

CONGRESS.

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

IN SENATE.—MONDAY, JAN. 7.

Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Pinkney, of Maryland, appeared to-day, and took their seats. Mr. Dickerson communicated to the Senate the following preamble and resolutions, adopted by the Legislature of New-Jersey:

Whereas controversies exist between the States of New-Jersey and New-York, and of New-Jersey and Delaware, concerning their respective boundaries: And whereas the constitution of the United States has declared, that the judicial power of the general government shall extend to controversies between two or more States, thereby providing for the legal settlement of disputes, which might otherwise endanger the peace and safety of the Union: And whereas Congress have hitherto omitted to carry into effect the wise and salutary provisions of the constitution for that purpose, by vesting adequate powers in the courts of the U. States: Therefore,

Resolved, by the Council and General Assembly of this State, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their endeavors to procure the passage of a law for the decision of territorial or other controversies between states, in such manner as is authorized by the constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing preamble and resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be by them laid before their respective Houses.

The document was read, and on motion of Mr. Dickerson, it was ordered to be entered at large on the Journal of the Senate—ayes 19, noes 12.

Mr. Southard laid before the Senate a report and resolutions also of the Legislature of the State of New-Jersey, approving and recommending the Maryland proposition to grant to the old States, for the purposes of education, a portion of the public lands, corresponding to the portions granted to the new states for that object; and the communication was read.

OFFICIAL COMPENSATIONS.

The Senate, according to order, took up the following resolution, submitted on Friday last, by Mr. Knight:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the propriety of reducing the compensation of the Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and Delegates of Territories, and all other officers in each of the Executive Departments and Post Office Establishment; and that said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. R. M. Johnson of Ky. said he should like to hear some reasons in support of the expediency of agitating this subject at the present time; at least he should like to be convinced, that the present pay of the members of Congress was too much, before he could assent to another discussion of it. It was a subject which had occupied much of his attention; he said—he had perhaps been as much concerned in former proceedings on it as any man—yet he had not been able, so far, to convince himself that the present compensation was unreasonably high. This, Mr. J. said, was an unfortunate subject to be so repeatedly brought up in Congress; it was a delicate and an individual duty for a public body to fix its own pay, and the subject ought, therefore, when once fixed, to be stirred as seldom as possible. It had been recently acted on, and he thought Congress had then fixed their compensation at a reasonable amount. For his own part, Mr. J. said, he estimated his services to the public at least as high as the sum he received for them, and he might therefore value those of many other members, who had the advantages of age and experience, as well as of eminent talents, at much more. This, he observed, was a subject of difficulty as well as delicacy, and he would not consent to touch it again unless those who sent him here should, after due consideration, desire him to do so. It was one which ought not to be agitated annually, like any ordinary matter; and he should deem it unwise to stir it more than once in twenty or thirty years, and not even then, unless circumstances strongly required it. The people had been willing that it should rest twenty or twenty-five years, previously to the existing law establishing the pay of members; and as much as he respected the state of Rhode Island, which had instructed her Senators to bring the subject again before Congress, he must oppose its being acted on until circumstances of great weight should demand its re-consideration.

Mr. J. said he hoped, at any rate, that the mover of the resolution would consent to let it lie on the table for some time longer. Towards the close of the session, he said, members would be better able to judge whether they could spare any part of their eight dollars. For himself, he had little hope, judging from experience, that he should have much to spare at the end of the session; for however well he might be able to live at home on the produce of his farm and his garden, he and he presumed every other gentleman, found the difference here. This, Mr. J. admitted, was a time for the exercise of economy, and he was as willing as any one to conform strictly to the spirit of a true economy; but he contended it was most consistent with true economy to give to public servants, in responsible stations, a reasonable, at least, if not a liberal compensation. There were other

matters of great moment, he said, which claimed the grave consideration of the Senate; he himself had introduced a proposition to arraign the Supreme Court—though in using the expression he meant not the slightest indecorum to that respectable tribunal—but this, and other subjects awaiting the decision of the Congress, made him the more averse to take up the question of compensation, which would only distract the attention of the Senate, without, as he believed, eventuating in any good. While he thus expressed his opinion, Mr. J. said he did not know that he should ever receive the eight dollars again: his political lamp was now expiring, and he knew not that his constituents would send him here again; he, therefore, spoke on this subject the more disinterestedly—but, whether in public or private life, he should entertain the same opinions on this matter. In maintaining them on a former occasion, he had nearly been swamped, and had been tumbled into the gulf of popular displeasure so far as to be hardly able to reach the shore again. The subject was, therefore, one of deep interest to him, but he repeated that he thought it highly inexpedient, as it was, in his opinion, unnecessary to agitate it again so early; and he hoped the resolution would at least be ordered to lie on the table, whence it might at any time be called up, if it should be the pleasure of the Senate.

Mr. Knight was far from wishing to press the consideration of the resolution before gentlemen had reflected on it, or were ready to examine it. In introducing the motion he had obeyed his convictions of public duty; it appeared to him there was a waste of public money, and, as the guardians of the public treasure, he thought it incumbent on Congress to inquire where this waste was, and apply the remedy. He would consent, however, to let the proposition, though one for inquiry merely, lie for some time longer, as it was desired.

Mr. Otis thought it would be the better course to postpone the resolution altogether. It had become, as he had understood, the general sense of the Senate to be the correct course to abstain from originating much business, and to await, as far as was proper, the movements of the other House. If such was the sense of the Senate, and if there was any subject which ought, with more propriety, to originate in the other branch, it was this subject of compensation. The proposition was one relating to money, and was analogous to a money bill; it was one, therefore, which he conceived the Senate might, with the more propriety, leave to the other House. If, indeed, it were taken up, it would only waste much time in the discussion of it, without, as he firmly believed, resulting in anything. Mr. O. was clearly in favor of leaving the subject to the House of Representatives, who, if they wished to act on it, would take it up; and he, therefore, moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Lanman was opposed to the motion for indefinite postponement, because he was in favor of a consideration of the subject, and the motion would negative the proposition altogether. This was a subject, Mr. L. thought, of too much importance in this day of public pressure, to let it pass off so lightly. It became the Senate deliberately to examine into the subject and decide on its merits. He was in favor of this course because he thought it the correct one, and because the state which he in part represented had recently expressed an opinion in favor of a retrenchment of public expenses, and particularly a reduction of the compensation of the Members of Congress. He doubted, indeed, whether any thing would result from the inquiry proposed; but inasmuch as the attention of Congress was requested to the subject, by a state, and it became a state proposition, he would bestow on it at least a deliberate consideration. This proposition Mr. L. considered very different from a money bill, and he did not think that objection to the inquiry a well founded one.

Mr. Lowrie observed, that, if the motion for indefinite postponement prevailed, it would put it out of the power of the Senate, by its rules, to institute any inquiry, during the present session, into the salaries of any of the officers of government. Whether such an inquiry would be deemed expedient, he did not know, but he should consider it wrong for the Senate to preclude itself from making the inquiry, should it be thought proper. The discussion, as far as it had gone, had embraced only the members of Congress, but that formed but a small part of the inquiry proposed by the resolution. As he would wish to retain the power of inquiry in the hands of the Senate, to be exercised, if it should hereafter be deemed necessary, he would prefer laying the resolution on the table; and, as that motion would take precedence of the other, Mr. L. moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

Mr. Macon said the subject had been brought before Congress by two states, and it was the general practice to treat a proposition, from even a single state, with the respect of considering it. He thought, therefore, that the course on this subject had been a little indecorous towards the states which had instructed their mem-

bers to bring the inquiry before Congress. Motions for mere inquiry were rarely rejected in this body, and, as the indefinite postponement would be at once a vote of rejection in this case, he was opposed to it—he hoped the motion to lay the resolution on the table would have the preference, Mr. M. said it might not be improper to add the remark, that if ever there was a time to inquire where any saving could be made, now was the time; for, to use a common phrase, it would be touch and go with the revenue. As to this being the nature of a money bill, he had seen propositions much more like money bills originated and decided in this body, some of which the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. O.) had not, if he remembered rightly, found much fault with. Mr. M. thought, as the subject had been introduced, it would be much the more proper course to inquire, if any thing ought to be done in it, and, if not, to say so.

The question was then taken on laying the resolution on the table, and agreed to.

Mr. Lanman communicated to the Senate a preamble and sundry resolutions of the legislature of Connecticut, declaring it expedient for Congress to retrench the public expenses, and particularly so to reduce the per diem allowance of members of Congress to the former sum of six dollars; and the communication was read.

A message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting a report of the operations of the mint for the last year; which was read.

The President laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a list of the clerks employed in the Navy Department, and their respective salaries.

The President laid before the Senate the memorial of the legislature of Indiana, praying of Congress the grant of five or six thousand acres of unutilized land, contiguous to the town of Vincennes, to be used as a town common; which was read and referred.

THE CUMBERLAND ROAD.

The bill providing for keeping in repair the national road from Cumberland to the Ohio, was taken up, and having been read—

Mr. Chandler remarked that he did not find in the bill any provision for cases where persons might forcibly pass the gates without paying the toll required.

Mr. R. M. Johnson, of Ky. said, that the expediency of such a provision had not escaped the committee; but they concluded that, as such a clause would involve a question of constitutionality, and of course of some difficulty, it would be better to avoid the impediment which it might present, by reporting the bill in the naked form in which it was presented, and leave to future legislation such a provision, if it should be found necessary.

Mr. Macon thought this much more like a money bill than the resolution just ordered to lie on the table; for this was, in fact, a tax levied on every body that travelled on the road. He rose only to make this remark, without going into the merits of the subject.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ky. the blank left in the bill for the salary of the Superintendent of the road was filled with 1000 dollars.

Mr. Eaton hoped the Senate would consent to postpone the further consideration of the bill for some days. It presented a question which required deliberation. He had seen enough and heard enough latterly about state rights, and it was proper to proceed cautiously to the adoption of any measure which might possibly produce further collision with the states. He moved that the bill be postponed to next Wednesday week; which motion prevailed, and

The bill was postponed accordingly. The Senate spent some time on Executive business, with closed doors, and then Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Amongst the petitions presented this day, was one by Mr. Little, from the city of Baltimore, approving the measures pursued by the government in civilizing the Indians, deprecating the attempts recently made to arrest the course of this humane plan, which has commenced with such fair prospects of success, to be ruined in the morning of its increase, &c.

Mr. Gilmer, from the committee appointed to consider the subject, reported joint resolutions, making appropriations for carrying into effect the articles of agreement and cession entered into between the United States and the state of Georgia, on the 24th of April, 1812, and for other purposes; which were twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Campbell, from the committee on the subject, reported the following bill:

Be it enacted, &c. That from and after the 3d day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, the House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected agreeably to a ratio of one representative for every forty thousand persons in each state, computed according to the rule prescribed by the constitution of the United States; that is to say, within the state of Maine seven; within the state of New-Hampshire six; within the state of Massachusetts thirteen; within the state of Rhode Island two; within the state of Connecticut six;

within the state of Vermont five; within the state of New-York thirty-four; within the state of New-Jersey six; within the state of Pennsylvania twenty-six; within the state of Delaware one; within the state of Maryland nine; within the state of Virginia twenty-two; within the state of North-Carolina thirteen; within the state of South-Carolina nine; within the state of Georgia seven; within the state of Alabama two; within the state of Mississippi one; within the state of Louisiana three; within the state of Tennessee nine; within the state of Kentucky twelve; within the state of Ohio fourteen; within the state of Indiana three; within the state of Illinois one; and within the state of Missouri one.

The bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. Edwards, of Connecticut, said, that the legislature of Connecticut, at its last session, passed a resolution requesting the Representatives of that state in Congress to use their influence to procure a reduction of the public expenditures, and particularly a reduction of the compensation of Members of Congress, to what it formerly was. In compliance with this request, he begged leave to offer this resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the compensation allowed to members of Congress to six dollars per day, and making a proportional reduction in their compensation for travelling to and from the seat of government, and also, reducing the compensation of all the officers of government to what it was previous to the year 1809.

The question on agreeing to this resolution was taken without debate, and the vote was as follows:

For the resolution	55
Against it	87

So the resolution was rejected.

Mr. Cocke presented the following resolution for consideration, which lies on the table:

Resolved, That the President of the U. States be requested to cause to be laid before this House a statement shewing the amount expended for the current expenses of the Ordnance Department during the years 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820, and as much as can be shewn of the said expenditures of the year 1821, with the particular items for which the money was expended; the place when and the persons to whom paid; what quantity of timber has been procured for gun carriages and caissons; its cost annually, and where deposited; the quantity of ordnance, of every kind, that has been procured during three years, or paid for; the sums expended in the purchase of sites for arsenals since the peace; the cost of the buildings erected thereon; and whether all these arsenals are necessary for the service of the United States.

Mr. Baldwin submitted for consideration sundry resolutions proposing certain alterations in the existing laws for laying and collecting duties on importations. [These resolutions embrace a system of measures resembling that contained in the bills reported at former sessions by the committee of manufactures, and shall hereafter be published at large.]

The resolutions were referred, on motion of the author, to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Vance laid on the table the following resolution, which lies on the table one day of course, according to rule:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to this House the number of persons employed in the Indian Department, as superintendants, factors, agents, sub-agents, interpreters, missionaries, teachers, mechanics, agriculturists, explorers, surveyors, messengers, or expresses, with their names; what number of said persons hold appointments directly from the government; what number from Governors of Territories, superintendents, and agents, with the pay and emoluments of each; also, the amount of money put into the hands of each governor, superintendent, and agent, since the 1st of January, 1820, to defray the expenses of that Department, and how it has been applied.

Mr. Stewart submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to report a bill applying the unexpended balance of the moneys appropriated by the act of the 3d of March, 1819, for completing the Cumberland Road, to the purpose of repairing the same.

Mr. Randolph suggested that, according to the usage of the Treasury, the appropriation referred to in the resolution had ceased and determined, having been carried to the credit of the surplus fund.

Mr. Lathrop said, that, if the resolution had proposed an inquiry into the expediency of the measure, he did not know that he should have any objection to it. But, without more information than he now possessed, he should feel himself obliged to vote against it in its present imperfect shape.

On request of the mover, the resolve was then ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Rich of Vermont, moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to prepare and report a bill, providing for a moderate annual increase of duties for a term of years, upon the importation of such commodities as can, with the protection common in other countries, and a convenient application of the means of the citizens of the United States, be produced in abundance from domestic materials, and, for a moderate excise upon similar domestic commodities: to commence at a convenient period, and be made annually progressive, till it shall have reached an amount deemed proper for a permanent excise duty.

The resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

The House then took up the unfinished business of Friday last, in committee, Mr. Hugh Nelson in the chair, being the bill making partial appropriations for the military service for 1822. The item under consideration is the appropriation of \$100,000 for the Indian department.

Mr. Jones, of Ten. moved to fill the blank with \$30,000, and amongst other remarks suggested the propriety of calling on the Secretary of War for the account current, in relation to the expenditures of the Indian department.

Mr. Chambers followed—

Mr. Farrelly rose next, and on the general ground of expediency was in favor of now granting the appropriation requested by the bill.

Mr. Hill said he was as much in favor of the doctrine of accountability as any gentleman in the House; but he thought the present discussion premature, and suggested that when the general appropriation bill was before the house, it would be the proper time to enter into the merits of the appropriation in question.

Mr. Mallary was for the inquiry going on, as it involved important principles; he was willing, however, in the meantime, to vote for a small appropriation, and was in favor of filling up the blank with \$30,000.

Mr. M'Duffie followed Mr. Mallary in a speech of considerable length, in vindication of the secretary of war.

Mr. Hill moved to fill the blank with \$100,000, when, on motion of Mr. Alexander Smyth, the committee rose, reported progress, asked and obtained leave to sit again. Adjourned.



SALISBURY:

TUESDAY, JAN. 22, 1822.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT.

The question, *Who shall be our next President?* is warmly agitated in some of the Western papers; and is discussed with a spirit, and, we may say, violence, which show that, however pure and patriotic the motives of the writers may ostensibly be, they are such as we think no good man can approve of. To commence the discussion of this question at so early a period, (not a year having elapsed since the present incumbent was inducted into office,) is, we think, rather impolitic; and to commence it with such views and in such a spirit, is at any time disreputable, and deserving the reprehension of every honest and prudent politician.

In selecting a candidate for the Presidency, the inquiry should be, not whether he was from north or south of the Potomac, east or west of the mountains,—but, "Is he honest....is he capable?" These should be the qualifications, *honesty* and *capacity*. And in whom these are found, be he from the south or the north, from the east or the west, let him be the man.

The following resolutions, &c. on the subject of the next President, breathe a spirit of moderation and liberality characteristic of the South Carolinians:

At a public meeting of the Members of both branches of the Legislature of the State of South-Carolina, held on the evening of the 18th December, 1821, at the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Columbia, Col. Samuel Warren, of Pendleton, having been called to the Chair, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, the next Presidential Election, however distant, is becoming an object of increasing interest throughout the United States; and whereas, it is apprehended, that in selecting an individual worthy of this distinguished honor serious differences may arise, involving sectional divisions of alarming magnitude; a consequence, the bare apprehension of which obviously enforces the expediency of the People of this Union turning their eyes upon some individual who shall unite the confidence, respect and esteem of the North, the West, the East and the South; who, remote from any connexion with a cabinet succession, shall be brought forth truly, strongly, and indubitably, as the NATIONAL CANDIDATE.

Be it Resolved, That it is the sense of this Meeting, under the existing state of public opinion, in reference to our next President, that no individual in the Union unites more entirely the qualifications for this station, with the prospect of success, if the election be left entirely with the People, than our distinguished fellow-citizen WM. LOWMDES.

Be it Resolved, That it is the sense of this Meeting, whilst we feel a full conviction that the election of Mr. LowmDES would confer the most important blessings on our country; yet we are satisfied, that remote from all feelings of state partiality, if an individual more highly gifted, possessing stonger claims than himself, and more unanimously supported, should be produced as a candidate, this State, impelled by the same patriotism which has uniformly guided her determinations, would cheerfully acquiesce in the superior pretensions of such an individual; but, where such an individual is to be found, is a difficulty, not easily to be surmounted.

Be it further Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be printed in the Gazettes of Columbia and Charleston.