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OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Passed at the Third Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

[PUBLIC—No. 64.]

AN ACT for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes.

Whereas there now exist in the United States an insurrection and rebellion against the authority thereof, and it is under the Constitution of the United States the duty of the Government to suppress insurrection and rebellion, to guarantee to each State a republican form of government, and to preserve the public tranquillity; and whereas, for these high purposes, a military force is indispensable, to raise and support which all persons ought willingly to contribute; and whereas no service can be more praiseworthy and honorable than that which is rendered for the maintenance of the Constitution and Union, and the consequent preservation of free government; Therefore—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all able-bodied male citizens of the United States and persons of foreign birth who shall have declared on oath their intention to become citizens and in pursuance of the laws thereof, between the ages of twenty and forty-five years except as hereinafter excepted, are hereby declared to constitute the national forces, and shall be liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States, when called out by the President for that purpose.

Section 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the following persons be and they are hereby accepted and exempt from the provisions of this act, and shall not be liable to military duty under the same to wit: Such as are rejected as physically or mentally unfit for the service; also, first the Vice President of the United States, the judges of the various courts of the United States, the heads or the various executive departments of the Governors of the several States. Second, the only son liable to military duty of a widow dependent upon his labor for support. Third, the only son of aged or infirm parent or parents dependent upon his labor for support. Fourth, where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents subject to draft, the father, if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt. Fifth, the only brother of children over twelve years old, having neither father or mother dependent upon his labor for support. Sixth, the father of motherless children under twelve years of age, dependent upon his labor for support. Seventh, where there are a father and sons in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States as non-commissioned officers musicians or privates, the residue of such family and household not exceeding two shall be exempt. And no persons but such as are herein excepted shall be exempt: *Provided, however*, That no person who has been convicted of any felony shall be enrolled or permitted to serve in said forces.

Section 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the national forces of the United States not now in the military service, enrolled under this act shall be divided into two classes: the first of which shall comprise all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five and under the age of forty-five; the second class shall comprise all other persons subject to do military duty; and they shall not, in any district, be called into the service of the United States until those of the first class shall have been called.

Section 4. *And be it further enacted*, That for greater convenience in enrolling, calling out, and organizing the national forces and for the arrest of deserters and spies of the enemy, the United States shall be divided into districts of which the district of Columbia shall constitute one, each Territory of the United States shall constitute one or more, as the President may direct, and each congressional district of the respective States, as fixed by a law of the State next preceding the enrolment, shall constitute one; *Provided*, That in States which have not by their laws been divided into two or more congressional districts, the President of the United States shall divide the same into so many enrolment districts as he may deem fit and convenient.

Section 5. *And be it further enacted*, That for each of said districts there shall be appointed by the President a provost marshal, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a captain of cavalry, or an officer of said rank shall be detailed by the President, who shall be under the direction and subject to the orders of a provost marshal general, appointed or detailed by the President of the United States, whose office shall be at the seat of government, forming a separate bureau of the War Department, and whose rank, pay, and emoluments shall be those of a colonel of cavalry.

Section 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the provost marshal general, with the approval of the Secretary of War, to make rules and regulations for the government of his surbordinates; to furnish them with the names and residences of all deserters from the army or any of the land forces in the service of the United States, including the militia, when reported to him by the commanding officers; to communicate to them all orders of the President in reference to calling out the national forces; to furnish proper blanks and instructions for enrolling and drafting; to file and preserve copies of all enrolment lists; to require stated reports of all proceedings on the part of his surbordinates; to audit all accounts connected with the service under his direction; and to perform such other duties as the President may prescribe in carrying out the provisions of this act.

Section 7. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the provost marshal to arrest all deserters, whether regulars, volunteers, militiamen, or persons called into the service under this or any other act of Congress, wherever they may be found, and to send them to the nearest military commander or military post; to detect, seize, and confine spies of the enemy, who shall, without unreasonable delay be delivered to the custody of the general commanding the department in which they may be arrested, to be tried as soon as the exigencies of the service permit; to obey all lawful orders and regulations of the provost marshal general, and such as may be prescribed by law, concerning the enrolment and calling into service of the national forces.

Section 8. *And be it further enacted*, That in each of said districts there shall be a board of enrolment, to be composed of the provost marshal, as president, and two other persons, to be appointed by the president of the United States, one of whom shall be a licensed and practicing physician and surgeon.

Section 9. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the said board to divide the district into sub-districts of convenient size, if they shall deem it necessary, not exceeding two, without the direction of the Secretary of War, and to appoint, on or before the tenth day of March next, and in each alternate year thereafter an enrolling officer for each sub-district, and to furnish him with proper blanks and instructions; and he shall immediately proceed to enrol all persons subject to military duty, noting their respective places of residence, on the first of July following and their occupation, and shall, on or before the first day of April, report the same to the board of enrolment, to be consolidated into one list, a copy of which shall be transmitted to the provost marshal general on or before the first day of May succeeding the enrolment: *Provided nevertheless*, That if, from any cause, the duties prescribed by this section cannot be performed within the time specified, then the same shall be performed as soon thereafter as practicable.

Section 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the enrolment of each class shall be made separately, and shall only embrace those whose ages shall be on the first day of July thereafter between twenty and forty-five years.

Section 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons thus enrolled shall be subject, for two years after the first day of July succeeding the enrolment, to be called into the military service of the United States, and to continue in service during the present rebellion, not however exceeding the term of three years; and when called into service shall be placed on the same footing, in all respects, as volunteers for three years or during the war, including advance pay and bounty as now provided by law.

Section 12. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever it may be necessary to call out the national forces for military service, the President is hereby authorized to assign to each district the number of men to be furnished by said district; and thereupon the enrolling board shall, under the direction of the President, make a draft of the required number, and fifty per cent in addition, and shall make an exact and complete roll of the names of the persons so drawn, and of the order in which they were drawn, so that the first drawn may stand first upon the said roll, and the second may stand second and so on. And the person so drawn shall be notified of the same within ten days thereafter, by a written or printed notice, to be served personally or by leaving a copy at the last place of residence, requiring them to appear at a designated rendezvous to report for duty. In assigning to the districts the number of men to be furnished therefrom, the President shall take into consideration the number of volunteers and militia, furnished by and from the several States in which said districts are situated, and the period of their service since the commencement of the present rebellion, and shall so make said assignment as to equalize the numbers among the districts of the several States, considering and allowing for the numbers already furnished as aforesaid and the time of their service.

Section 13. *And be it further enacted*, That any person drafted and notified to appear as aforesaid, may, on or before the day fixed for his appearance, furnish an acceptable substitute to take his place in the draft; or he may pay to such person as the Secretary of War may authorize to receive it, such sum, not exceeding three hundred dollars, as the Secretary may determine, for the procuration of such substitute which sum shall be fixed at a uniform rate by a general order made at the time of ordering a draft for any State or Territory; and thereupon such person so furnishing the substitute, or paying the money, shall be discharged from liability under that draft. And any person failing to report after due service of notice as herein prescribed, without furnishing a substitute, or paying the required sum therefor, shall be deemed a deserter, and shall be arrested by the provost marshal and sent to the nearest military post for trial by court martial. Upon proper showing that he is not liable to do military duty, the board of enrolment shall relieve him from the draft.

Section 14. *And be it further enacted*, That all drafted persons shall on arriving at the rendezvous, be carefully inspected by the surgeon of the board, who shall truly report to the board the physical condition of each one; and all persons drafted and claiming exemption from military duty on account of disability, or any other cause shall present their claims to be exempted to the board, whose decision shall be final.

Section 15. *And be it further enacted*, That any surgeon charged with the duty of such inspection who shall receive from any person whomsoever any money or other valuable thing, or agree, directly or indirectly, to receive the same to his own or another's use for making an imperfect inspection or a false or incorrect report, or who shall wilfully neglect to make as full and careful inspection and true report, shall be tried by a court marshal, and, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, nor less than five hundred, and be imprisoned at the discretion of the court, and be cashiered and dismissed from the service.

Section 16. *And be it further enacted*, That as soon as the required number of able bodied men liable to do military duty shall be obtained from the list of those drafted the remainder shall be discharged. And all drafted persons reporting at the place of rendezvous, shall be allowed travelling pay from their places of residence; and all expenses connected with the enrolment and draft including subsistence while at the rendezvous, shall be paid from the appropriation for enrolling and drafting, under such regulations as the President of the United States shall prescribe; and all expenses connected with the arrest and return of deserters to their regiments, or such other duties as the provost marshals shall be called upon to perform, shall be paid from the appropriation for arresting deserters under such regulations as the President of the United States shall prescribe; *Provided*, The provost marshals shall in no case receive commutation for transportation or for fuel and quarters, but only for forage, when not furnished by the Government, together with actual expenses of postage, stationery, and clerk hire authorized by the provost marshal general.

Section 17. *And be it further enacted*, That any person enrolled and drafted according to the provisions of this act who shall furnish an acceptable substitute shall therenpon receive from the board of enrolment a certificate of discharge from such draft which shall exempt him from military duty during the time for which he was drafted; and such substitute shall be entitled to the same pay and allowances provided by law as if he had been originally drafted into the service of the United States.

Section 18. *And be it further enacted*, That such of the volunteers and militia, now in the service of the United States as may re-enlist to serve one year, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of their present term of service, shall be entitled to a bounty of fifty dollars, one-half of which to be paid upon such re-enlistment, and the balance at the expiration of the term of re-enlistment. And such as may re-enlist to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of their present term of enlistment, twenty-five dollars of the one hundred dollars bounty for enlisment provided by the fifth section of the act approved twenty-second of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled. "An act to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting public property.

Section 19. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever a regiment of volunteers of the same arm, from the same State, is reduced to one-half the maximum number prescribed by law, the President may direct the consolidation of the companies of such regiment: *Provided*, That no company so formed shall exceed the maximum number prescribed by law. When such consolidation is made, the regimental officers shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the number of companies.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever a regiment is reduced below the minimum number allowed by law, no officers shall be appointed in such regiment beyond those necessary for the command of such reduced number.

Sec. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the fifth section of the act approved seventeenth July, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act to amend an act calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union," and so forth, as requires the approval of the President to carry into execution the sentence of a court-martial be and the same is hereby repealed as far as relates to carrying into execution the sentence of any court-martial against any person convicted as a spy or deserter, or of mutiny or murder; and hereafter sentences in punishment of these offences may be carried into execution upon the approval of the commanding general in the field.

Sec. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That courts martial shall have power to sentence officers who shall absent themselves from their commands without leave, to be reduced to the ranks to serve three years or during the war.

Sec. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That the clothes, arms, military outfits and accoutrements furnished by the United States to any soldier, shall not be sold, bartered, exchanged, pledged, loaned, or given away; and no person not a soldier, or duly authorized officer of the United States, who has possession of any such clothes, arms, military outfits, or accoutrements, furnished as aforesaid, and which have been the subjects of any such sale, barter, exchange pledge, loan, or gift, shall have any right, title or interest, therein: but the same may be seized and taken wherever found by any officer of the United States, civil or military, and shall thereupon be delivered to any quartermaster, or other officer authorized to receive the same; and the possession of any such clothes, arms, military outfits, or accoutrements, by any person not a soldier or officer of the United States, shall be prima facie evidence of such sale, barter, exchange, pledge, loan, or gift; as aforesaid.

Sec. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That every person not subject to the rules and articles of war who shall procure or entice, or attempt to procure or entice a soldier in the service of the United States to desert; or who shall harbor, conceal, or give employment to a deserter, or carry him away, or aid in carrying him away, knowing him to be such; or who shall purchase from any soldier his arms, equipments, ammunition, uniform, clothing, or any part thereof; and any captain or commanding officer of any ship or vessel, or any superintendent or conductor of any railroad, or any other public conveyance carrying away any such soldier as one of his crew or otherwise, knowing him to have deserted, or shall refuse to deliver him up to the orders of his commanding officer, shall upon legal conviction, be fined, at the discretion of any court having cognizance of the same, in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and he shall be imprisoned not exceeding two years nor less then six months.

Sec. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall resist any draft of men enrolled under this act into the service of the United States, or shall counsel any person to resist any such draft: or shall assault or obstruct any officer in making such draft, or in the performance of any service in relation thereto; or shall counsel any person to assault or obstruct any such officer, or counsel any drafted men not to appear at the place of rendezvous, or wilfully dissuade them from the performance of military duty as required by law, such person shall be subject to summary arrest by the provost marshal, and he shall be forthwith delivered to the civil authorities, and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding two years, or by both of said punishments.

Sec. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act the President shall issue in his proclamation declaring that all soldiers now absent from their regiments without leave may return within a time specified to such place or places as he may indicate in his proclamation and be restored to their respective regiments without punishment, except the forfeiture of their pay and allowances during their absence; and all deserters who shall return within the time so specified by the President shall, upon being arrested, be punished as the law provides.

Sec. 27. *And be it further enacted*, That depositions of witnesses residing beyond the limits of the State, Territory, or district in which military courts shall be ordered to sit, may be taken in cases not capital by any party and read in evidence; provided due notice shall be taken upon reasonable notice to the opposite party, and duly authenticated.

Sec. 28. *And be it further enacted*, That the judge advocate shall have power to appoint a reporter, whose duty it shall be to record the proceedings of and testimony taken before military courts instead of the judge advocate; and such reporter may take down such proceedings and testimony in the first instance in shorthand. The reporter shall be sworn or affirmed faithfully to perform his duty before entering upon it.

Sec 29. *And be it further enacted*, That the court shall, for reasonable cause grant a continuance to either party for such time and as often as shall appear to be just: *Provided*, That if the prisoner be in close confinement, the trial shall not be delayed for a period longer than sixty days.

Sec. 30. *And be it further enacted*, That in time of war, insurrection, or rebellion, murder, assault and battery with intent to kill, manslaughter, mayhem, wounding by shooting or stabbing with an intent to commit murder, robbery, arson, bugiary, rape, assault and battery with intent to commit rape, and larceney, shall be punishable by the sentence of a general court-martial or military commission, when committed by persons who are in the military service of the United States, and subject to the articles of war; and the punishment for such offences shall never be less than those inflicted by the laws of the State, Territory, or district in which they may have been committed.

Sec. 31. *And be it further enacted*, That any officer absent from duty with leave, except for sickness or wounds, shall, during his absence, receive half of the pay and allowances prescribed by law, and no more; and any officer absent without leave shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed by law or a court martial, forfeit all pay or allowances during such absence.

Sec. 32. *And be it further enacted*, That the commanders of regiments and of batteries in the field are hereby authorized and empowered to grant furloughs for a period not exceeding thirty days at one time to five porcentum of the non-commissioned officers and privates, for good conduct in the line of duty and subject to the approval of the commander of the forces of which such non-commissioned officers and privates form a part.

Sec. 33. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and empowered, during the present rebellion, to call forth the national forces, by draft, in the manner provided for in this act.

Sec. 34. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons drafted under the provisions of this act shall be assigned by the President to military duty in such corps, regiments, or other branches of the service as the exigencies of the service may require.

Sec. 35. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter details to special service shall only be made with the consent of the commanding officer of forces in the field; and enlisted men now or hereafter detailed to special service, shall not receive any extra pay for such services beyond that allowed to other enlisted men.

Sec. 36. *And be it further enacted*, That general orders of the War Department, numbered one hundred and fifty-four and one hundred and sixty-two, in reference to enlistments from the volunteers into the regular service, be and the same are hereby rescinded; and hereafter no such enlistments shall be allowed.

Sec. 37. *And be it further enacted*, That the grades created in the cavalry forces of the United States by section eleven of the act approved seventeenth July, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and for which no rate of compensation has been provided, shall be paid as follows, to wit: Regimental commissary the same as regimental quarter master; chief trumperter the same as chief bugler; saddler sergeant the same as regimental commissary sergeant; commissary sergeant the same as quartermaster sergeant: *Provided*, That the grade of supernumerary second lieutenant, and two teamsters for each company, and one chief farrier and blacksmith for each regiment, as allowed by said section of that act be and they are hereby abolished; and each cavalry company may have two trumpeters, to be paid as buglers; and each regiment shall have one veterinary surgeon, with the rank of a regimental sergeant major, whose compensation shall be seventy-five dollars per month

Sec. 38. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons who, in the time of war or of rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States, shall be found lurking or acting as spies in or about any of the fortifications, posts, quarters or encampments of any of the armies of the United States, or elsewhere, shall triable by a general court martial or military commission, and shall, upon conviction, suffer death.

[Approved, March 3, 1863.

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MACHINES.

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That it is ECONOMY and WISDOM to purchase only Sewing Machines of KNOWN PRACTICAL UTILITY.

There are over 110,000 WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINES in use in the United States and Europe.

This Machine is profitable and available for a lifetime.

An annual dividend of 100 to 200 per cent. (on its cost,) may be obtained in use by its possessor.

This is the ONLY SEWING MACHINE IN THE WORLD making the *lock stitch*, with the *rotating hook*, and using the *plate cloth presser*.

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IMPROVED DOUBLE THREAD

Family Sewing Machines.

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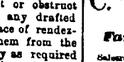
These Machines are from fifteen to twenty dollars cheaper than any other machine in the city. They will do all kinds of work, and are warranted for three years. They are so simple that any child 12 years old can use them to perfection. Constantly on hand, all kinds of Sewing Machine Needles, Sewing Silk, Cotton, &c. Lowest Market prices.

E. O'NEILL Agent.

PIANOS

STEINWAY'S PIANOS,



THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

They received a FIRST CLASS PRIZE MEDAL at the LONDON WORLD'S FAIR, 1862.

A small, choice assortment promised on, and to arrive next week H. KLEBER & BRO.,

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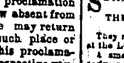
KNABE & CO.'S PIANOS



Have all stood the test of time and climate in all other Pianos made in this country and Europe. The following Pianos have just been received from the Factory:

Two 7 octave SQUARE GRAND PIANOS, with rosewood mouldings and carved legs.

One 7 octave SQUARE GRAND PIANO, finished in Gothic style, with carved legs.

One 7 octave SQUARE GRAND PIANO, plain case, front round

One 7¼ PLAIN PIANO, front round,—overstrings.

All the above Pianos have Sliding Desks.

Two very fine 6¾ octave PLAIN PIANOS, with round corners.

Large new stock of HAINES BROS. PIANOS—best Pianos at the price in the world. All Pianos fully warranted for five years. A call is respectfully solicited before purchasing elsewhere.

CHARLOTTE HOUSE, 43 Fifth street,

Sole Agent for above Pianos and Prince's unrivalled Melodeons and Reed Organs.

ROBBERY OF ADAMS' EXPRESS.

$5,000 Reward Offered.

BALTIMORE, Mar-h 19, 1863.

The safe of the Adams' Express Company was robbed on Wednesday night between Baltimore and Harrisburg. It contained various sums of money, in currency and gold, a large number of United States certificates of indebtedness, United States five-twenty bonds, and checks of the United States Treasurer on the Assistant Treasurer of New York, payable to the Adams' Express Company. A Reward of Five Thousand Dollars is offered by the Company. The public are cautioned not to negotiate any of them.

ROBBERY OF THE ADAMS' EXPRESS—FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD.

The following described Certificates, &c., were stolen from the Adams' Express Company on WEDNESDAY NIGHT, for the recovery of which $5,000 will be paid by the Company.

NUMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS STOLEN.

Four United States Certificates of Indebtedness, $5,000 each, numbers 21,440, 21,459, 21,460, 21,462.

48 United States Certificates, of $1,000 each:

Nos. 59 343, 59 345, 59,346.

Nos. 59,312, 59,315, 59,316.

Nos. 59,199.

Nos. 59 308, 59,326, 59,326, 59 906

Nos. 59,307, 59,271, 59,272.

Nos. 59,148, 59 149.

Nos. 59,185, 59,187.

Nos. 59,121, 59,150, 59,129.

Nos. 59,247, 59,264,

Nos 59,190, 59,191, 59,,92, 59,193.

Nos. 59,322, 59,323, 59,324, 59,325.

Nos. 59,326, 59,318, 59,319.

Nos. 59,320, 59,321, 59,322, 59,321, 59,324.

Nos. 59,317, 59,325,

Nos. 59,302, 59,303, 59,304, 59,305.

Nos. 59,919, 59,069, 59,068, 59,070.

Ten 5-20 United States Bonds, Nos. 13,179 to 13,188 inclusive.

The following checks of F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, in Assistant Treasurer, New York, payable to the order of the Adams' Express Company.

Check No. 856, for $1000, for account of G. M. Felix, Ont.

" " 859, " 2098.13 " " J. B. & T. Gibson, "

" " 865, " 1080 " " Conrad & Wagner, "

" " 864, " 481 " " Wilson & Hayden, "

" " 860, " 1220 " " A. Behlen, "

" " 864, " 5016.16 " " J. Shillis & Co., "

" " 867, " 604 " " Geo. Jones, "

" " 863, " 483.37 " " J. W. Wyckoff & Co., "

" " 858, " 2945 " " H. Morton, St. Louis

" " 161, " 1507.46 " " E. F. Barry, "

The public are cautioned not to negotiate any of the above bonds or certificates.

HENRY SANFORD,

Superintendent Adams' Express Company.

mh31dim

EXTRACT COFFEE.—100 bxs Hummel's Extract of Coffee just received and for sale by W. M. GORMLY,

apl 171 Liberty street.

WASHBOARDS.—50 dozen Washboards for sale by W. M. GORMLY,

apl 171 Liberty street.

Pittsburgh Gazette.

S. RIDDLE & CO.,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

Publication Office No. 84 Fifth Street.

MORNING AND EVENING EDITIONS, DAILY, CONTAINING THE LATEST NEWS UP TO THE HOUR OF PUBLICATION.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 16.

NEW TERMS OF THE GAZETTE.

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" " week..... 10.
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WEEKLY EDITION, single copies, per year.. 2 00.
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" clubs of 10 or more " .. 1 25.

—and one extra to the party sending club. For a club of fifteen, we will send the EVENING GAZETTE daily. For a club of twenty, we will send the MORNING GAZETTE daily. Single copies, 5 cents.

☞ All subscriptions *strictly in advance*, and papers always stopped when the time expires.

THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO adjourned *sine die* on Tuesday, after an exciting and important session. No legislative body in the country stood up more firmly for the Union, or made a more honorable record.

THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.—The latest advices from the city of Mexico are to March 22, and from Puebla to March 23. The French were still before Puebla in their former position. Several skirmishes were said to have resulted rather to their discomfort, and sickness and the Mexican guerrillas were again annoying them. They were, however, continuing in the meanwhile their preparations for an attack upon Puebla with vigor, and with the utmost secrecy.

ELECTION IN WISCONSIN.—The *Post* was very jubilant a few days ago over an imaginary victory of the *Dis*-Union party over the Union party in Wisconsin, claiming as high as ten thousand majority. We thought it strange, but concluded to wait further developments. The Cincinnati *Gazette*, of yesterday, says:

The latest news from Wisconsin shows that notwithstanding the influence of the Farm Mortgage party, Dixon, the Union candidate, is elected by a majority of the home vote, which will be swelled largely by the soldiers' vote, the latter being almost unanimously for the Union candidates.

Reasons of the Failure at Charleston.

Viewed strategically, Charleston harbor forms a *cul de sac* four miles in length from its entrance at Fort Sumter up to the city. This blind passage varies in width from one to three miles, and is capable of bearing defensive works on each side and on shoal places in mid-channel.

On these natural advantages have been brought to bear the finest engineering skill in the Confederacy (and it was the flower of the genius of the country) during a period of two years. Lee, Beauregard and Ripley in succession have exhausted their professional efforts to make it impregnable. Everything that the most improved modern artillery and unlimited sources of labor can do has been done to make the passage of a fleet impossible. And it is impregnable. Sebastopol was as nothing to it.

Our fleet got but to the entrance of the harbor. It never got within it. Had the ironclads succeeded in passing the obstructions they would still have found those miles of batteries to run. They would have entered an Inferno which, like the portals of Dante's hell, might well bear the flaming legend; "Who enters here leaves hope behind." Not a point at which they would not have found themselves "Mid upper, nether, and surrounding fires."

They pass out of the focus of fire of Forts Sumter and Moultrie, Beauregard and Bee, and they find themselves arrested under the ranges of Sumter, the Redan, Johnston and Ripley. They get beyond this, and a concentric fire from Ripley, Pinckney, the Wappoo battery, and the guns of the city fall upon them! Merely to run by batteries, as was done at the forts below New Orleans, is not a very difficult thing even for vessels not ironclad; but to be anchored as it were under such fires as these is what no ships were ever called upon to suffer.

I think I am justified in saying that the admiral and his staff and the captains commanding the iron fleet have all along well understood the task that was given them to do, and that they entertained no illusions regarding it. But both the Navy Department and the public have illusions as to the nature of the work to be done, and delusion as to the instruments with which it was to be done. They saw all the weaknesses of the Monitors as well as the strength. They knew that their working depended on nice mechanical combinations easily deranged. They knew that their powers had never been tested.

But with the usual liberal logic that characterizes them, our people took everything for granted. Here was a universal panacea for all our ills. Here was a key to unlock all riddles. Take those iron clads, says the Navy Department, knock Sumter into a brickpile, and sail proudly up to demand the surrender of Charleston.

Indeed, so preposterously did the government regard the matter, that it was not even thought necessary to have a co-operating land expedition. It will astound the country to learn that the whole large Welsh General Hunter could spare from his limited command was under *seven thousand men*. Of course he could do nothing against the force ready to oppose him. From information I received from the Spanish consul, who came out from that city a few weeks ago, the rebel troops for the defense of Charleston numbered at the time 55,000 men, and their railroad facilities would easily enable them, in twenty-four hours, to bring the force up to a hundred thousand.

Gen. Hunter frankly told Admiral Dupont that he could do nothing to aid him. He could garner in what the navy reaped, but he could do nothing in the hard labor of the field. The military force, indeed, never got any further up than Stono Inlet, a dozen miles from Charleston harbor, where it was to effect a landing on Folly Island for the purpose of making a diversion. I can make no report of what was done, if anything, but it had no direct bearing on the business in hand. Thus left alone, the naval chief had *eleven hundred men*, (the whole force of the iron fleet,) with which to take and hold a dozen forts. Could the ecstasy of folly further go?

These intimations, however, will overshoot the mark if they convey the impression that Admiral Dupont lacked faith in the enterprise, or that he entered upon it unwillingly. He was in fact, no case for either a blind faith or an unreasoning skepticism. Too little was known, as well of the real character of the rebel defenses as of the true merits of the iron-clad vessels, to justify the one attitude or the other. It was absolutely necessary to try certain experiments as the basis of any definite plan of siege—for it was never thought it would be less than a ten days' affair.

The operation of yesterday, therefore, may be regarded in the light of a reconnaissance. The reconnaissance resulted in a repulse, though not a disaster. That it was not so is due to the admirable skill of our naval leaders. In the process we have learnt valuable lessons. And now it remains true to-day as ever that Charleston may be successfully assailed. But that will begin to be possible for us when, an adequate expedition shall be sent, military as well as naval, and in which the navy shall only be required to play its legitimate part. —*Cor. N. Y. Times.*

OUR TROOPS AT SUFFOLK.—A Washington dispatch to the N. Y. Times says:

Those who are anxious in regard to friends in the command at Suffolk will be glad to hear the old of the most efficient character has been given by the navy to the troops in that position.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Reported for the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, April 13, 1863.

HOUSE.—Mr. Beck, of Lycoming, called up the Senate Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution. That the following amendment be proposed to the Constitution of the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the 10th section thereof.

1st. There shall be an additional section to the 3d Article of the Constitution to be designated as section four, as follows:

Section 4. Whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in any actual military service under a regulation from the President of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections by the citizens under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law as fully as if they were present at their usual place of election.

The section was adopted—yeas 85, nays 0.

Mr. Cessna offered an additional section:

22. There shall be two additional sections to the Eleventh Article of the Constitution to be designated as sections eight and nine, as follows:

Section 8. No bill shall be passed by the Legislature containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title, except appropriation bills.

The section was adopted; yeas, 92; nays, 0.

Section 9. No bill shall be passed by the Legislature granting any powers or privileges, or regulating any question or subject in any case where the authority to grant such powers or privileges or to regulate such question or subject has been or may hereafter be conferred upon any of the Courts of this Commonwealth, excepting, however, such cases of fixing or changing the place of holding elections as may require action before the session of the Court having jurisdiction over such cases.

The section was adopted; yeas, 92; nays, 0.

The title was amended so as to read, "A Joint Resolution proposing certain amendments to the Constitution."

The resolution passed; yeas, 90; nays, 0.

HARRISBURG, April 15, 1863.

HOUSE.—Mr. Hopkins, of Washington, offered the following resolution: That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to instruct the Attorney General to execute criminal prosecution against Simon Cameron, Robert Brobst, W. J. Patterson and Henry Thomas, for fraudulently attempting to elect a U. S. Senator.

Mr. Benedict, of Huntingdon, moved to strike out all after the word "resolved," and insert the following:

That each of the Committee as believe the testimony of T. J. Boyer be directed to make information against the said T. J. Boyer, and such other persons as it has been proven before the Committee, have violated the criminal laws of this Commonwealth.

The amendment was lost—yeas, 43; nays, 49.

The resolution, as offered by Mr. H pkins, was adopted by a vote of 48 yeas to 44 nays.

Bill in relation to the publication of the laws of this Commonwealth was passed.

Mr. Laporte, (R.) of Bradford, gave the following reasons for voting "aye" on the resolution of Mr. Hopkins, of Washington; in reference to the election of a U. S. Senator:

As Simon Cameron has, as I am informed, constantly asserted since his defeat that but for his failure to obtain my vote he would have been elected, and as that assertion can only be true in my view upon the ground that he had purchased a Democratic vote, I vote aye.

Supplement to an act to incorporate the Western Central Railroad Company, approved April 2, 1860. Passed.

Bill relative to the claims of James Dignan, of Allegheny county. Passed.

Bill to vacate part of Jones street, in the Ninth ward of Philadelphia, was passed.

The P. R. R. Co. to get a large enough lot of ground for the erection of a large depot for the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad [illegible]

Bill to repeal an act entitled an act to incorporate the Northwestern Navigation Company was passed.

Affairs at New Orleans.

By the arrival at New York of the steamship Roncake, we receive advices from New Orleans to the 5th inst. The news is not specially important, excepting as developing movements which are expected to result in a speedy collision with the enemy at one or two points. Our forces occupying Pontchatoula, across the lake, have destroyed all the railroad bridges, and at last accounts were at Pass Manchac. A reconnoisance had been pushed into the Amite country by Brig. Gen. Nickerson, which met and defeated a small force of rebel cavalry—killing ten and wounding seventeen, and taking five prisoners. Our loss was four wounded.

Gen. Weitzel, at Brasher City, had been reinforced by Grover's brigade, and was to be also joined by a large force under Gen. Emory, who was expected to assume command of the combined forces, and to make a movement up Atchafalaya against the rebels there, who were growing somewhat too bold. Under the belief that New Orleans is seriously threatened by the rebels, Gen. Banks was fortifying all the approaches strongly. The enemy are believed to have a total of about seventy-five thousand men, who can be gathered near the city at twelve hours' notice. Some apprehensions were also felt of a raid from Mobile against Ship Island.

Necessity of Concentration.

We hardly needed the lesson in Charleston harbor, says the N. Y. *Times*, to give new emphasis to the policy of concentration in future movements against the rebels. It is a year and a half since the Union power was planted on the coast of South Carolina, and the heart of the nation leaped for joy when the landing took place at Hilton Head, for the universal thought was, this is but the first step for the reduction of Charleston. But the year and a half has sped away, and the first movement against Charleston is at length made, with a force wholly inadequate to the work.

But yet while this unsatisfactory result is before us; the effect of divided strength, and a hardly less cheerful prospect is to be seen in North Carolina and Louisiana, some are clamoring for a new special military expedition to occupy and possess Western Texas. We think the sentiment of the country is unanimous now, if it never was before, in desiring the Government to start no new campaigns until some of those important ones so long in hand are brought to a happy conclusion. Let all the strength of the nation be gathered up for a decisive blow—even one decisive blow—in some quarter. One successful blow at a vital point will be worth all the injury we have done to the edges of the rebellion.

Fitting Out of Pirates in England.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* writes:

Besides the official dispatch of Secretary Seward, conveying to the Government of Great Britain an intimation that the sailing of additional vessels of war for the service of the rebels from British ports would be considered by the United States an unfriendly act, private letters from eminent Americans to Englishmen of influence and position have gone abroad within a few weeks, expressing the belief of the writers that unless measures are taken to prevent the use of Great Britain as a Navy Yard and Ordnance depot for the rebels, there is danger of war between that country and this.

THE CASE OF THE PETERHOFF.—It is mentioned in professional circles that the Attorney General is in doubt if the capture of the Peterhoff can be sustained on principles of public law. Her mail, which has been demanded by Lord Lyons, is in New York, unopened. Its possession is as much an object of interest to the British owners as to the captors. Its letters would undoubtedly prove the liability of the ship and the lawfulness of the prize. The trade, in evasion of our blockade, in which she was caught, is already immense. Over one hundred British vessels were recently counted at once off the Rio Grande.—*Cor. N. Y. Times.*

THE OLD STORY.—A correspondent calls attention to the fact that when the National troops held Fort Sumter, we waited until the rebels had (by their own account) 43 guns and 15,000 men against our 80 men, or enough to work nine guns. Now again, at the second battle in Charleston harbor, we have waited until the rebels had 200 guns, against which we brought 32.

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