

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Monday, April 5.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The bill "to abolish imprisonment for debt" was again taken up for consideration. Some further amendments were made in the details of the bill, on the suggestion of Mr. Mills. Upon one of these amendments, which provides that the creditor shall have a right to hold his debtor to bail, without proof of fraud, when he is about to leave the state in which the debt is contracted, some curative discussion took place. It was then agreed to.

Mr. Barbour proposed a proviso, that no person should be required to give bail, except in the state in which he resides. It was not agreed to. Mr. Van Buren proposed some amendments, which were adopted.

Mr. Talbot proposed to amend the bill, by providing that no debtor shall be held to bail, except in the state where he resides, or the state in which the debt was contracted. This provision was supported by Messrs. Johnson, of Ky. (who called for the Yeas and Nays), and by Messrs. Talbot and Taylor, of Va. and opposed by Mr. Mills. Mr. Talbot then modified his amendment, by adding the words "unless the defendant shall have absconded from the state in which he resides, in order to evade the payment of his debts." The amendment was carried—ayes 28, noes 11.

Mr. Chandler moved an amendment to exempt the debtors to the United States from the provisions of the bill. This was not agreed to.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Vanduyke, when the bill was before under consideration, to authorize the creditor to put interrogatories, and to make suggestions in relation to the case, and, if they are not satisfactorily answered by the defendant, the charges therein contained to be taken as facts, was then taken up and adopted.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, proposed a new section to the bill, extending its operation to the District of Columbia; which was agreed to.

Mr. Van Dyke submitted a proviso, "that nothing, in the first section of this act contained, shall extend to suits in which the United States are a party." Mr. Holmes, of Maine, moved to amend the amendment, by adding to it the words, "against any contractor, or receiver or disburser of public moneys." These amendments were both withdrawn, and a substitute proposed by Mr. Van Dyke, as follows: "that nothing in the first section of this bill shall extend to any suit brought to recover moneys received by the defendant, on account of the United States." This was agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to be printed, as amended; and, without taking the question on its third reading, the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

Tuesday, April 6.

The bill "supplementary to an act, entitled, an act to release persons imprisoned for debt," was read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill "to abolish imprisonment for debt," was resumed; Mr. Ruggles in the chair. The question was, upon passing the bill to be engrossed and read the third time.

Mr. Hayne spoke at considerable length, in opposition to the principles of the bill, and in answer to the remarks heretofore made in support of it, by Messrs. Johnson, of Kentucky, and Barbour. Mr. H. concluded by moving the commitment of the bill, to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the release of all persons who may be arrested for debt (by virtue of any process issued from the state court, or court of the United States), when such persons shall render, on oath, a schedule of all their property, and execute an assignment thereof for the benefit of their creditors; and that the committee do further inquire how far it may be expedient to provide, by law, for the release of such debtors from further liability, making, at the same time, suitable provision for the prevention and punishment of fraud and concealment.

The question on committing the bill, with the instructions proposed by Mr. Hayne, was divided; and first taken on committing merely. This was carried in the affirmative, 18 to 17.

On the question upon instructing the committee, as proposed by Mr. Hayne, a few remarks were made by the mover, and by Messrs. Mills and Van Buren. The latter part of those instructions (which respects the enquiry into the expediency of releasing those debtors who make assignments of their property for the benefit of their creditors from further liability) was agreed to, and the other part was rejected.

The bill "making appropriations for the naval service of the United States, for the year 1854," was again taken up for the purpose of considering the amendments made thereto in the Senate, and which were not concurred in by the House.

Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. moved that the Senate should concur in the amendment proposed by the House, requiring the consent of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the purchase of a strip of land adjacent to the navy yard at Charlestown, in that state. This motion was carried.

Mr. Lloyd then moved that the Senate should insist upon its amendment, by which the several specifications of the contingent expenses of the Navy Department, as contained in the bill that came from the House, were stricken out, and the sum inserted in gross; and by which, also, the same item was increased from \$180,000 to \$225,000. The motion prevailed, and the Senate determined to insist upon this amendment.

Wednesday, April 7.

The bill "to enable the President to carry into effect the treaty made at Ghent, the 24th Dec. 1814, excluding foreigners from trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes within the United States, and to preserve the fur trade within the limits of the said United States to American citizens," was again taken up for consideration. The question was, upon an amendment offered by Mr. Barton, proposing a new section as a substitute for the third section of the bill.

The proposed amendment provides that the office of superintendent of Indian Affairs, at St. Louis, and the present Indian Agency, on the waters of the Upper Missouri, shall be abolished; and authorizes the President to appoint Indian Agents, to be stationed among the Indian tribes, on the waters of the Upper Missouri. It makes it the duty of the Superintendents and Agents of Indian Affairs to prevent all citizens of the United States from hunting and trapping, on any Indian lands, and to enforce the laws against all such persons as shall be guilty of those offences—for which purpose, these Superintendents and Agents are to be authorized to call upon the nearest military posts of the United States for aid.

Mr. Barton explained the objects of the amendment he had proposed. Mr. Benton opposed, at considerable length, the first part of the amendment, providing for the abolition of the offices therein specified; but was willing to adopt the latter part of it, and thus re-enact the provisions of an act for 1802.

Mr. Lowrie moved to amend the amendment, by striking out that part which proposes to abolish the present Indian Agency on the Upper Missouri. This was agreed to.

Mr. Barton replied to the remarks of Mr. Benton, in relation to the proposed amendment.

Mr. Benton again addressed the Senate, against the proposition to abolish the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, at St. Louis.

Without taking the question on the amendment, the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

Thursday, April 8.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, rose to request some member who voted for the recommitment of the bill "to abolish imprisonment for debt," to do him the favor to move a re-consideration of that vote—his wish was, to have a distinct vote taken on that bill. Such a vote would not affect the proposition contained in the instructions which were given to the Committee, on the recommitment of the bill, at the instance of the honorable member from South-Carolina. He did not wish to press the subject upon the Senate, but hoped that an opportunity would be given to him to record his vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. Thomas, who had voted in favor of re-commitment, moved, in order to meet the wishes of the gentleman from Kentucky, that the vote by which the bill was re-committed should be re-considered.

The question was then taken on re-considering the vote by which the bill was re-committed, and decided in the affirmative—ayes 23, noes 18.

The vote to re-commit the bill having been thus re-considered, the question again recurred upon recommitting it. That question was decided in the negative without division.

Mr. Hayne then moved that the further consideration of the bill should be indefinitely postponed.

The question on postponing the bill indefinitely was then put, and decided in the negative—ayes 18, noes 21.

The Senate having thus refused to postpone the bill indefinitely, it came up again for consideration. Some amendments, in its details, were proposed by Messrs. Eaton, Holmes, of Maine, Talbot, and Van Dyke, and were agreed to. The question was then taken, on passing the bill to be engrossed and read the third time, and was carried in the affirmative.

Friday, April 9.

The unfinished business of Wednesday last, being the further consideration of the bill "to enable the President to carry into effect the treaty made at Ghent, the 24th Dec. 1814, excluding foreigners from trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes within the United States, and to preserve the fur trade within the limits of the said United States to American citizens," was then taken up; Mr. Knight in the chair.

The question was upon the adoption of a new section, proposed by Mr. Barton, as a substitute for the third section of the bill. The amendment provides, that the office of superintendent of Indian Affairs, at St. Louis, shall be abolished, and authorizes the Pres-

ident to appoint a certain number of Indian Agents, to be stationed among the Indian tribes on the waters of the Upper Missouri, to make it the duty of the superintendents and agents of Indian Affairs, to prevent all citizens of the United States from hunting and trapping on any Indian lands, and to enforce the laws against all such persons as shall be guilty of those offences for which purpose, the superintendents and agents are to be authorized to call upon the nearest military posts of the U. States for aid.

On the suggestion of Mr. Benton, the motion was divided, and the question put upon striking out the third section of the bill, which authorizes the appointment of two sub-agents to be employed among the Indian tribes on the waters of the Upper Missouri, with annual salaries of \$800 each. Some remarks were made by Messrs. Benton and Barton, and the question being put, the Senate refused to strike out the third section.

Mr. Lowrie moved to strike out the 5th section of the bill. It provides an appropriation of \$11,100 "to enable the President to cause a competent military force to be transported to, and stationed at, such point on the Upper Missouri, as he shall deem best calculated to effect the objects of this bill."

The question on striking out the 5th section of the bill, was then put, and carried in the affirmative—ayes 30, noes 12.

Mr. J. S. Johnston proposed a new section, by way of amendment; which was the same as the fifth section just struck out, except that the consent of the Indian tribes shall be obtained, previous to the establishment of the contemplated military post.

On motion of Mr. Eaton, the bill was ordered to lie on the table, and the amendments to be printed.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The bill "to abolish imprisonment for debt," was read the third time.

The question was then taken, on the final passage of the bill, and carried in the affirmative—ayes 24, noes 19.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, April 3.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill, entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States for the year 1854," were read, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, on the bill "to amend the several acts laying duties on imports."

Mr. Williams, of N. C. resumed, and concluded, his speech on the general principles of the bill, and in opposition to its passage.

Mr. Strong, of New York, then took the floor, in favor of the bill, and spoke till past two o'clock.

He was succeeded by Mr. Isaacs, of Tennessee, who, though in favor of its general features, was opposed to the minimum on cottons.

Mr. Cassidy, of New Jersey, then delivered a short, but forcible speech in support of the bill; when the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

Monday, April 5.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on the amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill making appropriations for the support of the Navy. The first question was on concurring with the Senate in striking out the specification of the items of expenditure of the fund for contingent expenses of the Navy.

The House resolved to disagree with the Senate in the amendment to strike out; by which resolution, they retained the clause of specifications, as originally moved in the lower House.

The question being next on agreeing to the Senate's amendment striking out the sum of \$180,000, (moved in the lower House by Mr. Cooke,) and reinstating the sum of \$225,000, (as first reported by the committee of Ways and Means.)

The question being put, on disagreeing with the Senate, it was carried—ayes 89, noes 62—so the House refused to reinstate the sum of \$225,000, and left the blank filled with 180,000.

The next question upon the Senate's 2d amendment, which provides for a small purchase of land near the Navy Yard, at Charlestown, Ms. was agreed to with the following amendment, proposed by Mr. Randolph, viz: adding after the word "purchase" "by and with the consent of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." The remaining amendment of the Senate was agreed to without debate—when the Committee rose and reported the disagreement of the Committee of the Whole to the first amendment—its agreement to the second, with an amendment, and its agreement to the third.

The House concurred with the Committee, and the bill was returned to the Senate.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

On motion of Mr. Tod, the House then went into committee of the whole, on the bill "to amend the several acts laying duties on imports."

Mr. Isaacs modified his motion of Saturday, for striking out the minimum on cottons, so as to leave the present minimum untouched, viz: by inserting 25 cents instead of 35 cents, as the minimum valuation.

Mr. Carter, of South Carolina, delivered his sentiments at large on the bill; when the question being put on Mr. Isaacs' amendment, was decided in the negative. Ayes 73, Noes 96.

Mr. Gazlay moved to report the bill as amended; but, before the question was taken, Mr. McKim offered an amendment laying a duty on certain articles of Morocco leather. The amendment was rejected, only 40 rising in its favor.

Mr. Clarke, of New York, then moved to amend the duty on iron, by reducing it from \$1 12 to 90 cents.—A motion was made to rise. Ayes 87, Noes 96.

Mr. Clarke then supported his motion by a speech, but gave away, at half past 4 o'clock, for a motion to rise. The Committee rose accordingly, and then the House adjourned.

Tuesday, April 6.

On motion of Mr. Saunders, it was Resolved, That the committee on claims inquire into the propriety of allowing to William Clepian compensation for certain losses sustained by him in consequence of the imprisonment of his wagon and team for the transportation of a part of the North Carolina Militia to Norfolk during the late war.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The House then again went into committee of the whole on the bill to amend the several acts laying duties on imports.

The question was taken on Mr. Clark's motion to reduce the duty on bar iron from one dollar and 12 cents to ninety cents per ton, and decided in the affirmative, 99 to 90.

Mr. Bradley, of Vermont, then moved to amend the bill by inserting therein the following provision, viz: "On all books which the importer shall make it satisfactorily appear to the collector of the port at which the same shall be entered, were printed previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and also on all books printed in other languages than English, four cents per volume."

"On all other books, when bound, forty-five cents per pound."

"On all other books, when in sheets or boards, forty cents per pound."

This motion was negated without division.

Mr. Webster, of Massachusetts, then moved, as an amendment to the bill, the following, to come in at the end of the 5th section:

"And be it further enacted, That, from and after the —day of —next, the duties now imposed and payable on the wines, herein enumerated and described, shall, at their importation into the United States from any foreign port or place, cease and determine; and, in lieu thereof, the following rates or duties, respectively, shall be laid, levied, and collected, on all such wines, at their said importation, that is to say: Upon all Madeira wines, 70 cents per gallon; upon Sherry, St. Lucar, Lisbon, Oporto, and all other wines of Spain and Portugal, not herein enumerated, 50 cents per gallon; on Teneriffe and all other wine of the Canary Islands, 40 cents per gallon; on Fayal and all other wines of the Western Islands, 40 cents per gallon; on Sicily wine, 50 cents per gallon; on Malaga wine, 30 cents per gallon; all other wines, not enumerated in this or some other law, when imported in bottles or cases, 50 per centum ad valorem; on all other wines, when imported otherwise than in bottles or cases, 40 per centum ad valorem: Provided, That the amount of duty thereupon shall, in no case, exceed 100 cents per gallon."

After some brief debate on this motion, it was decided in the affirmative, ayes 110.

Mr. Wickliffe then moved to amend the bill, by inserting therein the following:

"Be it enacted, That the provisions of the 2d section of the act of Congress, entitled 'An act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage,' approved 27th April, 1816, shall extend and endure to the benefit of schools and colleges within the United States or the territories thereof, in the same manner, (under the like limitations and restrictions provided in said act,) which they apply to seminaries of learning."

This motion was agreed to, ayes 116.

Mr. Clay then moved to amend the bill, by inserting the following:

"On all manufactured copper in sheets and bottoms of every description, three cents per pound."

This motion was negated, ayes 76.

Mr. Allen, of Mass. then moved to amend the bill by inserting therein the following:

"On brown sugar, two cents per pound; on white clayed or powdered sugar, three cents per pound."

This motion was negated without debate, and without a division.

Mr. Fuller of Mass. then moved to amend the bill by inserting the following:

"On printed books, 33 1/3 cents per lb."

This motion, also, was negated, without a division.

Mr. Miller then moved to amend the bill by inserting "On mustered in bottles, fifty cents per dozen." This motion was negated.

Mr. Sandford, of Tenn. then moved to amend the bill by inserting the following:

"And be it further enacted, That no drawback shall be allowed to any foreigner, who is not an inhabitant of the United States, on any goods, wares and merchandise, he may have imported into any of the aforesaid United States, or territories thereof."

This motion was negated without a division.

Mr. Van Wyck then moved to amend the bill by inserting, in lieu of the 30th day of June, the 1st day of July, 1854, in the following:

"Afterwards a duty of thirty-five per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1857; afterwards a duty of forty per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1860; afterwards a duty of forty-five per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1863; after that time, a duty of fifty per centum ad valorem."

This amendment was negated without a division.

Mr. Livingston then moved to strike out the 30th day of June, and insert the 1st day of July, 1854, in the following:

"Afterwards a duty of thirty-five per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1857; afterwards a duty of forty per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1860; afterwards a duty of forty-five per centum ad valorem, until the 30th day of June, 1863; after that time, a duty of fifty per centum ad valorem."

This amendment was negated without a division.

Mr. Bartlett, of New Hampshire, moved at the close of the first section of the bill, to insert a duty on all domestic distilled spirits, fifty cents per gallon, with a drawback on such as should be exported.

The motion was negated without a division.

Mr. Craig moved to amend the bill, by striking out the proposed duty of four cents per lb. on white and red lead, and inserting a duty of five cents on that article.

The question on this motion was decided in the negative, without a division.

The question was taken on the committee's rising and reporting the bill, with the amendment made to it, and determined in the affirmative. The Speaker resumed the chair, and the report was made from the committee of the Whole.

Mr. Forsyth then gave notice that he should, to-morrow, move for the indefinite postponement of the whole subject, and require the yeas and nays on the question, and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, April 7.

A message was received from the Senate, notifying that they insist on their amendment to the Naval Appropriation bill, which was to strike out the specification of the items to which the contingent fund is to be applied, leaving it to the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy; and ask a conference upon the subject.

On motion of Mr. McLane, the House resolved to insist on their disagreement to the amendment of the Senate; agreed to the conference; and a committee of five were appointed to meet the committee appointed on behalf of the Senate.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the amendments reported by the committee of the whole to the Tariff Bill.

Mr. Forsyth rose and withdrew his intimation, yesterday given, of his intention now to move the indefinite postponement of the bill. This he did at the suggestion of several members (contrary to his previous impression) that the features of the bill were not sufficiently fixed by votes in committee of the whole, as to determine all the members to vote decisively for or against the rejection of the bill in its present state. He should therefore defer his motion until the question had been settled as to the amount of duties to be proposed on the leading articles, wool, cotton, and iron.

The Clerk then read the several amendments reported by the Committee of the Whole. And the question being on concurring in the first amendment, (reducing the minimum on woollens, from 80 to 40 cents the square yard,) it was decided in the affirmative—ayes 101, noes 99.

So the House concurred with the Committee of the Whole, in reducing the minimum on woollens from 80 to 40 cents.

Thursday, April 8.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The House passed to the unfinished business of yesterday, being the report of the committee of the whole on the bill for a revision of the Tariff of Duties on Imports.

The question being on the second amendment reported by the committee of the whole, viz: to strike out, after "manufactured," in the 51st line, to the end of the section, "a duty of twenty-five per centum ad valorem, until the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five; afterwards, a duty of thirty per centum ad valorem, until the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six; afterwards, a duty of forty per centum ad valorem until the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, and after that time, a duty of fifty per centum ad valorem;" and insert the following:

"A duty of 20 per centum ad valorem until the first day of June, 1825; afterwards, a duty of 25 per centum ad valorem, until the 1st day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six; afterwards, a duty of 30 per centum ad valorem, until the 1st day of June, 1827; afterwards, a duty of 35 per centum ad valorem until the 1st day of June, 1828; afterwards, a duty of 40 per centum ad valorem until the 1st day of June, 1829; afterwards, a duty of 45 per centum until the 1st day of June, 1830; and, after that, a duty of 50 per centum ad valorem: Provided, That all wool, the actual value of which at the place whence imported, shall not exceed 10 cents per pound, shall be charged with a duty of 15 per centum ad valorem, and no more."

The question was taken on agreeing to this amendment, and decided in the affirmative without a division.

The House then proceeded to the third amendment, which is, to