investigation of the machinery of the Pensacola, to-day, and expect to go to Philadelphia on Friday, to look into the League Island business. The Senate Naval Committee has just returned from there.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

A message was sent to the Senate to-day, by the President, communicating a letter from the Secretary of War, with enclosures of correspondence relating to the exchange of prisoners, embracing that of the old *regime* and some later letters of General Butler and Commissioner Ould. The commission of Gen. Hitchcock, of December 16th, authorized him to confer with Gen. Butler, and designate him as agent to procure exchanges on terms not conflicting with the position of the department relating to colored soldiers, nor surrendering men without a just equivalent of man for man, and officer for officer. Subsequently he was directed to exchange those first who had been longest confined, and to waive for the time considerations of the question of parole and excess of rebel prisoners in our hands, and it was also allowed to exchange colored men in civil employment captured by our forces.

On Dec. 5th, Gen. Butler sent forward by assistant commissioner Mulford five hundred and two prisoners from Point Lookout, asking for the exchange of a similar number and leaving in obeyance all existing differences, with the assurance that their prisoners in our hands were well cared for, and suggestions looking to immediate exchanges of convalescent soldiers. In communications of the same date, he asks the exchange of Alfred F. Bengle of the Sanitary Commission, confined in Castle Thunder, and inquires as to the whereabouts and condition of Lieut. E. H. Mason, and private John Wollam, of Ohio regiments, as also concerning the propositions covering the cases of the officers and crews of the steamers Emily and Arrow, captured by the rebels last May.

Commissioner Ould reiterates in his note to Mr. Mulford his willingness to exchange all prisoners, the excess on either side to be on parole, and says that this is the provision of the cartel, and that we can accept nothing less. Unless this is a distinct understanding, no equivalent will be delivered to you for any Confederate officers and soldiers, whom you may hereafter bring to City Point. In the hope that such is the understanding, I have directed that a number greater than your delivery shall be sent to you.

In another communication, Gen. Hitchcock is reminded that by the Presidential proclamation, Gen. Butler is under the ban of outlawry, and that while his government cannot prescribe what agents the government shall employ, self-respect requires the Confederate authorities to treat with no one so obnoxious, and that Gen. Butler's agency cannot therefore, be recognized, or his person protected by a flag of truce.

Gen. Butler returned the note and said: No right of declaration of outlawry by those authorities, of any officer or soldier of the United States, can be admitted, or for a moment regarded by the government of the United States, as it certainly will not be by the persons upon whom such intimidation is attempted. He informs Mr. Ould, that unless his flag of truce is respected, all further communications by flag of truce between those authorities and our government must cease.

January 12, General Butler writes again asking the exchange of the lists of the prisoners and of deaths among them, and similar monthly returns hereafter.

THE LATE MOVEMENTS OF THE POTOMAC ARMY.

The following is believed to be about as correct a version of news from the Potomac army as can as yet be obtained: A portion of the army was recently engaged in a demonstration in the front of the enemy on the south side of the Rapidan, and returned to their late quarters, between the Rapidan and Rappahannock, on Saturday night last, after having accomplished what was believed to be the design of the movement, viz: having ascertained that the enemy still remains in his usual force in positions in front of Orange Court House which he has occupied for some time past, and from which there had been some reasons to believe he had retired. In the course of movements, Gen. Hays' division of our forces became engaged with the enemy in an overwhelming force, and in a strongly fortified position, in the vicinity of Mentor's Ford. Gen. Hays ordered their works to be carried by storm, which was found to be impracticable without too great loss. The condition of the roads would not admit of pushing to a legitimate result any advantage the heavy sacrifice of men might secure. He accordingly withdrew his attacking force, with a loss on our part of between two and three hundred men, wounded and missing. The loss on the part of the enemy in this engagement is not known, at Culpepper, up to 9 a. m. to day. A considerable portion of our army, all of which had recrossed to this side of the Rapidan, were in line of battle last night, owing to a report that Lee had crossed, or was crossing the river in force, which report turns out to have been untrue. We lost no pontoons as the rumor had it this morning.

PENDLETON'S BILL.

The following is the full text of Pendleton's bill for bringing Cabinet officers on the floor of the House. It meets with considerable favor on both sides, and is referred to a special committee: Section 1. That the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Interior and Postmaster-General, shall be entitled to occupy seats on the floor of the House of Representatives, with the right to participate in debate upon matters relating to the business of their respective departments, under such rules as may be prescribed by the House. Section 2. That the said Secretaries and Postmaster-General shall attend the sessions of the House of Representatives during the morning hour, to give information in reply to questions which may be propounded to them, under the rules of the House of Representatives.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY WITH THE SANDWICH ISLAND.

The President sent to the Senate to-day a communication from the Secretary of State, in answer to a resolution declining to send a correspondence relative to the reciprocity treaty with the Sandwich Islands, and doubting the expediency of such a treaty, upon the ground of its effect in diminishing the revenue. It is substantially the same treaty negotiated in the Pierce administration, which the Senate refused to ratify.

THE NEW DEPARTMENT BILL.

Mr. Orth's bill to organize a new department, with a Cabinet officer at its head, to be known as the Secretary of Industry, was introduced to-day. It provides for four bureaus, viz: of agriculture, freedman's affairs, mines and minerals, and immigration; with superintendents of immigration, versed in the prominent European languages; with professors of chemistry and geology, for the mining branch; and regulations carefully prescribed for the conduct of freedmen and the immigration of foreigners. It is a reorganization and enlargement of the Department of Agriculture. The appropriation required is $100,000.

LATEST FROM THE FRONT.

Later intelligence from the front state that Gen. Merritt went as far as Orange Court House but found only inconsiderable bodies of the enemy. Information was obtained to the effect that the rebels were replanking the road from Chancellorsville to Orange Court House, and were cutting a new road through the wilderness.

THE THIRD ARMY CORPS

Crossed at Raccoon Ford but found the enemy mostly drown away by Warren's movement. In the skirmish that followed our losses were 250 killed and wounded: while 100 rebel prisoners were taken. Our forces recrossed the Rapidan at midnight. A reconnoissance developed the enemy in strength in the direction of Gordonsville. General Kilpatrick has scoured the country towards Fredericksburg without finding any infantry, and but few rebel cavalry. The whole army is again on this side of the Rapidan.

DEATHS OF WESTERN SOLDIERS.

The following deaths of Western soldiers occurred at Atlanta, Georgia, during December last, of wounds received at the battles of Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain: Geo. Freel, 2d Ky. Vols.; Benjamin Stevens, 36th Ill.; Jas. Holtson, 14th Ohio; J. Johnston, 15th Wisconsin; —— Hudson, 93d Ohio; M. V. Derdine, 86th Indian; J. Henning, 42d Ohio; James Dailey, 93d Ohio; H. Gly, 20th Ohio; W. Haynes, 36th Iowa; F. Williams, 18th Ky.

CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

The second of the Missouri contested election cases, that of Price vs. McClung, was taken up to day in committee.

Mr. Dawes, from the Committee on Elections, reported to-day in the contested case of McKenzie vs. Kitchen, taking the ground as announced in these dispatches ten days ago, that neither was entitled to a seat. Messrs. Green, Clay and Smith made a minority report, and the whole subject was laid over.

THE $300 CLAUSE.

It should be understood by those journals which are complaining of the folly of the House in permitting the payment of $300 to exempt a drafted man from the liability for another draft for three years, that the majority of the Union party were opposed to this, and regarded it as nearly destructive to the bill. It was only passed by Thad. Stevens, and a few of our side leading off, and getting all the Democrats to unite with them.

THANKS TO GEN. SHERMAN.—CONSCRIPTION BILL.

The House thanked Gen. Sherman to-day, and then spent nearly the whole session on the Conscription bill. All sorts of amendments were discussed and voted on in committee of the whole; most of them, however, were relating to minor details. Nothing of importance has yet been decided upon.

CENSUS REPORT.

The census report for 1860 will make four quarto volumes of eight hundred pages each. But one of these is in type, and it is manifest to everybody that the Superintendent is desirous of protracting the work, and causing it to hang along as far towards the time for taking another census as possible.

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

A bill has been reported from the House Military Committee restoring army chaplains to their former position as to pay and giving them bounty, and repealing the law which provided that they should not receive pay when off duty on furlough, or by reason of sickness.

THE SUBJECT OF CONFISCATED LANDS.

The subject of confiscated lands is under consideration by the Committee on Lands. It is proposed to those familiar with the Government policy, that a bill providing for their disposal in legal form, and furnishing clear title to purchasers, will be soon introduced.

SHIP CANAL BILL.

When the ship canal bill comes up this session, a member has an amendment ready to offer, providing that the expenditures in the way of battering rams, gunboats, etc., shall be devoted to improving the navigation of the Ohio river.

THE WHISKY BILL.

The whisky taxation bill is still lying on the Speaker's table in the House. The Democrats still prevent its being taken up. The Ways and Means Committee are likely to take it up as soon as it reaches them, meantime they are engaged on Indian appropriations.

KENTUCKY.

Kentuckians familiar with the present state of political affairs there, predict that it will not be long before leading Kentucky officials will be more willing for negro recruiting in that State, or if not will at least find their opposition fruitless.

APPOINTMENT.

Mr. A. McFarland, of Portsmouth, Ohio, clerk in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, has been appointed Commissioner for leasing cotton plantations and taking charge of abandoned property. He is stationed at Vicksburg.

CONTRACTORS AND CLAIM AGENTS IN SERVICE.

Senator Wilson's bill, referred to the Judiciary Committee to-day, places in the land and naval service of the United States, so far as to render them liable to trial by courts martial, all contractors and claim agents.

REFUSES TO SIT IN THE NAVAL COMMITTEE.

It is understood that Senator Grimes has refused to sit in the Naval Committee ever since he asked, some time ago, to be excused from service on it—cause, chronic disagreement with Hale.

A FIGHT AMONG THE REBELS.

During a recent engagement on the Rapidan, brisk firing was heard beyond and within the rebel lines. Officers from the front assert their belief that it was caused by a fight among themselves.

THE COST OF COAST SURVEY.

The reports and maps of the coast survey passing through the government press, will cost about twenty-two thousand dollars.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The extra twenty thousand copies of the agricultural report will cost about fourteen thousand dollars.

A NEGRO SUTLER

Was appointed to-day to Camp William Penn, at Philadelphia, the first appointment of this kind yet authorized.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAWYER

Was among the Ohio wounded in the late action on the Rapidan.

CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE.

Isaac Stone, of Wisconsin, is to be Consul of the United States at Singapore.

From Cairo.

CAIRO, Feb. 9.—The steamer J. J. Ross, with a large cargo of sugar, molasses and 127 bales of cotton, for St. Louis, has arrived.

Private advices from Vicksburg of the 1st, represent everything progressing favorably with the military expedition.

There has been a large number of cases of the small-pox in the 81st Illinois, but effective measures are being taken to prevent it from spreading into other regiments.

The weather has been fine.

The steamer William Wallace, with the 21st Missouri aboard, while passing Island No. 71, on the 28th ult., was fired upon by guerrillas from the Mississippi shore. Nearly 100 shots were fired in ten minutes, resulting in the death of Thomas Ryan, Sergeant of Co. D, mortally wounding two privates, who have since died, and severely wounding four others.

The steamer Argo, lying at Old River, was also fired into on the 27th, 300 shots striking the boat. No one hurt.

Desertions from the rebel army continue from 50 to 75 per day. One hundred and fifty came in in one day.

Cotton transactions for the past few days very limited. The shipments now exceed the arrivals, and at the present rate the city will soon be cleared. Prices about 2 cents lower, in consequence of advices from the East.

Gen. McClernand and staff arrived en route for the Department of the Gulf.

Several hundred guerrillas are reported conscripting back of Fort Pillow.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 8, 1864.

HOUSE.—Mr. Spaulding, of Ohio, introduced a bill for the repealing of the Fugitive Slave Law. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Orth, of Indiana, presented a bill to establish a Department of Industry.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., from the Committee on Elections, presented an adverse report against the claims of both Mr. Kitchen and Mr. McKenzie representatives from the 7th district of Virginia.

Mr. Cobb, of Wisconsin, presented a resolution which was passed, tendering the thanks of the House to Gen. W. T. Sherman, and the officers and men under his command.

The House then went into the Committee of the Whole on the Enrollment bill.

Mr. Blair, of Western Virginia, offered a series of resolutions deprecating the present civil war, and quoting largely from speeches of Jeff Davis and Alexander Stephens, those persons having asserted that the reconstruction of the Union was impossible, and uttered language in bitter denunciation of the people of the North.

Mr. Mallery, of Kentucky, inquired whether objection could be made to the continued reading through of the resolutions because of their length.

The Clerk finished the reading of the resolutions, which declare that any attempt on the part of the Government to conciliate with the leaders of the present rebellion, or compromise the question involved, would rob the gallows of its dues and humiliate and bring into contempt this government in the estimation of the civilized world; that in every State which was ever as a State, is still in the Union; and when the rebellion is put down each seceded State, so called, shall have the same rights, privileges and immunities under the Constitution as heretofore, excepting so far as relates to the holding of slaves, and which is affected by the President's emancipation proclamation of January, 1863.

The resolution also repudiates the views as defined by some gentlemen, and that the seceding States have become a foreign power.

Mr. Eldridge, of Wisconsin, wished to know whether it was proper to include rebel stump speeches in the resolutions brought before the House.

The speaker said he was not aware of any such rule.

The House, by only 12 voting in the affirmative, refused to second the demand for the previous question on the passage of the resolutions, and they lie over for future consideration.

Mr. Brown, of West Virginia, offered a resolution, which was objected to, declaring that the duty of all loyal citizens is to aid the government, and the war should be prosecuted till our loyal brethren in the South shall be rescued from military despotism.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the Senate Enrollment bill. An amendment was adopted as a substitute for one of the original sections, which forever provides that any person drafted into the military service, may, before the time fixed for his appearance at the draft rendezvous, furnish an acceptable substitute, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. If such substitute is not liable to draft the person furnishing, shall be exempt from draft during the time for which such substitute is not liable to draft, not exceeding the time for which he was drafted; and if such substitute is liable to draft, the name of the person furnishing him shall be liable to draft in following future quotas.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, offered an amendment, which was adopted, making all able bodied persons of African descent, between the age of eighteen and forty-five years subject to the draft. This was, however, this afternoon stricken out, with one of the original sections. The committee then arose without concluding its action on the amendments of the military bill.

The House, at a quarter to five o'clock, adjourned.

SENATE.—A message was received from the President, enclosing a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting the correspondence with the rebel authorities, as to the exchange of prisoners.

On motion of Mr. Powell, the Secretary of War was requested to communicate information as to the order given to the Provost Marshals in regard to the elections in the several States.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing a communication from the Secretary of State, declining to transmit the correspondence in relation to the Reciprocity treaty between the United States and the Sandwich Islands.

The bill to promote enlistments being under consideration, with the pending amendment of Mr. Henderson to limit freedom to the slave recruits alone in the loyal States, Mr. Carlile made a speech, in which he said that in these unhappy times, when good men are rendered odious, and bad men popular; when great men are made little and little men great, he would not be his country best must be above personal consideration. He paid a glorious tribute to the State of Virginia, and said that in her behalf he would challenge our admiration for her gallantry of her sons on many an honorable field. He did not believe there could be an early cessation of hostilities, nor did he believe that starvation, on which the rebels had been kept alive for three years, was likely to result in an early death. (Laughter.)

On motion of Mr. Doolittle, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed.

On motion of Mr. Lane, of Kansas, the Senate went into executive session, and shortly afterwards adjourned

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb 8.—The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the following nominations: Isaac Stone as United States Consul at Singapore.

Capt. Rolla Gleason, Provost Marshal of the 3d District of Vermont, and Dr. J. L. Chandler, Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment of the same district, have been suspended from duty, and are awaiting an investigation, for enlisting men into the United States service physically disqualified for military duty. Capt. Isaac Platt, Provost Marshal of the 12th District, New York, and Dr. Wm. H. Pitcher, Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment of that district, have been suspended in like manner and for similar reasons.

A. McFarland, of Portsmouth, Ohio, so well and favorably known as a clerk in the office of the Secretary of the United States Senate, has been appointed Commissioner for leasing cotton plantations.

The Richmond *Inquirer*, of the 6th inst., says the Confederate Congress has got in a pet with newspaper press, and will conscript all below forty-five years of age, making it necessary to suspend all papers except such as are necessary to execute the government's printing. There are now but thirty-five papers in the Confederate States.

Commissioner Ould declares to be exchanged all prisoners heretofore held by the Union authorities, whether officers, soldiers, or civilians received at City Point before the 1st Jan., and all the officers and men of the Vicksburg capture who reported for duty at Enterprise prior to the 14th Nov., 1863; also all the officers and men of the Vicksburg capture belonging to the 1st Tennessee artillery.

Capt. Ives, of the 10th Massachusetts, and Capt. Read, of the 3d Ohio, are to be ironed, sent to Salisbury, and put to hard labor, in retaliation for similar treatment of two prisoners captured by Burnside, now at Johnson's Island.

Col. Claudius Crozet, an eminent civil engineer, died in Richmond on the 28th of January. He was a native of Lyons, France.

The Richmond *Sentinel*, of the 4th instant, states that two Union transports and a gunboat were at West Point on the 3d; also that two thousand of our troops are advancing up the Peninsula.

Twenty-five rebel cavalry were captured in Gloucester county on Friday.

Considerable anxiety is felt for Earley's command in West Virginia.

The Confederate States' tobacco agent calls upon the producers to deliver their tithe of tobacco between the 1st of June and the 15th of July.

Belle Boyd was at Atlanta a few days ago. She leaves shortly for Europe, where the *Sentinel* says she will receive great attention as one of the heroines of the war.

From Ft. Smith—Pemberton Commanding at Mobile—Re Enlisted—Fearful State of Affairs in the Rebel Army.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8.—The *Democrat's* Ft. Smith special says: The steamer Leon arrived with commissary stores, and the Chippewa is expected to-day.

Captain Russe, the rebel Adjutant General, now prisoners here, says that Pemberton now commands at Mobile.

The Third Wisconsin cavalry have re-enlisted, and will start home in a few days.

A squad of Texas refugees, six days from Gen. McCullough's headquarters at Bonham, arrived yesterday. They report a fearful state of affairs. The whole country beyond the rebel army is a battle-field, and the engagements between deserters and guerrillas are frequent, in which the former are generally successful. The refugees send numerous messages to the federal army, pledging enough armed recruits to hold the country; they only want to see the head of the federal column rise.

Steele's cavalry advance occupies Benton, sixty miles South of Little Rock.

Judgment Rendered.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Feb. 9.—The United States Circuit Court, on Saturday, rendered judgment against Daniel Clapp, former receiver of public moneys in the Danville Canal District, for six thousand six hundred and seventy dollars.

RIVER INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.

Emma Graham, Zanesville. | Joseph Pierce, Cin.
Norman, Cincinnati. | Leclaire, Oil City.

DEPARTURES.

Golden Eagle, Memphis. | Minerva, Wheeling.
Advance, Oil City.

The river is still receding slowly at this point, with eight feet in the channel by the pier marks last evening. The weather continues blustery and raw, with a light fall of snow at intervals.

Business seemed quite active at the levee yesterday, and with fair receipts; there was, apparently, an improvement in the shipments.

The arrivals include the Emma Graham from Zanesville, and the Norman and Joseph Pierce from Cincinnati. The Graham, as usual, had a full cargo of Muskingum Valley produce. The Pierce, also, had an excellent freight list, and quite a number of passengers. The Norman, too, had a good trip, including one hundred and sixty-two bales of cotton.

The new steamer Golden Eagle left for Memphis last evening, with one of the best trips of the season She was loaded down to the guards with freight, and her fine cabin was crowded with passengers. Among other items of freight, she had a large quantity of government stores. This fine steamer is intended for the Cincinnati and Memphis packet trade.

The Paragon from Cincinnati, was due last night, and will doubtless be found at the wharf this morning.

For manifests, we are under obligations to M'Cosh of the Nevada, and Hogs of the Emma Graham.

The Board of Trade of Louisville, at a meeting held on Wednesday, in response to a communication from the Secretary of the Pittsburgh Board of Trade, on the subject of the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river, instructed the Secretary to call a convention, to be held in Louisville on Wednesday, the 24th inst., to consist of not exceeding three delegates from each city and town on the Ohio river, or in the Ohio valley, or any other place, as St. Louis, for example, that may be interested in the improvement. It was first proposed to name Cincinnati as the place, but when it was considered that the Cincinnatians might not desire such a convention there, nothing having been heard from them on the subject, the Louisville board thought it best to name that place, taking it upon themselves to make the requisite arrangements, and extending such attentions and hospitalities to the delegates as to make their stay as pleasant and agreeable as possible.

The Louisville *Democrat* says: Captain Newcomb is now delivering from his extensive mines at Cannelton 10,000 bushels of coal daily for the use of steamers. Hamilton Smith, Esq., President of the American Cannel Coal Company, is mining about 5000 bushels, and the various coneerns at Hawesville, Kentucky, are also mining about 5000, making an aggregate supply of about 20,000 bushels daily, and still the supply is not equal to the demand.

The commodious and popular Joseph Peirce, Capt. S. B. French is the regular packet for Cincinnati on Wednesday, leaving punctually at 10 o'clock a. m. Messrs M Kinney and French are the clerks.

The splendid and reliable Kate Robinson, Capt. Robert Robinson is the Cincinnati and Louisville packet for to-day, leaving at 4 p m. She will be followed on Wednesday by the New York, Capt. J. H Lightner.

For St. Louis, the neat and pretty steamer Camella, Capt. Lytle, will leave to-day positively. She will