

AGENCY

F. B. PALMER, Esq. is authorized to act as Agent for the Columbia Democrat...

FOR GOVERNOR: FRANCIS R. SHUNK, FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, MORRIS LONGSTRETH.

TO OUR PATRONS.

With this number, ceases our connection with the Columbia Democrat...

It is now nine years since we became a resident of Columbia county...

It is also true, that in advocating the removal and in sustaining the removal party...

We have given to the Removal an unwavering and consistent advocacy...

We now retire from the Editorial chair with the best feelings towards all...

HENRY WEBB.

Having disposed of the establishment of the Columbia Democrat to Mr. Tate...

Our thanks are due to the Hon. Simon Cameron, Hon. Mr. Martin, Gen. Wm & Rose and Stewart Pearce, Esq., for Public Documents.

Having disposed of the establishment of the Columbia Democrat it now becomes necessary that our accounts should be closed.

THE TARIFF.

Ought the act of 1842 to be re-enacted, even if it were practicable, which it is not.

It is time that fierce and ignorant prejudices should be put aside, and that this subject should be fairly examined by those who are asking blindly and noisily for the restoration of the act of 1842.

Let us compare some of the duties in the act of 1842 with the duties on similar articles in the act of 1840.

Table with 2 columns: Act of 1842, Act of 1840. Rows: Salt, Sugar.

Upon these two great necessities of life, therefore, Salt and Sugar, the taxes are reduced more than one-half from what they were by the act of '42.

These articles are luxuries, and so they were taxed low for the advantage of the millionaires of Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

From among the paper duties we select the following:

Table with 2 columns: 1842, 1840. Rows: Bill-headers or fancy note paper, Foolscap, Other kinds of paper, Visiting cards.

We will add a few other examples:

Table with 2 columns: 1842, 1840. Rows: Muslins, Ribbons, Other fine ems.

Why should a musket be taxed 65 per cent, while a rifle is taxed 25 and a pistol 30 per cent?

Table with 2 columns: 1842, 1840. Rows: Jewelry, gold, silver or platinum, Diamonds, Watches, etc.

Here the duties upon these articles of luxury and ornament are very properly increased by the act of 1842.

Table with 2 columns: 1842, 1840. Rows: Lead, Lard, Butter, etc.

Here the taxes upon these articles of general use were very unequal as well as high and burdensome under the act of '42.

Now, there is a vast difference between the amendment of the tariff of 1840 and the restoration of the act of 1842.

This act of '40 is superior to the act of '42, inasmuch as it equalizes taxation, and makes those who are able, pay their due proportion toward supporting the government.

sumers pay duties in proportion to the value of what he buys. The fraud of minimum or false valuations is also abolished...

James Briggs, a colored man, has been convicted in Schoykill county of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hung, by Judge Kidder.

Hon. Thomas H. Benton having been appointed Major General by the President and confirmed by the Senate, has declined the appointment.

General James Irvin has been nominated by the Whig State Convention as their candidate for Governor, and Joseph W. Patton for Canal Commissioner.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The election of State officers took place in New Hampshire on the 21st inst. It resulted in the entire success of the Democratic Governor and a Democratic Legislature.

Gen. Wm. O. Butler left New Orleans for his home in Kentucky on the 2d inst.

The census of the city of St. Louis, taken under the direction of the corporation, has just been completed.

PENNSYLVANIA CANALS.

The Main Line of the Pennsylvania Canals is now in successful operation, a boat having passed through the whole line from Columbia to Pittsburgh.

THE ISLAND OF LOBOS.

The Island of Lobos, where our troops are concentrating, is somewhat notorious. A letter in a New Orleans paper says: "It was at this island Gen. Porter, in 1818, first hoisted the tricolor flag of Mexico...

The Sanbury Gazette of the 13th says: On last Friday, about 11 o'clock, the house of St. Washington Brewer, of Upper Augusta township, took fire and was entirely consumed.

A newspaper in the English language is about to be published at Monterey, in the State of New Leon, Mexico.

The Legislature adjourned on Tuesday last, after a session of about seventy days.

We have had no letter from our Army Correspondents since they left New Orleans.

A married lady in Fall River, aged but fifteen years, recently gave birth to a pair of twins!

"William," said a pretty girl to her sweetheart the other day, "I'm afraid you don't love me any longer."

A Capital Toast.—At a late festival of the citizens of St. Louis, given on the 15th of February, for the purpose of celebrating the landing of Laclède and the founding of the city, we find the following among the regular toasts drunk on the occasion:

Our Army—the Volunteers and Regulars—With Shields for defence; a Butler for supplies; a Pillow for repose, and a Marshal for parade, may they not lack a Fool for comfort, a Worth in battle, or a Garland for victory; never crying Quittas in the face, but laying their Quiggins on the enemy's back, pay promptly their debts, or change as the Taylor always knows how.

Some two or three hundred Choctaws from Mississippi, passed Little Rock, Ark., on the 24th of February, bound on their new home to the west.

SALE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS.

The Speculator's bill came up in the House of Representatives on the 13th inst., when the following proceedings took place. It will be seen that Mr. Pearce has faithfully represented his constituents by opposing this bill.

In the House, Feb. 13, 1844. The bill to incorporate the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company and to provide a sinking fund for the payment of the State debt, was taken up, yeas 44, nays 41.

On a second reading, Mr. Knox proposed to amend the bill in the first section, so as to increase the price to be paid for the public works, from 20 to 25 millions, and to increase the number of shares from 100,000 to 200,000, defeated, yeas 36, nays 45.

Mr. Evans here demanded the previous question, and it was seconded, & on the question, shall the main question now be put? it was decided in the negative, yeas 45; nays 3—no quorum voting. The Democrats refusing to vote.

An adjournment was moved but without effect, yeas 25, nays 47.

Mr. Evans again demanded the previous question, and it was seconded, and the question shall the main question now be put?

Mr. Knox desired to be excused from voting in this call of the previous question, as the majority of the House were hurrying through a bill, conceded on all hands to be the most important of the session, without giving the minority a right either to perfect the bill, or to be heard in opposition to it.

The call of the yeas and nays was commenced. Mr. Anderson asked to be excused, but it was refused him, yeas 34, nays 47. Mr. Burns asked to be excused from voting; yeas 32, nays 46. Mr. Bush was refused leave to be excused from voting.

Messrs. Fernon, Forsyth, Hassan, Long, Keick, Meyers and Mathers, were excused without a decision.

Mr. Knox desired to be excused, and asked the yeas and nays thereon.

The Speaker remarked that he could not countenance such conduct as had been pursued, and further that it was contumacious, and decided that Mr. Knox was excused.

Mr. Pearce asked to be excused, and briefly stated his reasons, he came here under instructions to vote against a bill such as this, by his constituents, a large majority of whom are opposed to this measure. He was excused.

Mr. Piolet desired to be excused, and gave his reasons for not voting upon the measure, and had sent him here to represent their views, but this he could not, as the majority of this House had sprung the previous question upon the minority, and were disposed, because they were in the majority, to treat the minority tyrannically; he knew the portion of the House with whom he acted, had no desire to throw obstacles in the way of transacting business, but that when they wanted to be heard, and were refused, they thought the course they were pursuing was the correct one, otherwise they had no opportunity to be heard. Mr. P. was excused from voting.

Mr. Thomas was excused from voting yeas 46, nays 41. The previous question was then ordered, yeas 49, nays 25, and on the question, shall the first section pass, it was determined in the affirmative, yeas 51, nays 28, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Bissell, Benz, Bigham, D. Jr., Breidenthal, Bull, Culvin, Connor, Deinson, Dickson, Edie, Evans, Fox, Genley, Gray, Haly, Harris, Hilde, Hunter, Kaufman, Kinnear, Ladley, Lawrence, Lockhart, Mardley, Matthias, Montellina, Morrison, Morton, McAllister, McCurdy, McGurley, McKnight, McMinny, Patterson, Pauling, Phillips, Pomroy, [Meiser.] Pomroy, [Franklin.] Reed, Robins, Ross, Sanborn, Sharp, Shelly, Thompson, Trego, Warner, Westner, Cooper, Speaker.

NAYS—Anderson, Bowman, Burns, Bush, Bushnell, Clark, Daly, Donaldson, Fasset, Fausold, Fernon, Fenstermacher, Forsyth, Hassan, Haymaker, Ives, Jacoby, Kealty, Kline, Kongsomthit, Knox, Keick, Loughlin, L. van, Long, Mather, Myers, McAbie, Pearce, Perry, Piolet, Robert, Sipes, Smith, Souder, Thompson, Weiler, Worrell.

A motion was made to adjourn, which was not agreed to—yeas 41, nays 43—and the hour of adjournment arriving, the House adjourned itself.

We learn with regret that the bare and shreds of Mr. John Ficus, jr. of Boscawen, was destroyed by fire Wednesday evening last, together with all their contents consisting of his stock of hay, several hundred bushels of oats, a quantity of wheat three horses, and all his farming utensils.

FIRE.

One of the most awful and destructive conflagrations occurred in our Borough to-day that ever visited a town of equal extent and population. More than 20 buildings were laid waste, in the fairest and most business portions of the town.

Every building on the south side of the public square, and east side of Main street as far down as Mr. C. Arnout's brick house was destroyed.

The wind blew from the northwest, which threw the force of the blaze partly towards the river, and was a fortunate circumstance, for had the fire crossed Main street, Heaven only knows where it could have been stopped.

We will not pretend to estimate with accuracy the loss, but it cannot be less than 60 or 80,000 dollars.

More than twenty-five families have, by this calamity, been left homeless, and many have lost all they possessed.

AWFUL STATE OF THINGS IN MEXICO.

The Union translates an article from the Vera Cruz Economist, of the 18th of January, in which a pitiable account of the condition of things in the Mexican Capital is given.

The expressions of opinion on the part of the Democratic Press in response to the nomination of the Democratic State Convention, are of the most enthusiastic kind.

There is nothing of any importance from the army in Mexico. The last accounts Gen. Scott actively engaged in preparing for an attack upon Vera Cruz, and were in daily expectation of hearing of important news from that quarter.

The Bill for the creation of the new County of Lackawanna has not become a law, as we stated in our last. It was introduced in the Senate, and went back to the House, where it was lost.

Gen. Boscawen, who sent a very eloquent paper on the expedition of the West from London a few months ago, delivered a temperance address in Quincy, last week.

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LATE FROM MEXICO.

The New York Sun has received advice from Vera Cruz to the 5th and the city of Mexico to the 5th of February. The church had effectually resisted the seizure of its property, and Santa Anna convinced of the unpopularity of the modification act, had written to the Congress, urging a modification or repeal.

Santa Anna had forwarded a desponding letter to the government. He replies to the charge of apathy made against him, pointing the horrible destitution of his forces, reiterates his and their protestations of valor and patriotism, and declares his readiness to retire into private life, or to go again into foreign exile if Congress thinks best.

He adds that he is about to meet the envoys. The capture of the American detachments had roused some enthusiasm. The letter was dated 26th of January.

Adverse preparations were making for defence at Vera Cruz as late as the 7th. The national bridge and Point Chiquito are receiving formidable additions to their defences.

An act passed the State Legislature conferring all necessary power upon the Governor in fortifying the city. We remark however that the rumored evacuation of Vera Cruz, announced at Tampico, may have been founded upon orders issued since the 7th ult.

Gen. Rejon, the new Secretary of Foreign Affairs, is favorably spoken of. He is to be the principal manager of negotiations with the United States.

There were at Anton Lizardo one U. S. frigate, 3 brigs, 2 small steamers, 5 pilot boats, 1 steam frigate and 1 trading brig. At Isle Verde 1 U. S. corvette which on the 7th got under way and stood southward.

The Spanish brig Seraphine at Havana ran the blockade at Vera Cruz both in an out, being accompanied out by two other vessels which also escaped the U. S. squadron. The English schooner Lee arrived at Havana Feb. 27, six days from Belize, Honduras, with \$21,000 in specie. News of the loss of the British mail steamer Tweed had been received at Havana.

There was a rumor from Havana that Santa Anna during hostilities was to be declared Protector of Mexican liberty, with full power to bring the war to a speedy termination—but it is only a rumor.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.

The New York Courier des Etats Unis says it has received, by way of Havana, private advices relative to the internal affairs of Mexico, which contain several important revelations with regard to the reaction now going on secretly in the capital.

It seems, [says the Courier] that the Clergy, whose property has been menaced by the war party, is disposed to make its own cause that of the republic, and permit the project of peace to triumph. Its plan is to replace the Federal Congress, from whose session it has nothing to hope for, by an absolute power strong enough to force Mexico to agree to a peace.

Such [announces the Courier] is the double road leading to this end, and it is Santa Anna upon whom they are also reported to have cast their eyes. That General would then be sure of arriving upon terms at the dictatorship, supported by the Clergy, and on the express condition of respecting its property and promptly concluding a treaty of peace.

There is nothing of any importance from the army in Mexico. The last accounts Gen. Scott actively engaged in preparing for an attack upon Vera Cruz, and were in daily expectation of hearing of important news from that quarter.

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