41st CONGRESS—Third Session.

CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.—Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill in relation to the public lands in Mississippi, Arkansas and Florida. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Morrill (Vt.) offered a resolution directing the Committee on Rules to consider the expediency of providing a standing committee on education. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Wilson presented a bill to fix the number of judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and to change the judicial circuits, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Wilson, a bill to amend the act regulating the elective franchise in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee on District of Columbia.

By Mr. Harlan, a bill in relation to swamp lands in Iowa. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By Mr. Drake, a bill to incorporate the United States Life Accident and Life Insurance Company. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

By Mr. Williams, a bill to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and to repeal the act heretofore passed upon that subject. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Stewart, a bill to punish the crime of holding office in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, which was taken on his motion.

By Mr. Corbett, to amend the act granting lands to Oregon to aid in the construction of a military road and telegraph line, and for other construction. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By Mr. Pomeroy, a bill to create a Department of Indian Affairs and to provide for the protection, civilization and government of the Indians. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. Cole, a bill relative to contracts payable in coin. Referred.

By Mr. Sherman, a bill to provide railroad facilities to the capital of the United States. Referred.

By Mr. Conkling, a bill to repeal the act fixing times for the regular sessions of Congress. Tabled and ordered to be printed.

By Mr. Ferry, a bill to amend the Naturalization laws. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Davis, a resolution asking the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the Senate whether the aggregate amount of each issue of United States bonds, their respective dates, rates of interest and interest bonds, by them respectively. Laid over.

By Mr. Kellogg, a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to communicate any information received by him from the Commander of the Freedmen's Bureau in reference to the late disturbances in Louisiana. Adopted.

Also, a resolution asking the Secretary of War to inform the Senate what number of troops are employed on the frontier, and whether any volunteers are to employed, and if so, by whose authority. Adopted.

By Mr. Henderson, a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Navy to communicate the reports and other information received by him relative to the late battle with the Indians on the Washita river, which was adopted.

Mr. Drake called up his resolution to amend the rules, so as to require Indian treaties to be considered in open Senate.

Mr. Edmunds asked what reason there was why there is more than other treaties should be considered openly?

Mr. Drake replied that treaties with foreign nations often contained provisions which the national interests require to be kept secret for a time, but Indian treaties never do, unless where there is some land scheme involved, and his main object in proposing the change was to put a stop to such schemes being helped by treaties.

Mr. Pomeroy had no objection to considering Indian or any other treaties openly, because their provisions were sure to be known, outside, whether considered in secret session or not. But if there was any advantage in considering any treaties secretly, he thought Indian treaties should be considered secretly, when the nation is at war with the Indians.

Mr. Sumner favored the change proposed; in fact, he did not believe in treaties with Indians at all, because now, unlike the time when the treaty system was adopted, there are few or no tribes sufficiently well organized to be able to observe their treaties.

Mr. Henderson was not opposed to the resolution, but he thought it should go to some committee; so that that they might provide against any possible conflict of rules. The question on the resolution was referred to the Committee on the Election of the Laws.

At a quarter past one the Senate went into executive session, which lasted about an hour and a half. On the re-opening of the doors,

Mr. Cattell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate receive with profound regret the proposition of the President in his annual Message, to repudiate a portion of the nation's obligations, and regard this and all other designs of repudiation as a national calamity, the national honor requires the payment of the public debt in the manner specified therein to all creditors at home and abroad, not only according to the letter but the spirit of the law in which the debt was created.

Mr. Pomeroy advocated the resolution. The part of the President's Message quoted in the resolution should be reprobated by every honest man. The propose to repudiate the national debt would be a crime in any person; but for the Chief Executive Magistrate of the nation to make the proposition was doubly criminal.

Mr. Hendricks said that when consent was given for the resolution to be introduced he had understood that it was not to be considered now and he hoped it would not be until Senators should be fully prepared to discuss it. Because it the Senate was going to rebuke the President it should do so boldly and fearlessly, and not from the true doctrine instead of the false one proposed by him, and which he (Mr. Hendricks) did not concur, and he asked the Senate for from New Jersey that he concurred in the doctrine on that subject to be, and what, if any difference there was in the proposition between Jersey and the spirit of the law?

Mr. Cattell replied that when the matter came up regular discussion he would be prepared to answer; but inasmuch as the Senate was absent, in the meantime, express its disapprobation of the President's Message, the people, he said, had already passed upon the question, which is the true doctrine in regard to the payment of the national debt.

Mr. Hendricks asked him whether the people had decided in favor of repudiation, or against it in lawful money.

Mr. Cattell replied that they had decided that the Chicago platform was very much preferable to the New York platform; and that it should become necessary to discuss the question at length, he hoped he would be present to call upon him to frankly say it. Mr. Hendricks.

Mr. Edmunds asked if Mr. Hendricks how he understood the people to have decided the question.

Mr. Hendricks answered that he believed that they had not decided anything about it definitely, because the Chicago platform was so ambiguous, he would not so admit; for it was interpreted by every stump speaker to suit the locality where he was speaking.

Mr. Filley offered a resolution citing the same part of the President's message cited by Mr. Cattell and expressing the Senate's disapproval and condemnation of it.

Mr. Sherman said that the President's proposition to substitute for the payment of the national debt an equity for existing years was so shocking one that he feared it would excite prejudices against our institutions throughout the world, and he thought the legislative branch of the government should promptly repudiate it and counteract its effects. He was, therefore, willing to vote for either of the resolutions offered, but he thought the best way would be to send them to the Committee on Finance and report to-morrow.

Mr. Warner offered a resolution denouncing the President's proposition as dishonest.

Mr. Sumner said he would not undertake to interpret the President's language on this subject, but that he had reason to advocate bad faith toward the public creditors, or any other class of persons, he did not believe, because the President's whole life had shown him to be a man who did not repudiate honest or honorable obligations either in public or private life.

The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Sherman introduced a resolution, which was adopted, asking the Secretary of the Interior for the report of the Government Inspector of the Pacific Railroad.

On motion of Mr. Cole, the Senate then took up the House joint resolution making the last day adjournment extend from the 21st instant to the 5th of January, which, after some opposition, was adopted.

The Senate then, at 2 P. M., adjourned.

HOUSE.—The Speaker presented various documents, including the joint memorials of the Oregon Legislature, withdrawing its assent to the fourteenth article of the amendment to the Constitution.

The latter was on motion of Mr. Washburne (Ill.) referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. McCullough, from the Ways and Means, to enable him to offer the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The President of the United States, in his annual message to the Fortieth Congress, at its third session, says (here follows extract from the message in reference to the liquidation of the six per cent. bonds by the payment of interest in coin)

And whereas, Such a sentiment, if permitted to go to the world without immediate protest, might be understood to be the sentiment of the people of the United States and their representatives in Congress; therefore,

Resolved, That all forms and degrees of repudiation of national indebtedness are odious to the American people, and that under no circumstances will their representatives consent to offer public credit, or fail compensation, a less amount of money than that which the Government contracted to pay.

Mr. Hancock seconded it Mr. Broomall to let the resolution be printed before the House should be called on to act on it.

Mr. Broomall remarked that it was short, and easily understood, and that it had already been printed in the public papers.

Messrs. Holman and Maynard called for the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules.

The rules were suspended—yeas 135, nays 29—a quorum not voting.

Mr. Broomall moved the previous question.

Mr. Frugh said he would like to have five minutes to make a remark, and to offer a substitute, but Mr. Broomall declined to yield.

The question was then put on ordering the resolution, and moved to lay the preamble on the table.

The motion was rejected—yeas 57, nays 132.

The question was then taken on the preamble, and the following part of the resolution, namely: *Resolved*, That the Government and the people of nation of national indebtedness are odious to the American people," carried by yeas 154, nays 3, namely: Adams, Grover, Jones (Ky.), Archer (Md.), Mungen (O.) and Thomas (Va.).

The other part of the resolution was agreed to without division.

Mr. Lawrence (Ohio) presented the memorial of the Union League of New York, and offered a resolution for the appointment of a select committee of seven to investigate the irregularities and frauds therein alleged to have occurred in the city and State of New York, affecting the recent election for Representatives to Congress and electors for President and Vice President, with power to hold sessions in the State of New York and elsewhere, by a quorum or by sub-committee, and to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Lawrence moved to suspend the rules.

The yeas and nays were called for and refused—yeas 134, nays 35, a party vote. So the rules were suspended, and the resolution was offered and adopted.

Also, a message in reply to the resolution of the House, offered by Mr. Wood, calling for further correspondence in reference to the Alabama claims. The Secretary of State says he is of opinion that the publication of such correspondence now would be premature and incompatible with the public interests. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Butler (Mass.) introduced a bill to enforce the laws of the United States in the State of Georgia. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. Ferry introduced a bill to re-establish the rank of the navy officers in the navy. Referred to the Committee on Naval affairs.

Mr. Lansing introduced a bill to regulate the refunding of taxes paid into the Treasury of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Holman (Ind.) asked leave to offer a resolution calling on the Secretary of State for correspondence between Mr. Webb, United States Minister to Brazil, and Rear-Admiral Davis, in reference to the disposition of the American squadron off the coast of Rio Janeiro and Paraguayan difficulties.

The resolution was offered and agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Lynch, the bill reported by him from the Committee on Banking and Currency for the gradual resumption of specie payments, was made a special order for one-first Wednesday in January.

Mr. Wood moved to suspend the rules, in order to enable him to offer a preamble and resolution, reciting the allegation made in the Worcester speech of the President of the United States, that the Chicago platform was so ambiguous, he would not so admit, but would be interpreted by every stump speaker to suit the locality where he was speaking.

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