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FIRST EDITION.

MIDNIGHT.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

(SECOND SESSION.)

SENATE: Alterations in Committees—Dignity and Sovereignty of the Nation—Ratification of Amendments—Repeal of the Test Oath—Political Condition of Cuba—Disabilities. HOUSE: Homestead Law—Information for Farmers—Exempting the Property of Soldiers and Sailors from Taxation—Assignment of New Members to Committees—The Next Census.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

SENATE.

On motion of Mr. ANTHONY, the Standing Committees were announced by the Clerk. The following Senators constitute the several committees named below, after the alterations made this morning:

Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Sumner, Cameron, Harlan, Morton, Patterson, Schurz and Casserly.

Appropriations.—Messrs. Morrill, Me., Wilson, Cole, Sprague, Sawyer, Poole and Stockton.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Cragin, Anthony, Ryan, Drake, Osborne and Stockton.

Patents.—Messrs. Willey, Ferry, Carpenter, Norton and Hamilton.

Library.—Messrs. Cattell, Howe and Morrill, of Maine.

To Audit and Control Contingent Expenses.—Messrs. Ferry, Edmunds and Davis.

The other Committees are without alteration.

The following petitions were presented and referred:

By Mr. EDMUNDS: One of C. D. Boutwell, of Texas, setting forth that the petitioner had been a rebel and had got back of it, and now wanted to be relieved from all disabilities.

By Mr. SUMNER: One of W. Cornell Jewett, asking as a means of vindicating the dignity and sovereignty of the nation to suspend the working of the French cable on American soil until France authorized the landing of a cable from America on French soil, and guarantee that all American dispatches should freely pass over France through the hands of American agents. Mr. Sumner remarked that there was now upon the table of the Senate a bill which met the prayer of the petitioner, and he proposed calling it up at an early day.

By Mr. HAMLIN, a memorial from officers of the United States navy, representing that injustice had been done by the special promotion over them of many of their juniors in the service, under the Act of July 25th, 1866, and praying Congress to redress the great wrong under which they believed themselves to suffer, by restoring them to the positions to which they have been relatively entitled. Mr. Hamlin said he had certain knowledge of facts in some of the cases referred to, and had no doubt that simple justice demanded at the hands of Congress a reparation for the wrong committed. He asked the earnest and candid attention of the Committee on Naval Affairs to the subject.

Mr. EDMUNDS gave notice that until Friday he would ask for the consideration of the House resolution regulating the hours of labor of Government laborers, workmen and mechanics. A resolution was passed at the last session in relation to the hours of labor, without touching the matter of compensation. The Attorney General had given a decision on that law, but the heads of departments had not yet accorded the law in accordance with that decision. The law itself, he believed, was not satisfactory to the workmen. At least it was working no profit to them, but tended to demoralize any government institution in which laborers were unplayed.

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced a joint resolution relating to the amendment to the constitution, providing that whenever satisfactory evidence is furnished to the Secretary of State that three-fourths of all the Legislatures have ratified any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, he shall forthwith proclaim the fact of such ratification, and if it shall appear that the Legislature of a State has ratified an amendment proposed as aforesaid, any other action by the Legislature of that State as to such amendment shall be void, and disregarded by the Secretary of State. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN introduced a bill to promote international coinage, fixing the weight of the gold coin of five dollars at 124,020 troy grains, equivalent to a coin of twenty-five francs. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARPENTER introduced a bill in relation to the rights of members of Congress, providing that nothing in any act of Congress shall hereafter be construed to prevent any member of Congress from practicing as attorney, solicitor, or counsel in the prosecution or defense of any cause, claim, or proceeding in any judicial Court of the United States.

Mr. FERRY introduced a bill to repeal all laws requiring what is known as the administration of the test oath. Referred.

Mr. CATTELL introduced a bill giving the consent of the United States to the erection of a bridge across the Delaware River, between Philadelphia and Camden. Referred to Committee on Commerce.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution calling upon the Committee on Military Affairs to consider whether any further legislation was needed to secure for all colored citizens, who have served in the army of the United States, complete equality with all other citizens, in the enjoyment of military bounty. He had understood a statute existed by which the former slaves who had served in the army were excluded from the enjoyment of that bounty. As it had been the object to give equal rights to all who served under our flag, and he asked the early attention of the Military Committee on the complete accomplishment of that object.

Mr. CAMERON offered the following:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interests, any information he may have with regard to the civil and political condition of Cuba. Adopted.

The resolution previously offered by Mr. Ramsey asking for information concerning the presence of Hon. William McDougall, in Dakotah Territory in opposition of the inhabitants to his assumption of the office of Governor, was taken up.

Mr. HOWARD said he thought the resolution unnecessary, inasmuch as the differents of the United States were not involved in the local disturbance which had arisen in the Red River country. The disturbance was confined to one of the remote possessions of the Dominion of Canada. He had been informed that McDougall had received no appointment to the exercise of authority in the Red River country, but was acting as a private citizen, though having received an assurance of future appointment as Governor of that portion of British America known as the Red River country. Many settlers on the northern border of Minnesota were, perhaps, greatly dissatisfied with the arrangement recently made, by which the Hudson Bay Company had sold out their interests, and the great object with them was the erection by a local government of their own, to look after their own special interests. The difficulty was apparently of a purely local nature.

Mr. RAMSEY said a portion of the people he represented enjoyed considerable trade with the Red River country, and that the people of the latter locality were in a state of discontent and revolution. The United States was represented there by a collector of revenue, and other officials, and it seemed important that the exact condition of affairs there should be ascertained. Agreed to.

Mr. THURMAN offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate whether, since the last session of Congress, any negotiations had taken place, or been proposed, between this Government and the Government of Great Britain, in respect to the reciprocity treaty or reciprocity laws, on the subject of trade and commerce between the United States and Canada, and to communicate any correspondence that may have taken place between the Executive and Government of Great Britain, or that of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. SUMNER suggested the insertion of the usual clause "if in the discretion of the President the information be consistent with the public interest."

The resolution so modified was agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. STEWART requesting the Judiciary Committee to inquire if any of the States were denying to any class of persons the equal protection of the laws in violation of the treaty obligations of the fourteenth amendment was agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. DRAKE, providing that hereafter the door of the Senate shall be cleared of persons not entitled to its privileges ten minutes before the meeting of the party, was agreed to—19 to 17.

The bill to relieve certain persons therein named from disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution came up. It contains the names of four or five hundred persons.

Mr. SUMNER moved to refer it to a committee, but after discussion withdrew the motion, when the bill passed.

The joint resolution for the relief of persons engaged in the late rebellion, providing that upon the final adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment all disabilities shall cease, was taken up.

Mr. STEWART said he believed the time had arrived to make the declaration here proposed. No danger need be apprehended upon the immediate removal of these disabilities, but, on the contrary, the continued imposition would have the effect that Congress desired to prevent—that of throwing the former rebel States into rebel hands.

The Senate went into Executive Session soon after. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. PALMER introduced a bill to authorize the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company to change the established route in Nebraska. Referred to P. and C. Railroad Committee.

Mr. LAWRENCE offered a resolution directing the Committee on Public Lands to inquire as to the expediency of amending the homestead law so as to authorize ex-soldiers and seamen of the United States to secure one hundred and sixty acres of land instead of eighty acres, as now authorized for a homestead, out of the alternate sections of land reserved in aid of railroads and other grants, owned by the Government. Adopted.

Mr. SARGENT introduced a bill to procure and disseminate information of the extent of cereal and other crops of foreign countries, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. It requires the American Consuls residing in countries which raise cereal or other crops in full cause in competition with American products in the markets of the world, to furnish a quarterly statement of the condition of crops to the State Department, which are to furnish them to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who is required to put them in a condensed form in his monthly circular, corrected by any accurate information in his possession. The object of the bill is to furnish information to the farmers, to enable them to sell or hold their crops in view of foreign markets, most of the information now obtainable being drawn from English sources and colored by the necessities of that country. Other bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. STRICKLAND: Extending the Portage Lake & Lake Superior Railroad to Keweenaw Bay, Michigan, by Finkelburg, concerning duties on imports, providing a periodical reduction of ten per cent.

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—Congressman Hopkins, of Wisconsin, resulting badly cured day. He was able to be lifted to his feet yesterday, and hopes soon to be out.

—The State Christian Convention is still in session at Terre Haute. The meetings are largely attended, and great interest is felt in the services.

—The directors of the Boston and Albany Railroad have appointed a committee to investigate the charges of cruelty to animals transported over their road.

—The Memphis Board of Aldermen have decided to sell the stock of the Little Rock Island Railroad, the purchaser to finish the road in six months.

—The German physicians of St. Louis hold a meeting to night to remonstrate against the hanging of Dr. Schoeppe, physician under sentence of death for poisoning.

—It is stated in official circles in New York that the Spanish gunboats will be released. Judge Pierrepont says he has not sufficient evidence in his possession to warrant further detention.

—John J. Eckels, after being told that he was about to die, said he had nothing to do with the Birdsell murder, but he told facts that point directly to Mrs. Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham and daughter were present at his funeral Tuesday.

—Samuel P. Blatchford, late Deputy Collector of New York, it is understood acknowledges to Mr. Pierrepont his complicity in the drawback frauds, and promises to make a full exposure of the matter. He says his revelation will astonish the country, and implicate some who stand high in business, official and political circles in New York and elsewhere.

—A letter from Port Laramie, dated December 4th, says: "The Indian troubles in Wyoming are quite alarming. Bands of Sioux are roving through the territory, robbing and murdering. One mail party that left Fort Laramie were driven in by the Indians, and another that left several days previous had not been heard from, and it is feared they have been captured."

SECOND EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK, A. M.

NEWS BY CABLE.

Opening of the Ecumenical Council—No Power Has a Special Representative—"An American Promise Equal to its Fulfilment"—Protest by Prince of Monteero—Treaty Modification Rejected—Spanish Republican Investigating Committee—London Press on American Matters—Bishop Temple's Appointment Confirmed—Fault of the Suez Canal—A Congress of Deists—Speech of the French Minister of the Interior.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

ROME.

ROME, December 8.—The Ecumenical Council was opened to-day by the Pope. The weather is unfavorable, rain is falling at intervals throughout the day, but an enormous crowd filled the Vatican and lined the streets through which the members of the Council passed. The Pope, followed by seven hundred bishops, proceeded from the hall of the Council amid the ringing of bells and thundering of cannon from the forts of St. Angels and Mount Aventine. The Holy Father is in fine health. The Italian flag of the hall of the Council was occupied by the Sovereigns and Princes now in Rome, by members of corps diplomatique and other notables. The ceremonies excelled in grandeur and magnificence any taken place in Rome with in the present century.

LONDON, December 8.—No power has a special representative at the Ecumenical Council.

GREAT BRITAIN.

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The *Times* in an article on American finances, says: The fact that repudiation has been practiced by all the States except Massachusetts, is unknown to the world, to furnish a quarterly statement of the condition of crops to the State Department, which are to furnish them to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who is required to put them in a condensed form in his monthly circular, corrected by any accurate information in his possession. The object of the bill is to furnish information to the farmers, to enable them to sell or hold their crops in view of foreign markets, most of the information now obtainable being drawn from English sources and colored by the necessities of that country. Other bills were introduced and referred as follows:

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—Congressman Hopkins, of Wisconsin, resulting badly cured day. He was able to be lifted to his feet yesterday, and hopes soon to be out.

—The State Christian Convention is still in session at Terre Haute. The meetings are largely attended, and great interest is felt in the services.

—The directors of the Boston and Albany Railroad have appointed a committee to investigate the charges of cruelty to animals transported over their road.

—The Memphis Board of Aldermen have decided to sell the stock of the Little Rock Island Railroad, the purchaser to finish the road in six months.

—The German physicians of St. Louis hold a meeting to night to remonstrate against the hanging of Dr. Schoeppe, physician under sentence of death for poisoning.

—It is stated in official circles in New York that the Spanish gunboats will be released. Judge Pierrepont says he has not sufficient evidence in his possession to warrant further detention.

—John J. Eckels, after being told that he was about to die, said he had nothing to do with the Birdsell murder, but he told facts that point directly to Mrs. Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham and daughter were present at his funeral Tuesday.

—Samuel P. Blatchford, late Deputy Collector of New York, it is understood acknowledges to Mr. Pierrepont his complicity in the drawback frauds, and promises to make a full exposure of the matter. He says his revelation will astonish the country, and implicate some who stand high in business, official and political circles in New York and elsewhere.

—A letter from Port Laramie, dated December 4th, says: "The Indian troubles in Wyoming are quite alarming. Bands of Sioux are roving through the territory, robbing and murdering. One mail party that left Fort Laramie were driven in by the Indians, and another that left several days previous had not been heard from, and it is feared they have been captured."

THE CAPITAL.

Diplomacy Settles the Spanish Gunboat Question—Nominations—Nominations Confirmed—Termination of Indian Treaties—Ordered to Duty—To Settle Disputes—Deputy Marshal Shot—Tennessee Outlaws and Illicit Distillers Reprieved—Judgeships—Admission of Virginia—Congratulations—Pardoned Rebels—Supreme Judgeship—Coin in the Treasury.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, December 8, 1869.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate to-day confirmed the nominations of Gen. Belknap, Secretary of War, and Mr. Robeson, as Secretary of the Navy. All other nominations were referred to the appropriate Committee.

DIPLOMACY SETTLES THE SPANISH GUNBOAT QUESTION.

ROME.

ROME, December 8.—The Ecumenical Council was opened to-day by the Pope. The weather is unfavorable, rain is falling at intervals throughout the day, but an enormous crowd filled the Vatican and lined the streets through which the members of the Council passed. The Pope, followed by seven hundred bishops, proceeded from the hall of the Council amid the ringing of bells and thundering of cannon from the forts of St. Angels and Mount Aventine. The Holy Father is in fine health. The Italian flag of the hall of the Council was occupied by the Sovereigns and Princes now in Rome, by members of corps diplomatique and other notables. The ceremonies excelled in grandeur and magnificence any taken place in Rome with in the present century.

LONDON, December 8.—No power has a special representative at the Ecumenical Council.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, December 8.—The English Ministry have accepted the modifications of the treaty of commerce between England and France, proposed by the latter.

The *Times* in an article on American finances, says: The fact that repudiation has been practiced by all the States except Massachusetts, is unknown to the world, to furnish a quarterly statement of the condition of crops to the State Department, which are to furnish them to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who is required to put them in a condensed form in his monthly circular, corrected by any accurate information in his possession. The object of the bill is to furnish information to the farmers, to enable them to sell or hold their crops in view of foreign markets, most of the information now obtainable being drawn from English sources and colored by the necessities of that country. Other bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. STRICKLAND: Extending the Portage Lake & Lake Superior Railroad to Keweenaw Bay, Michigan, by Finkelburg, concerning duties on imports, providing a periodical reduction of ten per cent.

By Mr. CAVANAUGH, of Montana: To provide for the election of certain territorial officers by the people.

By Mr. MUNGIN: To exempt from taxation the property of ex-soldiers and sailors of the United States to the same extent as the property of bond holders.

By Mr. O'NEILL: For the restoration of Capt. Jeremiah Lynch to the active list of the Navy.

By Mr. McCRARY: To amend the act for the consolidation of United States statutes.

The Speaker made a proposition to the House in reference to the assignment to committees of the recently admitted members. At present it was not in his power to assign them to committees, and he suggested to be authorized to assign them as temporary members to such committees as he might deem desirable.

Mr. BROOKS, of New York, expressed the hope that the Speaker would improve the opportunity by adding a Democratic member to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. FARNSWORTH suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SCHENCK did not favor that suggestion, because it would be apt to cause delay, and would look to something like a permanent arrangement instead of a temporary one.

Mr. FARNSWORTH did not wish to be understood as objecting to the speaker's proposition, but he reminded the House there were a great many of the committees of the House that were obsolete, except on paper, and that never met and had no place of meeting, and he thought it better that the whole subject of committees be reviewed by the Committee on rules.

Mr. WELCKER offered a resolution giving the Speaker the authority suggested.

Mr. DAWES favored the referring of the whole matter to the Committee on Rules. It did not seem to him quite right to leave the matter entirely to the Speaker. It was a delicate matter, and he supposed the Speaker would prefer to have it arranged by the Committee on Rules.

The SPEAKER said he had no desire in the matter at all, other than might be indicated by the House.

Mr. ELDRIDGE suggested that the difficulty might be obviated by the resignation of members of committees who are now serving on more than one.

Mr. BENJAMIN thought the whole matter premature, until after the admission of the Virginia, Mississippi and Texas members.

Finally the subject was referred to the Committee on Rules.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Dawes in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill to provide for taking the ninth census, to fix the numbers of members of the House of Representatives, and to provide for their future apportionment among the States.

Mr. STORES, Chairman of the Census Committee, commended the industry of the sub committee which sat during the recess, and said he would leave the management of engineering the bill to the chairman of the sub-committee, Mr. Garfield, of Ohio.

Mr. GARFIELD proceeded to state succinctly the points of the bill, and machinery devised therein for taking the census, explaining wherein and why it differed from that by which the census of 1860 was taken. In reply to questions put by Mr. Buller, Mr. Clark, of Kansas, and others, in regard to representation in Congress, Mr. Garfield said the present organization or numbering of the House began on the fourth of March, 1864, and manifestly will run until the same day in March, 1873. The census to be taken next June ought, of course, to be complete, so far as the taking is concerned, by the first of July. We shall not know until next fall what the basis of representation will be, and as a matter of course no redistricting of States can be made until that time. The Committee had agreed this morning to fill up the blank for the number of members with three hundred. In reference to information to be obtained from railroad companies, Mr. Garfield remarked, now that the negro question had been got rid of, the next great fight would be with these great corporations. Congress should at least know what they were doing with the national wealth in their hands. In reply to a question by Mr. Poland, he stated that with the whole number of members fixed at three hundred, no State would suffer the loss of a member, but with two hundred and seventy-five fixed as the number, two or three New England States would suffer.

Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., inquired whether any arrangement was made in the bill for the obtaining of telegraph statistics.

Mr. GARFIELD replied, there was not, except as regarding the telegraph connected with railroads. The Committee had prepared an additional schedule for that purpose, and had it ready to offer, in case the house desired it. But

Unfortunately lies between Attorney General Hoar and Judge Erskine, of Georgia.

TERMINATION OF INDIAN TREATIES.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs to-day agreed to report a bill looking to the termination of all treaties with the Indians, and providing for them by special legislation from time to time.

ORDERED TO DUTY.

Rear Admiral Craven has been ordered to assume the duties of Port Admiral at San Francisco, on the 1st of January.

UPPER RIVERS.

(By Telegraph and Wheeling Telegraph.)

BROWNSVILLE, Pa., December 8.—The river is stationary, with six feet water in the channel. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 34 at 4 P. M.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., December 8.—River is falling, with forty inches water in the channel. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 38 at 4 P. M.

GREENSBORO, Pa., December 8.—River on a stand, with about four and a half feet water in channel. Weather cloudy. Thermometer 32 at 5 P. M.

HAVANA.

Incendiaries—Troops on the March—Gen. Lesca Sick.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

HAVANA, December 8.—An attempt was lately made to burn the town of Juin, but was frustrated. Many persons suspected of complicity in the plot have been arrested.

Troops from Sancti Espiritus have marched towards Puerto Principe. The supposed intention is to destroy the rebel encampments in that region.

General Lesca has arrived at Havana sick.

Highly Important Legal Decision.