Pittsburgh Gazette.

VOLUME LXXXIV. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1869. NUMBER 78.

FIRST EDITION.

TWELVE O'CLOCK M.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature—Senate Not in Session—Petitions Presented—Bills Introduced and Reported from Committees—Denouncement of Newspaper Charges.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HARRISBURG, March 29, 1869.

SENATE.

The Senate meets to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. WILSON, one from Temperanceville against the bill enlarging the boundaries of said borough; from Patton township for a prohibitory liquor law; from the Pittsburgh Bar for a law allowing interested parties to testify; three from Allegheny for a general prohibitory liquor law; from Fourteenth ward, Pittsburgh, for a law allowing special terms for gas in said ward; from Allegheny, protesting against McKee's Ferry supplement.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. STRANG introduced a bill protecting contingent interests, which authorizes the owner of contingent interest in the personal property of any decedent to require executors and administrators to make and exhibit in the Register's office an account of trust in one year from the time of granting administration. Passed finally.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Among the reports of the Committees was a bill incorporating the State Line, Juniata and Lake Erie Railway Company—negatively.

Senate Insane bill—affirmatively.

Creating a new county, to be called Petrolia—negatively.

BILLS PRESENTED.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill relative to the assessment of damages on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, providing for viewers.

Mr. PLAYFORD, a bill requiring the Monongahela Bridge Company, at Bridgeport, to light their bridge with gas.

NEWSPAPER CHARGES.

Mr. STRONG, of Tioga, sent to the Clerk's desk, and had read, an article in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* criticising the proceedings in the House, on Wednesday evening, in which Mr. Kase played a part. He called it a slanderous falsehood. It was scandalously personal. These attacks upon the Legislature, and the personal characters of its members, had become too frequent, and he characterized them as made frequently to levy black mail. This editor held a semi-respectable position, but his assertions were unsupported by facts. No credence could be given to such men. The charges assumed the character of a sweeping attack upon the Legislature. He desired to put on record an absolute denial of the facts asserted. No Republican had made any attack on the gentleman from Northumberland. A newspaper, before it makes so grave and scandalous a charge, should know the facts. The man who made the allegations of facts he did not know. He was as guilty of lieing as was a deliberate liar. A great many representatives of just such papers as this wanted a law to protect them in libel suits. He gave notice that he would introduce a bill providing that no man should publish a newspaper until he should have filed a certificate of twelve reliable citizens that he is honest and of good repute for veracity.

NEWS BY CABLE.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, March 29.—A great review of volunteers was held at Dover to-day. Over 50,000 men were in ranks, and an immense multitude of people witnessed the spectacle. The weather was squally; some snow fell in the morning, in consequence of which the execution of maneuvers was delayed until the afternoon. Some accidents happened and several persons were hurt, but none seriously. A portion of the channel fleet was off the shore and went through the movements of naval review, exchanging salutes with the batteries on land.

FRANCE.

PARIS, March 29.—Officers and privates on leave of absence have been ordered to rejoin their regiments on the 1st of April.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, March 29.—To-day is a holiday and Stock Exchange not open.

FRANKFORT, March 29.—United States bonds 87¾.

LIVERPOOL, March 29.—Nothing doing in Cotton. Wheat 9s 11d for California white, and 9s for western red. Corn 30s 3d for new. Flour 23s 6d for western. Bacon 63s for Cumberland cut. Rosin 5s 3d for common.

LONDON, March 29.—Linseed Oil 29 pounds for 15s, and 30 pounds of Tallow for 47s 3d.

ANTWERP, March 29.—Petroleum 55½ @56 francs.

HAVRE, March 29.—Cotton active at 144 francs on spot and afloat.

Freshet in the Hudson.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

POUGHKEEPSIE, March 29.—A severe rain storm prevailed all along the Hudson river. Telegrams from up the river indicate all the ice will move by to-morrow. At Castellon to-night the water was four feet higher than ordinary high tide, and at Coxsackie the people were preparing for a freshet. The ice is moving at all points between here and Hudson.

—The order of Odd Fellows, of New York city, have completed the arrangements for a fitting celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the order on this continent. The addresses will be delivered at Steinway Hall, on the evening of April 26th, by the Rev. Edwin H. Chapin, P. P. G. Smith, of Buffalo, and others.

RIVER CONFLAGRATION.

Seven Steamboats Burned at St. Louis—Total Loss $200,000.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

ST. LOUIS, March 29.—About eight o'clock this evening a fire broke out on the steamer Ben Johnson, lying at the foot of Washington avenue, and in less than fifteen minutes the Henry Atkins, next above, and the Carrie V. Kountz and G. B Allen, below, were a mass of flames and their entire upper works destroyed, and the Fanny Scott and two other boats adjoining the Allen, were cut loose and floated down stream, and although the Kountz followed swiftly after them, still burning very fiercely, they escaped unharmed. All the boats were loading for the mountains. The value of the steamers and the insurance cannot be given at this writing.

The Fannie Scott, after floating down stream, was towed across the river by the Jennie Lewis, where both grounded. While in this situation the Artemis, which had taken fire from a mass of burning upper works that had floated from one of the steamers first burned, drifted against them, and all three burned to the water's edge. As these steamers were on the other side of the river but little information in reference to them can be obtained.

The total loss cannot be less than two hundred thousand dollars. The Girard B. Allen was valued at thirty thousand dollars; insurance is not known, except five thousand dollars in the Boatman of St. Louis. She was to start for Fort Benton on the 5th proximo, and was partially laden. The Ben Johnson was owned by Capt. Ben Johnson; value twenty-five thousand dollars; insured for twelve thousand dollars. The Carrie V. Kountz was entirely new, reached here from Pittsburg a few days ago, is owned by Capt. W. J. Kountz, and was valued at $30,000; insurance not known. She was to have left for the mountains on April 1st. Of the other boats nothing can be ascertained to-night. Several other steamers made narrow escapes.

The wharf where these boats lay, and for several blocks below, was closely filled with steamers, and if the wind had been high nothing could have prevented the most fearful conflagration that ever took place at our levee.

CHICAGO.

Death of a Bank President—General Sheridan.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

CHICAGO, March 29.—Hon. James H. Woodworth, President of the Treasury National Bank of this city, and one of our oldest and most respected citizens, died at his temporary residence in Highland Park last evening. Mr. Woodworth became a resident of Chicago in 1833. He was elected to the State Senate in 1839, and to the State House of Representatives in 1842. He was Mayor of the city from 1845 to 1850, and represented this district in the Thirty-Fourth Congress. He died in his sixty-fifth year.

Lieut. Gen. Sheridan has secured his new headquarters in this city in the new marble building on the northwest corner of Lasalle and Washington streets, just erected by the Merchants Insurance Company. The Lieut. General and staff will occupy the entire third story, comprising seventeen pleasant and commodious rooms, and possession will be taken of the rooms about the 15th of April, at about which time Gen. Sheridan will return to this city.

NEW YORK CITY.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

NEW YORK, March 29, 1869.

In the case of Fisk vs. the U. P. R. R., Judge Barnard to-day made an order vacating that of Judge Rosecranz, transferring the suit to the U. S. Court. Counsel for Fisk then moved that Thos. C. Durant be committed to Ludlow street jail as having been guilty of contempt in failing to produce books as ordered by the Court. Counsel for defence made an argument in opposition, when the Judge stated he had power to commit Durant, but would defer action until to-morrow. Durant was then examined, and in explaining how his efforts to obtain the books proved futile, stated that the directors had been given to understand this suit was a "black mailing operation," and statements were alleged to be made that unless they "come down," they would be driven from the State, and that such a statement, or one similar in its tendency, had even been attributed to Judge Barnard. The case was not concluded. Arguments on the same suit were made to day in the United States Court, before Judge Blatchford.

Gang of Thieves Broken Up.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

LOUISVILLE, March 29.—Some of the city police, assisted by two Deputy United States Marshals, have captured a most infamous gang of thieves at a place called Lost Island, a few miles below this city. The party consisted of four negro men and three white women, who lived together in a most degraded manner, and subsisted by pillaging the neighborhood. On Tuesday night they proceeded to the house of one Mary J. Hill, a white woman, partially demolished her house and beat her in a brutal manner. They stole watches and plundered generally, and it is also supposed had been connected with the foul murder of Charcoal Johnson and his family, which took place last fall.

Walking Contest—Twenty-four Hours Rain.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

BUFFALO, March 29.—Payne and Weston walk to-morrow for a purse of $500. They start from Walnut creek, ten miles above Erie, and walk to Buffalo, one hundred and three miles. No time specified; the first man in wins the purse.

The rain continued twenty-four hours. It has cleared off the snow, and the canal is almost entirely clear of ice at this point. Navigation opens early.

Murder at Memphis.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

MEMPHIS, March 29.—A brutal murder was committed last night at the corner of Third and Madison streets. Peter Crowley, while going to church with a lady, was deliberately shot in the back by John Kennedy, who fled, and thus far has not been arrested. Kennedy was a rival of Crowley and jealousy is supposed to have been the cause.

SECOND EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK A. M.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

[FIRST SESSION.]

SENATE: Tenure-of-Office Repeal Bill—Amendment Insisted Upon and a Conference Committee Appointed. HOUSE: Bills and Resolutions Presented and Referred—Central Pacific Railroad Investigation—Reorganization of Judicial System.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1869.

SENATE.

The VICE PRESIDENT submitted the joint resolutions of the Legislatures of Pennsylvania and South Carolina ratifying the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. SUMNER presented a petition of the Society of Friends of Richmond, Va., for an appropriation of $50,000 for the erection of an asylum for colored orphans.

Mr. HOWARD presented several joint resolutions of the Legislature of Michigan asking appropriations for public improvements, and one calling the attention of the Indian Department to the importance of having the Indians in that State vaccinated.

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the joint resolution continuing the pay of enlisted men at the present rate until the 30th of June, 1870, which was passed.

Also, a joint resolution, which was passed, dropping from the rolls of the army officers absent without leave.

Mr. HOWARD, from Committee on Pacific Railroad, reported favorably a joint resolution granting the right of way for the construction of a railroad from a point at or near Portland, Oregon, to the Cascade Mountains.

Mr. VICKERS reported from the Committee on the District of Columbia a bill to amend the usury laws thereof.

Mr. SPRAGUE moved to refer to the Committee on Appropriations the bill introduced by him the other day to provide for loaning the public money. Agreed to.

Mr. DRAKE introduced a bill to establish the office of Solicitor and Naval Judge Advocate General. Referred to Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SAWYER introduced a bill prescribing the oath of office to be taken by persons who participated in the late rebellion, but who are not disqualified by the Fourteenth Amendment. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. McDONALD introduced a bill to confirm the charter of the New Orleans Ship Canal Company and granting the right of way to said Company. Referred to Committee on Commerce.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to remove the political disabilities of Judge Alexander Rives, of Virginia. Referred to Committee on Political Disabilities.

At this point a message was received from the House announcing its non-concurrence in the action of the Senate on the bill to repeal the Tenure-of-Office act.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved the Senate insist upon its amendments, and ask a Committee of Conference.

Mr. GRIMES moved that the Senate recede.

Mr. DAWES read a constitutional argument in support of the latter motion.

At the expiration of the morning hour the unfinished business of Friday, being the supplementary act, was postponed, that the bill to repeal the Tenure-of-Office act might be considered.

Mr. TRUMBULL spoke at length in favor of the motion to insist, making a legal argument to show that the whole subject of the appointment and removal from office is by the Constitution made subject to the consent of the Senate or regulation by law, and that the President would have under the present bill all the power he could have if the Tenure-of-Office act were repealed. The only effect of the Tenure-of-Office act, as amended, is to put the old officers back after the session is closed, in case the Senate refuse to confirm a nomination, or by not refusing to concur in his suspension. Without the law the officer must remain vacant. With the law the old officer must go back. Which is best for the public interests, that the offices once filled by the concurrent action of the President and Senate should, after a failure of a whole session to agree on a successor, become vacant, or that the old incumbent, when his suspension was affirmatively disapproved of by the Senate, should go back and perform his duties? This is virtually all that remains of the Tenure-of-office act as amended by the Senate. Why should not theitwo Houses agree on it, when practically the President has under it all the powers ever exercised by any of his predecessors, and he has them in an unquestioned form. Nobody can doubt the authority of Congress by law to authorize the suspension of an officer appointed under its authority, as the power to fix the duration of the term of office is established. Why, then, this disagreement between us and the House, and so much feeling in the country? I am persuaded it arises from the action of mischief makers, and persons who desire to stir up animosity between the branches of Congress and the Executive. It is a mistake to suppose the Senate wishes to arrogate to itself powers above the House or Executive. The Constitution has made its advice and consent necessary to the appointment of officers, and he would not so legislate as to render that advice and consent unnecessary. If the two Houses will approach this subject in a spirit of harmony, as I believe they will, and not with a desire to get up antagonism, there can be no difficulty in coming to an agreement. All the friends of the administration desire to remove any obstacles that may exist to its faithful and efficient conduct of public affairs, and let there be no strife between us, but an honest effort to uphold and sustain the administration, which the people have chosen, in its endeavors to enforce the laws and secure peace, prosperity and happiness to the people.

Mr. MORTON said he would vote to recede. The Senator from Illinois had assumed the merits of this bill on one point, that in cases where the President should suspend an officer and nominate a successor, and the Senate should refuse to confirm that successor, the law would prevent a vacancy, which would otherwise occur on the adjournment of the Senate, by reinstating the old incumbent. But the fact was, that in this respect the law would be utterly ineffectual, because, although it would put back the old incumbent immediately upon the adjournment of the Senate, it would leave the President free to suspend him again without delay. The Senator from Illinois had asked him (Mr. Morton,) the other day whether he had not confidence enough in President Grant to believe he would not avail himself of that power, and the advocates of this law claimed it was not intended to bind a good President, but to control a bad one. But the difficulty was, it would impose no legal but merely a moral restraint, and therefore would be utterly powerless to control a bad President. Why, then, should not Senate recede? Why struggle for the shadow, when the substance has fled? There was another ground of objection to the bill. Should President Grant be restrained from suspending an officer a second time? That would depend upon circumstances. It would be monstrous to say that when an officer had been once suspended and reinstated by this law, he should thereafter be free to steal or commit other misdemeanor in office until the next session of Congress, without liability to removal by the President.

Mr. SPRAGUE said the Tenure-of-Office law, in substance and shadow, was wrong and mischief, and should be repealed.

Mr. HOWARD again declared himself opposed to repeal, first, because he believed it to be a salutary assertion of true constitutional doctrine on the subject of appointment to and removal from office; and, second, because it had been legally claimed by the counsel of Mr. Johnson, on the impeachment trial, that the President had power under the Constitution to make appointments and removals, not only in the recess, but even during the session of the Senate, and if Congress should now repeal the Tenure-of-office act, for violation of which a President had been put upon his trial, it would thereby give a tacit assent to that doctrine.

Mr. HOWE made a long argument in vindication of the constitutionality and wisdom of the Tenure-of-Office act, and in favor of retaining it unmodified upon the statute books.

Mr. POMEROY was willing to vote for a Conference Committee, in deference to the wishes of a majority of his political friends, although he would prefer to see the law repealed.

Mr. WARNER said the power of the Senate over appointments to and removal from office was derived, not directly from the Constitution, but from a law enacted by both Houses, and now, when the other House desired to recall its assent to that law, he thought the Senate should assent to that desire and to the repeal of the law.

The motion to recede was then lost by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Bayard, Casserly, Cole, Davis, Fessenden, Fenton, Fowler, Grimes, McCreery, McDonald, Morton, Pool, Robinson, Ross, Sprague, Stockton, Thayer, Thurman, Vickers and Warner—20.

Nays—Messrs. Abbott, Anthony, Boreman, Brownlow, Buckingham, Cameron, Carpenter, Cattell, Conkling, Cragin, Drake, Edmunds, Ferry, Gilbert, Hamlin, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Howe, Kellogg, Morrell, Nye, Patterson, Pomeroy, Pratt, Ramsey, Rice, Sawyer, Schurz, Scott, Spencer, Sumner, Tipton, Trumbull, Willey, Williams and Wilson—37.

The motion to insist and ask a Committee of Conference was then agreed to.

At 4.30 the Senate went into Executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Under the call of States bills and joint resolutions were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts: Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to collect the Internal Revenue now due and uncollected by reason of false and fraudulent returns; also, to incorporate a national land company for providing lands for immigrants and freedmen in the late slave-holding States.

By Mr. JENCKES: To repeal certain provisions in the Appropriation bill relative to the Patent Office.

By Mr. DOCKERY: To pay loyal citizens in States lately in rebellion for services in taking the United States census in 1860.

By Mr. COBB: For the sale of Government property at Plymouth, N. C.; also, for the removal of obstructions from the Roanoke river, N. C.

By Mr. WHITTEMORE: To authorize the settlement of certain accounts; also, to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to contract with Fisk & Mills for a group of statuary for the south wing of the Capitol.

By Mr. LAWRENCE: To punish the crime of holding office in violation of the constitution; also, in relation to trust funds; also, to preserve the purity of elections in territories.

The House, on motion of Mr. BINGHAM, adopted a resolution instructing the Committee on Pacific Railroad to enquire into the circumstances attending the late issue of bonds to the Central Pacific Railroad.

The House laid on the table, by a vote of 104 to 40, a resolution offered by Mr. MORGAN, to exempt salt, tea, coffee, sugar, matches and tobacco from all federal taxation, and to tax bonds two and a half per cent.

Mr. SCHENCK moved to suspend the rules that he might offer a concurrent resolution for a Joint Committee on Ordnance. Rules not suspended.

The House then proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table and disposed of it as follows:

Senate concurrent resolution for a joint committee, consisting of the Senate Committee on Contingent Expenses and House Committee on Accounts, to define the number, duties and compensation of the employes of both houses, was agreed to.

The Senate bill to amend the Judiciary System of the United States.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a substitute for this bill, and explained and advocated it.

Mr. POLAND offered an amendment, prohibiting the Judges participating in trials below.

The bill, substitute and amendment were debated by Messrs. Bingham, Poland, Lawrence, Woodward, Jenckes, Benton, Kerr, Butler, (Mass.,) Stevenson and Maynard. The principal points of discussion were a provision in the substitute which allows Judges to resign after serving a certain number of years, with a pension, and retaining their commissions as Judges, and the amendment offered by Mr. Poland.

Mr. KERR moved to amend the substitute by making the age for retiring Judges seventy-five instead of seventy years.

Finally the amendment offered by Mr. Kerr was rejected without division.

That offered by Mr. Poland was rejected—40 to 72.

The substitute was then passed—99 to 50—with a few exceptions, a party vote.

The substitute provides that the Supreme Court shall hereafter consist of a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices, any six of whom shall constitute a quorum, and in case any such Justices shall be excused and retired from active duty, under the provisions of the act, an additional Associate Justice is to be appointed.

The second section provides a Circuit Judge for each of the nine existing judicial districts, to possess the same power and jurisdiction therein as the Justices of the Supreme Court allotted to the Circuit. The Circuit Courts are to be held by a Justice of the Supreme Court, or by the Circuit Judge, or by the District Judge, each sitting alone, or by the Supreme Court Justice and the Circuit Judge, sitting together. Such Courts may be held at the same time in different districts of the same Court.

The third section provides that nothing in the act shall affect the powers of the Justices of the Supreme Court as Judges of Circuit Courts, except in the appointment of clerks of Circuit Courts, who shall be appointed by the Circuit Judge.

The fourth section requires the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court to attend at least one term of the Circuit Court in each district of his circuit during every period of two years.

The fifth section provides that any Judge of the United States Court who is more than seventy years of age, and any Judge who shall hereafter attain that age, and who shall have served at least ten years as such Judge, may, upon his filing with the President a certificate of that fact, be excused and retired from active service as such Judge; but shall thereafter during the time he shall continue to hold office be entitled to his full salary.

The sixth section provides if any United States Judge shall, for a year after the passage of this act, where the Judge has already attained that age, after reaching the age of seventy, continue to hold his office without filing such certificate, the President shall appoint an additional Judge for the same Court, who shall have the same power, perform the same duties and receive the same compensation as the Judge then acting, and shall, in connection with or in the absence of his senior associate, hold courts prescribed by law, and shall on the death or retirement of the senior Judge become a Judge of that court.

Adjourned.

New Orleans Matters—Important Court Decisions.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

NEW ORLEANS, March 29.—The First United States Infantry left to-day on the steamer Robert E. Lee, for Detroit, having been stationed here for five years. The Press all express regrets at their departure, and good wishes for their future. General Buchanan will not relinquish command for a few days.

Several important decisions were rendered by Judge Durell in the United States Court this morning. Three more of the wine cases were decided in favor of the government. The decision is believed to cover all the points that can be raised. In the case of Dr. J. T. Tucker, agent of the Illinois Central Railroad, petitioning to have the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroad declared bankrupt, the Judge in an elaborate decision held that Railroad bond coupons were not commercial paper within the meaning of the bankrupt law, and that under the State laws and act of incorporation a remedy was provided to which the creditors might resort; that in paying coupons after suit was brought on the same was not preferring one creditor over another, and therefore not an act of bankruptcy; and that the company was not insolvent, inasmuch as the assets by appraisement exceeded the liabilities due or to become due by more than half a million dollars. The Court expressed some doubt as to whether railroad companies come under the provisions of the bankrupt law.

Sealed proposals were to-day opened by the State Treasury for $90,000 levee eight per cent. bonds, pledged to banks of this city as collateral for loans for levee purposes. The highest bid was that of P. J. Kennedy, the great levee contractor, at 89½c, which was accepted.

The Cuban Insurrection.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HAVANA, March 29.—In the outskirts of Cardenas last Saturday night a patrol was fired upon. The fire was returned and two Cubans killed and one taken prisoner severely wounded.

President Baez, of St. Domingo, has refused to allow the organization of expeditions in aid of the Cuba rebels.

The *Diario* publishes the following news from the interior:

In the Cienfuegos district the government troops have completely surrounded the rebel forces under Gen. Ballonat La Valladore. Gen. Bucta, with three thousand regulars, left Cienfuegos yesterday, to attack the insurgents in the mountains, near Signana. He expects to effect a junction near there with the column advancing from Trinidad, under Gen. Escalante.

A large party of insurgents was defeated on Saturday near Trinidad. Telegraphic communication with Cienfuegos was restored. A detachment of twelve hundred troops arrived at Santa Cruz on the 20th inst. from Puerto Principe for supplies. They were to return next day.

Advices from Nassau to the 22d are received. A Spanish man-of-war had captured the British ship Jeff Davis, which was returning with a cargo of sponges, and had also boarded and searched the schooner Brittania. The Peruvian monitors still remained at Ragged Island, waiting supplies of coal from Nassau.

Missing Bonds.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

DETROIT, March 29.—Among the bonds stolen from Mr. Wilkins, on Friday, were six Port Burwell, Canada, Harbor bonds of four hundred dollars each, payable at the Bank of British North America, London. These are the only Port Burwell Harbor bonds afloat.

THE CAPITAL.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1869.

NAVY DIFFICULTY IN CHINA.

Rear Admiral Rowan, commanding the Asiatic squadron, writes from Hong Kong, under date of January 26th, giving an account of the difficulty between the British naval authorities and the Chinese near Swatow. The commander of an English gunboat took his boats some six or eight miles from the anchorage to exercise them, and in passing the village of Puling the villagers commenced pelting them with stones. Lieut. Kerr then landed and remonstrated, and finding the elders of the village decided to take the head man of the party in one of the boats to Swatow. The villagers resisted and fired on the Lieutenant, who returned the fire and soon dispersed them. The Lieutenant re-embarked, and when a short way on his return was intercepted by the villagers, who had cut across the country and who fired on the boats, wounding eleven men, two seriously. The fire was returned and eleven of the villagers were reported killed and thirty wounded. When the news reached Hong Kong Vice Admiral Keppel despatched two corvettes and two gunboats, with four hundred seamen from the flagship Rodney, to Swatow, to redress the unprovoked outrage on the English flag.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Within an hour after the passage by the House of the resolution directing the Committee on Pacific Railroad to investigate certain matters affecting the Pacific Railroad Company, the following letter was placed in the hands of the Chairman of that Committee:

Washington, March 29.—Hon. Wm. A. Wheeler, Chairman House Committee on Pacific Railroads—Sir: I respectfully request that a meeting of your committee be called at the earliest possible moment, not later than ten o'clock to-morrow, to discharge duties imposed upon it by the resolution of the House, this day passed, referring to the issue of bonds to the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California. I further request the author of that resolution, and all other persons willing to assume the responsibility of the charges insinuated in the preamble thereto, may be required to be present at such meeting. At present I cannot with propriety do more than denounce every statement therein affecting the Central Pacific Company as infamously false, and demand that the authors thereof shall be promptly required to make good their statements or confess their falsity.

Yours very respectfully,

C. H. HEMLINGTON,
V. P. C. P. R. R. Co.

The Senate Committee on the Pacific Railroad, at their session to-day, decided the Central & Union Pacific Companies should unite their roads at Ogden, it being the opinion of the Committee this arrangement will satisfy and materially benefit both companies.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President this afternoon sent the following nominations to the Senate: George Earle, First Assistant Postmaster General, in place of General Skinner.

Also, the following to be Postmasters: E. W. Keyes, Madison, Wisconsin; Wm. C. Cowley, Manchester, Iowa; George M. Yard, Oakland, Cala.; Samuel Fisher, Fernandi, Fla.; L. B. Cockean, Carthage, Ills.; Hugh Wagelin, Belleville, Ills.; John L. Campbell, Olney, Ills.; James C. Cunningham, Centralia, Ills.; Wm. Z. Manchester, Hillsboro, Ills.

Also, Benjamin H. Campbell, Marshal of the Northern District of Illinois; Alfred B. Meacham, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for Oregon; Wells S. Jones, Assessor of Internal Revenue, Twelfth District, Ohio; H. E. Meedlenburg, Collector of Internal Revenue, Ninth District, Pennsylvania; Wm. R. Centlan, Collector of Internal Revenue, Second District, South Carolina; P. Reid, Assessor of Internal Revenue, Second District, Alabama; Francis Wedmer, Collector of Internal Revenue, Second District, Alabama.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate this afternoon confirmed the following nominations: H. E. Muhlenburg, Collector of Internal Revenue of the ninth Pennsylvania district; E. M. Hays, Postmaster at Madison, Wisconsin; Alfred B. Melcham, Superintendant of Indian Affairs for Oregon, vice J. W. Huntington removed; Captains Thos. H. Stevens, Thos. H. Patterson and Edward T. Nichols to take their former positions on the navy register, and Capt. Jos. F. Armstrong, now on the retired list, to be Captain in the navy on the active list, to take rank next to Capt. S. Stanley.

NATIONAL BANK REPORTS.

The Comptroller of Currency has had prepared blank forms of national bank reports under the law, but the demand for said reports has not yet been made, and there have been no intimations as to what precise time the statements will be called for, or as to whether banks will be required to report at some day in the future, dating from the call made by the Comptroller, or from some time previous to that date.

TENURE-OF-OFFICE CONFERENCE.

Senators Trumbull, Edmunds and Grimes compose the Senate Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing vote of the two Houses upon the Tenure-of-Office Act. The House had not, up to adjournment, been informed of the action of the Senate.

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

George Earle, who was nominated by the President to-day to be First Assistant Postmaster General, was formerly Clerk of the Maryland Court of Appeals and late law partner of Postmaster General Creswell.

THE PRESIDENT ILL.

The President is unwell again to-day and receiving no visitors. He was in his office only a short time this morning.

Niagara River to be Tunneled or Bridged.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

OTTAWA, Canada, March 29.—The Erie and Niagara Extension Railroad Company and the Erie and Niagara Railroad Company have given notice that they will make application to the Dominion Parliament for powers authorizing both or either of these companies to construct a bridge over or a tunnel under the Niagara river, at or near Fort Erie, to cooperate with any similar powers existing within the State of New York, or created by the Congress of the United States.