41ST CONGRESS—Third Session.

CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.—Mr. Edmunds called for the unfinished business. Some of his friends, he said, and some who were not his friends, had supposed that he moved to adjourn on Wednesday, in order to prevent the reading of the President's message. His motion had no such design. On the contrary he was in favor of having it read for the benefit of his party, and that the people might see what kind of a case they had at the head of the Government. He therefore moved that the Secretary be directed to proceed with the reading. The motion was carried.

Mr. Cameron renewed the motion to dispense with the further reading of the message, in view of the suggestion of other Senators, he immediately withdrew it.

The Secretary then read the message from the polist at which he had been interrupted yesterday. When he had finished,

Mr. Edmunds moved to lay the message on the table, and order that it be printed, which was done.

Messrs. Edmunds and Frelinghuysen made speeches in commendation of the message.

Mr. Edmunds moved to adjourn, which was carried, the adjournment being in accordance with a previously adopted resolution, until Monday at 12 o'clock.

HOUSE.—Mr. Dodge reported a bill appropriating $229,849 to refund to Iowa expenses incurred in quelling the Indian troubles.

Pending the reading of the report the morning hour expired, and the bill went over to the next morning hour for public business.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Schenck, proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table, and disposed thereof as follows:

Senate joint resolution relating to the ocean mail steamship service between the United States and China, authorized by act of Congress, approved February 17, 1865. Referred to Post Office Committee.

The Senate bill in relation to bridges across the Ohio river, after a discussion lasting more than an hour, and participated in principally by the Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania members, was, on motion of Mr. Bingham, referred to the Committee on Commerce, by 84 to 64.

Mr. Phelps asked leave to offer a resolution in reference to the seizure of American citizens from the Guano Islands of Alta Vela. Objected to.

Mr. O'Neill presented a memorial of the Philadelphia Board of Marine Underwriters, in direction of a light-house on the north end of Leaming's Beach, on the Atlantic coast of New Jersey. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Washburne (Ill.) offered a resolution for a recess from Monday, 21st instant, to Monday, 5th of January.

Mr. Schenck remarked that he felt it useless to attempt to prevent the taking of a recess, but, as he was instructed by the Committee of Ways and Means, this morning, he would move an amendment, by making the recess from Wednesday, December 23d, to Monday, January 4th.

The amendment was rejected—yeas 75, nays 91; and the resolution of Mr. Washburne (Ill.) was then adopted.

Mr. Schenck (Ohio) introduced a bill to regulate the value of United States legal-tender notes in coin, and also a bill relative to National Banks, referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to cause gold coin to be exchanged for United States legal tender notes, upon the receipt of such demands at the Treasury, in sums not less than $100, which notes shall be received in payment, on the demand month, $100 in coin for $133 in notes; for the first month, $100 in coin for $131 in notes, and so on at a decrease of two per cent per month until par is reached.

Mr. Logan again went to business on the Speaker's table, and disposed thereof as follows:

Senate joint resolution for relief of sufferers by fences. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The Senate joint resolution to regulate the carriage of passengers in steamships and other vessels was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The Senate joint resolution respecting the Provisional Government of the State of Texas was referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

The House at 3.40 then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hopkins in the chair, and was addressed by Mr. Blair, of Michigan.

He spoke at considerable length on the political situation, and argued that General Grant's election had settled the financial policy of the country.

When he had finished, the committee rose and the Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Colfax from the committee of conference on the internal revenue laws taking wishes. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Ingersoll introduced a bill supplementary to the National Currency Act. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency. It proposes to remove the limitation on the surrender of national bank circulation, and leave it unrestricted, to authorize the issue of 90 per cent. gold interest-bearing bonds, and to require the substitution of these for the 5-20s now held and kept by the national banks on deposit to guarantee their circulation.

Mr. Stuart introduced a bill to reorganize and increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the Navy Department. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

The House then, at 4 o'clock, adjourned till Monday next.

CITY BULLETIN.

MEETING OF COUNCILS.—A stated meeting of both branches of Councils was held yesterday afternoon.

In Select Council a communication was received from the Board of School Controllers, asking that the rent of a building in Eighth Ward be increased to $800 per annum, and stating that an appropriation of $3,119 07 be made to pay certain claims. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Also, one from the South Street Bridge Commissioners, asking for an appropriation of $5,000 to pay incidental expenses. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Also, one from citizens asking that an appropriation be made to place the name of the street upon the corners, in accordance with ordinance of Councils. Referred to Committee on Police.

Mr. Gillingham moved that the ordinance giving the chamber to adjourn at 7 o'clock be suspended. Agreed to—yeas 8, nays 4.

Mr. Bumm, chairman of the Committee on City Property, offered a resolution instructing the Commissioner of City Property to put up in the office of the Board a glass safe and door, and to put shelving in the back of the Orphans' Court Office. Agreed to.

Mr. Bumm also offered a resolution, providing for certain transfers in the appropriations to the Water Department. Agreed to.

The following bills from the Common Council were then considered:

One in relation to the payment of warrants for repair of roads. Agreed to.

Also, one relative to sewer assessment bills. Referred to Committee on Surveys.

Mr. King presented a communication from the City Treasurer, defending his course, for which he had been censured by Councils, in reserving amounts received from taxes the present year for the payment of interest on loans due January 1, 1869, instead of using it for the payment in the usual way, and quoted the act of Assembly in relation to his conduct. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The consideration of Common Councils bills was then resumed, and disposed of as follows:

Also, one relative to the appropriations to the Department of Surveys. Assented to.

Also, one providing for the construction of a sewer on Montgomery Avenue, from Front street. Agreed to.

Also, one making certain transfers in the appropriation to the Department for Lighting the City with Gas. Agreed to.

Also, one to revise the grades of certain streets in Manayunk. Agreed to.

Also, one of instruction to the City Treasurer, relative to the payments of Warrants advertised and uncalled for, &c. Agreed to.

Also, one transfer in the appropriation and payment of Inspectors of St. Gas Engines and Boilers, &c. Agreed to.

Also, one relative to the construction of a sewer on Chestnut street, as authorized by ordinance. Postponed indefinitely.

The ordinance transferring the appropriation of $100,000 from the Department of Connection, to the Prison Board, for the purpose of erecting additional buildings on the parade ground, extending back of the prison, on Eleventh street by Twelfth, a portion of which stand to devoted to a House of Correction, came up on second reading.

In support of the ordinance, a communication was received from the Prison Inspectors, setting forth the crowded condition of the institution and the necessity for further accommodations.

Mr. Marcus moved that it be indefinitely postponed. Considerable debate ensued, participated in by Messrs. Fox, King, Hodgdon and Smith, the motion was then agreed to.

Mr. Jones, chairman of the Committee on Law presented an ordinance making an appropriation of $21,459 to the Law Department. Agreed to.

Also, one making appropriation to the Guardians of the Poor of the sum of $500, collected by the Law Department. Agreed to.

The bill fixing the tax rate for 1869 was received from Common Council, with the announcement that they had non-concurred in the amendment of Select Council fixing the rate at $7 per $100.

Mr. Jones moved that Select Council recede from this amendment. Agreed to.

Mr. Jones presented a further report from the Committee on Law, with an ordinance making the appropriation of $950 to the Freedmen, complained in the contested election cases of Ballier and others. Agreed to.

Also one requiring the City Solicitor as an assistant to the City Solicitor elect in cases identical in the Supreme Court. Agreed to.

A resolution was offered requesting the Legislature to offer the following amendments as bills to the following-named officers, viz.: District Attorney, $6,000; Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, $3,500; Sheriff, $2,500, and Coroner, $3,000. Agreed to.

Mr. Hopkins moved to suspend the rules so far as to Pass Joint Ins bill to connect. Not agreed to—yeas 6, nays 8.

A similar motion as to the other loan bills was made by Mr. Cattell, which was also voted down. Yeas 16, nays 16.

The resolution from Common Council making an appropriation of $12,000 to pay the interest upon the purchase money of Logan Island, to be paid out of Loan hereafter to be created, was then reviewed and passed.

In Common Council—The ordinance fixing the rate of tax for 1869, was amended by Select Council, making the rate $2 on the $100, instead of $1.50, as fixed by Common Council, was taken up.

Mr. Harper was opposed to concurring in the amendment from Select Council, because he believed that $1.80 would pay all the current expenses of the city for 1869, but would leave a margin of at least $100,000, if the extraordinary expenses were omitted, such as pay for the City Hall, Extension of the Water Works, &c., that would no doubt be paid out of loan. Common Council did not be asked to pay for permanent improvements out of the money realized from the current tax rate. These expenditures have already been made, with the understanding that a loan would be created; and if Select Council could to pass the bill, the Legislature would no doubt originate a plan by which it could be done.

Mr. Boyle was for a rate of $1.80 for one year, and cutting down the expenses of the departments. City Treasurer, he said, had the value of real estate was increasing largely every year, the tax rate consequently grew less, and would no doubt increase unless the expenses of the city were reduced.

Mr. Hetzell said it was folly to talk about fixing the tax rate at $1.80 and then make up the expenditures. The proper way was to adopt a rate as necessary to meet the expenses of the city, as furnished by the City Treasurer, and if there was increase in necessary, because the tax rate for the ensuing year was low.

Mr. Evans advocated a rate of $1.80, and said he was not willing that the City Treasurer, Select Council, he would favor the present rate $1.80 and then.

Mr. Willits also advocated the rate of $1.80, and said he was not willing that the preserve in the hands of the City Treasurer, in sums not less than $100, which notes shall be received in payment, the demand month, $100 in coin for $133 in notes; for the first month, $100 in coin for $131 in notes, and so on at a decrease of two per cent per month until par is reached.

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