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CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Thursday, Feb. 24.

Mr. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the act directing a discrimination between importations by citizens of the United States, and those on foreign account, reported it without amendment. On motion, it was ordered that the Committee on Finance be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Orway Burns. Mr. Dickerson, from the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, to whom was referred the bill, entitled "An act declaring the assent of Congress to an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, therein mentioned," reported it without amendment.

CUMBERLAND ROAD.

The Senate resumed as in committee of the whole the bill appropriating \$50,000 dollars for the extension of the Cumberland Road from the Ohio to the Washington, at Zanesville—the amount of the appropriation to be reimbursed to the Treasury out of the fund reserved for laying out and making roads under the direction of Congress by the several acts passed for the admission of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, into the Union. Mr. Holmes, of Maine, for the reasons which he submitted, moved to strike Illinois and Missouri from the bill, so as to confine it to the fund reserved out of the compacts with Ohio and Indiana only. On this motion a good deal of debate took place. The question was decided against the amendment—yeas 13, nays 33. Mr. Seymour then, conformably to the views he had previously suggested, moved the addition of the following proviso to the bill: "Provided, This act do not take effect until the consent of the states of Illinois and Missouri to this appropriation of the said funds be expressed by act of their respective Legislatures." The question was taken on this amendment without debate, and decided in the negative—yeas 12. The bill was then reported to the Senate without amendment, and ordered to a third reading—yeas 28, nays 16.

DELAWARE AND CHESAPEAKE CANAL.

The Senate next took up the bill authorizing a subscription on behalf of the United States, of 1500 shares of the capital stock of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal. The Committee of the Senate had reported a transposition of the name of the canal, so as to denominate it the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; which amendment was adopted. Mr. Hazewell moved the adoption of two additional sections to the bill, embracing provisions for authorizing a subscription, on behalf of the Government, of 400 shares of the capital stock of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company, (which connects the waters of the Chesapeake with those of Albemarle Sound.) A debate of considerable duration followed, on this amendment and on the bill itself. The question being taken on Mr. Hazewell's proposition, it was negatively—yeas 10, nays 31. Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. then (for the purpose of more completely protecting the interest of the Government, and preserving equality in the payment of instalments, &c. between the public and private stock,) moved to add a clause embracing these objects. Mr. Van Dyke opposed the amendment, as rendered unnecessary by the provisions of the Charter of the Company; and the amendment was negatively.

Friday, Feb. 25.

Mr. Chandler, from the Committee on the Militia, to whom was referred the report of the Secretary of War, together with an abstract of infantry tactics, submitted the following resolution. He observed, they had been at great expense in furnishing the Militia with arms, and were of opinion they should be furnished with the means to make use of them for the benefit of the country. It was now too late in the session to bring in a bill for the purpose, and it was the object of the resolution to obtain sufficient information to act on it at the ensuing session. Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to advertise, for three months, in the National Intelligencer, that he will receive, at any time before the first day of December next, sealed proposals for printing 40,000 copies of the abstract of Infantry Tactics, which was reported to the Senate by the Secretary of War, on the 2d day of February, instant, to be delivered at the War Department, bound in boards, and that he, the Secretary, will state, in his advertisement, as near as may be, the size of the work, the number of pages and plates, which it will contain, and report such proposals as he may receive, to the Senate, in the first week of the next session of Congress. The resolution was read, considered, and agreed to. The bill from the House authorizing payment of interest due to the State of Virginia; and the bill authorizing the legal representatives of the Marquis de Maison Rouge, and those claiming under him, to institute a suit against the United States, and for other purposes; were read a second time and referred. The Senate then proceeded, as in Committee of the Whole, to consider the act authorizing the occupation of the Oregon River. Mr. Benton moved an amendment, providing an additional Paymaster, and extending the time allowed for the officers to send in their accounts; which was agreed to; and then (on account of the temporary absence of the Chairman of the Committee) the bill was laid on the table. The Senate, then, as in Committee of the Whole, proceeded to consider the bill making an appropriation to appoint Commissioners to treat with the Chipewya Indians, for the right of discovering and working certain copper mines supposed to be on the south side of Lake Superior. Mr. Benton supported the bill at considerable length, which was opposed by Mr. Dickerson; and, after a few remarks, by Messrs. Johnson, of Ky., and Findlay, it was passed to a third reading—yeas 23. The Senate, then, as in committee of the whole, proceeded to consider the bill authorizing the establishment of a navy yard and depot, at or near Pensacola. Mr. Hayne proposed to amend the bill by adding the following section: "And he it further enacted, that the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of a navy yard either at Charleston, in South Carolina, or St. Mary's, in Georgia, should the examination and survey, directed to be made by the act of 26th March, 1824, show that such an establishment will be advantageous to the public service." The amendment was supported by Messrs. Hayne and Elliott, and opposed by Messrs. Smith, and Lloyd, of Mass. on the ground of its obstructing the passage of the bill. On the question being taken it was negatively. The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. The bill, as amended, authorizing the subscription of Stock in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, was read a third time, passed, and returned to the House—Yeas 19, Nays 11. The bill for the continuation of the Cumberland Road, was read a third time, passed, & returned to the House—Yeas 23, Nays 6. The Senate then proceeded to consider the resolution of the House of Representatives disagreeing to the amendment made by the Senate to the appropriation bill for certain Fortifications for the year 1825, providing for the formation of a school of practice for the light artillery at Fortress Monroe. It was decided that the Senate do insist on their amendment—yeas 21, nays 11. Saturday, Feb. 26.

The following engrossed bills were read a third time, passed, and sent to the House for concurrence: The bill authorizing the establishment of a naval depot at or near Pensacola. The bill concerning the copper mines on the south side of Lake Superior. The Senate receded from their amendment to the bill making appropriation for certain Fortifications; providing for a school of practice for the light infantry at Fortress Monroe. Mr. Brown, from the Select Committee on Roads and canals, to whom was referred the bill, entitled "An act confirming the act of the Legislature of Virginia," entitled "An act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company," and an act of the state of Maryland, confirming the same," reported it with an amendment; which was read. The Senate then resumed, as in committee of the whole, the consideration of the bill for the occupation of the Oregon river.

On motion of Mr. Dickerson, the bill was laid on the table—yeas 16, nays 17. Monday, Feb. 27. Mr. Eaton, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill for the establishment of a Medical College in the District of Columbia; which was read, and passed to a second reading. Mr. Hayne, of South Carolina, submitted the following resolution, which was laid on the table: "Resolved by the Senate of the United States, That Congress possesses no power to appropriate the public land of the United States to constitute and form a fund to aid the emancipation of slaves, within any of the United States, or to aid the removal of such slaves; and that to constitute such a fund, or to pledge the faith of the United States for the appropriation thereof towards these objects, would be a departure from the conditions and spirit of the compact between the several states; and that such measures would be dangerous to the safety of the States holding slaves, and be calculated to disturb the peace and harmony of the Union."

The following bills were successively taken up, in committee of the whole, and severally discussed, and having been engrossed for a third reading, were subsequently read a third time, passed, and sent to the House for concurrence: The bill supplementary to an act for enrolling and licensing ships or vessels to be employed in the coasting trade and fisheries, and for regulating the same. The bill to provide for the seizure and sale of property, brought into the United States in violation of the Revenue Laws, in certain cases. Tuesday, March 1. The following bills, from the other House, were taken up in committee of the whole, discussed, and severally passed to a third reading, viz. The bill further to amend the act authorizing the payment for property lost or destroyed by the enemy; the bill to authorize the sale of unserviceable ordnance, arms, and military stores; the bill for altering the time of holding the District Court of the United States in the Eastern District of Louisiana; and the bill to extend the time for issuing military land warrants to the soldiers of the Revolutionary war. Mr. Benton moved that the Senate resume the consideration of the bill to authorize the occupation of the mouth of the Columbia (or Oregon) river. The Senate refused to take up the bill—yeas 16, nays 22. POST OFFICE REGULATIONS. The Senate took up the bill from the other House "to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Establishment." The Committee on the Post Office, amongst other amendments, proposed to strike out the provision which allows the exchange of papers between newspaper printers, free of postage. The amendment was briefly opposed by Mr. Hayne and Mr. Lowrie, and supported by Mr. Chandler, and was rejected without a division. A considerable time was spent by the Senate in discussing the numerous provisions of this bill. Among the proceedings, the following were the most material: The bill proposed to give to Members of Congress the right of franking for sixty days before and sixty days after each Session of Congress. This period Mr. Macon moved to reduce to twenty days before and after each session. This motion was opposed by Messrs. Johnson, of Ky., Chandler, and Holmes of Maine, on the ground that the right was not conferred as a personal benefit, but to enable members to receive and transmit letters relating to public business, of their constituents, &c. Mr. Macon supported his motion on the ground of principle, and an adherence to the original rule of the government. The amendment was negatively without a division. On motion of Mr. Macon, "assistant postmasters and clerks, employed in any post office," were included in the prohibition, which restricts postmasters from being concerned in any contract for carrying the mail. Mr. Parrott made an unsuccessful motion to allow to the Inspector General of the Army the privilege of franking letters on official business. After some minor amendments to the bill, it was reported to the Senate. The question was taken on striking out the following section of the bill: "That it shall be the duty of every postmaster, who shall hereafter resign his office, to give twenty days' notice of his intention to do so, which notice, if there be no newspaper published at the place where he shall keep the office, he shall put up in writing on the door of the post office, and at the doors of at least two of the most public houses convenient thereto: But if there be a newspaper published in the city, town, or village, where such office is kept, then such notice shall be inserted at least twice in said paper within said twenty days." And it was struck out by a large majority. A motion made by Mr. Lanman to

raise the extra allowance made to the Postmaster at the City of Washington, (for additional clerk hire,) to 1000 dollars, (as at present allowed,) from 800 dollars, as proposed by the bill, was lost—yeas 12, nays 13. Mr. Eaton made an unsuccessful motion to obtain an additional allowance for the Postmaster at McMinnville, in Tennessee, of 100 dollars per annum. The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading. OCCUPATION OF THE OREGON. Mr. Hayne renewed the motion to take up the bill authorizing the occupation of the mouth of the Oregon river. Mr. Chandler still opposed the taking up the bill, for the reasons he before stated. The motion to take up the bill prevailed; and the Senate went into committee of the whole on it. Mr. Benton then rose, and in a speech of about two hours, went into a vindication of the policy of the proposed measure, and in reply to the speech delivered by Mr. Dickerson, on Saturday, against the bill. When he had concluded, Mr. Lawrie moved to lay the bill on the table; which motion was decided in the affirmative—yeas 23, nays 14. The Senate took up, as in committee of the whole, the bill to provide for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, and for other purposes. A considerable time was spent in the discussion of the details of this bill. On the question, shall the amendments be engrossed, and the bill read a third time? it was decided in the affirmative—Yeas 31, Nays 6. The Senate concurred in the amendments made by the House of Representatives, to the bill for the prevention of Piracy in the West Indies. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Thursday, Feb. 24. LAWS OF FLORIDA. Mr. Call, of Florida, presented the acts of the Legislative Council of Florida, which it is necessary should undergo revision by Congress, before they can go into operation. On his motion, they were received, and referred to the committee on the Judiciary. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL. Mr. Mercer moved to discharge the committee of the whole from the consideration of the bill "to confirm the acts incorporating the Ohio and Chesapeake Canal company," which was carried. The House accordingly took up the bill. The amendment, formerly offered by Mr. M'Kim, to the 2d section of the bill, was read and agreed to. Mr. Mercer moved to insert, in the 17th line, the words, "over the District of Columbia;" (which confines the sanction given by Government, to that part of the canal which lies within the District.) The amendment was agreed to. Mr. Rankin moved to amend the first section of the bill, by striking out all after the enacting words, and inserting the following: "That the act of the Legislature of Virginia, entitled 'An act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company,' be, and the same is hereby, ratified and confirmed, so far as may be necessary for the purpose of enabling any company, that may hereafter be formed by the authority of said act of incorporation, to carry into effect the provision thereof in the district of Columbia, within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, and no further." The question was put on the amendment and carried—yeas 83, nays 58; and the bill, as amended, was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, to-morrow. An engrossed bill authorizing the payment of interest due to the State of Virginia, was read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate. An engrossed bill concerning the grant of land to the Marquis de Maison Rouge, was read a third time. Its passage was opposed by Mr. Sandford, of Ten. and advocated by Messrs. Isaacks, Campbell and J. T. Johnson; when, on the question being put, it was passed by a large majority. Friday, Feb. 25. Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill to authorize the importation of foreign distilled spirits in casks of a capacity not less than fifteen gallons; which was twice read. Mr. Cambreleng explained the reasons for introducing this bill—the state of our trade with South America, and the obstacles to it arising from the present law on this subject. Mr. Trimble, of Ky. opposed the bill as leading to frauds on the revenue; and took a view of the course of legislation hitherto pursued in relation to our revenue laws—he deprecated any further relaxation of the system. Mr. Cambreleng replied. The bill was laid on the table. Mr. Cocks, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported the bill from the Senate for the civilization and preservation of the Indian tribes within the United States, with an amendment. The bill was referred to a committee of the whole. Mr. Blair called up the joint resolution laid on the table by him some days since, directing a survey of the waters of East Tennessee, with a view to the location of an army. The motion was carried; yeas 73, nays 52. Mr. Blair briefly stated the grounds of the resolution. An opportunity was now afforded for having the proposed examination effected without a dollar's additional expense to the United States, as the Engineers were already ordered to examine that country for another object. Mr. Isaacks moved to include West Tennessee. Mr. Henry moved to include the Southwest part of Kentucky. Mr. McLean, of Ohio, moved to include the waters of Mad River, near Dayton in Ohio. Mr. Wright opposed this amendment, and also the resolution itself. Mr. McCoy called for the original law ordering the examination of the Western waters; when, On motion of Mr. Hamilton, the resolution and amendments were laid on the table. An engrossed bill to confirm the act of the General Assembly of Maryland, confirming an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, to incorporate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, was read a third time, and passed. The Senate's amendment to the bill authorizing a subscription of stock in the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Company; was agreed to by the House. The Senate having returned the appropriation bill for Fortifications and insisted on its amendments, inserting an appropriation for a school of practice in Light Artillery, it was moved that this House recede from its disagreement to the Senate's amendment. The question being put on receding, it was negatively by a large majority. It was then moved that this House adhere to its disagreement, and carried. Saturday, Feb. 26. Mr. Vinton, from the Committee on the Public Lands, made a report in favor of the following resolution, viz: "That the several states which have been admitted into the Union, under any compact prohibiting such states from laying and collecting a tax on land for five years next succeeding the sale of such land by the United States, shall be severally permitted, whenever they may deem it expedient, to subject all lands, hereafter sold by the United States, within their respective limits, to the same tax they may levy and collect on lands not subject to the provisions of such compacts." The resolution was ordered to lie on the table. Mr. Hemphill, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill concerning Internal Improvements, which was laid on the table. Monday, Feb. 28. Mr. Mercer laid on the table the following: Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to enter upon, and prosecute, from time to time, such negotiations with the maritime Powers of Europe and America, as he may deem expedient for the effectual abolition of the Slave Trade, and its ultimate denunciation as piracy, under the law of nations, by the consent of the civilized world. This resolve lies for one day of course. The engrossed bill concerning wrecks on the coast of Florida: The engrossed bill supplementary to an act, entitled "An act for the continuation of the Cumberland Road;" were read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence. On motion of Mr. McLane, the House next went into committee of the whole, on the bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow a sum not exceeding twelve millions of dollars, or to exchange a stock bearing an interest of 4 per cent., for a certain stock bearing an interest of 6 per cent.; which bill, after a slight amendment, on motion of Mr. Ingham, was reported to the House, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. An engrossed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow twelve millions of dollars, or to exchange a stock of 4 per cent.; for a certain stock bearing an interest of 6 per cent. was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence. Mr. Wood moved to take up the bill for the relief of White Blount; which was agreed to, and the bill was taken up. Mr. Cambreleng moved to amend the bill by striking out § 274 22, and insert § 2374 23; which was agreed to. After some time spent on this bill, it

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