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Congressional Proceedings.

IN SENATE.

Monday, Feb. 19.

The resolution offered by Mr. Roberts, declaring the admission of the state of Missouri into the Union, was read a second time.

The report of the committee, adverse to the reduction of the compensation of Members of Congress, with the amendment, going to alter the tenor of that report, was next on the orders of the day.

Mr. Barbour, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Yeas 17; Nays 49.

So the Senate refused to lay the report on the table, and proceeded to consider it.

Subsequently, on motion of Mr. Barbour, supported by an argument on the merits of the proposition, the report was postponed to Thursday next, 22 votes to 12.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the charter of the Bank of the United States—the question still being on the following amendment proposed by Mr. Roberts:

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the bills or notes of the Offices of Discount and Deposit of the said Bank, excepting those of the Office in the District of Columbia, originally made payable, or which shall have become payable on demand, shall be receivable in all payments to the United States, only in the states and territories in which they are made payable, and in the states and territories in which no Office of Discount and Deposit shall be established, any thing in the fourteenth section of the act incorporating the subscribers to the Bank of the United States, to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That all notes of the denomination of five dollars, issued either by the Bank or any of its Offices of Discount and Deposit, made payable on demand, shall be receivable at the Bank or any of its Offices: *And provided further*, That it shall not be lawful for the directors of the said Bank to establish more than one Office of Discount and Deposit in any state, without the consent of the legislature thereof, first had and obtained.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the second and fourth fundamental articles of the constitution of said Bank, contained in the eleventh section of the act incorporating the subscribers thereto, as provides that no director of the said Bank, or of its Offices of Discount and Deposit, shall hold his office more than three years out of four in succession, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors of the said corporation shall cause a list of the stockholders of the said Bank, together with their places of residence, to be kept in the banking house at Philadelphia, open to the inspection of any and every stockholder of the said Bank who may apply for the same within the hours of business, for at least ninety days previously to every annual election of directors, and no person who may be entitled to a vote at any election for directors of said bank, as attorney, proxy, or agent, for any other person, copartnership, or body politic, shall as such give a greater number than — votes, under any pretence whatsoever, and no letter of proxy shall be of any force or effect longer than — years, or until it shall have been revoked.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the said corporation assent to the provisions of this act, and certify such assent to the Secretary of the Treasury Department by writing, duly authenticated, this act shall be of full force and effect, and not otherwise.

The question being taken on the first section of this amendment, it was rejected.

Yeas 26; Nays 40.
The remainder of the amendment was then also rejected.

On motion of Mr. Lowrie, the following provision, being the last in the bill, and amongst the penalties for defrauding the Bank, was struck out, viz.

“And by standing in a pillory not more than three times, in open day, in some public place, during one hour at a time, which standing in a pillory, when inflicted more than once, shall be on different days.”

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed, as amended, and read a third time.

Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, from a select committee, reported a bill supplementary to the several acts for adjusting the claims to land and establishing Land Offices in the districts east of the island of New-Orleans; and the bill was read.

The engrossed bill to establish a uniform system of Bankruptcy, was read the third time, (which reading consumed nearly two hours,) and passed.

The bill was ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence; and

The Senate then went into the consideration of Executive business, (with closed doors, of course,) and so continued until 4 o'clock; when The Senate adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The President laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of State, with a transcript of all the lists of passengers taken on board of ships and vessels in foreign ports and places, which arrived in the U. States from the 1st of October, 1819, to the 30th of September, 1820, inclusive; and the letter and transcript were read.

On motion of Mr. Noble, the committee on the Post Office and Post Roads were instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from, Richmond, in the County of Wayne, via Salisbury, Centerville, to the seat of government for the State of Indiana, and also of establishing a post route from Brooksville, in the county of Franklin, to the seat of government for the State of Indiana.

The bill to extend the charters of certain Banks in the District of Columbia, was postponed to, and made the order of the day for Thursday next.

The bill to further establish the compensation of the officers employed in the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, and for other purposes, as amended was taken up; and the bill having been further amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill to amend the act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the U. States, was read a third time, passed, and sent to the house for concurrence.

Mr. Barbour submitted for consideration two resolutions, prescribing the manner of informing the President and Vice President of the U. States respectively, of their re-election to the said offices.

The resolution of Mr. Roberts, was taken up, and was modified by the mover, so as to read as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of Missouri shall be, and is hereby declared, one of the U. States of America, and is admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states in all respects whatever. *Provided*, That the following be taken as fundamental conditions and terms upon which the said state is admitted into the Union, namely: that the fourth clause of the twenty-sixth section of the third article of the constitution, submitted by the people of Missouri to the consideration of Congress, shall, as soon as the provisions of said constitution will admit, be so modified that it shall not be applicable to any description of persons who may now be or hereafter shall become citizens of any state in this Union; and that, until so modified, no law, passed in conformity thereto, shall be construed to exclude any citizen of either state in this Union from the enjoyment of any of the privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled under the constitution of the U. States.

After some debate, this resolution

was, at the motion of Mr. Eaton, seconded by Mr. Van Dyke and Mr. Southard, postponed to and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Talbot and Mr. Johnson of Ky. at first opposed the postponement, but, when time was asked by members in order to examine more fully the resolution, they ceased their opposition.

The resolution instructing the judiciary committee to bring in a resolution extending the laws of the U. States to the State of Missouri was taken up, and then Mr. Williams of Tennessee, the mover of it, so modified it as to include also the territory of Florida; and then the resolution was again ordered to lie on the table.

Soon after which, the Senate adjourned.

Wednesday, February 21.

Mr. Thomas, from the committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill giving the right of preemption to William Doak & Noble Osborne; and also a bill to authorize the Commissioner of the General Land Office to remit the instalments due on certain lots in Shawneetown in Illinois; which bills were read.

Mr. Roberts, from the committee of claims, made a report unfavourable to the petition of Bartholomew Shaumburg; which was read.

The following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. Barbour, was taken up.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait on the President of the United States, and to notify him of his re-election to the office of President of the United States.

The resolution was agreed to, and Messrs. Barbour and King of New York were appointed the committee in pursuance thereof.

The following resolution, also submitted yesterday by Mr. Barbour, was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the president be requested to cause to be transmitted to Daniel D. Tompkins, Esquire, of New York, Vice President of the United States, a notification of his re-election to that office.

The engrossed bill further to establish the compensation of the officers employed in the collection of the customs, and for other purposes, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

MISSOURI.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Senate resumed, as in committee of the whole, Mr. King, of Alabama, in the chair, the consideration of the following resolution, offered by Mr. Roberts:

Much debate took place on the merits of the resolution, as well as on the expediency of now acting on it, in the course of which, Mr. Barbour moved to strike out the proviso, but subsequently withdrew the motion. The resolution was advocated by Messrs. Roberts, Lowrie, and Barbour, and was opposed by Messrs. Smith and Van Dyke.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Feb. 19.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement of the specie amount of the special deposits, to the credit of the Treasury of the United States; which is referred to in his supplementary report of the 23th ult. as not being available during the current year, which was ordered to lie on the table, and to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Clay, it was *Resolved*, That the committee of claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision by law for the reimbursement to the Planters' Bank of New-Orleans of certain advances made by it upon pay rolls of the army.

Mr. Clay, from the committee (himself and Mr. Allen, of New-York) appointed to wait on the President of the United States with the resolution declaring the feelings of this house in regard to the Spanish provinces of South America, reported that the committee had, according to order, presented the resolution to the President, that the President assured the committee that, in common with the House of Representatives, he felt a great interest in the success of the provinces of Spanish America which are struggling to establish their freedom and independence; and that he would take the resolution into deliberate consideration, with the most perfect respect for the distin-

guished body from which it had emanated.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, from the committee of Ways and Means reported the following bill:

Be it enacted, &c. That from and after the passage of this act, no clerk in any department, or other person holding an office under the government of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person in trust for him or for his use or benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute, hold, or enjoy, in the whole or in part, any contract or agreement hereafter to be made or entered into with any officer of the United States, on their behalf, or with any person authorized to make contracts on the part of the United States; and if any clerk or person holding an office under the government of the United States, directly or indirectly, himself or by any other person in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, enter into, accept of, or agree for, undertake, or execute, any such contract or agreement, on the whole or in part, every such clerk or officer so offending shall, for every like offence, upon conviction thereof before any court of the United States, or of the territories thereof, having cognizance of such offence, be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined one thousand dollars, and also be deemed incapable of holding any appointment or office under the government of the United States; and every such contract or agreement as aforesaid, shall nevertheless be absolutely void and of no effect: *Provided, nevertheless*, that, in all cases where any sum or sums of money shall have been advanced on the part of the United States, in consideration of any such contract or agreement, the same shall be forthwith repaid; and, in case of delay or refusal to pay the same, when demanded by the proper officer of the department under whose authority such contract or agreement shall have been made or entered into, every such person so delaying or refusing, together with his surety or sureties, shall be forthwith prosecuted at law for the recovery of any such sum or sums of money advanced as aforesaid.

The bill was twice read and committed.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

On motion of Mr. Culbreth, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Fuller in the chair; to take into consideration the bill for a general reduction of the salaries of the officers of the government.

The bill having been read—

Mr. Culbreth stated, that the committee had been influenced by different considerations in agreeing to the report; but that, for himself, he had been influenced by the single consideration, whether the salaries in the several cases embraced by the bill, are or are not at present more than sufficient. Where he thought them no more than sufficient, he had voted against their reduction, and for their reduction where he thought them otherwise.

The committee then proceeded with the consideration of the details of the bill.

On motion of Mr. Kinsey, after a considerable debate on the merits of the Patent Office, its duties, &c. that part of the bill which proposes to reduce the salary of the Clerk of the Patent Office to 500 dollars per annum, was stricken out.

On motion of Mr. Livermore, the part of the bill which proposes to reduce the salary of the Superintendent of the Patent Office to 1000 dollars, was also stricken out.

A motion by Mr. Sergeant was under consideration, for excluding the Librarian's compensation from the proposed reduction; when—

On motion, the committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. Livermore moved to discharge the committee of the whole from the further consideration of the bill, and to lay it on the table; but the motion was negatived, 63 to 48. And The House adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill further to amend the several acts relative to the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments; which was twice read and committed. [This bill proposes to abolish the agency of the Treasurer for the War and Navy Departments.]

Mr. Forrest presented a letter addressed to him by Lieut. Col. George Bomford, accompanied with sundry

documents, in relation to the loans of gunpowder and other munitions of war, from the public magazines, to private individuals; which were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Fuller, from the committee on Naval Affairs, reported the bill from the Senate for the relief of Samuel Tucker, late a Captain in the Navy of the U. States, with an amendment.

Mr. Metcalf moved to refer the bill to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Cobb moved that the bill be postponed indefinitely; which motion was negatived, by Yeas and Nays—79 to 66.

The amendment to the bill having been agreed to, the question was taken on ordering the bill to a third reading, as amended, and decided in the negative, by a majority of one vote. So the bill was rejected.

The bill entitled “An act to fix and equalize the pay of the officers of the army of the United States,” was read the third time, and passed, by a vote of 106 to 39, by Yeas and Nays. And the bill was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The committee of the whole house on the State of the Union was discharged from the further consideration of the bill to reduce the salaries, and fix the maximum of the compensation of certain officers and other persons employed in the civil departments of the government.

The course then proceeded to consider the said bill, and the remainder of the day was spent in the discussion of the many amendments proposed to the bill, among which were the following:

Mr. Silsbee moved to amend the bill by adding 500 dollars to the salary of the Commissioners of the Navy Board, so as to leave them, as they stand at present, at 3500 dollars each. This motion was negatived.

Mr. Wood moved to erase what relates to the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, so as to leave him in the general class, whose salaries are only proposed to be reduced 20 per cent. This motion was agreed to.

Mr. Robertson moved to amend the bill so as to fix the salaries of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives at 3000 dollars each (the same as at present.) This motion was negatived.

Mr. Cocke moved to add 500 dollars to the salary of the first Comptroller of the Treasury, so as to fix his compensation (as it now is fixed) at 3500 dollars per annum.— This motion was negatived.

Mr. Nelson of Va. moved an amendment, the object of which was to restrict the operation of the proposed general reduction of 20 per cent. to those officers whose salaries do not exceed 800 dollars per annum.

Mr. Warfield moved to amend this amendment by striking out “800” and inserting in lieu thereof “1200”; which motion was negatived.

Mr. Nelson then modified his motion, so as to provide that no salary now fixed at 800 dollars should be reduced, and that no salary above 800 dollars should be reduced below that rate.

Thus modified, the amendment of Mr. Nelson was agreed to.

Mr. Campbell then moved to add new provisions to the bill, the object of which was to fix the daily pay of the Senators and Representatives in Congress at six dollars, instead of eight, and the allowance for travelling expenses, at six (instead of eight) dollars for every twenty miles.

Before acting on this amendment, The House adjourned.

Wednesday, February 21.

Mr. Brown of Ky. submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be directed to enquire into the expediency of repealing the 8th section of the act of Congress, approved March 6, 1820, entitled “An act to authorize the People of the Missouri territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an