

XXXI-TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE—Mr. Grimes, from the Naval Committee, reported a joint resolution for the appointment of a board to examine the site for a fresh-water basin for the iron-clad navy at Portland, Me.

Mr. Foster (Conn.) moved to add "and New London, Connecticut," after Portland, Maine.

Mr. Riddle (Del.) moved to include New Castle, Delaware, among the sites to be examined.

Mr. Johnson wished Annapolis, Maryland, examined also, but he would not offer an amendment to that effect. He would offer an independent proposition at some other time.

The amendment of Mr. Riddle was disagreed to.

Mr. Hendricks moved so to amend the resolution as to designate no particular place, but leave the board free to choose the best point.

Mr. McDougall believed Tappan Bay, 16 miles from New York, was the best place for the purpose named. He favored the motion of Mr. Hendricks.

Mr. Fessenden said he knew nothing about the subject, and did not pretend to know. He would not vote on the question, that was all.

The Secretary of the Navy ordered the Secretary of the Navy to examine the site for a fresh-water basin for the iron-clad navy at Portland, Me.

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Sec. 16 permits officers who have served in the volunteer service to bear the official title, and on occasions of ceremony to wear the uniform of the highest rank they held, by brevet or otherwise, but the privilege of wearing it is not to be exercised until they have received the necessary orders.

Sec. 17 provides that chaplains' rank and pay shall remain as prescribed by the act approved April 9, 1865, and increases mileage to ten cents per mile over and above the rate of pay.

Sec. 18 authorizes the President to detail officers of the army, not exceeding twenty at one time, to act as superintendents or professors of languages for the purpose of promoting knowledge of military science.

Sec. 19 authorizes the establishment of schools at posts, garrisons and permanent camps, for the instruction of enlisted men; it also authorizes the Secretary of War to detail suitable non-commissioned officers and other enlisted men, and the post commander to set apart a suitable room or building for the purpose.

Sec. 20 prohibits the appointment in the army of any person who has served in any rank in the military or naval service of the rebels.

Sec. 21 abolishes sutlers and directs the quartermaster's department to furnish such sutlers as may be designated by the inspector-general, and to sell the same to soldiers at cost prices, if not paid for at the time, to be stopped from the next pay-month.

Sec. 22 repeals all laws or parts of laws inconsistent herewith.

Mr. Trumbull (Ill.) from the Judiciary Committee, reported the House bill, approved an act of the Thirty-seventh Congress in relation to passports, with an amendment that hereafter passports shall be issued only to citizens of the United States.

The amendment was agreed to and the bill was passed.

Mr. Kirkwood (Iowa) offered a joint resolution for the appointment of a commission to investigate the war claims of the State of Iowa against the Government, which was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Van Winkle (W. Va.) from the Finance Committee, reported a joint resolution to suspend the collection of the direct tax in West Virginia until the 1st of March next, unless the claims of West Virginia against the United States are sooner adjusted.

Passed.

The committee and diplomatic appropriation bill was taken up and read at length. The following amendment, recommended by the Finance Committee, was agreed to.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all fees collected by any consular or commercial agent not mentioned in schedule B or C, or by any vice consul or commercial agent appointed to perform their duties, or by any other person in their behalf, shall be accounted for to the Secretary of the Treasury in the same mode and manner provided for in section 18 of the act approved August 1, 1858, entitled "An act to regulate the diplomatic and consular system of the United States;" and when the fees so collected by any such consular or commercial agent exceed \$100 in any year, he shall be paid to the Secretary of the Treasury in the mode provided for by said act.

Mr. Chandler (Mich.) from the Committee on Commerce, offered an amendment to the bill appropriating fifteen hundred dollars for the repair of the fence of the United States Cemetery in the City of Mexico, to the amount of \$15,000 in any year, and a license, and the revenue officers would be able to track them out and get the tax on the article, whereas, with a license fee of ten dollars, or twenty-five dollars, and the Government would take out license, and the officers could trace them out. He knew that down South they were making whisky without paying any tax, and he thought the Government could not find any more whisky than they were making.

Mr. Sumner (Mass.) offered an amendment, that whenever a minister plenipotentiary or envoy extraordinary is appointed to a post now filled by a minister plenipotentiary, he shall receive no more salary than is now allowed to a minister resident.

Mr. Sherman (Ohio) offered a substitute for the above, that the salary of envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary to all countries not named in schedule A of the act of August 13th, 1856, shall hereafter be given one thousand five hundred dollars.

Mr. Grimes (Iowa) said one of the gentlemen who had been above was Mr. Harvey, minister to Portugal, who is the person who notified the rebels that Fort Sumter was about to be fired upon. He also received a letter from the Secretary of State, advising the President to eject the present Congress.

Mr. Wade (Ohio) said the charge of Mr. Grimes was unfounded, and he ought not to have introduced here. It had nothing to do with the question before the Senate. As to the accusation that Mr. Harvey gave information to the rebels, he (Mr. Wade) knew all about it, for he had investigated it. Mr. Harvey had done nothing in the matter that was not approved by the President.

Mr. Grimes—That does not alter the facts. Mr. Wade—But it takes the sting out of it. It shows that if he was a traitor, the President and his Cabinet were traitors, too.

Mr. Fessenden (Me.) in speaking of this subject, said if Mr. Harvey had written the letter he had seen published, it was exceedingly and unnecessarily impertinent. He (Mr. Fessenden) believed that Mr. Harvey knew who he was writing to, and that he expressed no opinion of Congress disagreeable to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Johnson (Md.) said that if the Secretary of State had given publicity to the letter, he was clearly censurable. He did not believe he (the Secretary of State) would be censurable as Mr. Harvey.

The question was taken on Mr. Sumner's amendment, and it was disagreed to—yeas 18, nays 17.

Mr. Sumner offered an amendment that the diplomatic representatives of Hayti, Liberia and Dominica shall be ministers resident, and consuls general, with no increase of salary.

Mr. Sumner offered an amendment giving to the clerks of the State Department twenty per cent increase of salary until otherwise provided by law.

Mr. Sumner offered a resolution that he offered in his stead a proposition to increase the salary of Mr. Hunter, chief clerk of the Department of State to \$3,500 per annum.

Pending the consideration of the above the Senate adjourned.

House.—Mr. Dawes presented additional papers in the contested election case of Fuller against Dawson from Twenty-first Congressional district of Pennsylvania. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

The House proceeded, during the morning hour, to the consideration of the report from the Committee on Patents.

Mr. Myers (Pa.), from that committee, reported a bill to authorize Delia A. Jacobs, administratrix of Jesse Fitzgerald, to apply for an extension of a patent granted to him for an improved method of dressing tree-trunks.

The bill was opposed by Messrs. Washburne (Ill.) and Harding (Ill.) and sustained by Messrs. Myers and Jencks.

bill, showing that there was no information before the House as to why the patentees had not alleged to its disadvantage the profits from the patent.

Mr. Broomall spoke in defence and explanation of the bill, which was passed.

The order of the day was announced. The Speaker presented a communication from the Postmaster General, transmitting, in compliance with the act of Congress of July 2d, 1856, a report of officers received and contracts made, allowances made to contractors for additional service, which was laid on the table.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Daves in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the tax bill.

The paragraph relating to section 74 of the present law being under consideration.

On motion of Mr. Delano (Ohio) the paragraph was amended by striking out the words "not more than one dollar and fifty cents to be paid to the informer."

On motion of Mr. Morrill, the paragraph in regard to wholesale dealers was amended by striking out the words "And the amount of all sales within the year beyond \$50,000 shall be returned monthly to the assistant assessor, and the tax on sales in excess of \$500 shall be paid by the dealer, and assessed and paid monthly as other monthly taxes are assessed and paid."

On motion of Mr. Price, the paragraph in regard to the sale of liquors was amended by increasing the tax from one to one hundred dollars where the amount of annual sales exceed fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Darling submitted several propositions to amend the paragraph in relation to lottery-ticket dealers. He said that all the lotteries in the State of New York, New Jersey, and the City of New York, were subject to the control of two monopolists in the business. They had a clearing-house clerk, and carried on the business in a manner that was entirely unbecomingly to the honor and credit of the State.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE.—A Meeting of the Stockholders of the PHILADELPHIA AND BRADING RAILROAD COMPANY, will be held on THURSDAY, May 17, 1866, at 12 o'clock M., at the office of the Secretary, No. 22 South Third Street.

NOTICE.—The following Gentlemen have been elected Directors of the PHILADELPHIA AND BRADING RAILROAD COMPANY for the ensuing year: GEORGE R. OAT, Secretary and Treasurer; JOHN T. KILLE, Secretary.

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REAL ESTATE.

ORPHANS COURT SALE.—Estate of JAMES A. FREEMAN, deceased. The following real estate, to-wit: A lot of ground, situated on the north side of Walnut Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, in the City of Philadelphia, without any buildings thereon, was sold at public sale, on THURSDAY, May 17, 1866, at 12 o'clock M., at the office of the Auctioneer, No. 22 South Third Street, to JAMES A. FREEMAN, for the sum of \$100.

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